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“Being green is about more than appearances. It is about running your business in a way which minimises the risks and grabs the opportunities. For a bank, this means reducing our environmental footprint and embracing our role as a catalyst for change”
- 2004 Stakeholder Impact Report, Westpac -

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EVENT OUTCOMES

1. The Climate Change Working Group: A Successful COP 10 in Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 15 December 2004

The UNEP FI's Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) has always had a strong presence at the annual Conference of the Parties (COP), part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and this year was no exception. The working group held a side event at COP 10 in Buenos Aires, where it launched its latest CEO Briefing titled *Finance for Carbon Solutions: The Clean Development Mechanism – The Financial Sector Perspective*. The side event highlighted what the financial sector can offer in terms of carbon solutions, with a focus on the CDM, and, more specifically, the risks and opportunities associated with the CDM as viewed by the financial sector. The event included presentations from Sascha Lafeld of 3C and Dresdner Bank, the author of the CEO briefing and member of the CCWG, Charles Cormier of the World Bank, Rodrigo Sales of Baker & McKenzie, Maria Teresa Szauer of CAF, an active member of the Latin American Taskforce, as well as Hernan Carlino from Argentina's Designated National Authority.

The briefing and presentations are available online at <http://www.unepfi.org/events/2004/cop10/index.html>

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2. Development Bank of Japan International Environment Forum 2004

Tokyo, Japan, 26 November 2004

To mark the anniversary of the UNEP FI 2003 Global Roundtable, which was hosted by the Development Bank of Japan (DBJ) October 2003 in Tokyo, DBJ hosted the half-day event to keep the momentum amongst Japanese financial institutions towards sustainability that had been created by the conference.

The Forum was attended by 33 Japanese bankers, insurers and asset managers, both UNEP FI signatories and non-signatories, and 8 international developing financial institutions. Mr. Michael Hoelz, Chair of the UNEP FI Steering Committee and the UNEP FI secretariat were given the chance to present their evaluation of the Global Roundtable and how the outcomes of the conference have led to the planned start up of the UNEP FI Asia Pacific Task Force (APTF) from 2005. The UNEP FI APTF is an umbrella framework of groups and activities in the Asia Pacific region and in particular calls on the Japanese financial institutions to support and be part of the APTF through such activities as the setting up a Japanese group.

UNEP FI also announced the planned 2005 Asia Pacific survey on finance and environment whose results will not only further help the understanding of the current situation and trends in the region, but could also be used to frame activities in the future years.

For further information on the conference and the APTF activities contact:

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3. UNEP FI Executive Briefing in Manila hosted by the Association of Developing Financial Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP)

Manila, Philippines, 1 December 2004

The ADFIAP hosted event enabled the UNEP FI secretariat to meet its signatories in the Philippines and also to introduce itself to non-signatories. At this meeting, attended by approximately 10 executives from Philippines' largest banks, UNEP FI introduced its current work programme and discussed how UNEP FI could create more benefits for institutions in the Philippines by becoming part of the UNEP FI Asia Pacific Task Force (APTF) which is planned to start from 2005. It also introduced some case studies in developing countries collected by UNEP FI on the benefits of institution in undertaking sustainability management and reporting.

The attendees supported the Asia Pacific survey on finance and environment which will create a good resource to evaluate the current situation in the Philippines and compare trends in the AP region. They also agreed the survey will help frame activities for both international issue based group and a possible Philippine group in the UNEP FI APTF. UNEP FI Secretariat announced its intention to return to Manila in June 2005 to present the survey findings and to discuss future activities.

For further information on the event and the APTF activities contact:

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MEMBER SHOWCASE

4. Nedbank 'Highly Commended' at the Inaugural Africa Investor Investment Awards

At the inaugural *Africa Investor Investment awards* ceremony, Nedbank – The Green Trust were awarded 'Highly Commended' status for 'Sustainability Investing in Africa.'

The high level judging panel stated that Nedbank – The Green Trust was 'innovative and responsive to great need' and a 'Leader among private financial institutions in compliance with environmental standards' as well as being a 'Champion of grassroots community based conservation.'

The Green Trust was founded in 1990 by Nedbank and WWF-South Africa and focuses on community based conservation. The Trust's specific goals include:

- Support for communities in both rural and urban areas regarding the sustainable use of their natural resources.
- Conservation, reintroduction and monitoring of flagship indicator species within sensitive ecosystems.
- Environmental education and awareness.
- Communities and individuals to take responsibility for their actions and become involved in conservation.

