

## 'CSEAR E-Newsletter' – March 2009

### 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

- **Just another reminder that Wikipedia has an entry on social accounting. Have a read and see what you think.**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social\\_accounting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_accounting)
- **CSEAR Website:** The slow process of redesigning the CSEAR website has begun again. A *new section on Practice is now in place*. All comments welcome to the usual email.  
[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/csear/aptoppractice/index.html](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/csear/aptoppractice/index.html)
- The newly formed **Towards a Less Unsustainable CSEAR Sub-Committee** is now chaired by **Jill Solomon**, who is looking for people to get involved. Email us if you want to join.  
E.mail: [csear@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:csear@st-andrews.ac.uk)
- The **British Accounting Association's Corporate Governance SIG**, **CSEAR** and the **ACCA** will hold a one day symposium on *Corporate Governance, Environmental Accountability and Social Responsibility* on **May 27th 2009** in London. Get in touch if you are interested in attending.  
[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~csear/web/conferencesnews/comingschool.html](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~csear/web/conferencesnews/comingschool.html)
- The **1<sup>st</sup> South American CSEAR Conference on Social and Environmental Accounting Research** will be held from **27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009** in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, and organised by the **Federal University of Rio de Janeiro**. See website for details.  
Pages in English: [www.facc.ufrj.br/csear2009/in/](http://www.facc.ufrj.br/csear2009/in/)  
Pages in Spanish: [www.facc.ufrj.br/csear2009/es/](http://www.facc.ufrj.br/csear2009/es/)
- A one day **CSEAR** workshop on **'Accountability & Human Rights'** organised with colleagues from **Glasgow University** will be held on **1<sup>st</sup> September 2009** at **University of St Andrews**. This will be one of the **ESRC Research Seminar Series: 'When Worlds Collide'**.  
Email: [csear@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:csear@st-andrews.ac.uk)
- The **21<sup>st</sup> CSEAR UK** conference will be held at **St Andrews University** from **2nd – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009**. With an increase in place numbers for 2009, just get in touch if you are interested.  
[www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/csear](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/csear)
- The **7th Reunión de Investigación en Contabilidad Social y Medioambiental (Spanish CSEAR)** will be held at the **Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria** from **10th-12th September, 2009**. Early information and a Call for papers are on the Spanish CSEAR 2009 website now with registration and accommodation details available soon. General enquiries email: **Jose Juan Deniz-Mayor, 7th Spanish CSEAR Coordinator**.  
[www.congresos.ulpgc.es/7ricsma](http://www.congresos.ulpgc.es/7ricsma)  
[www.congresos.ulpgc.es/7ricsma/call4papers.pdf](http://www.congresos.ulpgc.es/7ricsma/call4papers.pdf)  
Email: [7ricsma@defc.ulpgc.es](mailto:7ricsma@defc.ulpgc.es)
- The **8<sup>th</sup> Australasian Conference on Social & Environmental Accounting** will be hosted by the **University of Canterbury**, **Christchurch New Zealand** on **6th–8<sup>th</sup> December 2009**. Speakers include **Sharon Beder, Den Patten and Caroline Saunders**.  
[www.bsec.canterbury.ac.nz/csear2009/](http://www.bsec.canterbury.ac.nz/csear2009/)

## Call for Papers

- **Critical Perspectives on Accounting** has issued a **Call for Papers** for a special issue on **Accountability & Human Rights**. Guest Editors are **Ken McPhail, John McKernan and Sibylle van der Walt**. Submissions required by **1<sup>st</sup> Aug. 2009**.
- **AAAJ** has sent out a **Call for Papers** for a special issue on **Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Accounting, Auditing & Accountability**. Guest Editors are **Amanda Ball, Markus J. Milne** and **Suzana Grubnic**. Papers can also be presented at the **GHG Measurement, Management and Sense-Making** stream at the **8<sup>th</sup> Australasian CSEAR Conference 2009**. The submission deadline is **31st December 2009**.
- The **International Journal of Critical Accounting (IJCA)** is a new critical accounting journal, published by **Inderscience**, with the first issue due in late 2009. See website for further details.

