11AM ISTANBUL TIME

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CEO-PRENEURSHIP SUMMIT 2018**

***PART OF THE WORLD BUSINESS ANGELS INVESTMENT FORUM ANNUAL CONGRESS 2018***

20 February 2018, Tuesday

**WBAF announced the launch of Global CEO Alliance Club today at the World Congress 2018 Istanbul**

***The World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) has launched a Global CEO Alliance Club to prepare CEOs as qualified angel investors. WBAF believes that if CEOs are given an opportunity to learn the basic principles of angel investing, the world economy will benefit greatly. A CEO-turned-angel investor can contribute to economic development by investing in start-ups, thus helping create new jobs, social justice and new wealth for economies — even after they retire.***

(Istanbul) In this context, WBAF sees filling the know-how gap of CEOs as an important social responsibility and invites CEOs join our global efforts to ease access to finance by becoming a member of the Global CEO Alliance Club. The World Business Angels Investment Forum is taking the initiative to create an international platform to support the transitioning of today’s CEOs to tomorrow’s qualified angel investors. As a first step in this mission, WBAF is hosting the first CEO-Preneurship Summit on 20 February 2018 at the Swissotel The Bosphorus in Istanbul.

**Key topics to be discussed during the CEO-preneurship Summit include:**

* The CEO debate: How relevant is a CEO background in starting a business?
* Challenges and opportunities of turning CEOs into angel investors
* How can CEOs benefit from changing public policy? Supporting the supporters of entrepreneurs vs supporting entrepreneurs directly
* The CEO perspective: Investing in the right team or invested by the right team?
* The critical role of CEOs in accelerating the growth of new businesses: Connecting start-ups with corporate ventures
* The importance of global networking for early exits
* Which is better for CEOs, investing in start-ups or investing in scale-ups? Putting less with more risk or putting more with less risk?
* What is the value of CEOs in early stage equity markets?
* How to bring the CEO of a start-up and the CEO of a multi-million-dollar corporation to the same page
* Virgin investors: What should CEOs expect in their first angel investment?
* Insights from former CEOs: Navigating opportunities in your new life after you retire

**About the WBAF World Congress 2018 Istanbul**

Drawing together hundreds of the world’s top business leaders, WBAF 2018 will shape the global agenda of the world early and post-early stage equity markets in the year ahead. For the first time ever, The World Business Angel Investors Forum Annual Congress 2018, the world’s biggest annual gathering of early stage equity and investment markets, will have 5 important summits running concurrently and will host more than 1000 delegates from around the world.

The WBAF Annual Conference 2018 will focus on angel investors partnering with family offices and wealth management institutions. Start-ups, scale-ups and angel investors will be able to connect at the TAKE INVEST SUMMIT. The CEO-PRENEURSHIP SUMMIT will focus on transforming CEOs into angel investors, while the FINTECH SUMMIT will deal with issues of financial inclusion and ways to democratise access to finance. Also do not miss the opportunity to generate innovative ideas to mobilise private and public capital for the social good at the IMPACT INVESTMENT SUMMIT. WBAF will also salute the global successes of the year at the World Excellence Awards & VIP Gala Dinner at the Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul.

As a global organisation, the World Business Angels Investment Forum brings together key players of the equity market to discuss the benefits and challenges to the angel investment community’s achieving successful growth for their businesses and to discuss what more can be done to connect the early-stage market ecosystem.

Speaking ahead of the event, WBAF Chairman Baybars Altuntas comments:

“Building on the success of the 2017 World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF), this year’s forum will focus on the theme ‘Unlocking the Potential for Innovation: Angel Investors Partnering with Family Offices and Wealth Management Institutions.’

The discussions will explore how family offices and wealth management institutions can foster open innovation and deliver more business value through partnerships with angel investors, start-ups, scale-ups, high-growth businesses and SMEs.

“By working together across borders, with a common vision, and with these smart dynamics in mind, we are well placed to create positive change in the global economy.”

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|  | **Editor’s Notes**  EVENT AND SPEAKER DETAILS: Further details on the event, including the event agenda, speakers and proposed topics call all be found at http://www.wbaf2018.istanbul/ |
|  | **About the World Business Angels Investment Forum**  The World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) is an international organisation aiming to ease access to finance for businesses from start up to scale up, with the ultimate goal of generating more jobs and more social justice worldwide. It is committed to collaborating globally to empower world economic development by creating innovative financial instruments for innovators, startups, and SMEs. The Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society, first and foremost in business and political spheres, to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages a wide range of institutions, both public and private, local and international, commercial and academic to help shape the global agenda.  [www.wbaforum.org](http://www.wbaforum.org) |
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