

'CSEAR E-Newsletter' – March 2010

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 **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. A special track on **Social and Environmental Accounting and Finance Research: Evidence from 'N>29 samples'** is also being planned and other topic streams may be organised as required. A Call for Papers has been issued.
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 Conference on Environmental Management and Accounting – Portuguese CSEAR Conference** will be held from **14th – 15th October 2010**. Organised by the **Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão do Instituto Politécnico de Leiria, Portugal**, plenary speakers include **Christine Cooper and Charles Cho**. A **Call for Papers** has been issued with the **closing date for abstracts (in English) set at 7th of June, 2010**.
<http://eventos.ipleiria.pt/gecamb2010/>

Call for Papers

- **Accounting Forum** is planning a special issue on **Social and Environmental Accounting and Accountability** and has issued a **Call for Papers** with submissions by **30th April 2010**. Editors are **Chris van Staden, Thomas Kern, Nicholas McGuigan and Susan Wild**. See attached flyer and website.
www.bsec.canterbury.ac.nz/csear2009/pdf/Acc_Forum_Special_Issue_CSR_GuideforAuthors.pdf

Other Conferences

- 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 **2010 Swiss Discussion Forums on Life Cycle Assessment** will be held on **April 20th 2010 in Zürich; June 22nd 2010 in Bern; and 19th of November 2010 in Lausanne**.
www.lcainfo.ch

Other Conferences (continued)

- 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 **GRI Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency 2010** will be held on **26th - 28th May 2010**, with *'Rethink. Rebuild. Report'* as its theme. The main conference includes an academic conference with two elements: debates with invited speakers considering sustainability/CSR reporting topics and poster presentations.
www.amsterdamGRIconference.org
- The **TBLI Conference ASIA 2010** will be held on **27th-28th May, 2010** and held at **Chinzan-so, Tokyo, Japan**.
<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
- The **4th Accounting and the New Labor Process Symposium** will be held in **London**, on **11th-12th June 2010**. A call for papers has been issued.
Submissions to:-
C.Elad@westminster.ac.uk
- **GIN2010 - Climate Change and Green Growth: *Innovating for Sustainability*** will be held on **June 13-16, 2010, Seoul, Korea**.
<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 be held on **11th July 2010**.
<http://apira2010.econ.usyd.edu.au/>
See website for full details.
- The **Corporate Responsibility Research Conference 2010 *'Sustainability Management in a Diverse World'*** will be held on **15th-17th September 2010** at **Euromed Management School, Marseille, France**. The conference is co-organised with **Queen's University Management School** and the **Sustainability Research Institute of the University of Leeds**.
www.crrconference.org
- The ***Journal of Management Studies*** and the **Society for the Advancement of Management Studies, Loughborough University, UK** is holding ***The Foundations of Sustainability*** conference from **27th – 29th September 2010**. Speakers include **Garry D Bruton** and **Andreas Georg Scherer**.
Abstracts of 1,000 words to be submitted by 6th April by email to Jo Brudenell at: j.m.brudenell@durham.ac.uk
- The **ERSCP-EMSU 2010 conference - *Knowledge Collaboration & Learning for Sustainable Innovation*** will take place in **Delft, the Netherlands**, on **25th-29th October 2010**. A call for abstracts and papers has been issued.
www.erscp-emsu2010.org/file_download
- The 15th conference in the ***Towards Sustainable Product Design*** series, ***'Sustainable Innovation 2010: Creating Break throughs: Green growth, Eco-innovation, Entrepreneurship and Jobs'*** will be held from **8th–9th November 2010** in **Rotterdam, The Netherlands**. This conference is organised by **The Centre for Sustainable Design and Enviu**.
www.cfsd.org.uk
Email SI10@ucreative.ac.uk

Accounting and Reporting

- **Article 13** regularly profiles organisations connected with innovative work in CSR. Each case study examines why the company is implementing CSR and sustainability initiatives, the successes and failures, and how the programmes are delivering the company's business objectives. Recent additions concern **AMEC, BMJ Group** and **Ericsson**.

www.article13.com/

- **Accounting for Sustainability** – the project established under the auspices of the UK's **Prince of Wales** – has established a web based microsite '**Connected Reporting**' which provides an introduction to connected reporting; a 'how to guide'; and worked examples. The full case studies will be published in a book later this year.

www.connectedreporting.accountingforsustainability.org/
www.accountingforsustainability.org

- The **ACCA** has launched a new publication **Accountancy Futures** which will allow the **ACCA** to publish its work in carbon accounting, access to finance, audit and society and narrative reporting.

