

'CSEAR E-Newsletter' – September 2013

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 **25th International CSEAR St Andrews conference** was held in September and was a great success. One of the plenary sessions took the form of a **CSEAR futures workshop**, and this was run by **Nola Buhr (University of Saskatchewan)** and **Shona Russell (University of St Andrews)**. The session was a very interactive affair for all delegates and was used to further **inform and refine CSEAR's Vision, Mission and Values (VMV) Statement** (attached).
- The **process** to develop a **Vision/Mission/Values (VMV) Statement** for CSEAR began in June 2013 and concluded with Council approval on September 5, 2013. The process included the following steps:
 - A **survey** was sent to all CSEAR members.
 - Survey **responses** were **synthesised** to develop a **draft VMV Statement**.
 - **Two Futures sessions** were scheduled as part of the **25th CSEAR International Congress on Social & Environmental Accounting Research at St Andrews**. These sessions provided a space for attendees to **discuss i) the Future of the Field, and (ii) the Future of CSEAR**.
 - In advance of the Futures sessions, delegates received reading material including the draft VMV Statement and questions to provoke thought and discussion.
 - During the Congress, attendees **posted comments and reflections** on the draft VMV Statement and provocation questions on bulletin boards located in the conference foyer.
 - At the *Future of CSEAR* session, **attendees discussed, edited and approved the draft VMV Statement**.
 - **CSEAR Council approved the final version of the VMV Statement** on September 5th 2013.

Please see attached Vision, Mission and Values Statement

- During the **St Andrews conference** the new Council of CSEAR, together with other members of the community, organised a number of events to mark **Rob Gray's retirement** from the **Directorship of CSEAR** as well as a reflection and celebration of the **intellectual contribution** that he has made to the social and environmental accounting community. In response to this **Rob has written a thank you letter**.

Please see attached letter from Rob Gray

CSEAR NEWS (Continued)

- **Jeffrey Unerman's** time as **co-editor of SEAJ** will come to a **close at the end of the calendar year of 2013**. **John Ferguson** will **continue as co-editor until the end of 2015** when he will have served 4 years. As such a **call** has been made to all CSEAR members for **nominations** for the position of **Co-Editor of SEAJ**. The full **appointment process** and **job description** are attached but in short the main points for eligibility and nomination are:

- To be eligible for co-editorship you need to be a CSEAR member
- You should put yourself forward if you wish to be considered for co-editor of SEAJ
- A one page CV and an outline indicating suitability of for co-editorship is required from applicants.

The applications will be reviewed by all members of the Board, all of whom (with the exception of the convenor of the Board) are eligible to vote on the appointment. An Alternative Voting system will be used in order to elect the co-editor. Should this result in a tied vote the Convenor of the Board will have the deciding vote.

All nominations and supporting documents should be sent to csear@st-andrews.ac.uk marked SEAJ Editor Nomination.

The **nomination period will close on 8th October 2013**; thereafter votes will be cast and counted by 14th October. The **results** of the election will be made public as soon as possible after **14th October 2013**.

Please see attached job description and full appointment process

- This year the **CSEAR Council** has undertaken to write an **Annual Report to CSEAR members**. This report will be circulated to all members in **October 2013**. Additionally the Council, during its September 2013 meeting, agreed that all **future August/September Council meetings** (held during the Annual Conference) will be **open to members**. Members' **participation** in the meeting will however, be limited to the **Business Section** of these meetings. All **minutes and agendas** of Council meetings will soon be housed on a **dedicated Council section of the CSEAR website**, for all members to view. Should any member wish to **raise a valid item** with the Council, then please **email this item(s)** to csear@st-andrews.ac.uk. Council meetings are held every 2 months and every effort will be made to include members' issues at the next scheduled meeting after receipt.

Please email csear@st-andrews.ac.uk with any item that you wish the Council to consider

- We are delighted to announce that **SEAJ** was ranked as **grade B in the Australian Business Deans Council's initial 2013 Journal Quality List**. This is an **excellent result** and should help make the journal even more attractive to academics in Australia and more broadly. Please see the ABCD's website for the full initial Quality list.

<http://www.abdc.edu.au/29.115.0.0.1.0.htm>

CSEAR NEWS (Continued)

- During the definition of the VMV statement, it became apparent that **services offered by CSEAR were not fully apparent to all members**. This matter will be addressed more fully in a **separate mailing** (due out in October/November 2013) but in the meantime members are asked to **fully explore** what is available on the **website** and in particular in the **Members' section of the website**. This section holds a **database of areas of research undertaken by CSEAR members**. The list is not exhaustive but does contain a lot of information. If you wish your **details to be added** to this then please complete and return the **attached form** to csear@st-andrews.ac.uk. The **latest edition** of the database will be published in **October 2013**. The website has undergone a revamp in 2013 and this will be extended by a further revamp in 2014. Contents of the website are constantly under review with major updates published monthly.

