

'CSEAR E-Newsletter' – December 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

- The 2nd North American CSEAR Conference will be held in **Orlando, Florida, USA** from 4th – 6th January 2010. Organised by colleagues from the **University of Central Florida**, please see the website for the programme and registration.
<http://web.bus.ucf.edu/site/csear/>
Email: Katherine Vazquez at: kvazquez@bus.ucf.edu
- The 22nd CSEAR UK conference will be held at **St Andrews University** from 1st - 3rd September 2010. The plenary speakers will be **Brendan O'Dwyer, Amsterdam University** and **Stefan Schaltegger, Universität Lüneburg**. Co-organised with **EMAN**, a separate environmental management papers stream will be available. Get in touch if you are interested in presenting.
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~csearweb/conferencesnews/comingschool.html
<http://www.eman-eu.net/>
- The 3rd Italian Conference on SEA Research will be held from 16th – 18th September 2010. Organised by the **University of Catania, Sicily, Italy**, plenary speakers include **Rob Gray; Gianfranco Rusconi; Lorraine Ruffing; and Maria Gabriella Baldarelli**. See conference website for more information.
www.economia.unict.it/Csear/
- The 4th GECAMB Portuguese SEA conference will be held in **Portugal** on 14th – 15th October 2010. Further details to come.
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/csear

Call for Papers and Posters

- **Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal**, Editor **Carol Adams**, is to be published twice a year from 2010. See website for more details, including call for papers.
www.emeraldinsight.com/sam/pj.htm
- A **Call for Posters** has been issued by the **GRI Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency 2010** which will be held on 26th - 28th May 2010. The conference is organised by the **Global Reporting Initiative**, and its theme is '*Rethink. Rebuild. Report.*'. The main conference also includes an academic conference with two main elements. A series of debates with invited speakers focusing on sustainability/CSR reporting topics and, poster presentations. The latter will provide opportunities for scholars to discuss their research with conference attendees. The posters will be placed near to the meeting rooms so that people will be able to engage in discussions around the boards in an informal and relaxed way.
Please see attached pdf for full details
For information on the conference
<http://www.amsterdamGRIconference.org>
For those unfamiliar with poster presentations, see <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/speaking/poster/pop2a.cfm>
- A **Call for Papers** has been issued by the **Critical Accounting Society Symposium** and **Istanbul University** in Turkey will co-organize a conference in **Istanbul**, on 18th May 2010 on '*Critical Accounting Issues in Emerging Countries*'.
Website under construction
Email re papers:
Aida.sy1776@gmail.com

Other Conferences

- The **EMAN-AM (Environmental Management Accounting Americas Network)** conference will be held in **San Diego, California, US** at **Alliant International University** from **18th – 19th February 2010**. The focus will be on *'Sustainable Entrepreneurship in America: Measuring and Reporting its Effects'*. See website for details.
www.eman-am.net
- The **ICCSR 7th Annual Symposium** will be held on **27th April 2010**, with the theme of **'Corporate Social Innovation and Sustainable Community Development'**.
www.nottingham.ac.uk/business/ICCSR/events.php?e=48
- The **3rd Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) Academic Conference** will be held at the **Copenhagen Business School (CBS)** in Denmark from **5th-7th May 2010**. The theme will be *'Mainstreaming Responsible Investment'*.
www.unpri.org/files/CFP2010.pdf
- The **TBLI Conference ASIA 2010** will be held on **27th -28th May, 2010** and held at **Chinzan-so, Tokyo, Japan**. A call for papers has been issued with submissions by **31st January 2010**.
<http://tbliconference.com>
- The *'Financial Co-operative Approaches to Local Development through Sustainable Innovation'* conference run by **EURICSE** will be held on **10th-11th June, 2010** in **Trento**.
www.euricse.eu/en
- **GIN2010 - Climate Change and Green Growth: Innovating for Sustainability** will be held on **June 13-16, 2010, Seoul, Korea**. Closing date for submissions **January 22nd 2010**.
<http://www.gin2010.or.kr/>
- The **Sixth Asia Pacific Interdisciplinary Research in Accounting (APIRA) Conference** will be held in **Sydney, Australia** from **11th – 13th July 2010**. The **Emerging Scholars Colloquium** will take place on **11 July 2010**. Paper submission date is **1st February 2010**. See website for speakers.
<http://apira2010.econ.usyd.edu.au/>
- The **2011 International Conference for Critical Accounting (ICCA)** plus an **Emerging Critical Scholars Workshop** and an **Accounting and the New Labor Process Symposium** will be held at **Baruch College, New York** from **April 28th – 30th 2011**.
Email:
Tony.Tinker
@baruch.cuny.edu

