

'CSEAR E-Newsletter' – June 2011

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 **8th Reunión de Investigación en Contabilidad Social y Medioambiental/Spanish CSEAR 2011** will be held from **21st – 22nd July, 2011**. Many thanks to **Carlos Larrinaga** and colleagues at the **University of Burgos**. Plenary speakers are **Jan Bebbington** and **Jeffrey Unerman**.
www.ubu.es/ubu/cm/ubu/tkContent?pgseed=1279293185772&idContent=150036&locale=es_ES&textOnly=false
- **CSEAR South America 2011** will be hosted by the **University of São Paulo**, and held at the **Ribeirão Preto Campus** from **July 25th - 26th 2011**. Many thanks to **Profa. Maisa Ribeiro** and colleagues at the **University of São Paul**. Plenary speakers are **Jan Bebbington** and **Nelson de Carvalho**.
www.fundace.org.br/csear2011/in_index.php
- The **23rd International CSEAR Congress** at the **University of St Andrews** will be held on **7th – 9th September 2011**. **Lee Parker** and **Valeria Piani** will be plenary speakers.
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~csearweb/conferencesnews/comingsschool.html
- The **10th CSEAR Australasian Conference** will be held at the **Launceston Campus** of the **University of Tasmania, Australia** from the **5th - 7th** with the **Doctoral Colloquium** held on the **4th of December, 2011**. Plenary speakers are **Jane Broadbent**, **Richard Laughlin** and **Rob Gray**.
www.utas.edu.au/csear/home
- The joint **EMAN/CSEAR 2012 Northern Europe/Scandinavia Conference** will be held on **24th – 26th September 2012** in **Helsinki, Finland**, considering **Sustainable Economy**.
www2.leuphana.de/umanagement/projekte/eman/helsinki-2012/
- Colleagues at **Jinan University**, **Peking University**, and the **Accounting Society of China** will be holding the **1st CSEAR Conference in China**. Currently it is suggested that the conference will be held in **late October, 2012**. Details of the conference website and a call for papers will be available later.
Email csear@st-andrews.ac.uk to express interest
- The **2nd CSEAR France** is scheduled to be held in **2013** in **Montpellier**. More information later.
Email csear@st-andrews.ac.uk to express interest
- **Social and Environmental Accountability Journal's** next special issue is on **Social and Environmental Accounting and Policy Making** with guest editor **Jan Bebbington**. Closing date for papers is **29th February 2012**.
See attached Call for Papers
- **CSEAR's Facebook** page has been upgraded to the new groups format, which makes it easier for members to connect and share. To keep our group active on **Facebook** we need to use it regularly and are currently looking for your conference photos, news and comments on a regular basis.
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=121691174537092&ref=ts
Keep in touch with us via Facebook

CSEAR News (continued)

- The **SEA education, teaching and learning** website developed by **Ian Thomson** and **Lorna Stevenson**, is a great resource for new teachers in social accounting but also allows a body of knowledge to be built up. Look up and see what's new.
- **Laura Pucci** and **Martin Thomas** have recently been contacting CSEAR members to join the **Practitioners Group**. If you are new to CSEAR, interested or want to know more, email us.
- **CSEAR's blog - Accountability, Transparency, Sustainability** – is run by **Colin Dey** with everyone welcome to join and contribute comments. Set up your access rights now.

<http://sites.google.com/site/cseareducation/>

Email for further details and any queries:
practsg@st-andrews.ac.uk

<http://csearweb.blogspot.com/>
Email: colin.dey@stir.ac.uk

Call for Papers

- **Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal** is planning a special issue on **Accounting for Biodiversity** with guest editors **Michael Jones** and **Jill Solomon**. A **Call for Papers** has a final submission date **28th January 2012**.
- **Journal of Business Ethics** is planning a special issue on **Organizing Corporate Social Responsibility: Interactions between Business and Society** with guest editors **Frank de Bakker**, **Jeremy Moon**, and **Andreas Rasche**. The final submission date is **November 30, 2011**.
- **Management Accounting Research** has a forthcoming special issue on **Challenges for Management Accounting Arising from the Sustainable Development Agenda** with guest editors **Jan Bebbington** and **Ian Thomson**. A **Call for Papers** has been issued with a final submission date of **Sept. 30th 2011**.