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/csear/>

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/csear/membersarea/res-exp/>

please see attached Members' Research Information Form

- In addition to the **website** CSEAR has a **facebook page** and also a **blog page** (run and maintained by **Colin Dey**). A series of **guest blogs** will come online in the next year but highlights of the blog from the last couple of months include a piece by **Professor Jane Broadbent: Reflections on APIRA 2013 Kobe 2: Is Accounting Exciting?** If you wish to submit a piece for the blog, please contact Colin direct.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/121691174537092/>

<http://csearweb.blogspot.co.uk/>

<http://csearweb.blogspot.co.uk/2013/08/reflections-on-apira-kobe-2013.html>

Colin Dey: colin.dey@stirl.ac.uk

- **CSEAR** depends upon its **international links** and central to these are CSEAR's **International Associates**. The **Roles and Responsibilities of CSEAR's Committee of International Associates** has been finalised, approved by Council and published on our website. Please take a moment to read and familiarise yourself with these. If you have any comments on them then please send them in to us at csear@st-andrews.ac.uk

See attached Roles and Responsibilities.
Also see:
<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/csear/about/international/>

- The Council wish to put together a **calendar of CSEAR events** taking place **worldwide**. If you have any **items** that you would like **included** in this calendar (for example, conferences, 1 day workshops etc.,) then please **send them to us here at CSEAR**.

Please email csear@st-andrews.ac.uk

- **SEAJ's** next special issue is on '**Economic democracy and accounting/ accountability implications**', with guest editors **Jan Bebbington**, University of St Andrews and **David Campbell**, University of Newcastle. The closing date for papers is 30th November 2013.

For Call for Papers see:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/csear/seaj/calls-for-papers/

- The **12th A-CSEAR Conference** is being hosted by the **University of Waikato** in **Hamilton, New Zealand**, from **1st to 3rd December 2013**, with a colloquium on the **30th of November**. The theme of the conference is "**Social and Environmental Accounting: Past, Present, and Future**". Plenary speakers include **Gordon Boyce**, **Al Gillespie**, **James Guthrie** and **Juliet Roper**.

<http://cms.mngt.waikato.ac.nz/a-csear/Home.aspx>
See attached Call for Papers

CSEAR NEWS (Continued)

- The **5th CSEAR North America Conference** is being hosted by the **École de comptabilité of FSA ULaval, Québec, Canada** and will take place on **July 2 and 3, 2014**. The plenary speaker for the conference is **Professor Ian Thomson, Professor of Accounting at University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, UK) and Convenor of the CSEAR Council**.
- The **26th International Congress on Social and Environmental Accounting Research** will once again be hosted by **CSEAR** at the School of Management, **University of St Andrews, Scotland** from **26th – 29th August 2014**. An **Emerging Scholars Colloquium** will be held on the first day of the conference. **Maf Smith, Deputy Chief Executive at RenewableUK** has been confirmed as the plenary speaker for the **practitioner forum** and this will take the form of a **workshop on policy, how it is made and how you can influence it**.
- The **Vth Italian CSEAR Conference** will be held in **Padova, Italy** on the **18th and 19th September 2014**. Further details will follow.
- A number of CSEAR members are travelling to **Tallinn for the EAA2014**, and as such are now thinking of organizing a small **workshop on social and environmental accounting research** immediately **preceding** the EAA congress. Would you be interested in joining us for such a workshop on the Baltic Sea? Please **let us know** if you were interested in participating.

<http://www.fsa.ulaval>
please see attached call for papers

Please see website for further details:
<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/csear/conferences/nextcsearuk/>

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/csear/conferences/forthcoming/>

Please see attached Call for Interest

Call for Papers

- The **Journal of Business Ethics Education** in collaboration with **PRME** is publishing a **Special Issue** entitled **Business & Human Rights Education: Recovering the Purpose of Business Schools**. The guest editors are Ken McPhail, La Trobe University, and John Ferguson, Strathclyde University.
- **Issues In Social and Environmental Accounting** (Issues in SEA or ISEA), is an international and refereed journal published quarterly by the **Indonesian Center for Social and Environmental Accounting Research and Development (ICSEARD)**.
- The new ***Journal of Environmental Accounting and Management***, a peer-reviewed publication that aims at linking environment and ecological science with complex system theory.
- The **Journal of Human Resource and Sustainability Studies** is an international journal dedicated to the latest advancements related to topics of **human resource, work, and ecological sustainability**.

See attached call for papers
further details:
k.mcphail@latrobe.edu.au
or
john.ferguson@strath.ac.uk

See attached call for papers

<http://lhscientificpublishing.com/journals/JEAM-Default.aspx>

http://www.scirp.org/Journal/AimScope.aspx?JournalID=2421&utm_source=E&utm_medium=cpJHRSS20130617&utm_campaign=aimScope

Call for Papers (Continued)

- **Journal of Accounting & Marketing** is an academic journal providing an opportunity to share information amongst scientists and researchers.