Accounting and Reporting

- The **London Mining Network** has published **'BHP Billiton undermining the Future' – Alternative Annual Report 2009** providing case studies highlighting the disparity between **BHP Billiton's 'Sustainable Development Policy'** and the reality of its operations. A reply from the company is also available. Source: **ECCR Newsletter: www.eccr.org.uk**
www.piplinks.org/system/files/BHP+Billiton+Alternative+Report.pdf
For company response see:
www.business-humanrights.org/Links/Repository/800924
- **ECCR's** South African partner the **Bench Marks Foundation** has published a report on **De Beers'** mining activities in Botswana, looking at the **Debswana** joint venture with the Botswana government.
Source: **ECCR Newsletter: www.eccr.org.uk**
www.bench-marks.org.za/
- The UK's **DEFRA** and **DECC** has published guidance for businesses and organisations on how to measure and report their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/reporting/index.htm

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- **Covalence** reports that **IBM, Intel and HSBC** topped the ethical ranking amongst 541 multinationals from 18 sectors. Eco-innovative products and social sponsorships generated positive coverage over the last quarter, whilst employment and working conditions (wages, bonuses) caused criticisms - pressure being particularly strong in France and towards the Banking sector.
www.covalence.ch/index.php/2009/10/07/covalence-ethical-ranking-q3-2009/
- **Covalence** also reports that **Merck** has followed **Eli Lilly** to include details on their website of how much is paid to doctors for speaking engagements in the US.
www.merck.com/corporate-responsibility/business-ethics-transparency/ethics-financial-support-third-parties/payments-us-hcp/home.html
- **RAID (Rights and Accountability in Development)**, a UK NGO, promotes responsible corporate behaviour, particularly in Africa. Their latest research report ***Chinese Mining Companies in Katanga*** was undertaken in partnership with **Action contre l'impunité pour les droits humains**, a Lubumbashi-based NGO. It provides a snapshot of working conditions in Chinese run enterprises in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** where 60 of Katanga's 75 smelters and plants are Chinese owned, with 90% of the regions materials going to China.
www.raid-uk.org/docs/ChinaAfrica/EXSUM%20ENG%20LR.pdf
Summaries in English, French and Chinese are available on the website.
- **Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu** has published its first **Corporate Responsibility Report** with a build your 'own review feature'. With the facts and figures, are details of the **Deloitte21** initiative, the establishment of sustainable workplaces and profiles of Deloitte staff who find ways to balance their lives.
www.deloitte.com/2009crreport
- The **Health Facilities Scotland** has reported on the **NHS Scotland's** carbon dioxide emissions, with the 2.63 megatonnes produced representing 3.6% of Scotland's total. Whilst CO2 emissions fell by 4% from 1990 levels overall, the decline was uneven - with emissions from buildings' energy use falling by 34%, whilst those from procurement rose by 20%.
www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/10/22112919
- The UK's **Institute for Chartered Accountants in England and Wales** and the **Environment Agency** have published '**Environmental Issues and Annual Financial Reporting**' as part of the **ICAEW's Turning Questions into Answers** series. Contents includes reporting requirements; implications for companies and report users; and guidance for auditors.
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/TECPLN8045_env_report_aw.pdf
- The **International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB)** has published a **Consultation Paper to Enhance Reporting on Greenhouse Gases** seeking views on developing a new assurance standard on GHG statements. The Paper asks a series of questions: the form of assurance report that users would find most useful; the nature and extent of requirements; how a standard should best integrate with regulatory requirements; and technical aspects of applying the assurance process to GHG emissions. The IAASB intends to use the feedback from the consultation to develop an exposure draft of a proposed new assurance standard on GHG statements for release in 2010. **Comments by February 19, 2010** and will be posted on IFAC's website.
www.ifac.org/Guidance/EXD-Outstanding.php

