



# PRI-CDC Annual Academic Conference: 13 – 15 November, 2013

The PRI Academic Conference is an annual event organised by the PRI Academic Network. The 2013 conference, co-hosted by Caisse des Dépôts, is our sixth. It will take place at Caisse des Dépôts's Rue de Lille headquarters in the heart of Paris.

The conference provides a platform for dialogue between academics and practitioners across the field of responsible investment and will gather an international audience of nearly 200. Following tradition the first day (the 13<sup>th</sup> of November) will be a Student Symposium devoted to the presentation and discussion of papers by post-graduates. The main conference will be on 14<sup>-</sup>15 of November, 2013.

# **Sustainalytics Prize for Papers of Excellence on RI**

The PRI is delighted to announce that following the inaugural Sustainalytics Prize in Toronto last year we will continue our association with Sustainalytics as a sponsor of these prestigious awards. Two prizes will be awarded: the Academic Prize for a paper produced by a post-doctoral and academic researcher; and a Student Prize. The Academic Prize will be an award of €3500 euros; and the Student Prize €2500 euros.

#### Article 1: Aim of the award

The Sustainalytics Prize will be awarded to research produced within each of the following two categories:

- Post-doctoral and academic articles both published and unpublished papers may be submitted. The articles can be authored individually or by a group.
- Graduate articles: PhD or Master's candidate papers (Master's degree, Graduate School of Management, Graduate School of Engineering). The articles can be authored individually or by a group. It is permissible to have one non-student author of the paper, so long as the student or students have a major role in its authorship.





### **Article 2: Eligibility of research projects**

Researchers wishing to be considered for the PRI Research Awards must indicate this clearly on their submission (for submission procedures see below).

Submissions will be open to citizens from all countries.

To be eligible for the awards, the research articles must cover **at least one** of the following topics:

- The financial implications for long-term investors at the portfolio level of issues such as
  natural resource depletion, climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, inequality, human
  capital and employee relations or human rights
- How these issues affect strategic asset allocation, benchmarks and the design and performance of investment strategies
- The financial impact of company and investor short-termism on long-term investors' returns and on sustainability
- How incentives can be aligned throughout the investment chain from asset owners via investment managers to companies and other types of investment in order to promote sustainable, long-term returns?
- The implications of ESG factors for financial performance and for the performance of alternative asset classes such as hedge funds and commodities
- The relevance of behavioural finance to responsible investment issues
- The implications of responsible investment for modern portfolio theory
- What can investors can do to promote and sustain a stable, well-functioning market and financial system?

Research papers submitted by the Ph.D or Master's students must have been completed as part of a University master's degree thesis, a graduate thesis or a Ph.D thesis.

The research articles must be written in English.

Candidates may apply individually or as part of a team. To be eligible for the awards, the articles will have to be submitted according to the conditions stated under <u>Article 5</u>.

## **Article 3: Confidentiality**

Temporary confidentiality measures will be taken throughout the evaluation and selection process up until the 2013 PRI-CDC Academic Conference and the award ceremony. Those on the panel promise not to disclose any information until after the award ceremony. After publication of the results and the award ceremony, the confidentiality clause will be lifted. Notwithstanding the confidentiality clause however, candidates are encouraged to place their papers on the conference website.

Candidates who apply for the PRI Academic Research Award must be willing to provide an abstract of their research article on a free and non-exclusive basis (see <a href="Article 5">Article 5</a> below). This is mainly to allow for the abstracts to be included in the conference website set up by the PRI, and to allow for a possible publication of the above-mentioned abstracts, free of charge, and in any



format that the award organisation team deems appropriate.

#### **Article 4: Application procedure**

All papers must be submitted in complete form by **August 31**<sup>st</sup> **2013** on the <u>submissions website</u>. The awards will be based on completed papers only.

The completed papers will be forwarded to the jury for final evaluation, with the winners being announced at the conference on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Research projects that have already been submitted for previous academic conferences may not be submitted again.

#### **Article 5: Application File**

Applicants must submit an abstract (max 750 words) of their research article or research proposal together with the full paper by **August 31**<sup>st</sup> **2013**.