<http://www.omicsgroup.org/journals/accounting-marketing.php>

Other Conferences

- CSEAR members with an interest in freshwater are invited to attend the **International Roundtable Conference on International Water Cooperation & Transboundary Aquifers, International Roundtable Conference, Glasgow, 15-16 October 2013**. During this International Roundtable Conference participants will discuss transboundary aquifer management from a multi-disciplinary perspective focusing on scientific-hydrogeological, socio-economic and legal-institutional dimensions. **Dr Andrea Coulson** (University of Strathclyde) will chair a session entitled '**Costs and Accountability for Sustainable Transboundary Aquifer Management**' on **Wednesday 16 October**. Other speakers in that session include: **Michael Kelly (KPMG)**; **Shona Russell (University of St Andrews)**; **Rodney Ndamba (Institute for Sustainability Africa)**; **Nick Burn (Water for People)**. Full details are available via the website. In terms of background resources for participants Andrea Coulson and Shona Russell are gathering together useful resources regarding water governance, particularly groundwater, and accounting. This is to encourage cooperation and collaboration on water research and management. Even if you are unable to attend the conference but would be willing to share some resources on these topics we will be sure to acknowledge your contributions.

http://www.cifalscotland.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=236:international-water-cooperation-and-transboundary-aquifers&catid=1:forthcoming-programmes

email:

Shona Russell: sr65@st-andrews.ac.uk

Andrea

Coulson: a.b.coulson@strath.ac.uk

- The **TBLI Conference Europe 2013** will be held from **14th – 15th November 2013** in **Zurich**. Further details available later.
- The **23rd International Business Research Conference, 18 – 20 November, 2013**, Marriott Hotel, **Melbourne, Australia**, is an annual international gathering of academics and researchers in the broad areas of **Accounting, Banking, Finance, Economic, Management and Marketing, Business Law, Business Ethics, Business Educations and e-business**.
- The **World Forum on Natural Capital** will be held in **Edinburgh** on the **21st and 22nd November 2013**. Full details of the conference and who should attend can be found on the website
- The **2nd Critical Studies in Accounting and Finance (CSAF) Conference** will be held in the Hotel Fairmont Bab Al Bahr, **Abu Dhabi** from **15-17 December 2013**. See website for details.

www.tbllgroup.com

<http://worldbizconference.com/>

http://www.naturalcapitalforum.com/?utm_source=mailinteractive&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Tuesday+10th+September+-+Newsletter+2013-09-10

www.fbe.uaeu.ac.ae/csafc2013/

Other Conferences (Continued)

- **Accounting, Organizations and Society** and the **London School of Economics and Political Science** are sponsoring a workshop in London from 16th – 17th December 2013. This will be the second **Financial Reporting and Auditing as Social and Organizational Practice Workshop**.

www.journals.elsevier.com/accounting-organizations-and-society/call-for-papers/second-workshop-on-financial-reporting-and-auditing/
E-mail accounting@lse.ac.uk
- The **Konopka Workshop on Accounting and Management Control** constitutes a discussion forum for researchers with an interest in the **organizational and social aspects of accounting systems**. The **19th Workshop** will be held from 23rd- 24th of January, 2014 organized by the ERGO Research Group, **Universidad de Burgos**.

http://www.ubu.es/es/depecademp/areas/area-economia-financiera-contabilidad/destacados-area-economia-financiera-contabilidad/19th-konopka-workshop-on-accounting-and-management-control
Alicia Santidrián, giergo@ubu.es.
- The **International Conference on Governance 2014** is taking place from 13 - 15 February 2014, in Jakarta Indonesia.

http://www.trisaktiicg.com/index.php/home
- The **International Conference of Critical Accounting** will take place at the **Hunter College Conference Center, City University of New York** from 16th – 17th April 2014. It will include an **Emerging Critical Scholars Workshop** and the **Accounting and the New Labor Process Symposium (ANLP)**.

http://aux.zicklin.baruch.cuny.edu/tinker/2014ICCA/
Anthony.tinker@baruch.cuny.edu
Aida.Sy@Marist.edu;
Aida.sy1776@gmail.com
- The **37th Annual Congress of the European Accounting Association** (held jointly by the EAA and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the **University of Tartu**) will take place in **Tallinn, Estonia** on **May 21-23, 2014**.

http://www.eaa2014.org/r/home
- The theme of the **2014 Annual Meeting of the International Association for Business & Society (IABS)** is: **Reclaiming the Societal Dimension: New Perspectives on Society and Business**. The meeting is being held in **Sydney, Australia, from June 19-22, 2014**.

http://www.iabs.net/Conference.aspx
- The **30th EGOS (European Group for Organization Studies) Colloquium** in **Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 3-5 July, 2014**, will host a **subtheme**, entitled 'The rise of accountability: Rethinking management accounting, control and organization theory'.

http://www.egosnet.org/jart/prj3/egos/main.jart?rel=de&reserve-mode=active&content-id=1368705858152&subtheme_id=1334581237115
- The next **Critical Perspectives Conference** will be held on **July 7 - 9, 2014** at the **Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto, Canada**. The **Emerging Scholar's Colloquium** will be held on **July 6, 2014**.