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- **Nef** has published '*The Great Transition*' a blueprint for UK policymakers for a economy based on '*stability, prosperity, fairness, sustainability and well-being*'. The report demonstrates the high cost of a return to business-as-usual, forecasting that between 2010 and 2050:

- **The cumulative cost of climate change would range from £1.6 to £2.5 trillion.**
- **The cumulative cost of addressing preventable social problems associated with high levels of inequality is £4.5 trillion.**

The report sets out seven main interventions, including a '*great revaluing*' to ensure that prices reflect true social and environmental costs, '*a great rebalancing*' that sets out a new productive relationship between markets, society and the state, and '*a great economic irrigation*' that builds an '*ecology of finance*' so that money and investment flows where it is most needed. See website for specific policy proposals.

www.neweconomics.org/

- The **South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)** has published *Green*, a book addressing why corporate leaders need to '*embrace sustainability to ensure profitability*'. The **SAICA** has also launched a new web site offering topics on reporting, investment guidelines, carbon trading, sustainability assurance, SA government's response, sustainability tools etc.

www.sustainabilitysa.org
Source: Ray Skinner of Sustainability Matters

- The **Dutch Accounting Standards Board (DASB)** has published their reviewed **Annual Reporting Guideline** (the **RJ-400**) and its **CSR supplement**. The **RJ-400** provides information for Dutch Companies' annual reporting practices, including Dutch legal stipulations, international standards + court rulings. The supplement includes recommendations regarding for Dutch companies CSR reporting. It also encourages companies to engage with societal issues and ensure that although CSR and CSR reporting may be voluntary, they should be taken seriously.

Source:
www.globalreporting.org/NewsEventsPress/LatestNews/2009/NewsDecember09DutchAccountingStandardsChanges.htm

- **GRI** has announced the opening of scoring for their **2nd Biennial Readers' Choice Awards** where readers of sustainability reports can have their say on how companies communicate sustainability.

www.globalreporting.org

- The **Sustainable Value** team has published the 2nd "*Sustainable Value in Automobile Manufacturing. An analysis of the sustainability performance of automobile manufacturers worldwide*" looking at 17 car manufacturers from 1999- 2007. A new survey on "Sustainable Value Creation by Chemical Companies" has also been published using the SV approach.

www.sustainablevalue.com/

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions

- **FairPensions**, the **TUC**, **ActionAid**, the **Local Authority Pension Fund Forum**, **PIRC** and **ECCR** have asked the UK government to use Companies Act reserve powers to compel institutional shareholders with £500m+ in assets to publicly disclose how they voted on all resolutions on UK-listed companies each year.

