



'CSEAR E-Newsletter' – September 2007

FROM THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING RESEARCH

Welcome to the latest CSEAR *E-Newsletter* which will be sent out to all members regularly throughout the year, providing you with up to-date SEA news and contact information. If you would like to use these pages for publicising any conferences or events that you think would be of interest to other CSEAR members just let us know by emailing us.

CSEAR News

- The **6th Australasian Conference on Social and Environmental Accounting Research** will run from **2nd – 4th December 2007** and be hosted at the Darlington Centre, by the **University of Sydney**. The plenary speakers will include **Jeffrey Unerman, Royal Holloway; Amanda Ball and Markus Milne, University of Canterbury; and Geoff Frost, University of Sydney**. Register on-line to attend this conference
<http://csear.econ.usyd.edu.au/>
- The **1st CSEAR North American Congress on Social and Environmental Accounting Research** will be hosted by **Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada** and will run from **7th – 9th July, 2008**. Contact **Charles** if you would like to play an active part in running this conference.
Email: Charles Cho
ccho@jmsb.concordia.ca
- The **20th CSEAR UK Conference** will be held from **3rd – 5th September 2008**. Make a note in your diary.
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/csear
- **CSEAR** now has its very own **Discussion Board** ready and waiting to hear what you have to say about SEA or any related topics. Sign up and join today!
www.csear.forumup.org

Call for Papers

- **Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal** has issued a Call for Papers for a special issue on '**Accounting and the Visual**' with a submission deadline of **1st March 2008**. For further details email the guest editors.
Email:-
sam.warren@port.ac.uk
lee.parker@adelaide.edu.au
jane.davison@rhul.ac.uk
- **Public Money & Management** has issued a Call for Papers for a special themed issue on '**Sustainable Development and the Public Sector**' to be published in November 2008 (Vol.28, No.5). Extended abstracts for full papers are requested by 10 December 2007. Guest editors are **Professors Amanda Ball (University of Canterbury, New Zealand)** and **Jan Bebbington (University of St Andrews, UK)**
Email:- jan.bebbington@st-andrews.ac.uk

Conferences

- The **2007 International Conference on Business and Sustainability** will focus on **Sustainability in the Supply Chain** and will be held at **Portland State University, USA** from **1st – 2nd November 2007** in **Portland, Oregon, USA**.
www.bizandsustainability.org/
Email: Elizabeth Minor:
minor@pdx.edu

Conferences (continued)

- From 12th – 13th of November 2007, the UN's Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) are co-hosting a conference in Geneva to examine "**Business, Social Policy and Corporate Political Influence in Developing Countries**". Registration on-line is now available.
<http://www.unrisd.org/>
- The Centre for Sustainable Consumption, Sheffield Hallam University, and the BRASS Centre at Cardiff University and Swansea University next seminar is "**Changing the Way People Buy and Sell**" and will be held on 15th November in Sheffield. Keynote speakers include Julia Hailes, author of *The New Green Consumer Guide*.
<http://extra.shu.ac.uk/productlife/>
- The Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences at Akdeniz University will be holding an international symposium on **Globalisation, Democratization and Turkey**. This will be held in Antalya, Turkey from 27th to 30th March 2008. A Call for Papers has been circulated.
<http://proje.akdeniz.edu.tr/iibf/sempozyum/sempozyum.htm>
Email: symposium@akdeniz.edu.tr
- An International Workshop on **Social Audit, Social Accounting and Accountability** will be held at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic from 15th - 16th May 2008. Organised by the International Research Society for Public Management and the European Group for Public Administration. A Call for Papers has been issued.
Proposals by E.Mail: Stephen.osborne@ed.ac.uk
- The 2008 CPA Conference website is available for paper submissions and registrations. The Emerging Critical Scholars Workshop will be held on April 24th, 2008; the main CPA Conference April 24th - 26th, 2008, and the European Critical Accounting Symposium: Monday, April 28th, 2008 and all will be held in New York, USA
<http://aux.zicklin.baruch.cuny.edu/tinker/CPA2008/>
<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~cpaedit/2008/CPA/>

Accounting and Reporting

- A Swedish web-based, on-line social accounting process, **Vis Vardi**, has been developed and will shortly be available in English. See website for details.
www.visvardi.se
Source: Social Audit Network Circular June 2007
- The ACCA has published the results of a climate change disclosure analysis which looked at some of the sustainability reports entered into the ACCA's UK Awards for Sustainability Reporting. In partnership with the FTSE Group, 42 UK-based companies, all working in high or medium impact sectors such as aviation, chemicals, electricity generation and construction were reviewed (using a methodology based on the FTSE4Good climate change criteria). The analysis is summarised in this report.
http://www.accaglobal.com/pubs/publicinterest/activities/library/sustainability/reporting_pubs/TECH-UK6-CC-150.pdf
- The International Corporate Sustainability Reporting Site is dedicated to Corporate Sustainability/CSR and environmental reporting. This site was established in 1997 and is now celebrating its 10th birthday dedicated to this theme.
www.enviroreporting.com/