Email the Editors:
michaeljohn.jones@bristol.ac.uk and
jill.solomon@kcl.ac.uk

Email manuscripts to:
andreas.rasche@wbs.ac.uk

Contact the Editors email:
jan.bebbington@st-andrews.ac.uk and
i.h.thomson@strath.ac.uk

Other Conferences

- The **Critical Perspectives on Accounting 2011 Conference** will be held from **10th–12th July 2011** in **Florida, USA**, with the **Emerging Scholars' Colloquium** held on the **10th July**. The plenary speakers are **David Cooper**, **University of Alberta, Canada** and **Frank Ross**, **Howard University, USA**.
- The **Critical Accounting Stream** of the **7th International Critical Management Studies Conference** will be held at the **University of Naples Federico II – Naples, Italy** from **11th–13th July 2011** with the **Doctoral Consortium** held on **14th–16th**.
- A two day workshop on **Corporate Sustainability Management: A Context-Based Approach** will be held on **25th–26th August 2011** in **Burlington, VT, USA**. The workshop will be taught by **Mark W. McElroy** of the **Center for Sustainable Organizations**.
- The first **oikos Young Scholars Organizations Academy** will be held at the **Hotel Kaubad, Switzerland** from **4th–9th September 2011**. Aimed at PhD students and early career researchers in the field of **Organizational Behaviour and Theory, Strategy, Management and Sustainability**.

www.criticalperspectivesonaccounting.com/

Conference Website:
www.organizzazione.unina.it/cms7/index.php

www.sustainableorganizations.org/context-based-sustainability.html

www.oikos-international.org/fileadmin/oikos-international/international/Organizations_Academy/2011/CfP_oikos_Org_AC_2011.pdf

Other Conferences

- **Liverpool and Keele Universities** will hold a symposium on current developments in ethnographic research at **Cardiff Business School**, on **5th–7th September 2011**. The theme is ***Ethnography: Theory, Form and Practice***.
www.liverpool.ac.uk/ethnography
- The **Corporate Responsibility Research Conference 2011** will be held at **Leeds University**, from **12th-14th September 2011**. The theme is ***Embracing Diversity - Driving the Debate***.
www.crrconference.org
See website for calls for abstracts
- The first **Organizational Governance Conference** on ***'Corporate Governance Crises: Causes, Effects and Solutions'*** will be held on **15th–16th September 2011** at **De Montfort University, UK**. A Call for Papers has been issued.
www.crog-dmu.org/ogc1.html
- The **EABIS 10th Annual Colloquium** will be held at **INSEAD, Fontainebleau** on the **26th–28th October 2011** on the theme of ***A new era for development: The changing role & responsibilities of business in developing countries***.
www.insead.edu/events/eabis/home/
- The **5th International Conference on Business and Sustainability** will be held from **2nd–4th November 2011** and run by **Portland State University**. The theme will be ***'Authenticity: building trust through sustainable business'***.
www.sba.pdx.edu/sustainabilityconference11/
See Call for Papers attached
- **Euricse and ICA** are organising a conference from **March 15th – 16th 2012** in **Venice, Italy** on ***Promoting the Understanding of Co-operatives for a Better World***.
www.euricse.eu/node/1736
- The **10th Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting (IPA) conference** will be held at **Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University, UK** on **11th–13th July 2012**.
www.cardiff.ac.uk/carbs/research/groups/iparg/ipa2012.html

Accounting and Reporting

- The **World Business Council for Sustainable Development** and the **International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Resources Institute, ERM (the main author) and PwC**, has published a ***Guide to Corporate Ecosystem Valuation***. The report argues that companies will see ecosystem valuation "more consistently incorporated into public policies, regulations, and political decisions. Ecosystem values will also be increasingly considered by the finance sector and business-to-business customers as they assess the biodiversity and ecosystem-related risks and opportunities of investments and supply chains".
www.wbcsd.org/
- The **OECD** has recently celebrated its **50th Anniversary**, with representatives from 8 partner countries also present. Ministers adopted revised **OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises**, including new elements on human rights, principles on the need to exercise due diligence, including down the supply chain, and a reference to reducing and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions in the context of climate change. These **revised CSR guidelines** continue to be recommendations to business, and are voluntary and non-binding. However they include a renewed commitment by governments to promote them through their respective **National Contact Points (NCPs)** with a "new, tougher process for complaints and mediation" put in place.
www.oecd.org/document/5/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_48069509_1_1_1_1,00.html

