

# Benefits

North American Financial Institutions

Finance Initiatives

“By endorsing the UNEP Statement by Financial Institutions, as well as expanding upon our current environmental management efforts, we improve our ability to proactively manage environmental risk and generate significant cost savings for the corporation – benefiting both the community and our shareholders.”

Chad Gifford  
CEO FleetBoston Financial

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UNEP **Finance Initiatives**  
Innovative financing for sustainability

# Across the Board

UNEP FI's activities are member-driven and focused on delivering value. Becoming a member entitles you to join in and direct any of our current activities. You can also catalyse new activities that are tailored to the needs of your firm.

## **Build capacity through professional development workshops**

- Globalisation and the financial sector.
- Environmental risk management.
- Regulatory incentives for environment and community development.
- Internal operational efficiency.
- SEC reporting & mandatory environmental disclosure requirements.
- Rating agency evaluation of corporate governance.

## **Develop new tools with UNEP FI working groups**

- Dialogue between NGOs and Financial Sector.
- Performance attribution analysis of ethical investment strategies.
- Environmental management and reporting guidelines.

## **Build cross-continent links in our regional Task Forces**

- North America
- Latin America
- Africa
- Asia

## **Spread the word globally through our publications**

- CEO briefing series
- Quarterly newsletters and monthly e-bulletins
- Research papers
- [www.unepfi.net](http://www.unepfi.net)

# The Tipping Point

In his best seller, *The Tipping Point*, Malcolm Gladwell argues that “The world - much as we want it to - does not accord with our intuition.” Change happens quickly and “tipping points” reaffirm not only the potential of change, but also the power of intelligent action.

A tipping point has occurred in global financial services. Now more than ever individuals and investors alike are asking, “Who can we trust? Who can we believe in? What companies demonstrate integrity, ethics, and commitments behind the numbers in an annual report? Who leads in serving their clients and the global community?”

One clear response for many global financial institutions comes from membership in the United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiatives (UNEP FI). Over 190 members belong to this global network of financial institutions. Founded in 1991, this United Nations initiative has proven its value to its members and the global community over and over again.

## An invitation from the North American Taskforce

The North American Task Force (NATF) of the United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiatives invites you to join us in a global program of leadership, awareness and cooperation.

The UNEP FI North American Task Force is comprised of signatories to the UNEP FI statements and has a specific mission to support and expand sustainable financial institution practice in North America.

### **In 2003/2004 the NATF will**

- Create a critical mass of North American signatories that are able to exchange ideas and best practice facilitated by UNEP FI as a neutral global network of stakeholders.
- Provide focused value to UNEP FI's North American signatories.
- Give North American financial institutions' perspectives on environment and community development a voice in international and national negotiations.

*“We were one of the first U.S.-based financial services companies to sign UNEP’s Statement by Financial Institutions on the Environment and Sustainable Development, an action that speaks to our long-time participation in international leadership initiatives. And our commitment to engaging in the truly challenging concerns that encompass corporate citizenship and sustainable development continues to grow stronger.”*

Sir Deryck Maughan, Chairman and CEO  
**Citigroup International**

# Benefits

## **Professional Development**

Knowing what legislation and programs exist and are being considered by both the public and private sectors around the world that could affect financial institutions is vital to global and local businesses alike. International and regionally focused meetings bring together leading individuals representing both public and private sectors to discuss these issues.

### **Example**

The UNEP FI sustainability performance development programme currently planned for launch in spring 2003 will build and disseminate best practice to professionals around the globe. There are ongoing discussions with multilateral trade groups including the Commission for Environmental Cooperation related to proposed legislation and agreements that will affect the financial community such as reporting and disclosure of environmental liabilities.

## **Participation**

Learning about the most successful policies, practices and procedures can save hundreds of hours in planning and research. Our participation areas include:

- environmental issues
- lending and investment practices
- shareholder resolutions and corporate governance
- non-governmental organization (NGO) activities
- community development

### **Example**

A series of department efficiency strategy white papers planned for 2003 will provide step by step approaches to implementing cost-saving innovations on a departmental level.

## **Networking**

Respected competitors consider new responses and approaches to concerns that face every participant in the global financial markets especially in the areas of environmental and community programmes. Those developing finance accords and trade agreements often seek the perspective of UNEP FI.

### **Example**

In 2003/04 the NATF members will launch a program that offers members the chance to provide North American perspectives on the financial implications of trade agreements including NAFTA, other international accords such as Basel and work/exposure with bilateral and multilateral institutions such as the International Finance Corporation and the Inter-American Development Bank.

## **Preparation**

While change happens quickly, anticipation and preparation often separates those leaders who respond well and those who cannot. Leading financial institutions around the world are very adept at managing their businesses. However it is much more difficult to recognize and adapt to the social changes that may have significant effect on the financial services business in the months and years ahead.

UNEP FI offers its members the opportunity to learn how firms all over the world anticipate and respond to the changes that affect their businesses in the area of public and private institutional policy.

### **Example**

The 2002 UNEP FI Annual Global Roundtable, held in Rio de Janeiro, attracted financial institution representatives from over fifty nations.

# Details

UNEP FI is a member-driven partnership: your priorities become our priorities.

There is no other organization specifically designed for financial institutions to assist its membership in understanding and responding to environmental and social issues that touch the global financial community. Your membership in UNEP FI will become a high value, low cost proposition.

## **Annual Dues**

The annual dues have been kept purposefully low in order to attract the widest possible participation.

\$ 15,000 for global and multinational firms.

\$ 7,500 for national firms.

\$ 3,000 for regional firms.

## **Commitment**

All the members of the UNEP FI join together through an agreement of purpose that clarifies the aspirations of each member firm.

## **Challenges**

Annual dues and the agreement of purpose begin a series of conversations, meetings and seminars that will require participation and communication through a designated person in your organization.

For some this is the work of the Corporate Social Policy Committee. For others it is the Office of the Chairman, or in some cases the Public Relations area. Whomever you choose, the challenge of effective participation will depend upon your staff designee.

Any member of the NATF will be happy to discuss with you their own participation in UNEP FI and why they are involved in this global organization for financial institutions. (See back page).

*“No corporation can expect long-term success if it does not address the needs of all of its stakeholders. As a financial institution with employees around the globe, Deutsche Bank understands that the communities where we are present lie at the heart of our business. In order to address those needs, Deutsche Bank was one of the first participants in UNEP FI.”*

Dr. Rolf-E. Breuer, Spokesman of the Group Board

**Deutsche Bank AG**

## UNEP FI

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiatives (UNEP FI) is a unique global partnership between UNEP, the Financial Institutions Initiative (FII) and the Insurance Industry Initiative (III). UNEP FI has 295 member institutions worldwide.

UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. UNEP has six divisions through which it carries out its activities, including the Division of Technology Industry and Economics (DTIE) based in Paris, France. The Economics and Trade Branch (ETB), based in Geneva, Switzerland, is a branch of DTIE. The Finance Initiatives is a unit of the ETB.

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## UNEP Finance Initiatives

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