

An investor initiative in partnership with
UNEP Finance Initiative and the
UN Global Compact

Media notice

PRI ANNOUNCES RESEARCH AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC PAPERS OF EXCELLENCE

(**London, 17 September 2009**), The academic network of the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment Initiative (PRI) today issued a global call for academic papers to launch its new Research Awards.

The PRI is offering six awards, worth a total of US\$33,000, to the best academic papers that it receives on the theme of 'Mainstreaming Responsible Investment'. The deadline for submission of the papers is **15 November 2009**, with the winners to be announced at the [PRI Academic Network](#)'s conference in Copenhagen in May next year.

Papers may be submitted on the broad theme above or in the following specific areas:

1. **Long-term investment and universal ownership**
2. **Shareholder engagement and its effectiveness**
3. **ESG alternatives among mainstream investors**
4. **Integration of ESG issues into mainstream investment**
5. **Responsible investment, market failure and regulatory responses**

The winning papers will be judged by a high-profile panel of both academics and investment professionals. The aim of the PRI Research Awards is to generate innovative and practically-applicable knowledge concerning the business case for and broader societal value of responsible investing.

How to enter: An electronic version of the cover page, scanned ID and abstract, in English, must be submitted by 15 November 2009 via email to Christina Gehring at Christina.gehring@unpri.org. See the complete 'Call for Papers' on <http://academic.unpri.org>.

For more information please contact: Christina.gehring@unpri.org

Notes to editor

- **About the PRI Academic Network**

As part of broader efforts to increase knowledge about responsible investment practices, the PRI Academic Network works to strengthen cooperation between signatories and the academic community. With a membership of 270 academics, investment practitioners and policy makers, the PRI Academic Network represents a diverse array of research interests from around the world. The network aims to provide implementation support to PRI signatories through promoting and funding research and events that generate practical and relevant responsible investment research. The PRI annual Academic conference aims to showcase the best examples of this research.

<http://academic.unpri.org/>

- **The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)**

The Principles for Responsible Investment, convened by UNEP FI and the UN Global Compact, was established as a framework to help investors achieve better long-term investment returns and sustainable markets through better analysis of environmental, social and governance issues in investment process and the exercise of responsible ownership practices. The Principles themselves, a full list of signatories and more information can be found at www.unpri.org

- **United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)**

UNEP FI is a unique public-private partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector. UNEP works with over 170 banks, insurers and investment firms, and a range of partner organisations, to develop and promote linkages between sustainability and financial performance. Through its comprehensive work programme encompassing research, training, events and regional activities, UNEP FI carries out its mission to identify, promote and realise the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations. More information:

www.unepfi.org

- **UN Global Compact**

Launched in 2000, the UN Global Compact brings business together with UN agencies, labour, civil society and governments to advance ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Through the power of collective action, the Global Compact seeks to mainstream these ten principles in business activities around the world and to catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals. With more than 5200 participating businesses from over 130 countries, it is the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative. More at:

www.unglobalcompact.org.