See for first issue:
<http://ab.digitaleditions.co.uk/01-2010/%20>

- The **Aldersgate Group** (a UK coalition of businesses, environmental groups and individuals) and others are calling for greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting to be made mandatory for all large UK organisations.

www.aldersgategroup.org.uk

- The **Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)** has reported on how UK **FTSE 100** companies' emission reduction targets measure up against the national target, using the **CDP 2009** dataset to analyse company targets. **FTSE 100** carbon intensive sectors fall far short of reduction targets required by UK Climate Change Act, says **CDP**.

www.cdproject.net

- **Japan for Sustainability** has reported on results from the **Campus Climate Challenge Executive Committee** of its first initiative to rank the environmental efforts of Japanese universities.

www.japanfs.org/en/pages/029638.html

- The government of **India's Ministry of Corporate Affairs** has published '*Corporate Social Responsibility Voluntary Guidelines 2009*' which includes fundamental principles; six core elements for companies to address; and implementation guidance.

www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/latestnews/CSR_Voluntary_Guidelines_24dec2009.pdf

- **Nef** has published '*Growth Isn't Possible: Why rich countries need a new economic direction*' by **Andrew Simms** and **Victoria Johnson**. Looking at climate change models and energy use, the authors ask if global economic growth can be maintained, whilst limiting global temperature rise to 2°C. (The agreed political objective of the European Union.)

www.neweconomics.org/

- The December 2009 issue of the **Journal of the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Accountability** includes a feature article '*The Sustainability Agenda: A preliminary investigation of accountancy firm managers' perceptions of support from the professional bodies*' by **Joanne Tingey-Holyoak** and **Roger Burritt** and a short article on '*Beyond Greenhouse Gases: Accounting for changing transport cost structures*' by the same authors plus the usual features.

Future contributors should contact the Co-Editor
Dr Sumit Lodhia by email:
sumit.lodhia@anu.edu.au

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- **FEE (The Fédération des Experts comptables Européens – Federation of European Accountants)** has reported its strategy on sustainability in a series of policy statements. The latest 3 cover *'Small and sustainable: opportunities for SMEs'*; *'Equipping Accountants for a sustainable future'*; and *'Accountants driving sustainable changes in the public sector'*.

**www.fee.be/
See website for details**
- In 2009 the **EMAS Regulation** was revised and modified. **Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009** of the **European Parliament/ Council** on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (**EMAS**) was published in Dec.2009 and came into force in January 2010.

**The regulation can be downloaded in all Community languages from:
http://eur-lex.europa.eu**
- The **US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)** has agreed to provide public companies with interpretive guidance on existing **SEC** disclosure requirements as they apply to business or legal developments relating to climate change. The relevant rules cover a company's risk factors, business description, legal proceedings, and management discussion and analysis. The **SEC's** interpretative guidance highlights the following as examples of where climate change may trigger disclosure requirements:
 - Impact of legislation and regulation
 - Impact of international accords
 - Indirect consequences of regulation or business trends
 - Physical impacts of climate change
www.sec.gov/news/press/2010/2010-15.htm
- **McKinsey & Company** (as part of the **2030 Water Resources Group**) has published *'Charting our water future: Economic frameworks to inform decision-making'* showing that it is possible to close the growing gap between water supply and demand. Case studies from 4 countries are provided.

**www.mckinsey.com/clientserve/Water/Charting_our_water_future.aspx
Source: www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz**
- **IBM, Intel and HSBC** are top of the **Covalence** ethical ranking 2009 from 581 multinationals from 18 sectors. Environmental initiatives, Eco-innovative products and social sponsorships generated positive coverage, while issues on downsizing, CO2 emissions and working conditions caused the most criticisms.

www.covalence.ch
- **Nippon Keidanren** (Japanese Business Federation) has announced its 2009 CSR survey results from its 1,297 corporate members, with the aim of showing how corporations embrace CSR in managing their businesses, what challenges that they face, and how CSR initiatives have evolved at each company since 2008. The response rate was 33.7%.

www.japanfs.org/en/pages/029692.html
- **Vigeo** has published ***Social Responsibility: What do companies report on?*** analysing 700 European companies. Findings include listed companies addressing their shareholders and the financial markets first with information on professional relationships and dialogue scant.

http://www.vigeo.com/csr-rating-agency/images/PDF/Communiquedepresse/English/cp%20etude%20reporting%20en.pdf
- **Earthscan** has announced the launch of the ***Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment*** which will be edited by **Matthew Haigh** from **Aarhus University, Denmark**.