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- The **Social Audit Conference** held on **8th April** in Newcastle, UK, has presentations from the Conference and an evaluation of the event on the SAN website.
- The UK's **Environment Agency** has published its third review of FTSE-All Share companies' disclosure of environmental impact information. **Trucost plc** analysed 458 companies, looking at data from their websites. Key findings: more FTSE listed companies are including more information about environmental impacts in annual reports and accounts; increasingly these disclosures contain quantitative data; but relatively few are following the latest Government guidance.
- The latest issue of the **Journal of the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Accountability** includes *'Regulatory and industry influences on the communication of environmental information: a comparative study of top French and Australian firms'*, by **Raja Adzrin Raja Ahmad and Greg Tower** and *'Multiple directorships and CAC-40 natural environmental disclosures'* by **Stephanie Courtois, Clemantine Gombart, Isabelle Pignatell and Alistair Brown**. Plus extra features.
- The **European Coalition for Corporate Justice** reports that the Single Market Act adopted by the European Commission states (p.15) that the commission will present a legislative proposal on transparency of the social and environmental information provided by companies (and confirms the adoption of a CSR Communication) before the end of this year.
- A meeting of the **Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Forum** was held in December 2010 with 200+ attendees and the **Accounting Bodies Network**. Proceedings from the roundtables on Valuing Natural Capital; Capital Expenditure Appraisal; and Integrated Reporting will be published in 2011.
- **CPA Australia** has published its third **Sustainability Report** describing activities on sustainability advocacy and education for the accounting profession. The report highlights: The launch of a new structure and syllabus for the CPA certification program including updated subject matter on sustainability, non-financial performance and governance; Establishing an expert technical committee, online knowledge portal and discussion forum for Environmental, Social and Governance subjects; Delivering sustainability focused professional development to 3000 members/non-members; and Providing financial literacy training to 600+ disadvantaged Australians with **Mission Australia**.
- **Puma** a worldwide sports company has been working with **Trucost** and **PWC** on an *'environmental profit and loss account'* looking at the value of GHG emissions and water usage across Puma's value chain – from raw materials production and processing to manufacturing and retail. It found global annual GHG emissions had an environmental impact valued at €47 million (\$67 million), with water consumption valued at €47.4 million. The total figure represents 3.5% of Puma's €2.7 billion in 2010 consolidated sales.

www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/performance/124795.aspx

Anyone wishing to contribute to **APCEA** should contact co-editors:
Roger Burritt and Sumit Lodhia
Email: apcea@unisa.edu.au

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/smart/docs/20110413-communication_en.pdf#page=2

www.accountingforsustainability.org/output/Page161.asp

www.cpaaustralia.com.au/cps/rde/xchg/cpa-site/hs.xsl/knowledge-esg.html

http://about.puma.com/wp-content/themes/aboutPUMA_theme/media/pdf/2011/en/PwC_Trucost.pdf

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- **CORE** (the UK's **Corporate Responsibility Coalition**) has published *Simply Put*, which includes analysis of how the current UK legal framework is failing and what changes need to be made to the existing social and environmental corporate reporting regime. The report identifies how existing legal requirements *'could be simplified and streamlined to take the guesswork out of corporate compliance'*.

www.corporatejustice.org/simply-put.html
<http://corporate-responsibility.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Simply-Put.pdf>
- The **European Commission** has published a Summary Report of the responses received to public consultation on **Disclosure of Non-Financial Information by Companies**. A copy is available on the website.

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/docs/2010/non-financial_reporting/summary_report_en.pdf
- **Vancity** is Canada's largest credit union with assets of \$14.5 billion; their integrated 2010 Annual Report is now available including progress on sustainability goals and listing 28 future targets and commitments.

