

Thursday February 13, 2014

RI ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHED IN CANADA AND INDIA, MEETING GROWING DEMAND FOR TRAINING IN RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT.

The RI Academy is pleased to announce the launch of new partnerships in Canada and India working with the Responsible Investment Association of Canada (RIA) and the Responsible Investment Research Association of India (RIRA).

The RI Academy is expanding its global partnerships to help deliver high calibre training in responsible investment to the finance industry globally to enhance and promote the growth of the responsible investment industry.

In 2013, the Global Sustainable Investment Review* reported that sustainably invested assets across Canada equalled US\$589.1 billion, commanding 20 percent of FUM in the region. The scale and continual growth of this industry underlines the ever growing need for professional education offerings to continue to up-skill the finance industry in the what, why and how of responsible investment.

"We're incredibly pleased to be extending our reach into mature and emerging responsible investment markets through these partnerships with the leading organisations in this field in Canada and India", said RI Academy CEO, Simon O'Connor.

"These partnerships will better help us achieve our vision to continue to be the leading provider of ESG education in global investment and capital markets, to facilitate the practical implementation of ESG in partnership with market leaders globally."

At the January 28 Launch in Canada, RIA CEO Deb Abbey said, *"As investors and financial services professionals, we can no longer ignore the impact a company's behaviour has on its license to operate, and therefore its value. Whether it's questionable environmental practices or vulnerability from poor supply chain management, these issues have a real impact on a company's valuation."*

Abbey continued by saying, *"Partnering with the RI Academy has given us the tools to educate our Investment Advisors and Professionals. The RI Academy's dedication to excellence in ESG education raises the bar for responsible investment policies and practices worldwide"*

Both RIA in Canada and RIRA in India will be distributing the full suite of RI Academy courses, including RI Fundamentals, RI Essentials, and Enhanced Financial Analysis, with discounts for their members, and Continuing Education Credits available through CFA Institute, Advocis, IIROC and FPSA

Media enquiries: Claudia Walker, Manager of Operations,
[+61 2 8228 8104](tel:+61282288104), claudiag@responsibleinvestment.org

*2012 Global Sustainable Investment Review. Global Sustainable Investment Alliance, available at www.gsi-alliance.org

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

ABOUT THE RI ACADEMY

The RI Academy provides industry leading on-line training for financial services, investment and capital markets professionals needing to understand how environmental, social, and governance issues are impacting company performance, shareholder value, and investment decision making.

The RI Academy's global curriculum creates a body of knowledge designed to help up-skill teams and professionals via its online, web based, and interactive training courses.

For more information on courses, partnership opportunities, and enrolments please contact Claudia Walker,

claudiag@responsibleinvestment.org | [+61 2 8228 8104](tel:+1282288104) or visit the website www.riacademy.org

ABOUT THE RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION, CANADA

The Responsible Investment Association (RIA) is the leading membership organization representing the responsible investment industry in Canada. Founded in 1990 as the Social Investment Organization, its members are mutual fund companies, investment managers, financial institutions, investment advisors, research firms and others interested in the practice and promotion of Responsible Investment.

For more information on the RIA, please visit their website <http://riacanada.ca/>

ABOUT RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, INDIA

RIRA is a not-for-profit initiative to act as a catalyst and a partner in the mainstreaming of environment, social and governance (ESG) issues in investment and lending decisions. The forum collaborates with other stakeholders for driving policy dialogue, research and skill enhancement in the area of extra- financial disclosure and responsible investment practices.

Visit RIRA at www.ri-research.riacademy.org