See attached Call for Papers

Accounting and Reporting

- The **UN Global Compact** has announced that it has **expelled 99 companies** in the first half of 2013 for **failure to communicate progress** for **at least two consecutive** years. The list of 99 expelled companies can be found on the UN Global Compact website.
<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/news/339-07-01-2013>
http://unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/9.1_news_archives/2013_7_1/Expelled_30%20June%202013.pdf
- The **United Nations Global Compact** has released its flagship **Global Corporate Sustainability Report 2013**. Based on survey responses from nearly **2,000** companies across **113** countries, the report provides a **snapshot of the actions** taken by business to embed **responsible practices** into their strategies, operations and culture.
<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/news/381-09-05-2013>
http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/global_corporate_sustainability_report.html
- The **UN Global Compact** has also launched the **“Global Compact 100”** – a stock index of companies committed to the **Global Compact ten principles**. The “GC 100” is released in partnership with research firm **Sustainalytics**.
http://unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/9.1_news_archives/2013_09_18/GC100Constituents.pdf
http://unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/9.1_news_archives/2013_09_18/GC100Chart.pdf
- The **FEE (Framework Federation des Experts-comptables Européens)** has issued a **comment letter** on the **IIRC Consultation Draft of the International Framework**.
http://www.fee.be/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1347:fee-comments-on-the-iirc-consultation-draft-of-the-international-framework&catid=50:corporate-reporting&Itemid=106
- Amongst the main findings of a new report **GEO-5 for Business: Impacts of a Changing Environment on the Corporate Sector** (released by the **UNEP** and **SustainAbility**) is that the **future** of the **private sector** will increasingly hinge on the ability of businesses to **adapt** to the world’s **rapidly changing environment** and to develop goods and services that can **reduce** the **impacts** of **climate change**, **water scarcity**, **emissions of harmful chemicals**, and other **environmental concerns**.
<http://www.sustainability.com/news/sustainability-and-unep-launch-geo5-for-business-report#.UjsEcmTwJU0>
http://www.unep.org/geo/pdfs/geo5/GEO5_for_Business.pdf
- The **European Commission** has adopted a **Proposal for a Directive** amending the **Accounting Directives** regarding disclosure of **non-financial** and **diversity** information. The objective is to improve transparency and performance on **environmental** and **social** matters.
http://www.fee.be/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1346:factsheet-on-european-commission-legislative-proposal-on-disclosure-of-non-financial-and-diversity-information-by-certain-large-companies-and-groups&catid=50:corporate-reporting&Itemid=106
- A first **sustainability accounting standard** has been released as part of an ambitious long-term project to publish such standards for more than 80 industry sectors over the next decade. The debut standard has been released by the **Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB)**. The aim is to develop key **performance indicators** that can be used in the annual **10-K** form disclosures to the **US Securities and Exchange Commission**.
<http://www.corporateregister.com/news/item/?n=501>
<http://www.sasb.org/>

Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

- Mandatory CR spending legislation** is finally passed: An **Indian Bill** that will force large companies to spend at least **2%** of their **profits** on **corporate responsibility** has finally been approved by the Indian parliament. The Bill will make **India** the **first nation** to set out mandatory spending levels on corporate responsibility.

<http://www.corporateregister.com/news/item/?n=506>
http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/pdf/The_Companies_Bill_2012.pdf
<http://www.greenbiz.com/blog/2013/08/20/india-passes-worlds-first-corporate-responsibility-law>
- A new effort to revive interest in the use of **eXtensible Business Reporting Language, or XBRL**, in **sustainability reporting** has been launched with the release of an **XBRL 'taxonomy'**. The **taxonomy** is published by the **Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)**, and will attempt to provide a breakdown of suggested information types that can be **digitally tagged** in sustainability reports.

<http://www.corporateregister.com/news/item/?n=526>
<https://www.globalreporting.org/reporting/reporting-support/xbrl/Pages/default.aspx>
- Leaders of the **G8 major economies** have agreed new measures to **clamp down** on **money launderers, illegal tax evaders and corporate tax avoiders**. Governments agreed to give each other **automatic access** to information on their residents' tax affairs. The **summit communique** urged countries to "fight the scourge of tax evasion".

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/207543/180613_LOUGH_ERNE_DECLARATION.pdf
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-22956374>
- On the same subject of **tax evasion**, **Prem Sikka** has published an article further discussing the **inadequacies** of the current **corporate tax system** which is **unfit** for purpose. He also offers a narrative on the **OECD's Global Forum On Transparency and Exchange Of Information for Tax Purposes; A Progress Report to the G20 Leaders**.

<http://www.oecd.org/ctp/SG-report-G20-Leaders-StPetersburg.pdf>
<https://theconversation.com/oecd-tax-avoidance-plan-is-no-quick-fix-for-eu-16243>
- To underscore the role of **management education** in addressing sustainable development challenges, a group of **25** higher education institutions joined the United Nations Under-Secretary to launch **PRME Champions**. This new initiative will work to unlock the **next level** of responsible management and leadership education.

