



Press release

How can the transition to a low-carbon economy be financed?

Financial services experts and industry leaders will be discussing mechanisms to finance the transformation to a low-carbon economy at The 11th International Sustainability Leadership Symposium 2010 in Rueschlikon (Zurich).

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Zurich, 28 September 2010 – Over 150 financial services experts and representatives from climate and carbon conscious companies will convene today at the Swiss Re Centre for Global Dialogue in Rueschlikon. This year's 11th annual International Sustainability Leadership Symposium will make its own contribution to the climate debate by focus on tangible steps the financial and corporate sectors can take to reduce their carbon footprint, irrespective of the outcomes of the Copenhagen and Cancun negotiations.

Zeno Staub, Head Asset Management at **Vontobel** and President of the membership organisation The Sustainability Forum Zürich (TSF) firmly believes that „the know-how and instruments of the financial sector can be applied more effectively to serve the needs of a changing economy concerned with mitigating the effects of climate change.”

In his symposium opening remarks, Mr. Staub will also introduce the main conference theses put forward in a discussion paper. This paper traditionally serves to frame the debates at this symposium as it did at the 10 previous Symposia. This year's edition includes interview-based case studies of carbon conscious investment and of carbon reduction strategies with representatives of **Siemens AG, APG Asset Management, Deutsche Post DHL, Cisco Systems** as well as **SAM Sustainable Asset Management**.

We are anticipating the contributions of our 34 high-calibre speakers with great excitement. Our renowned experts include **Lord Colin Moynihan**, former UK Minister of Energy during the Thatcher and Major administrations and current President of **Pelamis Wave Power**, as well as **Brice Koch**, Head of Marketing and Customer Solutions of **ABB Ltd**. We also look forward to the contribution of **Ian Zhu**, Principal **Tsing Capital**, a leading Chinese clean-tech investment firm.

The symposium programme includes three panel discussions with first-rate speakers. On the first panel, representatives of **APG** (The Netherlands) and **TIAA-CREF** (USA), two of the largest pension funds worldwide, will explain how climactic concerns and anticipated shortages in energy supplies influence their portfolio strategies. A further panellist from **West LB** will discuss the tighter regulatory measures the German bank has adopted in regard to financing coal-fired power projects.

A further panel will be made up of Fund Managers. **Roland Pfeuti**, Head of the pioneering sustainability focused private equity firm **SAM** (Sustainable Asset Management) based in Zurich will highlight simple ways institutional investors can invest in burgeoning clean-tech firms through new fund-of-fund offerings.

Furthermore, **David N. Bresch**, Head Sustainability at **Swiss Re**, will explain how the insurance industry can facilitate the entry of innovative renewable energy technology providers into the market.

On the other hand, also the points of view of the corporate sector will be debated. Stefan Seitz, Director, Energy & Environmental Solutions at **Siemens AG**, will discuss energy saving contracting in the construction industry. Daniel Hofer, CEO of **Migrol AG** will elaborate on the electrical car Migros will be rolling out in the coming months.

For additional information about the 11th International Sustainability Leadership Symposium: "Financing the Transformation to a Low-Carbon Economy", including speaker biographies, the symposium programme, as well as the discussion paper, please visit www.sustainability-zurich.org

The International Sustainability Leadership Symposium

The topic of this year's 11th annual International Sustainability Leadership Symposium is „Financing the Transformation to a Low-Carbon Economy“. The symposium will take place on 28 September 2010 and is organized by the Zürich-based association The Sustainability Forum Zürich (TSF).

TSF is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan association, founded in 1999 by leading representatives from business, science and public authorities from Zurich and increasingly joined by financial market players from throughout Europe. TSF aims to take up issues relevant to the future, by way of an action-oriented dialogue with internationally recognised topic leaders and decision makers, enabling the integration of entrepreneurially relevant sustainability principles in the financial markets.

TSF members:

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG); BHP – Brugger and Partners Ltd.; Canton of Zurich; City of Zurich; GHP Arbitrium; Novatlantis; Novo Nordisk; PricewaterhouseCoopers; responsAbility; SAM Sustainable Asset Management; Sustainable Performance Group SPG; Swiss Reinsurance Company; University of Zurich, Vontobel Group