

Colonial First State Global Asset Management selects RepRisk as ESG data provider

Media release

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Colonial First State Global Asset Management (CFSGAM) has appointed Zurich-based RepRisk as a further environmental, social and governance (ESG) data provider.

CFSGAM will use the RepRisk® tool to help integrate shorter term ESG news into investment analysis across the global teams.

Head of Sustainability and Responsible Investment, Amanda McCluskey said the ESG information provided by RepRisk is unique because it often differs greatly from the data produced by the company itself.

"The information is effectively real time and allows us to be up to speed with any negative ESG news on the companies we invest in.

"RepRisk also covers unlisted companies so we are able to use the information for our credit and fixed incomes companies.

Ms McCluskey said much of the ESG research in the market is reviewed only annually and the reality is analysts are monitoring company information daily.

"The RepRisk input will mean the investment teams will be updated on potential risk issues for companies in a timely manner. It will also ensure we are engaging with companies on the most relevant ESG issues," said Ms McCluskey

RepRisk is a specialised international data provider that identifies environmental and social risks for financial institutions, investment professionals and compliance functions.

The RepRisk® tool monitors companies' activities from a third-party perspective and its quantitative risk indicator (RRI) enables easy identification of gross violators and aids negative norm-based screening.

RepRisk covers all major business languages and its database currently includes over 13,500 controversial companies and 2,800 projects, and is growing daily.

CEO of RepRisk, Phillip Aeby, said RepRisk's dynamic data that covers criticism of companies from a broad range of media sources, plays an integral role in helping reduce risk exposure.

"We are very happy to enter the Australian market with Colonial First State Global Asset Management as our client.

“We believe in choosing RepRisk, CFSGAM has demonstrated the importance of having up-to-date, relevant sustainability information that gives a true indication of a company’s ESG performance,” Mr Aeby said.

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Notes to editors:

About Colonial First State Global Asset Management

Colonial First State Global Asset Management is the consolidated asset management division of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia Group, one of the largest financial institutions in Australia. Colonial First State Global Asset Management is Australia’s largest manager of Australian sourced funds, employing more than 200 investment professionals.

At 31 March 2010, Colonial First State Global Asset Management managed more than A\$145 billion across a diverse range of asset classes including Australian and global shares, short term investments, fixed interest and credit, property securities, direct property, global resources, unlisted infrastructure and listed infrastructure securities.

Colonial First State Global Asset Management has been a signatory to the principles of the United Nations of Responsible Investment since March 2007.

The principles are an initiative developed by institutional investors in conjunction with the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative and the UN Global Compact.

The UN PRI provide a framework for including environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues in investment decisions. Colonial First State Global Asset Management undertakes to utilise the framework provided by the UN PRI in aligning our investment processes with the objectives of our investors.

By embracing the Principles, Colonial First State Global Asset Management believes it can achieve better long term investment returns for our clients.

About RepRisk

RepRisk is the leading provider of dynamic data on environmental and social risks for an unlimited universe of companies and projects. The company’s web-based tool, RepRisk®, allows you to identify and assess the environmental and social issues which may present financial, reputational and ethical risks.

On a daily basis, RepRisk tracks a company’s or project’s environmental and social risk exposure by monitoring independent third-party sources including all major print media, over 700 NGO sites, governmental agencies and blogs. Controversial issues covered include environmental footprint and climate change, human rights and community relations, labor conditions and employee relations as well as corruption, fraud, executive compensation and other governance issues. In particular, all principles of the UN Global Compact are addressed. RepRisk covers news in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian.

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