<https://www.vancity.com/AboutUs/OurBusiness/OurReports/>
- **The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)** has announced that it has begun work on **G4** the next generation of sustainability reporting guidelines with everyone invited to contribute. You can register interest with the first G4 Public Comment Period, planned for 90 days starting in August 2011. **GRI** has also launched the **Report or Explain Campaign Forum**, a convening space to ask organisations for information on *'how sustainable they are – or to explain why if they choose not to provide it'*.

www.globalreporting.org/
- After a four-month test phase, the **UN Global Compact Office** has officially launched the **Differentiation Programme** – a practical framework to help all business participants improve sustainability performance and disclosure practices.

www.unglobalcompact.org/COP/differentiation_programme.html
- The **UN Global Compact** now has 6,000+ business participants, and 3,000 non-business signatories. Findings from a recent survey argue that large public companies are performing at higher levels when it comes to sustainability and the environment than smaller businesses, due to greater availability of resources and finances to support sustainability programs.

www.unglobalcompact.org
- **The Fédération des Experts comptables Européens - Federation of European Accountants** represents 45 professional institutes of accountants and auditors from 33 European countries. It has issued a paper on **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Indicators in Annual Reports - An introduction to current frameworks**. They also hosted a European Roundtable on Integrated Reporting for the **International Integrated Reporting Committee (IIRC)**.

www.fee.be/publications/default.asp?library_ref=4&content_ref=1392
www.fee.be/news/default.asp?library_ref=2&category_ref=214&content_ref=1397
- **La Trobe University**, in Australia has published *'Responsible Futures'* the first externally assured sustainability report of a university's activities following the Global Reporting Initiative's sustainability reporting guidelines. The report outlines La Trobe's social, environmental and economic footprint for the year 2010.

www.latrobe.edu.au/news/articles/2011/article/la-trobe-releases-sustainability-report
- **UK's DEFRA** has published a consultation document on whether or not mandatory reporting for some UK companies to report on greenhouse gas emissions should be introduced.

www.defra.gov.uk/consult/files/110511-ghg-emissions-condoc1.pdf

Accounting and Reporting (continued)

- From 2012 onwards state-owned companies in **Spain** will be required to produce sustainability reports in accordance with the recently approved **Sustainable Economy Law**. This is similar to legislation in **Sweden**, the **Netherlands** and **China**.
- The **GRI** reports that Indian companies are producing the highest proportion of complete reports globally on their sustainability performance. Figures from the GRI Reports List show that 78% of GRI sustainability reports from India contain a complete set of information that is relevant to the reporting organisation and externally assured, compared to just 24% globally.
- **Verdantix** has published their report **Green Quadrant Sustainability Assurance Providers** which compares 13 providers on 48 criteria including energy and environment expertise, knowledge of standards and customer wins, and found that six firms lead - the Big Four — **Deloitte**, **Ernst & Young**, **KPMG** and **PwC** plus **Bureau Veritas** and **DNV**.
- The **2nd KPMG New Zealand Sustainability Survey** was held in October 2010, consisting of an on-line questionnaire covering aspects of sustainability relevant to understanding the approach by New Zealand business and the extent of integration into organisational strategy. Source: **Sustainability Matters**

www.globalreporting.org/NewsEventsPress/PressResources/2011/IndiaProducesMostCompleteSustainabilityReports.htm

www.verdantix.com/index.cfm/papers/Products.Details/product_id/246/green-quadrant-sustainability-assurance-global/-

www.kpmg.com/NZ/en/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/Pages/2010-NZ-sustainability-survey-report.aspx

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions

- The **FTSE Group** has announced the launch of **FTSE4Good ESG Ratings**, a new data service providing a '*comprehensive, transparent and objective system to measure the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices of over 2,300 public companies worldwide*'.
- **Norway** plans to transfer \$40 million to **Guyana** if they are able to meet the terms of the '*reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation*' (**REDD**) deal. The government will receive \$250 million by 2015, which will be used to finance low-carbon development through the **Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund**.
- The **World Economic Forum** with **Bloomberg New Energy Finance** has published **Green Investing 2011: Reducing the Cost of Financing**, building on two previous reports, **Green Investing: Towards a Clean Energy Infrastructure** and **Green Investing 2010: Policy Mechanisms to Bridge the Financing Gap**. The new report explores recent investment trends in the sector and examines which national policies are proving most efficient in spurring clean energy deployment.
- The **Carbon Trust** has published an analysis of international 'carbon flows'- the movement of greenhouse gas emissions embodied in internationally traded goods. The research quantifies the magnitude and impact of international carbon flows at a global level, and for five selected sectors: automotive, steel, aluminium, cotton and clothing.

www.ftse.com/News/20110406_FTSE4Good_ESG_Ratings.jsp

www.guyanagraphic.com/News/201104061211.htm

www.weforum.org/reports/green-investing-2011
Download pdf from website

www.carbontrust.co.uk/cut-carbon-reduce-costs/international-carbon-flows/global-flows/Pages/global-flows.aspx

