

**Responsible Research receives the Farsight Award 2011/12
for their outstanding report “The Future of Fish in Asia”**

On Thursday 1 March 2012, the Farsight Award 2011/12 was presented to Lucy Carmody representing Responsible Research at the Sustainable City Awards ceremony at Mansion House.

The Farsight Award is one of 12 award categories in the Sustainable City Awards sponsored by the City of London Corporation. Supported by Gresham College, Universities Superannuation Scheme, Z/Yen Group and the London Accord, the Farsight Award honours the best individual piece of analysis by an investment research institution that integrates traditional financial analysis with longer-term environmental social and governance (ESG) issues such as climate change, resource scarcity, corporate governance and human capital. The award is a “Man Booker” Prize for the “best read” in long-term research on finance & ESG issues.

The judges convened in December 2011 to discuss the 117 reports considered for this year Award. Professor Michael Mainelli said: “The judges were particularly pleased this year with the continuously improving quality of submissions, especially two positive trends. The first was that sustainable finance and ESG research has gained such ground in Asia that it’s winning. The second was that ESG research covers more and more farsighted looks into wider areas such as demographics, healthcare, and sustainability.”

After a vibrant discussion, the judges reached the following decision:

- ◆ Winner of The Farsight Award 2011/12: Responsible Research for their report “The Future of Fish in Asia”
- ◆ Highly commended entrants:
 - Carbon Tracker Initiative for their report “Unburnable Carbon: Are the World's Financial Markets Carrying a Carbon Bubble?”;
 - Bank Sarasin for their report “The Sustainable Fulfilment of Sovereign Obligations”;
 - HSBC for their report “Sizing the Climate Economy”.

Six other reports were also shortlisted out of the 117:

- ◆ Bank of America Merrill Lynch – “Who Does What Where?” (series of reports);
- ◆ Credit Suisse – “Islamic Finance: Combining Faith-Based Values and Financial Returns”;
- ◆ EDHEC-Risk Institute – “Performance of Socially Responsible Investment Funds against an Efficient SRI Index”;
- ◆ JP Morgan - “Impact Investments – An Emerging Asset Class”;
- ◆ Responsible Research – “Sustainable Stock Exchanges: Real Obstacles, Real Opportunities”; and
- ◆ West L.B. – “Responsible Investing 2.1”.

Written by Jenny Blinch and edited by Lucy Carmody, “**The Future of Fish in Asia**” (September 2011) raises the questions of whether we can stop the continuous decline of global fisheries. The report highlights how marine sustainability has been often forgotten when discussing and developing sustainable investment strategies. This research addresses this gap in the context of Responsible Investments and provides an analysis of the sectors and industries that have a direct and indirect impact on marine life. It also explains the “marine crisis” that affects mainly Asia and the existing threats to oceans’ resources and people who depend of them, if current fishing trends are maintained.

The report can be downloaded via the link below:

<http://www.longfinance.net/component/content/article/34-reports/489-fish-asia.html>

The judges found Responsible Research’s report a “useful and highly relevant analysis of a niche theme with global implications” providing “practical actions and recommendations to investors”.

Responsible Research received a trophy yesterday and will also be given a lecture opportunity with Gresham College as well as receiving recognition from the London Accord community – www.london-accord.co.uk.

The criteria for the Farsight Award are originality; quality; readability and clarity; sophistication and depth; and financial usefulness. For this year’s competition the judges evaluated 117 reports shared with the London Accord during the preceding 12 months, all of which are accessible free of charge on the London Accord website. Reports entered in 2011/12 considered a wide range of topics including renewable energies, carbon risks and emissions trading, impact investing and microfinance, responsible investing and ESG.

The judging panel for the Farsight Award 2011/12 comprised:

- ◆ Alice Chapple, Director of Sustainable Financial Markets at Forum for the Future;
- ◆ Professor Gwen Griffith-Dickson, Director, The Lokahi Foundation;
- ◆ Jan-Peter Onstwedder, Managing Director, Risk Management Institutional Clients Group, Citi;
- ◆ Melissa Brown, Partner, Serasi Capital;
- ◆ Pierre Stiennon, Senior Financial Analyst - Responsible Investment, AXA Investment Managers;
- ◆ Sarah Clawson, Head of International Business Operations, RI Academy;
- ◆ Simon Mills, Head of Sustainable Development, City of London Corporation;
- ◆ Professor Michael Mainelli, Executive Chairman of Z/Yen Group Limited, who also chaired the panel of judges.

