

PRESS RELEASE

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First Europe-Asia Economic Summit in Davos positions AI and sustainability as catalysts for cross-border collaboration

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND – May 28, 2025 – The first edition of the Europe-Asia Economic Summit (EAES) brought together more than 100 participants from academia, government, multinational corporations, and SMEs over two days in Davos, Switzerland, to address the evolving relationship between artificial intelligence (AI) and sustainability, and the implications for industry and policy. Held at the Davos Congress Centre under the theme “AI and Sustainability,” the summit prioritized capacity building and cross-border collaboration between Europe and Asia.

A Welcome from the Host City

Opening the Summit, **Valérie Favre Accola**, Vice Mayor of Davos, emphasised the town’s longstanding role as a place for meaningful global dialogue: “Congresses like the Europe-Asia Economic Summit are essential for connecting brilliant minds and exchanging ideas on topics such as sustainability and AI—right here in Davos, a place known for solutions-driven dialogue.” She welcomed participants to the iconic Congress Centre and reminded them that Davos is not only the home of the World Economic Forum, but also a thriving hub for Alpine research, innovation, and international collaboration.

Key Takeaways from the EAES 2025

With a lineup of executive speakers from companies including DeepL, Alibaba Cloud, BYD, Huawei, Abacus, Interprefy, AECOM, Siemens Energy, Romania Energy Center Mindfire AG, SwissCognitive, and Swiss Sustainable Finance, the agenda highlighted AI’s role in driving business innovation and supporting a sustainable industry. Across eight high-level panels and keynote sessions, five key themes emerged:

- **AI demands collaboration, not competition** – From the Founder of AlpineAI & Lab42 **Pascal Kaufmann**’s call for “human-level AI for the benefit of humankind” to panelists urging ethical AI deployment, it became clear that Europe and Asia must work together to shape the next chapter of intelligent technology.

- **Leadership must transform before it is forced to** – **Tariq Qureishy**, CEO & Founder, Xponential & MAD Group, challenged legacy thinking, arguing that “we are not in an age of change – we are in a change of age.” The future belongs to leaders who combine logic and imagination, foresight and courage.
- **Sustainability is both a strategic priority and a business imperative** – From clean mobility and energy integration to climate-focused finance, speakers emphasized that sustainable transformation is no longer optional. “It’s through cross-sector partnerships and deeper collaboration between the public and private sectors that investors can drive impact,” said **Mirjam Staub-Bisang**, Board Member, Swiss Sustainable Finance.
- **Effective communication is strategic infrastructure** – Whether through AI-powered translation, inclusive language technologies or media diplomacy, panellists agreed: the ability to communicate across languages and cultures is foundational to any global solution.
- **The next generation must be at the table** – Youth activist **Clover Hogan** reminded participants that the climate crisis is already here. Her message: “The climate crisis is not a future problem; it’s a present reality. But so is our collective power to change it.”

These takeaways reflect the Summit’s unique positioning: not just as a venue for dialogue, but as a catalyst for global partnerships, practical ideas, and long-term solutions.

A Vision for Europe-Asia Collaboration

“Europe sets the pace in AI governance, while Asia makes giant leaps in its adoption across industries,” said **Aina Meng**, President of the Executive Board of the Europe-Asia Economic Summit. “This dynamic creates a valuable opportunity for both regions to learn from one another and work together. Our aim in launching the Europe-Asia Economic Summit was to connect leaders, exchange knowledge, and support collaborative action – because building smart, sustainable ecosystems and accelerating the energy transition with AI’s support will require deep cross-border cooperation, especially between large corporations and SMEs.”

The summit also underscored the growing urgency for companies to navigate evolving governance frameworks, which are increasingly influencing global market access and competitiveness. Shared insights revealed both the transformative potential of AI, and the collective mindset needed to guide its ethical, human-centric application.

“AI governance plays an important role in shaping innovation, though it can present hurdles for international collaboration,” added Meng. “It is now crucial to find common ground on values and AI implementation, while maintaining momentum toward sustainable industrial development.”

A Swiss Perspective on Trade and Economic Resilience

In a closing video message, **Ivo Germann**, Director of Foreign Economic Affairs at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), offered a historical and forward-looking view on Switzerland’s trade policy and its deepening ties with Asia. “Switzerland is almost destined to trade,” he noted, highlighting the importance of diversification, multilateral engagement, and sustainable digital trade in navigating today's fragmented global landscape. He traced Swiss-Asian relations back to early watchmakers and trading pioneers, emphasising that Switzerland continues to prioritise economic openness and free trade agreements—including recent advances with India, Thailand, and Malaysia.

The inaugural Europe-Asia Economic Summit took place from May 27-28, 2025. The second edition is scheduled for next year, with a new thematic focus to be announced.

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About the Europe-Asia Economic Summit (EAES)

The Europe-Asia Economic Summit (EAES) provides a platform for both international large-scale companies and SMEs to engage with industry leaders, connect with potential partners, create business opportunities, and foster meaningful cooperation between Europe and Asia.