



'CSEAR E-Newsletter' – March 2008

FROM THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING RESEARCH

Welcome to the latest CSEAR *E-Newsletter* which is 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 **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**. Invited speakers include **Rob Gray, Dan Rubenstein, and Alan Willis**.
http://johnmolson.concordia.ca/csear_na_2008/
- The **20th CSEAR UK Conference** will be held at the **University of St Andrews** from **3rd – 5th September 2008**. Invited speakers include **Den Patten and Roger Levett**.
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~csearweb/conferencesnews/comingschool.html
- The **2nd Italian Conference on Social and Environmental Accounting Research** will be held on **17th-19th September 2008**, in **Rimini, Italy**. Plenary speakers include **Carol Adams**.
www.rimini.unibo.it/CSEAR2008
- **3rd GECAMB Conference on Environmental Management and Accounting – The Portuguese CSEAR Conference**, will be held on **16th - 17th October 2008**, at **Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão do Instituto Politécnico de Leiria, Leiria, Portugal**. Plenary speakers include **David Owen; Ian Thomson; Manuel Castelo Branco; and Carlos Larrinaga**.
<http://ww2.estg.ipleiria.pt/~gecamb2008/>
- **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
- CSEAR's **Emerging Scholars sub-committee** is planning to get in touch with emerging scholar members so that they can communicate with, and develop ways to support emerging scholarship in SEA. If you would like to know more about this emerging scholar 'community' email the CSEAR office to be added to the **distribution list**. The **Chairs of this committee** will get back to you to find out how you would like to see this group work and what support you need. If you are not an emerging scholar but would like to help, let us know by email and again we will pass on your details.
E.mail:
csear@st-andrews.ac.uk

Call for Papers

- **Business Ethics Quarterly** is seeking manuscripts for a special issue on **'Accountability in a Global Economy: The Emergence of International Accountability Standards to Advance Corporate Social Responsibility'** with a submission deadline of **1st December 2008**. For further information contact guest editor **Dirk Ulrich Gilbert**.
Email:- dirk.gilbert@phil.uni-erlangen.de

Conferences

- See the **2008 CPA Conference** website for full details on the **Emerging Critical Scholars Workshop, April 24th, 2008**; the **CPA Conference, April 24th - 26th, 2008**, and the **European Critical Accounting Symposium, April 28th, 2008**. All held in **New York, USA**.
<http://aux.zicklin.baruch.cuny.edu/tinker/CPA2008/>
<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~cpaedit/2008/CPA/>
- The **Global Reporting Initiative's 2nd Amsterdam Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency** will be held on **7th-9th May 2008**. An academic conference is also being organised by **Ans Kolk** and **Brendan O'Dwyer**, from the **University of Amsterdam Business School**.
www.globalreporting.org/NewsEventsPress/Conference2008
- 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**.
Proposals by E.Mail:
Stephen.osborne@ed.ac.uk
- The **GIN2008** conference "**Facilitating Sustainable Innovations**" will be held in **Leeuwarden, Netherlands** from **26-28, June 2008**. This conference is co-organized by the **Greening of Industry Network**, the **Cartesius Insitute**, and the **Province of Fryslan**.
www.greeningofindustry.org/gin2008.htm
- The **Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary** course on "**Sustainable Human Development - Regional Challenges and Responses**" (in cooperation with **UNDP** and the **REC**) will be held at **CEU** from **July 7-18, 2008**.
www.sun.ceu.hu/sustainable
- The **Society of Business Ethics** Annual Meeting 2008, will be held in **Anaheim, California, USA** from **7th - 10th August 2008**. See website for more details.
www.societyforbusinessethics.org/
- The **9th Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting (IPA) Conference 2009** will be hosted by the **Innsbruck University School of Management** and held from **9th - 11th July 2009**. The conference will be preceded by an **Emerging Scholars Colloquium** on **7th - 8th July 2009**.
www.uibk.ac.at/atr/ipa2009

