



The Editorial

Welcome to Ethical Insight, a definitive source of accurate and up-to-date corporate responsibility news, publications and events prepared by Maplecroft. Ethical Insight includes summaries of stories gathered from publicly available information appearing on websites in the two weeks prior to publication, selected on the basis of interest and relevance to corporate responsibility.

Our first main story looks at a report issued on 16 June by UN-Habitat that claims that without major management of urbanisation, 1.4bn people will be living in slums and shanty towns by 2020. The report notes that despite commonly held assumptions, the slum-dwelling poor are often worse off than their rural counterparts. Though UN-Habitat recognises that urbanisation cannot be stopped, it advocates incentives for rural-dwellers to remain in place.

In our second main story, another UN report published on 16 June says that environmental hazards contribute towards 13m deaths per year. The report notes that the four main diseases aided by poor environments include diarrhoea, respiratory infections, injuries and malaria. The UN estimates that better environmental management could save 4m lives each year – including 40 percent of deaths from malaria and 94 percent of deaths from diarrhoea.

Our next main story examines Warren Buffett's announcement that he is to donate US\$37bn in one of the biggest acts of philanthropy ever. The bulk of it (US\$31bn) is to go to the Gates Foundation, which is aimed at improving health and education in poorer countries. The remainder is to go to charities started by his family members relating to environmental issues, human rights, abortion rights and helping children from poor families.

Our fourth story looks at claims by the well-respected International Energy Agency that current international oil and electricity consumption could be halved across the globe by 2050 if current clean energy technologies were fully applied. In a report released in advance of the July G8 summit in St Petersburg. The IEA advocates improved energy efficiency, CO₂ capture and storage, renewable energy and (where acceptable) nuclear energy.

The fifth main story looks at the UN's 2006 annual progress on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. The report has found that though development aid has raised health and education standards in some of the world's poorest countries, extreme poverty has worsened overall and development indicators remain concerning.

Our final main story looks at Norway's construction of a 'seed-vault' in the Arctic in order to ensure the genetic survival of the world's crops in the events of major disasters or epidemics.

Maplecroft works with companies to address their social, environmental, economic and ethical responsibilities – through research, capacity-building and the development of innovative communication and management tools – including maps. Please address all comments and suggestions of future news items to ethical.insight@maplecroft.net

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Main news

UN says 1.4bn set to live in slums by 2020

The UN settlements programme (UN-Habitat) has issued a report in which it claims that in the absence of major efforts to manage urbanisation, 1.4 billion people will be living in slums and shantytowns by 2020. It comes to the conclusion that Slum dwellers in developing countries are as badly off, if not worse off, than their rural relatives. The report notes that in countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Haiti and India, child malnutrition in slums is comparable to that of rural areas. Meanwhile in many Sub-Saharan African cities, children living in slums are more likely to die from water-borne and respiratory illnesses than rural children. Furthermore, women living in slums are also more likely to contract HIV/AIDS than their rural counterparts. UN-Habitat's 2006/7 report on the world's cities says around 1 billion people currently live in slums – with their population increasing by 2.2 percent a year, or 4.5 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. This rate of growth is increasing and is set to reach 27 million a year by 2020 – as opposed to a rate of 18 million a year between 1990 and 2001. The report further notes that the number of people living in urban areas will match the number of those living in rural areas for the first time at the start of next year. Developing countries now account for 95 percent of urban growth and by 2030 it is estimated that 5 billion out of 8.1 billion of the world's population will live in cities and towns. UN-Habitat hopes to reduce the number of those living in slums to around 700 million by 2020. It has suggested that governments put policies in place to aid rural development in order to provide incentives for people to remain there. It notes, however, that urbanisation can only be managed, not stopped. <http://www.unhabitat.org>

UN: environmental hazards lead to 13m deaths

Avoidable environmental hazards contribute to a wide range of diseases and injuries worldwide. This causes over 13 million deaths per year according to a new UN report by the WHO. The report examines how specific diseases and injuries are influenced by environmental risks and by how much. Many deaths, illnesses and disabilities could realistically be avoided every year as a result of better environmental management. The report says that the four main diseases influenced by poor environments are diarrhoea, respiratory infections, various forms of unintentional injuries and malaria. It claims that better environmental management could save 4 million lives each year. This includes more than 40 percent of deaths from malaria and 94 percent of deaths from diarrhoeal diseases – two of the world's biggest childhood killers. Hazards include dirty water, unsafe fuel, rickety buildings and dangerous traffic. Preventive measures could include improved water resource management, cleaner and safer fuels and increased building safety. The WHO stated that "wise

investment to create a supportive environment can be a successful strategy in improving health and achieving development that is sustainable". <http://www.un.org> <http://www.who.int>