Note - any judge who may have a possible conflict of interest with any of the reports considered or any organisation sharing research with the London Accord abstains from judging, voting or expressing any views on the related report(s). Due to her involvement in Responsible Research, Ms Brown abstained from judging, voting or expressing any views on any of the Responsible Research reports.



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Notes to Editors:

About **Gresham College** – www.gresham.ac.uk

Gresham College was founded by Sir Thomas Gresham in 1597 and is an independently funded educational institution supported by the Mercers' Company and the City of London. Based in Barnard's Inn, Holborn, in the centre of London, it has provided free lectures for the past 400 years delivered by its eight professors of astronomy, commerce, divinity, geometry, law, music, physic and rhetoric, and initiated the Royal Society. The lectures were established by Sir Thomas, a leading London merchant who founded the Royal Exchange, and are designed to engage Londoners in research and intellectual debate on matters which concern the city. Professors have included Robert Hooke, Sir Christopher Wren, Professor Colin Pillinger (Beagle-2 expedition to land a craft on Mars), renowned mathematician Sir Roger Penrose and Templeton Prize winner Professor John Barrow.

About **USS** – Universities Superannuation Scheme – www.ushq.co.uk

USS is the second largest pension fund in the United Kingdom and the principal pension scheme for UK universities, acting for 378 universities and academic institutions. It has more than £30 billion in assets, and approximately 250,000 members. USS has a commitment to long-term and active share ownership. To exercise this commitment, the fund has created a Responsible Investment (RI) team that works with its internal and external fund managers, and other market participants, on a range of extra financial issues such as corporate governance and corporate responsibility. USS has initiated and participates in a number of collaborative investor projects covering issues as diverse as climate change and the Pharma business model, to US corporate governance and executive remuneration.

About **Z/Yen Group Limited** – www.zyen.com

Z/Yen is the City of London's leading commercial think-tank, founded to promote societal advance through better finance and technology. Z/Yen asks, solves and acts on strategy, finance, systems, marketing and intelligence projects in a wide variety of fields. Z/Yen activities include the development of an award-winning risk/reward prediction engine, which helped a global charity win a good governance award; and benchmarking transaction costs across global investment banks. Z/Yen produces a wide variety of research, including the renowned Global Financial Centres Index. Z/Yen creates and leads communities of interest, such as the London Accord with Gresham College and City of London Corporation; and more recently the Long Finance community, which engages with the question of how to create a sustainable financial system.

About the **London Accord** – <http://www.london-accord.co.uk> & <http://www.longfinance.net/programmes/london-accord.html>

The London Accord is the largest cooperative investment research group on environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. To date 48 contributors, most of whom are from the financial services sector, share their investment research on ESG



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with the London Accord. Over 250 reports are available free of charge on the London Accord section of the Long Finance website, thereby providing insights for policy-makers, entrepreneurs, innovators, NGOs and members of the public. The London Accord is a programme of Long Finance which acts as a nexus between the financial services industry and society to encourage long-term thinking on finance and ESG issues. The London Accord is supported by the City of London Corporation, Gresham College, Universities Superannuation Scheme and Z/Yen Group.

About **extra-financial issues**

Academic analysis indicates that a substantive part of a company's value is related to its extra-financial performance or intangibles, often known as environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. Extra-financial issues are best described as fundamentals that have the potential to impact on companies' financial performance or reputation in a material way; yet they are generally not part of traditional financial analysis. Current extra-financial issues include, but are not limited to, climate change, corporate governance, employment standards, human resources, executive remuneration, environmental and social areas and reputational risk.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Farsight Award: Professor Michael Mainelli, Executive Chairman, Z/Yen Group, tel: +44 207-562-9562, email: michael_mainelli@zyen.com.