Accounting and Reporting

- **Deloitte's** has announced that **80** of the UK's **FTSE 100** companies now report on corporate responsibility in their Annual Report and Accounts. This compares with 56 five years ago.
www.deloitte.com
- **BT - British Telecommunications** won the **ACCA's** UK annual award for Sustainability Reporting. ACCA also praised seven other organisations for their reports on the environmental, social and wider economic impacts of their activities. **BT** also won **Business in the Community's** **Company of the Year** award at the 2007 Awards for Excellence for its positive impact on society.
www.accaglobal.com/
www.bitc.org.uk/index.html
- NZ's 2nd national state of the environment report, **Environment New Zealand 2007** was published in January 2008. The report gave NZ a C+ rating, with consumption up 39% more than a decade ago and increasing.
www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/ser/enz07dec07/index.html

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- The **Carbon Disclosure Project Report 2007: Australia and New Zealand** (on behalf of 315 investors with assets of USD41 trillion) is based on submissions from ASX100 and NZX50 companies made in response to the **Carbon Disclosure Project's** fifth information request. The report suggests that Australian and New Zealand businesses need to improve their level of disclosure on greenhouse gas emissions. Pdf available. www.igcc.org.au/resources/downloads/cdp5%20australia%20&%20new%20zealand%20report%20october%202007.pdf
- **Covalence** has published its **3rd Annual Ethical Reputation Ranking**, listing the best ranked companies and those who made the most progress in 2007. New entrants to the top 10 EthicalQuote score are **Rio Tinto, Dell** and **Marks & Spencer** replacing **BP, GlaxoSmithKline** and **Bristol Myers Squibb**. **Wal-Mart, Coca-Cola** and **Toyota** show best Reported Performance. www.covalence.ch/
- The **New Economics Foundation (nef)** and the **Open University** have produced the 2nd UK Interdependence Report on "**Chindependence**". The first report highlighted how our consuming lifestyle is exported around the world, whilst the second report shows the rising levels of imports from China to the UK. www.neweconomics.org/gen/uploads/fmq2gmn5w2dn2qemw oor0m4505102007192709.pdf
- **Sustainability Matters** reports details from "**An Inefficient Truth**" a **Global Action Plan** report which says that "*computer servers are at least as much of a threat to the environment as SUV's or the aviation industry. A medium sized server has a similar carbon footprint as a 15 mile to the gallon SUV, and requires as much energy to cool it as to run it. It's estimated that to manufacture one PC requires 1.7 tonnes of raw materials and water and consumes over ten times its weight in fossil fuels*". Published December 2007, on behalf of the **Environmental IT Leadership Team** a group of UK ICT users committed to action to cut CO2 emissions. www.globalactionplan.org.uk/upload/resource/Exec-Summary.pdf
[www.globalactionplan.org.uk/Sustainability matters link](http://www.globalactionplan.org.uk/Sustainability%20matters%20link)
- The **Asahi Glass Foundation 2007 Survey** on environmental issues and threats to humanity uses an environmental doomsday clock to show its findings. This year the clock has been advanced by 14 minutes from the previous year to 9:31. **Source:** www.japanfs.org/db/1964-e
- **Corporate Knights** and **Innovest** have published at the **World Economic Forum**, results of their 4th **Global 100** list of the world's most sustainable corporations. Selected by "*how effectively they manage environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities, relative to their industry peers*". This is not a ranked list, and does change, 32 companies fell out this year. New comers include Chinese company – **MTR Corporation**, which runs Hong Kong's mass transit system – and **3i, Acciona** and **Rio Tinto**. www.global100.org/2008/index.asp
See website for full list
- **Corporate Register** has published *Corporate Climate Communications 2007* with data from 335 CSR Reports published from 09/06 – 12/07. It finds that 87% of the CSR reports Global FT500 companies address climate change issues although the level of reporting varies. www.corporateregister.com
Report available for free but there is a charge for data.