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- The **US Social Investment Forum** is changing its name to **US SIF – The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment**.
<http://ussif.org/>
- *The Hindu* reports that the **Indian Environment Ministry** is to launch its first emissions trading scheme, an air-pollution reduction pilot programme in three states that may go national in future.
www.thehindu.com/news/
- The **Carnegie Trust** has recently published work they sponsored from the **Sustainable Development Commission** entitled *More than GDP: Measuring What Matters Report of the Round Table on Measuring Economic Performance and Social Progress in Scotland*. The report explores the complex issues hidden behind two questions: what is Progress and what is Prosperity? It argues that GDP is an insufficient and misleading measure of whether life in Scotland is improving or not.
www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications
- **Concordia University's John Molson School of Business (JMSB)**, in Canada has set up the **Sustainable Investment Professional Certification (SIPC)**. The program is designed for professionals in finance, investment or other areas in business providing a training curriculum in the field of sustainability.
<http://johnmolson.concordia.ca/en/component/content/article/96-jmsb-news/1866-sustainable-investment-professional-certification-program>
- The **Equator Principles** are currently under review, and a report from **Suellen Lazarus, ABN Amro, and Alan Feldbaum, ERM** has suggested that the voluntary standards covering the environmental and social impacts of project financing should be toughened and expanded. Tiered membership and a league table ranking the Equator banks may be needed.
Source: *Environmental Finance*
www.environmental-finance.com/news/view/1734
- In **May 2011** the UK government announced proposals to set up the UK's carbon budget for 2023–2027 – a fourth carbon budget. The government also announced that the UK's Green Investment Bank would start lending in April 2012.

Other Issues

- With the demise of the UK's **Sustainable Development Commission**, in a piece originally posted on the **Futerra** blog, **Solitaire Townsend, co-founder and director of Futerra**, sets out the emerging plans for a **People's Green Watchdog** to provide independent scrutiny of government progress on sustainable development.
www.sd-commission.org.uk/
http://sd.defra.gov.uk/2011/04/the-peoples-green-watchdog/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=dm_i=A78,EIHB,135FYB,15SRQ,1
- **People and Planets** a student campaigning organisation published a Green League of UK universities. 32 universities received 'firsts' with **Nottingham Trent University, University of Gloucestershire** and **University of Worcester** top three.
http://peopleandplanet.org/green-league-2011/table#gl2011_class1st
- Figures from the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, show energy-related carbon-dioxide (CO₂) emissions in 2010 were the highest in history, despite the worst recession since the 1930s.

Other Issues (continued)

- **Futerra**, the communications company have produced an interesting report on climate change called ***Sizzle the new climate message***.
<http://www.futerra.co.uk/downloads/Sellthesizzle.pdf>
- ***Bag It*** is a film shown recently on American **National Public Television** which has been winning lots of awards at film festivals. What started as a documentary about plastic bags evolved into a wholesale investigation into plastics and their effect on our waterways, oceans, and even our bodies. Join the Bag It movement and decide for yourself how plastic your life will be.
www.bagitmovie.com/
- The **UN** and **Google** are collaborating on presenting information on the state of the world's poverty and development in graphics. Working with Google the **United Nations Development Program** (UNDP) has come up with a tool for plotting and understanding human development indicators across the world. Using **Google Public Data Explorer** technology it is now possible to see **UNDP's Human Development Index** in graphics.
www.google.com/publicdata/home
- **EIRIS'** latest report ***A drought in your portfolio: are global companies responding to water scarcity?*** shows that 54% of the 2,000 global companies analysed are exposed to water risks but take little or no action to mitigate them. Around half show no evidence of any management response to water risks whatsoever. They also argue that under a current business-as-usual scenario water demand is set to outstrip supply by 40% by 2030. This has the potential to put US\$63 trillion of global GDP at risk by 2050.
www.eiris.org/media.html#WaterRiskReport

Contact

CSEAR, School of Management, University of St Andrews
The Gateway, St Andrews KY16 9RJ Fife, UK
Tel:- +44(0) 1334 462805, Fax:- +44(0) 1334 462812
Email: csear@st-andrews.ac.uk
URL: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/csear/index.html>
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