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[www.bsec.canterbury.ac.nz/csear2009/](http://www.bsec.canterbury.ac.nz/csear2009/)

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[www.inderscience.com/browse/index.php?journalCODE=ijca](http://www.inderscience.com/browse/index.php?journalCODE=ijca)

## Other Conferences

- **ESRC Research Seminar Series: 'When Worlds Collide': Contested Paradigms of CSR** consists of six one-day events focusing on some key CSR issues. The second seminar will be held at the **University of York** on the **25<sup>th</sup> March 2009** to consider **'Is Corporate Taxation Practice a CSR Issue'**.
- The **6<sup>th</sup> 2009 Performance Measurement Association Conference on International Organisational Performance: New Worlds, New Thinking**, will be held on **14-17 April 2009**, **Dunedin, New Zealand**. See website for details.
- **EMAN 2009 Conference 'Environmental Accounting – Sustainable Development Indicators'** is being organized by **Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Usti nad Labem** and will be held on **23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009** in **Prague**.
- The **7<sup>th</sup> European Network for Research in Organisational and Accounting Change (ENROAC) Conference** will be held on **23<sup>rd</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> June, 2009**, **Dundee University, UK**. Plenary speakers at the practitioner's day on *Organisations and Sustainability* include **Jan Bebbington, Jesse Dillard** and **Angelo Riccaboni**.
- The **Sustainable Management of Public and Not for Profit Organisations Conference** will be held at the **Bologna University, Forlì Campus, Italy, 1st – 3rd July 2009**. It will be organised by **Bologna University, Sydney University**, the **International Research Society for Public Management** and the **Italian Academic Network for the Development of Management in Public Sector (SIVMAP)**.
- The **9<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting (IPA) Conference 2009** is hosted by the **Innsbruck University School of Management** and held from **9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009**. The conference will be preceded by an **Emerging Scholars Colloquium** on **7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009**.

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[www.pma.otago.ac.nz](http://www.pma.otago.ac.nz)

[www.ea-sdi.ujep.cz/](http://www.ea-sdi.ujep.cz/)

[www.dundee.ac.uk/accountancy/research/confer/dundee.html](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/accountancy/research/confer/dundee.html)

<http://smog.econ.usyd.edu.au>

[www.uibk.ac.at/at/ipa2009](http://www.uibk.ac.at/at/ipa2009)

## Other Conferences (continued)

- **CMS6 The 6<sup>th</sup> International Critical Management Conference** is hosted by **Warwick Business School, Warwick University**, and held from **13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009**. Stream 18 will be on the topic of **Accountability and Accounterability**.  
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/wbs/conf/cms2009/>
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Accounting and the New Labour Process Symposium** will be held on **31<sup>st</sup> July 2009** at **Baruch College, New York, US**.  
Email Organiser: Tony Tinker  
[Tony.tinker@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:Tony.tinker@baruch.cuny.edu)

## Accounting and Reporting

- Denmark is now at the forefront of CSR with the new '**Social Responsibility for Large Businesses**' law, an amendment to the **Danish Financial Statements Act**, which came into force in January 2009. Approximately 1,100 of the largest Danish companies, listed and state owned, will be required to include information on their corporate responsibility policies and practices in their annual financial reports, to '*supplement their management's review with a report on social responsibility*'.  
Source:  
[www.ethicalcorp.com/content.asp?ContentID=6280](http://www.ethicalcorp.com/content.asp?ContentID=6280)
- **Ecofact** a Swiss consultant firm compiles negative news on companies' environmental and social performance. First in 2008 was **Barclays Bank**; with **E.ON** most controversial utility; and **Wal-Mart** first in the USA companies list. The most environmentally and socially controversial company in 2008 was the Chinese company **Shijiazhuang Sanlu Group Holding Co** – due to the case of contamination of milk powder with melamine.  
[www.ecofact.com/](http://www.ecofact.com/)
- **Professor Prem Sikka**, from Essex University, series of articles in **The Guardian** includes '**Calling accountants to account**' in which he rejects accounting neutrality claims. The lead line of the article reads '*Shortcomings in accounting standards have done grievous harm and are central to the current financial crisis*'  
[www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/dec/22/banking-creditcrunch](http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/dec/22/banking-creditcrunch)  
Also see:  
[www.aabaglobal.org](http://www.aabaglobal.org)
- **Covalence's** annual ethical ranking covers 541 multinationals within 18 sectors and is based on a renovated calculation methodology combining popularity and diversified performance. The leaders across sectors are: **HSBC, Intel, and Unilever**.  
[www.covalence.ch/index.php/products/services/ethical-rankings/across-sectors/](http://www.covalence.ch/index.php/products/services/ethical-rankings/across-sectors/)
- The **Brazilian Foundation for Sustainable Development (FBDS)**, **SustainAbility** and **UNEP** have published '**Road to Credibility**' which looks at sustainability reporting in Brazil and highlights best practice in transparency and disclosure. The report is the 8th global, and 1st national, survey of corporate sustainability reporting completed for Global Reporters, now in its 12th year. **Natura**, a cosmetics company was first, followed by **Suzano Petroquímica**, from the chemicals sector, and **Ampla** and **Coelce**, providers of electric utilities.  
[www.fbds.org.br/](http://www.fbds.org.br/)
- The **International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)** has published its **2008 Annual Review – Embracing Change**. With falling commodity prices, ICMM members have reaffirmed their commitment to the sustainable development agenda and will be undertaking a strategic review to help them develop priorities.  
[www.icmm.com/annualreview](http://www.icmm.com/annualreview)

## Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- **FEE's (Federation of European Accountants)** latest publication looks at ***Sustainability Information in Annual Reports – Building on Implementation of the Modernisation Directive*** (Article 46). Research was also undertaken in 76 companies known for their good practice in sustainability. **FEE** found that reporting on sustainability in annual reports needs improvement and that reporting on CSR needs to be in the spirit of the Modernisation Directive. **FEE** has also published four policy statement on core issues in relation to sustainability and the accountancy profession and acknowledges the urgent nature of the challenge of sustainability. See website for pdfs.  
[www.fee.be/](http://www.fee.be/)
- **Business for Social Responsibility** has published ***Measuring Corporate Impact on EcoSystems: A comprehensive review of new tools***, which looks at 7 emerging tools which companies can use to measure 'ecosystem services'.  
[www.bsr.org/reports/BSR\\_EMI\\_Tools\\_Application.pdf](http://www.bsr.org/reports/BSR_EMI_Tools_Application.pdf)  
Source: *Sustainability Matters*, January 2009
- The **New Economics Foundation** has launched ***National Accounts of Well-being: Bringing real wealth onto the balance sheet*** plus a new website. Different accounts of well being and social well-being are presented, as distinct from **GDP**, across 22 European nations. Denmark, Switzerland and Norway show the highest levels of overall well-being, while Central and Eastern European countries have the lowest. The UK is 13<sup>th</sup>. You can take your own survey made up of the questions from the European Social survey and produce your personal **Well-being Profile**, and compare your results with those from countries across Europe. The survey contains around 50 questions and should take 10-15 minutes to complete.  
[www.nationalaccountsowellbeing.org/](http://www.nationalaccountsowellbeing.org/)
- Japan's **National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)** has released software that analyzes product life cycles for environmental impact what it calls '**total performance assessment software**'. The software is available for free download.  
Source:  
[www.japanfs.org/en/pages/028744.html](http://www.japanfs.org/en/pages/028744.html)
- The **Network on Product Life Spans** has made available all of its discussion reports and presentations via the website. Three new groups have also been formed – Waste reduction, Designers and Behavioural change.  
<http://extra.shu.ac.uk/productlife/seminars.html>.
- The **Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project Forum** held an event in December in London, to discuss ***Accounting for Sustainability: Decision-making and reporting in a resource constrained world*** with 200+ attending. Proceedings from the day are to be published plus the website includes pdfs of much of the material presented.  
[www.accountingforsustainability.org/output/Page161.asp](http://www.accountingforsustainability.org/output/Page161.asp)
- The **Norwegian** government has launched a white paper on ***CSR in a globalised economy***, clarifying companies' responsibility for public reporting on sustainability performance – including human rights, decent working conditions, the environment and anti-corruption. The paper explains how the **GRI G3 guidelines** can be used to fulfil these responsibilities and the government plan to amend the Accounting Act  
[www.globalreporting.org/](http://www.globalreporting.org/)

## Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- The **International Federation of Accountant's Professional Accountants in Business Committee** has developed a web-based tool the **IFAC Sustainability Framework** highlighting how organisations can make sustainability an integral part of their business. It also provides accountants with additional resources. [www.ifac.org/PAIB](http://www.ifac.org/PAIB)

## Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions

- **Calvert** has created **Calvert Social Index®** a social index of US-based companies following a social audit of the 1000 largest companies in the US based on factors such as human rights, governance and ethics and impact on the environment. [www.calvert.com/sri\\_815.html](http://www.calvert.com/sri_815.html)
- **FTSE** has launched the **FTSE4Good Australia 30 Index** which includes the largest Australian companies, based on **FTSE4Good criteria**, who implement social responsibility policies. [www.ftse.com](http://www.ftse.com)
- **oekom** has analysed the sustainability of 30 global, listed utilities companies and found that although the sector is working towards transforming energy policy, the rate of change is slow. [www.oekom-research.com](http://www.oekom-research.com)
- The **Co-operative Financial Services** has won the **Business in the Community Award** for overall **Impact on Society Award** for its work in meeting the commitments under its sustainable development policy. [www.cfs.co.uk](http://www.cfs.co.uk)
- The **Co-operative Bank** has announced that it has turned down £1 billion of *'unethical'* business since 1992. It has also launched the fifth update of the standards organisations must meet to open accounts or receive loans and financing. [www.co-operativebank.co.uk/](http://www.co-operativebank.co.uk/)
- U.S. investors have added 9 companies to a **'Climate Watch List'** as a result of their failure to evaluate and disclose the impact of climate risk on their business. Shareholder resolutions with 8 of the 9 companies—and 49 other businesses— have also been filed, drawing further attention to the financial risks and opportunities from climate change. **Canadian Natural Resources, Chevron, Consol Energy, Exxon Mobil, General Motors, Massey Energy, Southern Company, Standard Pacific** and **Ultra Petroleum** were named. The shareholder filings were coordinated by **Ceres** and the **Interfaith Centre on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)**. [www.incr.com](http://www.incr.com)
- **Novethic** and **BNP Paribas** have surveyed large French and UK institutional investors and found that for French institutional investors social issues are the main priority whereas in the UK it is corporate governance. [www.novethic.com](http://www.novethic.com)
- **EIRIS** has produced **'The Corruption Perceptions Index'** based on bribery data and surveys conducted by **Transparency International**. The index found signs of *'rampant corruption'* in 60 countries. [www.eiris.org](http://www.eiris.org)



## Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- **Dansif**, the Danish Social Investment Forum has been launched to promote intra-industry exchanges and discussion on socially responsible investment. [www.dansif.dk](http://www.dansif.dk)
- **Innovest** and **Corporate Knights** have published '*Global 100: Most Sustainable Corporations in the World*' a list of publicly-traded, MSCI World-listed companies who can manage 'ESG risks and opportunities'. 18 companies are UK-based. Source: UKSIF [www.global100.org](http://www.global100.org)
- The **Social Enterprise** magazine and **RBS** have launched the **RBS SE100 Index** charting the growth and impact of organisations that deliver social, economic or environmental change. The index will publish the top 5 social enterprises in a particular market each month and the top 100 at the end of the year. [www.se100.co.uk](http://www.se100.co.uk)
- The **Department for Energy and Climate Change** (UK) has launched its voluntary offsetting code, the **Quality Assurance Scheme for Carbon Offsetting**. Critics have said that it may undermine the voluntary carbon market. Companies can apply to use a quality mark to prove that their products comply. <http://offsetting.defra.gov.uk/>

## Other Issues

- **Japan for Sustainability** reports that **Mitsubishi** are making a monitor unit '*Eco Guide TV*' which displays household data via the TV, including solar power generation, electricity consumption, electricity trading, and reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from using the solar power systems. Available in Japan to-date. Source: [www.japanfs.org/en/pages/028582.html](http://www.japanfs.org/en/pages/028582.html)
- **Tom Johnson** wrote to draw CSEAR members' attention to **John Ehrenfeld's** website. John is known for his leadership of an industrial ecology institute based at **Yale** and an associated journal. Also, of interest will be John's new book *Sustainability by Design* (Yale, 2008). [www.johnehrenfeld.com](http://www.johnehrenfeld.com)
- **Niklas Kreander** wrote following the launch of the movie **11th hour**, a website the **11th Hour Action Network** has been set up to enable ideas and solutions within their framework of sustainability goals to be shared. <http://11thhouraction.com/>
- **Sky News**, **The Independent** and **Greenpeace** investigated a claim that e-waste collected by **Hampshire County Council** was sent to Nigeria without the appliances being recycled under UK conditions. Using a satellite tracker put in the old TV, its journey across the globe was followed. [www.greenpeace.org.uk/](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/)
- Management consulting firm **McKinsey's** and the **Uptime Institute** report that the average data centre consumes the same amount of energy as 25,000 households. Data centres in general may surpass the airline industry as a top greenhouse gas polluter by 2020. [www.mckinsey.com/clientserve/bto/pointofview/Revolutionizing.asp](http://www.mckinsey.com/clientserve/bto/pointofview/Revolutionizing.asp)
- One of the entries in the **Green Gadgets Design Competition** in New York recently included the cardboard-housed **Recompute**. Take a look at a '*sustainable*', cardboard PC. [www.engadget.com/2009/02/05/recompute-a-closer-look-at-the-sustainable-cardboard-pc/](http://www.engadget.com/2009/02/05/recompute-a-closer-look-at-the-sustainable-cardboard-pc/)

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