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- The 13(4) issue of the **Journal of the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Accountability** includes articles from Keith Maunders “*Culture versus sustainability – A case study from the Fiji Islands*”, Kerry McGovern, Lyndal Drennan and Evelyne Meier “*Merging sustainability costs and benefits within government plans and budgets*”; and from Amanda Carter and Roger Burritt “*By whatever name: A typology of corporate social responsibility*”. Subscriptions for **2008 AUD\$40** can now be paid to the **University of South Australia**.
- **BSI British Standards** is continuing the second stage of consultation on the development of the **PAS2050** standard, co-sponsored by the **Carbon Trust** and **DEFRA**, for the assessment of the life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions of goods and services.
- The city of **Buenos Aires** has announced that companies with 300+ employees will have to produce a sustainability report from 2009. The Production Ministry of the City of Buenos Aires will implement the new CSR law and monitor progress.
- The **ICMM (International Council on Mining and Metals)** has published its 2007 Annual review “*Essential Materials*”.
- Users of **CorporateRegister.com** have been able to vote directly on who should be the winners of **CR Reporting Awards 07**. Winners announced this month include **Vodafone (Best Report)**, **BP**, **Novo Nordisk**, **Bayer**, **BMW**, **Coca-Cola Enterprises**, and **Green Mountain Coffee Roasters**.
- **PriceWaterhousecoopers** published “*The Right Combination: Corporate Responsibility reports: the role of assurance providers and stakeholder panels*” in December 2007. A global survey of **PwC** clients found that using a stakeholder panel and an assurance provider, can provide a “*more complete picture*” of a company’s CSR.

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www.bsi-global.com/upload/Standards%20&%20Publications/PSS/Consultation_statement.pdf

Source:
www.globalreporting.org/

www.icmm.com/library_pub_detail.php?rcd=210

www.corporateregister.com/crra/

www.pwc.com/extweb/pwcpublishations.nsf/docid/211F153D73A2CC09852570790059E365

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions

- The **EIC Environmental Investment Network** was launched last year to help raise finance for environmental technologies and services. Support, information and networking opportunities are provided for investors, companies, social enterprises and academic institutions.
- The **London Accord** has made available 25 reports and 780+ pages of research on carbon markets, renewable energy and forestry. This research from investment banks, research institutes and the City of London authority has been released to help inform investors about these issues.
- The **National Ethical Investment Week (NEIW)** will run in the UK from **18th – 24th May 2008**. **NEIW** plans to highlight the positive benefits of green and ethical investment and its website is now live.

www.environmentalinvest.com/

www.london-accord.co.uk/

www.uksif.org/consumers-advisers/neiw/

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- The **Kiva** website links up lenders (small as \$25) with entrepreneurs from the developing world. By lending small amounts working poor can be helped towards economic independence. Through the loan period (usually 6-12 months), the lender gets progress email updates, and as loans are repaid, so you get your money back.
www.kiva.org
- **Kiva's** idea must be working well because a similar site run by **Ebay** has been set up.
<https://www.microplace.com/>
- **Morley Fund Management** plus other investors has warned 78 listed companies that they are breaching pledges made to the **UN Global Compact** by not publishing reports. There is praise for a small group of mostly European companies for “notable” performance under the scheme. According to the UN database of compliance, 904 companies (mostly from emerging markets) have failed to produce the updates required by the scheme.
Source: Financial Times
15/01/08
- **Ceres** has been analysing the climate change governance practices of 40 of the world's largest banks. They found that a growing number of European, U.S. and Japanese banks are responding to the risks and opportunities presented by climate change but many others are not. Using a 1- to 100-point scoring system, the two highest scoring banks were **HSBC Holdings** (70 points) and **ABN AMRO** (66 points). More than half of the banks scored under 50 points, with a median score of 42 points.
www.ceres.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Page.aspx?pid=826&srcid=705
- The **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** a non-profit research institute working in the field of sustainable development regularly publishes research reports. “*Giving credit to the microlenders. Formal microlending, credit constraints and adverse selection: a case study*” by Camilla Andersson, Erik Holmgren, James MacGregor and Jesper Stage examines the effectiveness of formal microcredit schemes in comparison to traditional informal credit sources in a rural shrimp farming district of Bangladesh.
www.iied.org
- Sponsored by the **International Finance Corporation**, a consortium of **Standard & Poor's**, **CRISIL** and **KLD Research and Analytics** have launched the “first” SRI index of Indian companies. The **S&P ESG India Index** tracks the leading 50 companies, which score highly against environmental, social and governance criteria.
www2.standardandpoors.com/spf/pdf/index/SP_ESG_India_Factsheet.pdf
- In December 2007 **FairPensions** published **UK Pension Scheme Transparency Survey on Environmental, Social and Governance Issues**, looking at the 20 largest UK pension funds (worth approximately £292 billion) – including the **USS**. Also published was a report on 20 of the largest multinational fund managers (with assets under management of £7.9 trillion) – see E-Newsletter 1(4) for details. These reports assessed the transparency of these large institutional investors, and their engagement with companies on environmental, social and governance issues.
www.fairpensions.org.uk/