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- The **New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants (NZICA)**'s annual report award winners included **Wellington City Council** for the supreme award. Other winners of the Best Sustainability Reporting awards went for Corporates to **IAG New Zealand Ltd** and **Sanford Ltd**; for Service Organisations to the **Youth Hostel Association**; and for Crown or Local Authority to **Watercare Services Ltd**.

www.nzica.com

Source: *Sustainability Matters*
www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz

- **CorporateRegister.com** provides CSR-related information; worldwide news; CSR events; and details of the publication of the latest CSR reports. They also feature nearly 15,000 CSR reports from 4,000 companies across 93 countries. They are now launching the **CR Reporting Awards 2007(CRRA)** with on-line application forms for companies and voting on-line for users with prizes for picking the winning reports.

www.CorporateRegister.com
www.reporting-awards.com

- The **GRI** has also launched the **GRI Readers' Choice Award** which is also designed to provide the "*first world wide online sustainability reporting awards scheme*". **KPMG** and **SustainAbility** will also undertake survey work in conjunction with the award "*to give better insight into the identity and views of sustainability report users around the world*".

www.globalreporting.org/Home

- Following country reports on Russia, Hungary and South Africa in 2006, **Accountability Rating** is cooperating with **Su Iletisim** in Turkey to produce the first **Accountability Rating Turkey** report, which is scheduled for November 2007.

www.accountabilityrating.com/Latest_results_country_rating.s.asp
www.sucsr.org

- **Water UK**, **UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR)** and the **Carbon Trust** are planning an updated carbon accounting tool. The first phase of **UKWIR** research focuses on statutory reporting requirements and operational carbon (emissions associated with electricity consumption in running the industry's assets and providing its services). A second phase will look at embedded carbon (the carbon contained in construction materials e.g. concrete, steel).

www.water.org.uk/home/news/archive/climate-change/-23-08-2007

- The UK's **Independent** Newspaper in conjunction with **IRIS** has produced "**Green Leaders: A guide to the world's greenest companies**" in June 2007. The top three companies were named as first **Kingfisher** (the owner of B&Q), followed by **BT** and **Biffa**.

http://news.independent.co.uk/business/analysis_and_features/article2600504.ece

- **SustainAbility** and **WWF** latest report "**Coming in from the Cold: Public affairs and corporate responsibility**" is based on an investor survey of more than \$500 billion assets. It includes a review of 50 leading corporate reports, suggesting "*a lack of coordination between public affairs and corporate responsibility represents a huge wasted opportunity to deliver greater value to individual companies and to society*".

www.wwf.org.uk
www.sustainability.com

- The **Business & Human Rights Resource Centre** has launched its re-designed website, with information on the human rights, social and environmental conduct of over 3600 companies worldwide. Researchers are now based in USA, UK, Hong Kong and South Africa.

www.business-humanrights.org

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- **EIRIS** has published *'The State of Responsible Business: Global corporate response to environmental, social and governance (ESG)'* looking at responsible business worldwide. Key issues include corporate governance, environment, equal opportunities, human rights and the supply chain. The findings suggest that **"responsible practices are increasingly being adopted by companies worldwide, though there are significant differences between regions"**.
www.eiris.org/files/research%20publications/stateofrespbusinesssep07.pdf
- **Japan for Sustainability** reports on Kyoto City's progress with its environmental accounting system in 2005. There has been an estimated cost reduction of 31 million yen and environmental conservation effects of 1.1 million yen with environmental expenditures remaining much the same as the previous year.
www.japanfs.org/db/1836-e

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions

- The **UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (UK CEED)** and the **Centre for Sustainable Engineering (CSEng)** have developed the **EnviroDaq 100 Index**. This index lists UK environmental technology companies with 60% of their turnover coming from environmentally focused goods and services. The website provides company information, including financial data, background, broker recommendations, and investment ratios. A graphing feature to create customisable share graphs for **EnviroDaq** component securities is available.
www.envirodaq.com
- **Covalence** has published ***Covalence Pharmaceutical Industry Report 2007*** which argues that pharmaceutical companies are facing increasingly innovation-related ethical risks. Risks such as intellectual property rights, drug pricing, clinical trials, drug side-effects, and transparency. In terms of ethical reputation, innovation seems to bring increased troubles rather than benefits to R&D orientated companies.
www.covalence.ch/
- **Michelle Chan-Fishel (Friends of the Earth US)** and **Banktrack's** report ***"Time to Go Green: Environmental Responsibility in the Chinese Banking Sector"*** is available in pdf format at the Banktrack website.
www.banktrack.org
- The UK insurance sector has launched **ClimateWise** an initiative developed by the Association of British Insurers to tackle climate change and encourage climate-friendly behaviour amongst customers. It has attracted 37 signatories including **Swiss Re, Allianz and Aviva**.
<http://www.climatewise.org.uk/news.aspx>
- **F&C**, a leading European investment group has published ***"In the Front Line: the Insurance Industry's Response to Climate Change"*** which warns that some insurance companies **"have been slow to act and urgently need to develop climate change strategies"**.
<http://www.fandc.com/portal/>
- The French bank **Société Générale** has adopted the **Equator Principles**, voluntary guidelines compiled to ensure banks make loans to projects that meet environmental and social standards. The **Equator Principles** has now been in existence for 4 years.
www.equator-principles.com/