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/>
- The **Institute of Business Ethics (IBE)** has published a report - **A Review of the Ethical Aspects of Corporate Governance Regulation and Guidance in the EU** – which finds that explicit reference to **ethical principles and terminology** has generally been **absent** from corporate governance guidance and regulation both at the **EU level** and **within** most **member states**.

http://www.ibe.org.uk/userfiles/op8_corpgovineu.pdf
- Scotland** has become the **first nation** to join an international alliance founded by **Ellen MacArthur** to develop an economy that uses resources far more efficiently: the **three-year Circular Economy 100 programme (CE100)**. Full details of the programme can be found on the Foundation website.

<http://www.basecities.com/glasgow/news/scottish-government-becoms-first-administration-to-join-ellen-macarthur-circular-economy-drive/?newsid=825>
<http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/business/ce100>

Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

- **Prem Sikka** has published an article discussing the good, the bad and the dire of the **UK Competition Commission's report on the UK auditing industry**, with comments on the domination in the UK by just four accounting firms: **PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst & Young, Deloitte & Touche and KPMG**
<https://theconversation.com/the-race-is-on-but-the-field-is-limited-in-the-auditing-business-16639>; http://www.competitioncommission.org.uk/assets/competitioncommission/docs/2011/statutory-audit-services/130719_summary_of_provisional_decision_on_remedies.pdf
- Despite **Japan** not yet having ratified the **Aarhus Convention**, an **International Symposium on the 10th Principle of the Rio Declaration** titled "**Towards an Effective Guarantee of Green Access**" was organized by the **Green Access Project** in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan recently.
<http://www.japanfs.org/en/pages/032910.html>
<http://greenaccess.law.osaka-u.ac.jp/english/what-is-the-green-access-project>
- A recent report by the **ACCA** finds that ambitions and objectives set out in **paragraph 47 of the UN Sustainable Development Agreement (The Future We Want)**, agreed at the **Rio+20** conference in 2012) are subject to **wide interpretations** from stakeholders around the world.
<http://www.accaglobal.com/content/dam/accaglobal/PDF-technical/sustainability-reporting/technical-para47.pdf>
- The **Global Corruption Barometer 2013** draws on a survey of more than **114,000** respondents in **107** countries. It addresses people's direct experiences with **bribery** and details their views on **corruption** in the main institutions in their countries.
Download the report at:
http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/pub/global_corruption_barometer_2013
- The '**green economy**' has emerged as a priority in policy debate in recent years. But what does the **concept mean in practice** and how can decision-makers **measure progress towards this strategic goal**? The '**Towards a green economy in Europe - EU environmental policy targets and objectives 2010-2050**' report provides some answers. Additionally **UNEP** have published their **Green Economy and Trade Trends, Challenges and Opportunities Report**.
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/towards-a-green-economy-in-europe>
<http://www.unep.org/greenconomy/Portals/88/GETReport/pdf/FullReport.pdf>
- New rules aimed at simplifying and strengthening the **non-financial reporting of UK companies** has been approved by the UK Parliament. All quoted companies will be required to prepare a separate **Strategic Report** making disclosures on **human rights issues, gender representation** across the company and on **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.
<https://www.globalreporting.org/information/news-and-press-center/Pages/New-reforms-strengthen-non-financial-reporting-in-the-UK.aspx>
- A new **Business Engagement Architecture** unveiled at the **UN Global Compact's triennial Leaders' Summit** in New York presents a major opportunity to **leverage sustainability reporting** to drive the private sector's contribution to sustainable development, states the **Global Reporting Initiative**.
<https://www.globalreporting.org/information/news-and-press-center/Pages/Sustainability-reporting-can-serve-as-bridge-between-business-and-sustainable-development-says-GRI.aspx>
- The **American Accounting Association (AAA)** has announced its **2013 award** winners. All awards and winners are listed on their website.
<http://aaahq.org/awards/PressRelease/2013.htm>

Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

- The **2013 CIMA Global Business Challenge** results have been announced on CIMA's website. Please visit for all the winners and runners up.
<http://www.cimaglobal.com/Events-and-cpd-courses/globalbusinesschallenge/global-final-2013/>
- The **ACCA** have recently published a report entitled: **Understanding Investors: The Road to real-time reporting**. The report finds that many investors believe that a move towards '**real-time**' reporting would enhance investor **returns** and improve the level of **confidence** in **corporate reporting**.
<http://www.accaglobal.org.uk/en/discover/news/2013/09/real-time.html>
<http://www.accaglobal.com/content/dam/accaglobal/PDF-technical/financial-reporting/pol-afb-ui03.pdf>
- The **Ministry of Defence Greening Government Commitments Annual Report 2012/13** has been published. The report outlines the Ministry of Defence's **Sustainable Development** performance **against** the Government's **targets**.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/236895/MOD_GGC_Report_2012_13.pdf
- The final report of the **EU-funded project Energy-Efficiency-Watch 2** has now been released, entitled '**Improving and Implementing National Energy Efficiency Strategies in the EU Framework**'
Source: SDRN
<http://www.energy-efficiency-watch.org/>