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- **Ethical Consumer** in their March/April 2008 issue published a report by **Dan Welch**, looking at ethical and green retail funds entitled "*Putting your money where your mouth is*". There are now over 90 green and ethical funds in the UK.
- Fund manager **Standard Life Investment** has announced that airline stocks will no longer be included in its ethical funds. This new policy follows the **Standard Life 2007 annual ethical investor survey** in which 30% of respondents stated that they would prefer a complete exclusion of airline stocks from the funds. An ethical investing micro-site has also been launched featuring fund manager interviews, ethical stock stories, ethical guidelines and literature.

www.ethicalconsumer.org

http://uk.standardlifeinvestments.com/content/press/press_releases/sli_ethical_investors_bring_airline_stocks_down_to_earth.html
www.focusonethical.co.uk

Other Issues

- **Carbon Footprint Ltd** has launched a new website which they suggest includes the Web's "*most advanced domestic carbon footprint calculator*". They are also linked up with the social networking website **WAYN.com**, to help their 10 million members understand their travel impact and help them offset their emissions.
- **The United Nations General Assembly** has announced that 2008 will be **UN International Year of the Planet**. The Year is seen as a contribution to the **UN's** sustainable development targets to promote "*wise (sustainable) use of Earth materials and encourage better planning and management to reduce risks for the world's inhabitants*".
- This article on the **Encyclopaedia of the Earth** website, written by **Dovev Levine et al**, reviews Campus Climate Action in the US. Sections in the piece include: What is taught, How the university is run, What's studied in depth, How the university interacts with others. Reading list and references also available.
- The UK's **Sustainable Development Commission** has conducted a review of government's role to enable supermarkets to deliver a **sustainable food system** in the UK. Six priority areas for government and supermarket action have been identified: Climate Change; Waste; Water; Ecosystems; Nutrition and obesity; Fair Supply Chains
- The **Mayor of London** has announced plans to reduce carbon emissions from London's buildings. **Dalkia** and **Honeywell**, energy service companies will help reduce energy use in Greater London Authority buildings by 25% and there will also be a procurement process to let every public sector organisation in London benefit from the same deal. Part of the **Clinton Climate Initiative** for the C40 cities.
- **Philips** 10th annual sustainability report includes news of a 33% increase in the sales of Green Products in 2007. Total Green Product sales were €5.3 billion in 2007 (€4 billion in 2006).

www.carbonfootprint.com/

www.yearofplanetearth.org/

www.eoearth.org/article/Campus_climate_action_in_the_U%20nited_States

www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/supermarkets.html

www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=15894

www.philips.com/about/sustainability/sustainabilityreports/index.page



People on the Move

- **Osbert Lancaster** has left the **Centre for Human Ecology** to join **Footprint Consulting** as a Director.

www.footprintconsulting.org/

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