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- **EIRIS** has been looking at companies' progress in addressing climate change. '**Climate Change Compass: The road to Copenhagen**' analyses the 300 largest companies on the **FTSE All World Index**, finding that although the quality of climate change risk management has improved, a third of the companies are failing to address the risks posed by climate change.
www.eiris.org
- **Railpen**, one of the UK's largest pension funds, has asked its investment managers and trustees to fill out a '*climate audit*' of how they factor climate change into existing investment processes. The 77-question document is "*intended to act as a catalyst*" to encourage a deeper consideration of climate change issues *Environmental Finance* was told.
Source: *Environmental Finance*
- **EIRIS** has also published '**Responsible Investment and Wealth Management: Opportunities for the future**' with **WealthBriefing** and **Kleinwort Benson**, examining if responsible investments under-perform. It reports a growing awareness of environmental, social and governance issues, and finds that the financial crisis has had a positive effect on the view that wealth managers take towards RI.
www.eiris.org/media.html
- **Triodos Bank**, (Netherlands, ethical bank), recently planned to raise €90m (\$133 million) to double its loan portfolio. With '*unprecedented interest*' the depository receipt issue was closed early as it was over-subscribed. 102 million euros was raised. **Triodos** has also launched a new website which shows exactly which companies and individuals it lends to.
www.triodos.co.uk/knowwhereyourmoneygoes/
- **Henderson Global Investors**, **Insight Investment**, and the **Universities Superannuation Scheme**, plus **Acclimatise** have published *Managing the Unavoidable: Understanding the investment implications of adapting to changing climate* which argues that Companies plus investors are failing to take changes in weather patterns into account in their investment decisions.
www.henderson.com/content/sri/publications/reports/investorsprojectriskopps_report.pdf
- **Oikocredit**, in collaboration with **Cerise**, has published its first social audit. **Cerise** has been developing a **Social Performance Indicator tool**, a social audit instrument for microfinance institutions, to analyze the financier's internal systems and processes.
www.oikocredit.org/site/en/doc.phtml?p=oikocredit-announces-results-of-social-audit
- '**The Global State of Sustainable Insurance - Understanding and integrating environmental, social and governance factors in insurance**' has been published summarising a global survey conducted by the **Insurance Working Group** and **Academic Working Group** of **UNEP Finance Initiative**.
www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/global-state-of-sustainable-insurance.pdf
- Recent publications from the **IFC** are '*Sustainable Investment in India 2009*' and '*Sustainable Investing in Emerging Markets: Unscathed by the Financial Crisis*'. See website for pdfs.
www.ifc.org/
- **Vigeo** has published its ninth review of **Green, Social and Ethical Funds in Europe** finding considerably growth in number and size over the past year, in spite of the fall-out from the financial crisis.
www.vigeo.com

Other Issues

- The **Welsh Assembly** is to introduce the UK's first single use carrier bag tax to come into force by 2011

<http://wales.gov.uk/news/topic/environment/2009/091103carrierbagcharge/?lang=en&ts=1>

- **Volkswagen** and **DDB Stockholm** have been working on - **The Fun Theory** - to see if making the world more fun can improve people's behaviour. The top video, **Piano Stairs**, has achieved 1 million+ views on **YouTube**. Another film shows a waste bin project with a bottle recycling centre as an arcade game planned.

<http://mashable.com/2009/10/11/the-fun-theory/> put in the you tube link

- The **Yes Men** have been involved with the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** at an event held at the **National Press Club**. '**Hingo Sembra**' representing the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce** announced support for climate-change legislation now before the **US Congress**. The real spokesman arrives and chaos ensues, with **Reuters** filing the story based on a fake press release. The news appeared on several websites and was announced on TV.

www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=2125428
www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=2125428#ixzz0UZ3OjHU4

- **Oxford University**, in the UK is to host the newly created **Environmental Sustainability Knowledge Transfer Network**, intended to help exchange information and promote innovative responses to environmental challenges.

www.esktn.org.uk/ktn/

- **ICMM** is a collaborative of 18 companies and 30 mining and commodity associations, providing a means for joint action on sustainability-related issues important to the mining industry. ICMM has recently published '*Human Rights in the Metals & Mining Industry: Handling and Resolving Local Level Concerns & Grievances*' designed to help members deal with challenging issues.

www.icmm.com

- In 2009 the **Universidade de São Paulo** was one of three Winners of the **Dow Sustainability Innovation Student Challenge 2009**. The winning paper is the result of interdisciplinary teamwork at the **Núcleo de Estudos em Contabilidade e Meio Ambiente (Nucleus of Environment and Accounting Studies)** at the **Universidade de São Paulo**.

http://news.dow.com/dow_news/corporate/2009/20090528b.htm

- **Kate Evans** has produced for **Carbon Trade Watch**, her latest cartoon '*Don't know about carbon trading? Don't care?*' Free to download at this website.

www.cartoonkate.co.uk

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