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- The **Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC)** (a group of pension funds and asset managers representing assets of €3.5 trillion plus), has developed a **Disclosure Framework for Electricity Utilities** - guidelines to help investors compare individual companies on their climate risks and policies.
www.iigcc.org/docs/PDF/Public/IIGCCdisclosureframeworkforelectricityutilitiesweb.pdf
- **HSBC** has set up a **Climate Change Centre of Excellence** to be headed by Nick Robins, formerly Henderson Global Investors. **HSBC** says that the centre will aim to "*translate a wide range of expert inputs – from academic studies, think-tanks and government regulations – into business opportunities for the bank and its clients*".
www.hsbc.com/1/2/newsroom/news/news-archive-2007/hsbc-hires-specialist-to-head-up-new-climate-change-centre-of-excellence
- The latest report from the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment** written by analysts **New Energy Finance** reports that renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies attracted \$100 billion+ in investment in 2006. Made up of \$71 billion invested in companies and \$30 billion from mergers and acquisitions, leveraged buyouts and asset refinancing.
www.unep.org/pdf/SEFI_report-GlobalTrendsInSustainableEnergyInvestment07.pdf

Other Issues

- The **Organizations and the Natural Environment Interest Group** became a Division of the US-based **Academy of Management** in August 2007, in recognition of its effectiveness in supporting a vibrant and important research domain. With its beginnings in 1991, membership also recently reached 600 within the 15 000 member strong Academy. Key members of the group edit the Sage journal, **Organization and Environment** and produce work likely to be of interest to CSEAR members, published in management rather than accounting literature.
www.one.aomonline.org/
- **Green Futures** is developing its website to encourage more interaction between itself, readers and contributors by providing the opportunity for comments on the magazine's articles to be posted onto the website.
Email:
letters@greenfutures.org.uk
- **ELDIS (The Institute of Development Studies, Sussex)** has published "*Business Engagement in Humanitarian Relief: Key trends and policy implications*" by **A. Binder** and **J.M. Witte**. This paper explores companies' roles in humanitarian action looking at the various forms of corporate engagement, with a focus on partnerships, and underlying motivations.
www.eldis.org
- **People & Planet** has published '*The Green League 2007 of Universities*' which lets us know which UK universities would be awarded a First, 2:1, 2:2, Third, or Fail, for their environmental performance score. Full details including methodology are available from a pdf on the website.
<http://peopleandplanet.org/go/green/greenleague2007>
- **EIRIS (Ethical Investment Research Services)** reports in its Country Sustainability Ratings for 2007 that Switzerland now holds the top position ahead of Sweden. The Czech Republic was the highest climber moving from 39th to 29th position.
www.eiris.org/files/press%20releases/countrybonds07.pdf

Other Issues (continued)

- The **DEFRA Science** web pages provide details of the reviews of ecofootprinting methodologies that they have commissioned from **Risk and Policy Analysts Ltd (RPA)**. The first review concentrates on material published prior to November 2004 and the second one is follow up work. Pdfs of the reports are available at the website.

www2.defra.gov.uk/research/Project_data/More.asp?l=EV02024&M=CFO&V=RPA

- **Net Impact**, a non-profit organization (10,000 members in 99 countries aiming at creating a better world through business), has released the 2nd edition of **Business as UNusual: The 2007 Net Impact Student Guide to Graduate Business Programs**. It includes profiles on 56 US business schools, plus student ratings over 20 categories - it highlights programs in CSR, sustainable management, and other socially responsible practices.

<http://www.netimpact.org/>
Source:
<http://www.socialfunds.com/news/release.cgi/9609.html>

- The **New Economics Foundation (NEF)** in recent research work has calculated the **European Happy Planet Index**, NEF has ranked countries by carbon footprint, life expectancy, life satisfaction, and efficiency on resource use and how it translates into long and happy lives. Europe is shown to be less efficient now at delivering human well-being than it was 40 years ago.

http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/european_happy_planet_index_160707.aspx

- **SustainableBusiness.com** and **KLD Research & Analytics** have announced the winners of the **2007 Sustainable Business 20 (SB20) List: The World's Top Sustainable Stocks**. Now in its 6th year, the SB20 List lists the "20 most innovative companies, large and small, that are having an important impact on creating an environmentally sustainable society".

www.sustainablebusiness.com/

- From the August issue of **Sustainability Matters** produced in New Zealand details of a fascinating website which shows what's happening around the world – "*see the numbers changing in 'real time' when you visit the site*" – most disconcerting.

www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz/
www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf

People on the Move

- **Conny Beck** has recently joined the **University of Sydney**, Australia, joining colleagues in the Discipline of Accounting, Faculty of Economics & Business.

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Contact

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URL: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/csear/index.html>

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