Nedbank has raised over R60 million for the trust, and 129 projects have been funded.

The 2004 Africa Investor (AI) Investment Awards were established to recognise and reward the achievements of the private sector, governments, NGOs and multilateral agencies in promoting direct investment in Africa. They were presented on Friday 19 November in Dakar, Senegal, on the closing day of the African World Business Congress 2004. More than 250 leaders of African business attended the ceremony.

For further information please visit: <http://www.africa-investor.com>

5. Savings & Loans Credit Union

South Australian-based Savings & Loans Credit Union, Australia's fourth largest credit union, which was named Australian Credit Union of the Year in 2004, joined the UNEP FI in a ceremony in December 2004.

Savings & Loans has a sustainability policy that guides its planning. In every aspect of its business, Savings & Loans will ensure that environmental and social sustainability are key objectives. It will be integrated into its choice of suppliers and business partners, the products and services it offers its members and the companies to which it loans money.

The State Government of South Australia has recognised the value in what Savings & Loans is doing by witnessing their signing of the UNEP FI Statement.

For further information, visit our website <http://www.savingsloans.com.au>

6. HVB Group Sustainability Report 2004

HVB Group has released its 2004 Sustainability Report under the title "Sustainability moves ahead." The report provides a comprehensive insight into how HVB Group has been moving ahead in terms of sustainability over the last two years and where the challenges for the future lie.

Some important issues covered are:

- * Co-foundation of the CEE Task Force under the UNEP Finance Initiative
- * Founder member of the Equator Principles Initiative
- * Creation of a Carbon Solutions team to advise customers on Kyoto mechanisms
- * Expansion of the product range in the field of sustainable investments
- * Reduction in the consumption of materials in bank premises, the inclusion of environmental and social considerations in procurement processes

To view the report: <http://www.hvbgroup.com/sustainability>

ACTIVITIES

7. Principles for Responsible Investment

The process to develop the Principles of Responsible Investment is moving ahead quickly. Convened by UNEP and the UN Global Compact, this process will bring together a group of the world's leading pension funds and foundations with the goal of developing a set of principles for responsible investment, focusing on the practices of large institutional investors. The goal is to develop principles that reflect best practice in the area of institutional investor responsibility and then develop concrete action plans to allow investors to share resources and work together to apply the principles.

A group of experts has been convened to discuss the issues and develop options for the principles. The first meeting of the group of experts will be on 5-6 April in Paris.

There will be a comprehensive public participation process during March, the results of which will be summarised before the expert meeting. Next month's e-bulletin will contain a link to the public consultation web site.

For more information contact:
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8. Update from the Latin American Task Force (LATF)

The LATF welcomes Suleasing International from Bogota, Colombia as a new member to the LATF. The Task Force is pleased to have such a progressive company join the LATF and looks forward to working with Suleasing.

Suleasing International S.A. was founded in 1993, specializing in financial cross-border leasing to companies in Central America, the Caribbean, the Andean Region and Brazil. The company's principal services are standard and structured leasing. Suleasing operates principally out of its Colombia office with 20 employees and has presence elsewhere in Latin America.

Suleasing's approach to environmental issues focuses principally on indirect impacts through its clients, but also includes internal operation, such as energy and water conservation. Suleasing considers commercial clients that do not adhere to specific social and environmental standards as uncompetitive investments in the long run.

For more information visit: <http://www.suleasing-int.com>

For 9-10 March, the LATF is planning a training workshop on the integration of environmental and social risk in credit lending and investment in Bogotá, Colombia. The event will consist of an executive breakfast to raise awareness of the issue at senior level, and a one-day technical training workshop. The event is held in collaboration with the Colombian arm of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, CECODES, and hosted by CAF the Andean Development Bank. The training will be conducted by the Costa Rican Business School, a long-standing partner of UNEP FI.

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9. Launch of Full Report Challenges of Water Scarcity: A Business Case for Financial Institutions

The full report of the UNEP FI – SIWI study, Challenges of Water Scarcity: A Business Case for Financial Institutions was launched during the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe Japan last week.

The full report emphasizes the potential challenges that must be assessed by financial institutions relating to water and also highlights that there are important opportunities to be made for the benefit of their core business and water sustainability.

Both the full report and the summary report are now accessible in the UNEP FI website: <http://www.unepfi.org>

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10. Meeting on Financial Institutions, Technology and Water

On 13th January, 2005 UNEP FI held an informal meeting with representatives of Nymphaea Water, International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) and financial institutions. The agenda for the meeting was to open try and open dialogues on how financial institutions can support and encourage the use of new technologies geared towards reducing pressures on water resources in certain countries. Particular focus was the Middle East and Africa, due to their high tendency to water scarcity.

