

Invitation - Principles for Responsible Investment

Monday, 16 May 2011, 9.00 – 15.30

Aalborg University, Fibigerstræde 15, Auditorium B, 9220 Aalborg Øst

<http://www.plan.aau.dk/arrangementer/>

In the modern economy, social and environmental goals go hand in hand with economic success. It is said! However, despite a growing interest in the financial sector, by the authorities, researchers and in the media, as well as a growing focus from investors to understand and evaluate the sustainability risks and opportunities associated with investment decisions, there are still major barriers to overcome before we can talk about Responsible Investment as 'mainstream'.

Department of Development & Planning in collaboration with Miljøteknisk Gruppe, IDA Nord; Nordjysk Region, IDA; and the Danish Government Centre for CSR, invite you to a full day of presentations and debate on **Principles for Responsible Investment**.

Almost 900 investors (with a total investment portfolio of about 150 trillion Danish kroner) are today committed to the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), which on the initiative of then Secretary-General Kofi Annan were launched in April 2006. In Denmark, 27 investors have signed up to the six principles, which together with the UN Global Compact represent a strong foundation for the Danish Government's initiatives and policies on social responsibility. However, still more work - and may have done so for long - according to their own guidelines that in addition to an economic component to a greater or lesser degree also include social, ethical and environmental factors. Do we actually then need the Principles?



In its outset, to invest responsibly is actually quite simple – it is about two things:

- 1) What you choose to invest in
- 2) How you exercise your ownership of the companies you invest in

In reality, however, it is hardly this simple and repetitive stories that show how difficult it is to behave responsibly - also as an investor – testify to this. Therefore, the Danish Government's initiatives in this area are of great importance, both in relation to force the sector to pay attention, for example through statutory reporting; in terms of supporting the sector, e.g. by publishing "Guidelines for Responsible Investment"; and not least in relation to live up to its own requirements, guidelines and the UN supported principles.

At the seminar, the various challenges are confronted and we will hear presentations on opportunities and barriers, the importance of exercising active ownership, what investors are looking for and why, and if it in fact pays off to **not** invest responsibly.

The seminar is based on dialogue and provides for active participation and discussion with presenters and participants in order for us to be challenged on our opinions and knowledge.

The seminar is conducted in English. It is free to attend (including coffee breaks and lunch) but registration is required as there is limited space available.

Registration can be made to Allis Hansen by email allis@plan.aau.dk or phone 9940 7216. Deadline for registration is 9 May 2011.

Martin Lehmann

Assistant Professor, Department of Development & Planning

Deputy Head, The Danish Centre for Environmental Assessment (DCEA)

Programme - Principles for Responsible Investment Monday, 16 May 2011

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9.00-15.30, Aalborg University, **Fibigerstræde 15, Auditorium B**

- 9.00 - 9.30 Welcome and Introduction, NN, Vækstforum Nordjylland^{TBC}; and Martin Lehmann, programme director, AAU
- 9.30 – 10.15 The UN Principles for Responsible Investment: Linking Practice & Research, Natalie Beinisch, Academic Network Manager, PRI
- 10.15 – 11.00 Danish governmental Initiatives on CSR, Victor Kjær, Deputy Director General, The Danish Commerce and Companies Agency
- 11.00 – 11.20 Coffee Break
- 11.20 – 12.00 Drivers of sustainable finance and responsible investing, Christopher C. Wright, Senior Climate Risk Analyst, The Government Pension Fund Global, Norway
- 12.15 – 13.00 Our Responsibility: To Care! Hans Erik Brønserud, CEO, Middelfart Sparekasse
- 13.00 – 13.40 LUNCH
- 13.40 – 14.20 Investing Responsibly: Exclusion, Dialogue, Transparency or all of the above? Ole Beier Sørensen, Chief of Research and Strategy, ATP, Chairman, IIGCC
- 14.20 – 14.40 Coffee Break
- 14.40 – 15.30 Panel debate