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions

- The **Global 100** (claims to be) the most extensive data-driven corporate sustainability assessment in existence, Launched in 2005, the **annual Global 100** is announced each year during the **World Economic Forum in Davos**.
<http://www.global100.org/>
- **NYSE Euronext** announced that it will join the **United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative** to promote **sustainable capital markets**. NYSE Euronext's commitment signals the significance of **sustainability** to the **private sector** globally.
<http://www.unpri.org/press/nyse-commits-to-promoting-sustainability-among-its-2800-listed-companies/>
- **Oxfam** have published '**Better Returns in a Better World: Responsible Investment – overcoming the barriers and seeing the returns**', which summarises a two-year research engagement project with the **investment community** on their role in contributing to **poverty reduction** and **sustainable development**.
<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/better-returns-in-a-better-world-responsible-investment-overcoming-the-barriers-118018>
- A study by the **OECD and Russia's G20 presidency**, monitoring progress by the governments of the world's major economies in **implementing national strategies for improving financial education**, has led to the publication of a report entitled "**Advancing National Strategies for Financial Education**".
<http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/g20-countries-step-up-action-to-help-consumers-make-informed-financial-decisions.htm>
<http://www.oecd.org/daf/fin/financial-education/advancing-national-strategies-for-financial-education.htm>
- The government is encouraging **credit unions** as an alternative to **payday lenders**, but Credit union rules are '**burdensome**' and government plans to relax them **do not go far enough**, says **Civitas** (the Institute for Study of Civil Society).
<http://www.civitas.org.uk/>

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- In September **G20 Leaders** endorsed an **OECD-launched initiative** to encourage the flow of **institutional investment** towards **longer-term assets**, such as infrastructure and renewable energy projects, in order to strengthen the global economy. The “**High-Level Principles of Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors**”, establishes a framework for encouraging institutional investment in long-term assets.
<http://www.oecd.org/newsroom/leaders-endorse-new-g20oecd-principles-on-long-term-investment-financing.htm>
<http://www.oecd.org/daf/fin/private-pensions/G20-OECD-Principles-LTI-Financing.pdf>
- The **Guardian Sustainable Business**’s piece on **Dealing with Uncertainty: The Insurance Industry and Climate Change** tackles the issue of whether the insurance industry could be doing more to engage with climate change. The **Chartered Insurance Institute** has incorporated the issue and a number of insurers got together six years ago to set up the **ClimateWise** leadership group to work together **investigating the issue**.
http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/insurance-industry-climate-change?CMP=&et_cid=40622&et_rid=5613545&Linkid=Dealing+with+uncertainty%3a+the+insurance+industry+and+climate+change
<http://www.climatewise.org.uk/>
<http://www.cii.co.uk/>
- **Investors** are waking up to the business case for **sustainable investment**. Forget moral imperatives. Are there compelling **financial reasons** today for asset managers to adopt a more **sustainable investment strategy**? Please read the full article in **Guardian Sustainable Business**
http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/business-case-sustainable-investment-profitable?CMP=&et_cid=43952&et_rid=5613545&Linkid=Investors+are+waking+up+to+the+business+case+for+sustainable+investment
- According to **Tim van der Weide**, writing for **Guardian Sustainable Business**, **Responsible investment specialists should watch their language**. Buzzwords such as 'externalities' and 'extra-financial risks' make responsible investment sound like a **niche area for tree-huggers**. A recent **report** by advertising agency **OgilvyEarth** showed that the **communication of sustainability** in general should be **rethought**.
http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/responsible-investment-specialists-watch-language?CMP=&et_cid=46434&et_rid=5613545&Linkid=Responsible+investment+specialists+should+watch+their+language
<http://www.ogilvyearth.com/thought-leadership/latest-research/>
- As an **individual**, a member of a **pension fund**, or as a member of an organisation that has investments, do your investments **destroy** or **care** for the **Earth**? Is the **present financial system so corrupted** that there can be **no moral investments**? These and many more questions are addressed in an article by Robert Howell for the Quakernomics For People and Earth magazine
<http://www.quakerweb.org.uk/blog/campaigns/robert-howell-is-it-possible-to-invest-ethically-in-a-failed-financial-system/>
- Senior **bankers** guilty of **reckless misconduct** should be **jailed**, a long-awaited **report on banking** commissioned by the **Government** has recommended. The cross-party **Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards' fifth report** said bankers should in future be accountable for their actions. It also said some bonuses should be withheld for up to 10 years.
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/professional-standards-in-the-banking-industry/news/changing-banking-for-good-report/>
- The aim of the newly released **Academic Expert Directory** is to provide an easy-to-use website on which **academics** and other **experts** can offer their services to the **financial services sector** – banks, insurers, etc - and on which City practitioners can find expert advice on a range of services. The service is free and simple.
www.academic-expert-directory.com

Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions (continued)

- A coalition of signatories to the **Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)** has called for palm oil companies to adhere to the **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Principles and Criteria**. Several members of the **PRI's Sustainable Palm Oil Investor Working Group** expect **all palm oil companies** to adopt sustainable agricultural practices, become members of the RSPO and adopt a time bound plan to certify all their plantations.