www.asb.dk/article.aspx?pid=24445

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions

- According to the **HSBC's Climate Change Index** Asia's climate change economy may be outstripping the US. **HSBC** suggests that 46% of global climate change stimuli spending is concentrated in Asia – excluding Japan.
- The **UK government** has announced its **Clean Energy Cashback Scheme**, or **feed-in tariff**, for small-scale low-carbon electricity generation, along with its plans to introduce similar incentives for low-carbon heating.
- **Zerofootprint** has recently published a report on a **Green Credits scheme** which is designed to provide a way of rewarding citizens who have reduced their emissions.
- **Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance** (Dubai), **Standard & Poor**, and **Credit Rating and Information Services of India** are developing the first ESG index of Middle Eastern and North African companies. The index is expected to include 60 stocks scored by ESG performance, screening and survey answers. The initiative is supported by the **International Finance Corporation**, the private sector arm of the World Bank.
- **Thomson Reuters** has acquired **ASSET4 AG**, a Swiss-based, supplier of Environmental, Social Responsibility and Governance information and tools. It is suggested that this will help further integrate ESG data into mainstream financial analysis.
- **Impact Investment Exchange (IIX)** plans a regulated trading platform for securities issued by sustainable for-profit and not-for-profit Social Enterprises in Asia, providing a market for social enterprises to raise capital and for investors seeking financial and social/ environmental returns. The initiative is supported by a **Rockefeller Foundation Awards Grant** of US\$495,000.
- The **Norwegian Ministry of Finance** has announced that it will drop 17 tobacco companies for its **Government Pension Fund Global** on ethical grounds. This is the fund in which Norway invests its oil wealth for future generations, and is the world's 2nd largest sovereign wealth fund after the United Arab Emirates.
- **Ceres** has published ***Investors Analyse Climate Risks and Opportunities: A survey of asset managers' practices*** reporting that "*nearly half of money managers surveyed ignoring climate risks, considering it 'non-material'*".
- The **Forest Footprint Disclosure** has published its first report backed by 34 investors, with \$3.5 trillion under management. This investor led effort received replies from 35 companies concerning their disclosures on their impact on forests.
- An **EIRIS** survey conducted by **MORI** reports that 44% of the UK public are interested in knowing more about the ethics behind the next financial product or service they buy.

Source:

www.newenergyworldnetwork.com

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=410754&NewsAreaID=2&ClientID=416>

www.zerofootprint.net/images/uploads/Green_Credits.pdf

Source: Environmental Finance

http://thomsonreuters.com/content/press_room/tf/tf_gen_business/2009_11_30_acquisition_as_set4

www.asiaix.com

Source: www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz

www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fin/press-center/Press-releases/2010/Tobacco-producers-excluded-from-Government-Pension-Fund-Global.html?id=591449

www.ceres.org/Page.aspx?pid=1175

www.forestdisclosure.com/docs/FFD_Annual_Review_WEB.pdf

www.eiris.org/media.html#eirisopinionpoll

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- **'Towards a Royal Bank of Sustainability: Protecting taxpayers' interests; cutting carbon risk'** has been published by **PLATFORM**, **People & Planet**, **World Development Movement**, **Friends of the Earth Scotland**, and **BankTrack**. The report argues that UK Government's investment in **RBS** should be used for social and environmental objectives, in particular climate change.
- The latest issue of **World Bank Green Bonds** has pushed the total amount to \$1.1bn. The AAA rated fixed interest investment vehicle is managed by **Swedish Investment Bank SEB**, with the latest issue valued in Swedish Kronor (SEK).
- **Corporate Knights** has published the 6th annual **Global 100** list of the world's most sustainable corporations using data from **ASSET4** and **Bloomberg** plus other information. The list can be viewed by company, rank or country. The **General Electric Company** from the USA is first.

www.carbonweb.org/showitem.asp?article=373&parent=39

Source:
www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/

www.global100.org
You Tube film link also available at this site

Other Issues

- The **United Nations** has declared **2010** to be the **International Year of Biodiversity**. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity
- At the recent Climate Change conference **Google** demonstrated a new technology prototype that enables online, global-scale observation and measurement of changes in the earth's forests. The technology lets scientists analyse raw satellite imagery data and extract information such as locations and measurements of deforestation or even regeneration of forest.
- **The Story of Stuff** is a 20 minute on-line video in a lively graphic style released by **Annie Leonard**, which goes through her pursuit of the truth about the things we buy, use, and throw away. Also available is a video entitled **The Story of Cap and Trade**; with the **Story of Bottled Water** to come. See website.
- The **New Economics Foundation's** latest report **'A Bit Rich'** argues that Hospital cleaners are more valuable to society than City bankers. The research argues that salaries are a poor indicator of the contribution a job makes to society and that some of the most valuable roles are the least well-paid.
- **Environmental Finance** reports that renewable energy specialists in China have queried the recent amendment to **China's 2006 Renewable Energy Law**, questioning its effect on renewable energy companies. Others argue that the amendment provides a framework, and a stimulus to policy and funding.

www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/

<http://blog.google.org/2009/12/saving-forest-through-cloud.html>

www.storyofstuff.com/
Source: Sustainability Matters
January 2010
www.sustainabilitymatters.co.nz

www.neweconomics.org/

Source: www.environmental-finance.com/online/0701exp.html

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