

Media Release 24 April 2013

NEW TRAINING PROGRAM HELPS INVESTORS BETTER UNDERSTAND COMPANY VALUE

How investors think about company value has shifted dramatically in the recent decade.

There are countless examples of shareholder value destroyed (or built) by factors traditionally outside the realms of financial analysis – News Corp, Lehman Brothers, TEPCO and BP to name just a few. As a result, environmental, social and corporate governance factors are increasingly mainstream considerations in comprehensive investment decision making.

The RI Academy today announces the launch of its first advanced course, Enhanced Financial Analysis, to help investors improve the practice of integrating these environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into fundamental investment analysis and stock valuation.

The online course provides candidates a detailed understanding of the place of sustainability in finance and the role of ESG factors in investment decision making. The course builds the skills necessary to identify new value drivers in financial analysis and apply practical tools to modeling and stock valuation.

The course has been developed in collaboration with RobecoSAM - a leading global investment specialist focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing – and is targeted at investment professionals.

RobecoSAM Senior Analyst Cécile Churet said, “There is a lot of talk about ‘ESG integration’ in the marketplace, but comparatively little guidance on how to proceed concretely. With this educational module, we aim to show that ‘integrated analysis’ is a natural extension of fundamental analysis and a useful way to stress-test the robustness of companies’ long-term competitive advantage.”

Responsible Investment Association Australasia CEO Simon O’Connor said, “Every day we see another example of an environmental, social or governance factor impacting directly on the performance of companies, but all too often the realisation comes when damage has been done. This course helps investors get serious about integrating these factors into mainstream investment processes and valuations to address these risks before they impact shareholder returns.”

The business case for considering ESG risks has long been established, and this course will help investment practitioners - from CIOs, across portfolio managers, as well as trustees, corporates, asset consultants and beyond – to go beyond consideration of ESG factors to their integration in core investment processes.

The RI Academy’s foundational course, Responsible Investment Essentials, has set the industry standard for training in RI now reaching financial professionals in over 25 countries and across 80 of the world’s largest pension funds.

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NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

ABOUT THE RI ACADEMY

The RI Academy is the world's first on-line training for financial services, investment and capital markets professionals to understand ESG issues and responsible investment. The RI Academy courses are developed by industry for industry with training completely web-based, allowing candidates to start and finish at their own pace.

Please visit the RI Academy [website](#) or view our Enhanced Financial Analysis [flyer](#) for information on the course. Further enquiries can be forwarded to the Academy's Communications & Marketing Coordinator, Claudia Guinness on claudiag@responsibleinvestment.org or +61 2 8228 8104

The RI Academy is an initiative of the Responsible Investment Association Australasia.

ABOUT ROBECOSAM



RobecoSAM is an investment specialist focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing. Its offerings comprise asset management, indices, private equity, engagement, impact analysis and sustainability assessments as well as benchmarking services. Together with S&P Dow Jones Indices, RobecoSAM publishes the globally recognized Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI).

RobecoSAM was founded in 1995 out of the conviction that a commitment to corporate sustainability enhances a company's capacity to prosper, ultimately creating competitive advantages and stakeholder value. Headquartered in Zurich, RobecoSAM employs over 100 professionals. As of December 31, 2012, RobecoSAM's assets under management, advice and license amounted to a total of USD 11.4 billion.

For more information on RobecoSAM visit their website [here](#).