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Swiss Finance Institute Boosts its Education Mission

Zurich, 22 October 2012 – The Swiss Finance Institute (SFI) has appointed Dr. Gabriela Maria Payer as new Head of Education. Following a strategy review, SFI aims to achieve a globally leading role in finance education to match and leverage its position in research. The Institute has furthermore appointed Anita Belitz-Krasniqi as new Executive Director to facilitate the operational integration of SFI's combined mission in research and education.

Since its creation in 2006, the Swiss Finance Institute (SFI) has achieved an outstanding degree of academic recognition and is ranked among the "top-25" financial research institutes worldwide. Now, following a strategy review for the next phase of its development, SFI aspires to enhance its performance in finance education, the foundation's second pillar.

To this effect, SFI's Foundation Board has appointed Dr. Gabriela Maria Payer in the newly established role of Head of Education as of October 2012. Payer will rely on her experience as Head of SFI's Executive Education Advisory Board to extend the reach and impact of specialized education programs in Switzerland and abroad.

Dr. Harry Hurzeler, who has been Head of Executive Education and Chief Operating Officer since the Institute's inception, will continue to support the Institute in an advisory role. SFI's Foundation Board wishes to thank Hurzeler for his dedicated contribution in building the Institute during its first years of existence.

SFI's Foundation Board has furthermore appointed Anita Belitz-Krasniqi to the equally new function of Executive Director, merging Belitz-Krasniqi's current role as SFI's Secretary General with the function of Chief Operating Officer, held until now by the Head of Executive Education. The joint operational oversight will facilitate the integrated approach to SFI's combined mission in research and education.

"SFI has proven its ability to fulfill ambitious objectives in research. Now we also want to become a world-leading training institute in finance. This will close the 'loop of learning' and leverage the Swiss banking center's emerging competitive advantage: Swiss Finance Intelligence", Olivier Steimer, Chairman of the Board, is convinced.

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The Swiss Finance Institute is a private foundation created in 2006 by Switzerland's banking and finance community in cooperation with leading Swiss universities. It supports and advances research, doctoral training and executive education in banking and finance. The Institute is supported by Swiss banks, the Swiss Stock Exchange, Swiss universities and the Swiss Federal Government. For more information about the Swiss Finance Institute please visit www.swissfinanceinstitute.ch.