<http://www.unpri.org/press/institutional-investors-call-on-palm-oil-producers-to-adhere-to-rspo-principles-as-next-phase-of-engagement-begins/>

Other Issues

- The **Green Economy Coalition (GEC)** is a diverse set of organisations and sectors from **NGOs, research institutes, UN organisations, and business to trade unions**. Please see their website for lots of fascinating information
- The **Royal Society** and the **British Academy** hosted a UK Town Hall Meeting for researchers and stakeholders to discover more about the new **Future Earth initiative** established by the **Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability**. A summary report of the meeting is attached. Following the meeting, the **British Academy** and the **Royal Society** have convened a **Joint Working Group** to make recommendations on how best to **take forward the UK's engagement with Future Earth**.
- The **Department of Energy & Climate Change Global Calculator** team have at last launched the **Global Calculator**. It is hoped that the calculator will enable users to explore the options for **reducing global emissions** associated with land, food and energy systems in the period to **2050**.
- **Pioneers** and **trailblazers** whose work has had a **significant** and **positive** impact on the **environment** were given the **United Nation's highest environmental accolade**, the **Champions of the Earth Award**, at a ceremony hosted by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** at the Museum of Natural History in **New York**.
- The outgoing government in **Norway** has **buried** much-vaunted **plans** to **capture carbon dioxide** and **store it** underground amid mounting costs and delays.
- **Chinese** business leaders have publicly announced their commitments to **address climate change** and **promote low-carbon development** at the **China Summit on Caring for Climate**. The summit was hosted by the **Global Compact Network China** and organized by the **Global Compact Promotion Office of China Enterprise Confederation**.

<http://greeneconomycoalition.org/>

https://www.britac.ac.uk/intl/future_earth.cfm
<http://www.icsu.org/future-earth>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-global-calculator/the-global-calculator>

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2726&ArticleID=9622&l=en>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24183443>

<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/news/351-07-30-2013>

Other Issues (continued)

- Issuing a call for **global collaboration** and **collective action** to address escalating **water** and **sanitation** challenges, the **UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate**, convened its annual multi-stakeholder conference at **World Water Week in Stockholm** in **September**.
<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/news/391-09-04-2013>
- What is driving climate change action in the world's largest companies? **Global 500 Climate Change Report 2013** is written for companies, investors and policy makers that want to understand the **climate change** related **risks** and **opportunities** facing business.
<https://www.cdproject.net/CDPResults/CDP-Global-500-Climate-Change-Report-2013.pdf>
- **SustainAbility**, along with numerous other renewable energy colleagues and thought leaders, have signed on to a **letter** that was sent to the **US Energy Information Administration (EIA)** requesting that they **re-evaluate the methodology** used to develop **projections for renewable energy growth** in its "**Annual Energy Outlook**",
<http://www.sustainability.com/news/sustain-ability-signs-letter-sent-to-us-energy-information-administration#.UjsFamTwJU0>
- **SustainAbility** has also signed the **BICEP Climate Declaration** along with more than 500 businesses and investors. **The Climate Declaration** is a statement calling on U.S. policymakers to capture the **American economic opportunities** of addressing **climate change**. The campaign was launched by the business network **BICEP (Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy)**, which is coordinated by **Ceres** (an advocate for sustainability leadership).
<http://www.ceres.org/bicep/about>
<http://www.ceres.org/bicep/climate-declaration>
<http://www.sustainability.com/news/sustain-ability-sign-bicep-climate-declaration#.UjsExWTWJU0>
- The **Regeneration Roadmap** has been cited as a **core leader** on an International level in **The Phoenix Effect**, a new report from Sydney based **Green Capital**. Find out more about the report and The Regeneration Roadmap by reading the full **The Phoenix Effect** report or visit the **Regeneration Roadmap** website.
http://greencapital.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/The-Phoenix-Effect-Position-Paper_Full1.pdf
<http://theregenerationroadmap.com/>
- **Evidence and Lessons from Latin America (ELLA)** is a knowledge sharing and learning platform based in **Lima, Peru** which highlights recent Latin American experience on selected **economic, environmental and governance issues** in order to **support learning** between **Latin American, African and South Asian** countries.
http://www.eldis.org/go/latest-news/news/new-latin-american-knowledge-platform-now-on-eldis#.UjrV_laTxIG
- **Appetite for Destruction? The Food Product Guide to Palm Oil Content** is a list of products ranked on a scoring system of 1-20, with 20 being the best score. This makes for worrying reading and more food groups are scored and added regularly.
<http://ella.practicalaction.org/>
http://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org/Biscuits?utm_source=ECRA+Monthly+Newsletter&utm_campaign=2670433ba9-june_2013_newsletter6_24_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9856040c29-2670433ba9-268537329
- **World Water Week (WWW)** was held in September in **Stockholm, Sweden**. It was an incredibly busy event and so the WWW website has a **Daily Reflection Series** which helps summarise events and outcomes from each day. A lot has been written elsewhere about the event but **ELDIS** have put together a **Storify** collection of **social media commentary and selected background reading** from Eldis and other sources.
<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/sa/site.asp?site=460>
<http://www.eldis.org/go/latest-news/news/looking-back-at-world-water-week#.UjrXHYaTxIG>

