

PRI ANNOUNCES PLANS TO LAUNCH GLOBAL ESG RESEARCH DATABASE

- *Plans for the new database unveiled at event in Paris, hosted by combined EAI and PRI group*
- *Research providers invited to post best-in-class enhanced analysis*

Paris, 4 December 2008 - The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) has today announced plans to launch the first global, non-commercial database, dedicated to showcasing investment research which focuses on environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues and provides enhanced analysis to asset managers and owners. The plans are a decisive move to extend the availability of enhanced investment research among PRI's global signatory base.

The database is designed to identify and incentivise investment research that takes a long-term view and explicitly integrates material environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues into financial analysis.

The launch of this global, independent database, is the first move from PRI to extend the work of the Enhanced Analytics Initiative. This follows the announcement in October that both institutions would be joining forces under the PRI name with the aim of broadening and internationalizing the call for better research

James Gifford, Executive Director of the PRI Initiative, said:

“The continued generation and availability of quality, integrated ESG research is critical to effecting a lasting change in the industry. This database will have clear benefits for both research providers and research consumers. Leading providers will have a non-commercial platform on which to promote their enhanced research to the entirety of the PRI's asset owner and manager signatories, who collectively represent more than USD 18 trillion. For their part, PRI signatories will gain a definitive catalogue of the best

ESG research, wherever it has been produced, that is searchable by sector, region and ESG issue."

Marcel Jeucken, Head of Responsible Investment at PGGM Investments, a founding member of EAI and signatory of PRI, commented:

"EAI members view the new PRI database as the logical next step to further the EAI's mission to incentivise better research for long-term investors. The EAI's pioneering work over the past four years has helped to successfully incubate this kind of research, as detailed in the Initiative's final report, 'Research centre stage', which is released today. Its transition into the PRI framework that will give enhanced research a truly global dimension."

PRI has also established an independent working group who will moderate the content from research providers to ensure eligibility for posting. To be considered eligible, investment research must be published and intended for practical use by asset owners and managers and integrate ESG related issues to inform long-term investment decision-making.

To ensure that the new tool is practical and easy to use, buy-side users and research providers will be consulted as the database is developed. Those interested in participating in the pilot phase should contact ryan.pollice@unpri.org for further details.

Further information about the new database will be posted on the PRI website in the coming weeks.

- ENDS -

An initiative of
UNEP Finance Initiative
and the
UN Global Compact

Notes to editors:

About the Principles for Responsible Investment

The PRI were developed by a group of leading institutional investors in a process convened by UNEP Finance Initiative and the UN Global Compact. The Principles recommend actions for incorporating environmental, social and governance issues into mainstream investment decision-making and ownership practices. There are now over 450 signatories, together representing in excess of US\$18 trillion (pre-crisis) in assets.

For more information: <http://www.unpri.org/>

About the Enhanced Analytics Initiative

The Enhanced Analytics Initiative was an international collaboration between asset owners and asset managers aimed at encouraging better investment research, in particular research that takes account of the impact of extra-financial issues on long-term investment. The Initiative represented total assets under management of around US\$3 trillion. EAI encouraged research providers to compile better and more detailed analysis of extra financial issues within mainstream research. Its impact depended on offering credible market incentives to interested and appropriate research agencies to encourage them to adapt their research process and to become more innovative. www.enhanced-analytics.com

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