The abstract should include a summary of the argument/proposal; its relevance to the research themes; and its contribution to theory and practice

The abstract must be accompanied by a cover page that includes:

- candidate's contact information
- a working title
- the conference theme/s being addressed
- A "yes" answer to I would like to be considered for the Conference Paper Prize on the submissions form.
- The application must also contain a scanned ID

#### For PhD or Master's students only

The cover page and abstract must be accompanied by a reference letter from a University professor, with an electronic signature if sent by e-mail.

Graduate students should include any request for travel subsidy, need of subsidy and amounts required in their application.

## **Article 6: Selection panel**

The selection panel, consisting of the Academic Network Steering Committee and other individuals nominated beforehand, will be reviewing the articles and selecting the winners. The selection will be based on the research papers submitted before **August 31 2013**.

Once the completed articles have been submitted the selection panel will choose the winners from the entire pool of articles submitted for consideration of the prize as part of the 2013 PRI-CDC Academic Conference.



A member of the selection panel can submit an article for the awards but will not be participate in the selection of the award winners.

The selection panel has agreed not to disclose any information regarding the research articles / research proposals that have been submitted until the awards ceremony. The selection panel has been granted full decision power in the winners' selection. Their decisions cannot be opposed. Neither will they need to be justified.

#### **Article 7: Judging criteria:**

The articles will be reviewed and winners chosen by a panel of academics and investment professionals. Judging criteria include:

- Practical significance of the research according to mainstream investors' (PRI signatories), corporates' and/or stakeholders' point of view
- Quality of research work with regard to its contribution to the topic of mainstreaming Responsible Investment
- · Originality of subject study or approach
- Academic evaluation of research work

## **Article 8: Agreement to rules and regulations**

Submission of an application for the Sustainalytics Prize implies that the applicants fully agree with the hereby rules and regulations.

## Article 9: Access to rules & regulations

These rules and regulations can be viewed on the PRI Academic Network web site at the following address: <a href="http://www.unpri.org/areas-of-work/about-an/academic-network-conference/">http://www.unpri.org/areas-of-work/about-an/academic-network-conference/</a>

#### Article 10: Circumstances outside one's control and cancellation

Under circumstances outside of one's control, the award organisers reserve the right to cancel or postpone the award ceremony.

## **Article 11: Right of publicity**

The events surrounding the PRI Academic Conference will be advertised on the PRI website as



well as in other media.

Any of the participants, candidates, organisers, selection committee and jury members, and sponsors may see their name quoted in relation to the award, or their picture posted as part of conference material surrounding the PRI academic conference. Participation in, as well as assistance with, the award implies full acceptance of the hereby rules and regulations, including the right to use the quoted names and the picture to advertise events surroundings the Sustainalytics Prize.

#### **Article 12: Modifications to rules & regulations**

The hereby rules and regulations may be modified or completed without prior notification by the PRI. Any potential modification of the hereby rules & regulations will be announced and uploaded on the PRI Academic Network web pages (<a href="http://www.unpri.org/areas-of-work/about-an/academic-network-conference/">http://www.unpri.org/areas-of-work/about-an/academic-network-conference/</a>

## **About the Principles for Responsible Investment**

The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) aims to promote the inclusion of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors in investment strategies worldwide. As part of the efforts to increase knowledge about responsible investment practices the PRI's Academic Network provides freely accessible avenues for research, education and network-building on critical responsible investment issues. In doing so, the Academic Network aims to stimulate interest in responsible investment research and provide multiple avenues for greater interaction between academia and practitioners.

# **About Sustainalytics**

Sustainalytics is an award-winning, independent provider of environmental, social and governance (ESG) research and analysis, and responsible investment services. With more than 20 years of experience, Sustainalytics offers a variety of solutions to investors implementing responsible investment strategies.

Headquartered in Amsterdam, Sustainalytics has regional offices in Boston, Bucharest, Frankfurt, Paris, Singapore, Timisoara and Toronto, and representatives in Bogotá, Brussels, Copenhagen, London, and San Francisco. The firm has more than 120 staff members, including over 70 analysts with a variety of multidisciplinary and industry expertise. In 2012, Sustainalytics was voted Best RI Analysis firm by Thomson Reuters Extel Awards.