Other Issues (continued)

- In August **Guardian Sustainable Business** published an article about **textiles** leaving one of the **largest water footprints on the planet** and **dyeing** poses an especially big problem. The industry's challenge is to adopt **more water-friendly technologies** and **mitigate the effects** of the timeless, yet toxic, dyeing process.
http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/dyeing-textile-sector-water-risks-adidas?INTCMP=SRCH&CMP=&et_cid=45415&et_rid=5613545&Linkid=Clothing+to+dye+for%3a+the+textile+sector+must+confront+water+risks
- **Takenaka and Ajinomoto have won prizes at 22nd Global Environment Awards.** The **Global Environment Awards** are a commendation system for the industrial sector established in cooperation with the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Japan**. JFS's corporate members were also among the winners.
<http://www.japanfs.org/en/pages/033072.html>
- For all the talk of companies taking the threat of **climate change** seriously, the latest evidence shows the **corporate sector is failing to respond** in a meaningful way to the **threat of environmental catastrophe**. **Global NGO CDP** has just released its latest annual report on **carbon emissions** and it makes bleak reading. 97 brands, including **Apple, Facebook and Amazon**, refuse to disclose their carbon emissions.
<https://www.cdproject.net/en-US/Pages/HomePage.aspx>
http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/blog/cdp-report-companies-emissions-failing?CMP=&et_cid=48923&et_rid=5613545&Linkid=report+shows+that+companies+are+making+little+progress
- An article in **Guardian Sustainable Business** in September posed an interesting question: **Ethical awards – green wash or genuinely recognising sustainability?** They can tend to be a celebration of what companies **are doing**, rather than stressing what needs **to be done** regarding **sustainability and supply chain issues**. Read the full article for more details and explanation.
http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/blog/ethical-awards-green-wash-sustainability?CMP=&et_cid=48086&et_rid=5613545&Linkid=Ethical+awards%3a+green+wash+or+genuinely+recognising+sustainability%3f
- **Ethical Corporation's Responsible Business Award winners 2013** have been announced. The full list of nominees and winners can be found on their website.
<http://events.ethicalcorp.com/awards/>
- **Kumamoto City** was awarded the **Grand Prize for Best Water Management Practices** at the **UN's "Water for Life"** Award Ceremony held in **Hague**, Holland. Kumamoto City was the **first** applicant from **Japan** to be granted the award.
<http://www.japanfs.org/en/pages/033024.html>
- At the end of August **Guardian Sustainable Business** published an unusual and unique article entitled **Seven lessons on Sustainability from Star Trek** by **Amy Larkin**. She writes that the principles from **Star Trek** remain **incredibly relevant to sustainability professionals today**. Take a few moments to read a fun take on serious issues.
http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/star-trek-sustainability?CMP=&et_cid=47222&et_rid=5613545&Linkid=Seven+lessons+on+sustainability+from+Star+Trek
- Compiled from latest facts and figures **Ethicorp** have printed a **Green Energy Sector Snapshot** and an **Environment, Companies and Government snapshot Infographic** (a graphical/pictorial summary of latest information). Each Infographic has accompanying further reading.
http://www.ethicalcorp.com/environment/infographic-green-energy-sector-snapshot?utm_source=http%3a%2f%2fuk.ethicalcorp.com%2ffc_ethicalcorporationlz%2f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EC+News+28+08+13&utm_term=Effective+governance+of+corporate+responsibility&utm_content=42046

Other Issues (continued)

- A sticking plaster solution for climate change has been proposed by the world's top energy think tank, the International Energy Agency (IEA). The report, Re-drawing the Energy Climate Map, appeals to politicians' self-interest by dangling a carrot of competitive advantage to nations that can save more energy and cut emissions cheaply.
- There is no doubt that **slavery** is still a **thriving business** across the world. The **United Nations** estimates that **people-trafficking** is the **third biggest criminal industry** behind guns and drugs. Since 2006, more than 170 global companies have signed up to the **Athens Ethical Principles**. In **Brazil** an aggressive **anti-slavery strategy** has led to **Brazil's 'dirty list'** which names and **shames companies involved in slave labour**.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22845425>

http://www.iea.org/publications/free_publications/publication/name,38764,en.html

http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/brazil-dirty-list-names-shames-slave-labour?CMP=&et_cid=42961&et_rid=5613545&Linkid=Brazil%26%2339%3bs+%26%2339%3bdirty+list%26%2339%3b+names+and+shames+companies+involved+in+slave+labour
<http://www.ilo.org/global/lang-en/index.htm>
http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/Athens_principles.pdf

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