



Press Release

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Aareal Award of Excellence to start second round

"Aareal Award of Excellence in Real Estate Research" presented for the first time at international level

Wiesbaden, 6 August 2008 – Aareal Bank AG, together with the Real Estate Management Institute (REMI) will present the annual "Aareal Award of Excellence in Real Estate Research" for the second time. This year, for the first time, the competition will be directed at students from international universities. The award carries prize monies totalling \in 10,000 and is intended to reward superior scientific endeavour in the field of real estate economics.

Linking research and teaching at international level

The consistent enhancement of the award, which was presented for the first time in February 2008, emphasises the organisers' international focus. Pursuing a three-continent strategy, Aareal Bank AG is represented in Europe, the US and in Asia, offering local market expertise in more than 25 countries. "Promoting young scientists, supporting research, and helping to network science and teaching at international level - those are the goals we are pursuing with the "Aareal Award of Excellence in Real Estate Research", noted Dr. Wolf Schumacher, Chairman of the Management Board of Aareal Bank AG. He also emphasised that Aareal Bank AG's dedicated commitment to promoting high-potential young professionals recognises its obligation to society.

With its international profile featuring more than 150 partner universities throughout the world, its interdisciplinary approach, and consistent reference to practice, REMI is committed to offering state-of-the-art undergraduate and graduate programmes while at the same time fostering research. "Education thrives on innovation and innovation stems from excellent research. We see this new prize as an initiative especially to get young professionals interested and involved in research," explained the institute's director, Prof. Nico Rottke.

Aareal Bank AG has sponsored a professorship at the REMI since 2006; with the internationalisation of the award, the co operation continues to be strengthened.

Participation and subjects 2009

The media partner for the award is the Immobilien-Manager trade magazine. This specialist publication supports the jury particularly in selecting the topics to be included in the call for submissions. Papers for the Award 2009 may be entered, no later than 16 January 2009, in any of the three areas of real estate financing, real estate risk management and environmental efficiency in the real estate sector. Scientific papers of all categories, i.e. Bachelor or Master theses, diploma or doctoral theses of all types of universities including universities of applied science and universities of cooperative education are admitted to the competition. The rules for participation can be found under <u>www.rem-institute.org</u> (click on "Forschung" and then on "Aareal Award of Excellence").

Award ceremonies 2009

An independent jury chaired by Prof. Dr. Nico B. Rottke will select the best works from the submitted papers. The "Aareal Award of Excellence in Real Estate Research" will be presented on 27 February 2009 on the occasion of the EBS Real Estate Congress on the campus of the European Business School at Schloß Reichartshausen in Oestrich-Winkel.

Aareal Bank

Aareal Bank AG is one of the leading international specialist property banks. The Aareal Bank share is included in Deutsche Börse's mid-cap MDAX index. Aareal Bank operates on three continents: leveraging its successful European business model, the bank has established similar platforms in North America and in the Asia-Pacific region. It provides property financing solutions in more than 25 countries.

Real Estate Management Institute

The Real Estate Management Institute (REMI) at the European Business School (EBS) is one of Germany's leading institutions of higher education and research in the field of real estate. With its commitment to excellence, entrepreneurship and internationalism in science, REMI offers curricula in the tenets of real estate economics with a focus on real estate investments, financing and valuation. These are complemented by the interdisciplinary fields of law, taxes and economics.