Understanding the impact of environmental and social considerations on financial performance

Online Course on Climate Change Risks and Opportunities for the Finance Sector

Target audience: Executives and middle management from financial institutions such as banks, insurers, reinsurers, and fund managers, from both developed and developing regions. Governments and civil society members interested in learning more about climate change from the perspective of the financial industry are also welcome.

With record levels of greenhouse gas emissions in 2011, and record levels of weather-related impacts, costs, and financial losses, we know climate change is here to stay, and will only become stronger.

Responding to the need to better understand the implications of this phenomenon, the UNEP FI Online Course equips participants with a fundamental understanding of how financial markets - across banking, investment, and insurance - can cope with the resulting risks and seize the opportunities.

Since its inception in 2007, the course has trained nearly 600 finance professionals from 75 countries in all continents.

Duration: Three weeks.

Time commitment: Two to three hours per day on average, five days per week.

Timetable: Flexible, participants to set their own study times.

Course fee: Please consult the latest fee structure on our website:

www.unepfi.org/training/climate_change

“"The caliber of the mentors was excellent. Overall, this was a very stimulating three weeks of learning.”

Ikenna Charles Ikejiofor
Senior Banking Executive,
Fidelity Bank PLC, Nigeria

Email: cc-training@unepfi.org
Information and online registration:
www.unepfi.org/training
The aim of the Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities for the Finance Sector Online Course is to equip representatives of financial institutions, including banks, insurers, and fund managers, as well as other stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills to address climate change risks and capitalise on its opportunities.

"Enrolling in this course proved an invaluable experience. A rare combination of cutting-edge material, knowledgeable mentors and pro-active participants ensured discussions were lively and made it a worthwhile time investment."

Sandra Bambarén Seminario
Senior Credit Officer, Scotiabank Peru

Course activities

Readings: Readings and background materials are provided at the beginning of each module for reference and background.

Discussion Fora: Every week, participants propose, comment on, reply to, or debate their own positions or the positions of their organizations on relevant questions. Fora provide a space to reflect and interact on real life situations and experiences, and to address any questions students may have.

Case Studies: Case studies are central to putting the theories and concepts learned in this course into a practical context. They are built explicitly from the perspective of credit officers, portfolio managers, and insurers and guide students on how to use, in their daily professional life, the insights from the course.

Quizzes: There are three tests in total which ensure that students take away key insights from the course!

Objectives

The course aims to equip participants with improved understanding of:

- Why climate change is relevant to the financial services sector;
- The major financial risks and opportunities associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- The negotiation and decision making processes of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and other international policy processes;
- The main self-regulatory and legislative measures intended to combat climate change;
- The latest investment trends in clean energy;
- The financial risks and opportunities in emissions trading, in particular the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol as well as the European Union’s Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS);
- Procedures related to Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project development.

Course contents

I An Introduction to Climate Science and the International Climate Change Regime
II Risks and Opportunities for Portfolio Managers, Lenders and Insurers
III Climate Change and the Energy Economy
IV Emissions Trading and Carbon Finance
IV Conclusions and Next Steps

Learning environment

Supervision and orientation of participants is ensured by seasoned tutors with much experience in the fields of climate change and finance. Tutors actively promote interaction and dialogue among participants, while providing personalized support throughout the course.

Course activities are carried out through GIZ’s online platform, Global Campus 21 (GC21).

For more information, visit www.unepfi.org/training