The meeting included a presentation by NYPHEA Water, who demonstrated how new technologies can have a significant impact on alleviating water scarcity. The IRHA also gave a brief presentation by on how the technology of Rain Water Harvesting gives access to both drinking and sanitation water for many developing countries.

Discussions centred on how to bridge the gaps between financial institutions and policy makers related to water, which helped steer the final outcome of the meeting helped towards promoting and encouraging the use of technological that can benefit developing countries in accessing water.

Financial institutions interested in this thematic are invited to get in contact with the Secretariat.

For more information, please contact:
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EVENT WIRE

11. CEO Meeting on Sustainable Finance in Poland

Warsaw, Poland, 16 March, 2005

The Central and Eastern European Task Force will continue their awareness raising activities in the region with a meeting in Poland. The Task Force will invite senior management representatives of the Polish financial sector for a half-day meeting in Warsaw, Poland. The meeting will be hosted by Poland's largest financial institution, Bank Pekao SA and will comprise of Senior Executives, Krzysztof Bielecki, CEO, Bank Pekao SA and Artur Tarnowski, Director Polish Telecom. The agenda will cover legal environmental topics for financial institutions, environmental reporting and rating requirements, environmental aspects of privatisation and best practice in sustainable finance.

For further information contact:
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NEWS

12. World Bank Survey on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Developing Countries

The World Bank is conducting a Needs Assessment and Options Study for a Finance and Policy Network to facilitate scale-up of investments in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Developing Countries. They encourage anyone with expertise and interest in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency to complete the survey, and welcome multiple surveys from the same institution. The World Bank is interested in hearing from a variety of stakeholders to understand their concerns and suggestions. The deadline for the survey is 31 January 2005.

The survey instrument is available on-line at the Global Village Energy Project site at <http://www.gvep.org/>

13. Enhanced Analytics Initiative Publishes Results of Broker Evaluation

The Enhanced Analytics Initiative (EAI) published the results of their evaluation of research by brokers participating in the Initiative. EAI encourages sell-side researchers to analyse material extra-financial and intangibles issues by the allocation of a minimum of 5% of broker commissions to those who best provide this information. Based on the current group composition, they anticipate the total amount set aside for this project to be in the order of €4-5 million for the year 2005.

The following brokers, listed in alphabetical order, have been commended by EAI for their consideration of extra-financial issues as part of their research:

- Deutsche Bank
- DrKW
- Goldman Sachs
- HSBC
- Morgan Stanley
- UBS
- WestLB

EAI also identified three “runner-up” institutions which, in alphabetical order are: ABN Amro, Citigroup and CM-CIC. These brokers have been selected from the 21 brokers who responded to EAI’s call. The detailed evaluation covered both the quality and coverage of their past research output and their commitments for 2005 and was undertaken by the specialist consultancy onValues Ltd. The analysis of past research output comprised 60 research deliverables of 17 brokers.

Further information on the baseline assessment of broker research is available on <http://www.enhanced-analytics.com>

14. New Report Investigates why Socially Responsible Investment has yet to be Embraced by the Mainstream Financial Community

A company that profits while doing harm to the community is likely to suffer in the long run. Yet the mainstream financial community has so far placed little emphasis on, environmental and ethical issues in its investment decisions. This can be changed, as the new report released by the World Economic Forum’s Global Corporate Citizenship Initiative (GCCCI) and the London-based think tank, AccountAbility, reveals. The report entitled “Mainstreaming Responsible Investment” identifies the key impediments to broader consideration of non-financial factors by the mainstream investment community, and explores changes in policies and practices that could “tip” systemic change in the investment community in this direction.

You can download the full report by clicking on this link:
http://www.weforum.org/documents/gccci/FINAL_GCCI_MRI-Report_2004-2005.pdf

15. FEE Calls for Action on CSR Reporting

The European Federation of Accountants, FEE, is calling on the European Commission’s Multi-stakeholder Forum to recognise Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reporting at a level similar to financial reporting. CSR reporting typically sees corporations reporting on their economic, social and environmental impacts.

FEE believes that independent assurance is central to building the credibility of CSR reports. Urgent action is required if CSR reporting is to attract investor recognition at a level similar to high quality financial reporting.

For more information visit: <http://www.fee.be>

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