Buffett pledges US\$37bn, bulk to Gates Foundation

US billionaire Warren Buffett – the chairman and chief executive officer of investment company Berkshire Hathaway Inc. – is to donate US\$37 billion in one of the biggest acts of philanthropy ever. He will donate the bulk of it, US\$31 billion, to the Gates Foundation. The rest will go to charities started by his family members, which support environmental causes, abortion rights, helping low-income children and human rights. The Gates Foundation is dedicated to improving health and education, especially in poor nations. Buffett, who is the world's second richest man after Bill Gates, has pledged to give 85 percent of his stock in Berkshire Hathaway – amounting to 10 million shares. It is the second biggest charitable donation in history. The donation will begin this year with half a million shares worth about US\$1.5 billion. Buffett will give away another 5 percent from what remains of the total 10 million pledged each subsequent year. Buffett said in a statement that "the decision to begin giving away shares has no impact on the operations of the company, or will in any way harm Berkshire's shareholders". The Gates Foundation, which currently has about US\$30 billion, will double in size following the donation. Activities of the Gates Foundation have focused on giving grants to aid world health crises – including Aids, malaria and tuberculosis – and educational investment in schools and libraries in the US. Bill Gates announced earlier this month that he would step down from his role leading Microsoft and concentrate on the charitable work of his foundation. <http://www.bloomberg.com> <http://www.guardian.co.uk> <http://www.npr.org>

IEA says energy use can be halved

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has said that current international oil and electricity consumption could be halved across the globe by 2050 if current clean energy technologies were fully applied. The claim came in an IEA report entitled "Energy Technology Perspectives: Scenarios and Strategies". The IEA had been asked to prepare the report by the leaders of the G8 last year, who wanted advice on alternative scenarios and strategies for a clean, clever and competitive energy future. It has been released in advance of the forthcoming July meeting of the G8 in St Petersburg – a meeting that is expected to place great emphasis on energy issues. The IEA advocates technologies such as improved energy efficiency, carbon dioxide capture and storage, renewable energy and (where appropriate) nuclear energy. The report says that energy efficiency is essential to mitigate the effects of growth in global energy demand and CO₂ emissions – and that governments must be willing to



implement measures that encourage investment in energy efficient technology. It predicts that if the right policy incentives were put in place, renewable energy could potentially quadruple by 2050. The IEA also highlights the potential of carbon capture and storage as means of minimising the effects of CO₂ emissions. <http://www.wbcsd.org> (AFP) <http://www.iea.org>

UN report sees mixed results from development aid

The 2006 annual progress report of the UN Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) has found that increased development aid since 2002 has raised health and education standards in some of the world's poorest countries. The report also notes that domestic reforms and relatively high commodity prices have contributed to respectable economic growth in many developing states. Despite these gains the report says that extreme poverty has increased and overall social indicators continue to give cause for concern. HIV/AIDS and environmental degradation are both cited as contributors to worsening poverty, whilst the positive effects of growth are often lost as a result of high birth rates and unequal distribution of resources. Anwarul Chowdhury, the UN's High Representative for the LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is quoted as saying that the report underlines the need for the international community to deliver on promises of aid, debt relief and tariff-free access for LDC exports. Of the 50 LDCs, half recorded average annual growth rates of 4 percent or more during 2000 to 2004, and foreign direct investment has generally increased in most countries. Whilst improvements have been seen in primary education, adult literacy, sanitation and water access, seven of the LDC experienced declining life expectancy – often as a result of HIV/AIDS. <http://www.un.org>

Arctic seed vault to protect crops from disasters

Norway has started construction of a vault that will conserve seeds from all known varieties of crops. It is eventually expected to contain the seeds of about 3 million plant species, representing 10,000 years of agriculture – including about 100,000 types of rice. The project, backed by more than 100 countries, aims to safeguard crop diversity in the event of a global catastrophe. It will provide a gene bank to ensure the survival of plant material threatened by plant epidemics, nuclear war, natural disasters or climate change. Norway will own the vault, with countries owning any seed material they deposit. The Global Crop Diversity Trust will help developing countries pay the cost of preparing and sending seeds. The vault is planned to open and start accepting seeds in September 2007. This project provides the opportunity to maintain the long-term survival of the world's vital food crops. It also offers a chance to re-establish the growth of crops that may previously have been eradicated. The vault will be built into mountain rock in the Arctic. Under such cold

conditions, seeds stored in the bank could last hundreds or thousands of years. The vault would also provide back-up if commercial gene banks are destroyed. Recent conflicts in Rwanda, Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in the loss of seed reserves. <http://news.bbc.co.uk> <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>

Maplecroft news

Launch of Global Risk Digest

Maplecroft is launching a new Global Risk Digest published on a fortnightly basis to review worldwide events and dynamics likely to impact upon companies' non-financial risk management and strategy. The Global Risk Digest will be linked to a fully interactive map, searchable by multiple criteria such as country and risk-types. Please apply to preview this subscription service to: digest@global-risks.com

Global map of displacement 2006

A new interactive map profiles the refugee and internal displacement situation of 196 countries and analyses the causes and consequences of displacement, as well as presenting an examination of vulnerable groups. Maplecroft's unique Displacement/IDP Index (DII) combines data on refugees by origin and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Current interactive maps are available at: <http://maps.maplecroft.com/>

Environment

EU likely to miss Kyoto targets

New data suggests it is unlikely that the EU will meet its Kyoto targets for cutting CO₂ emissions. Under the Kyoto Protocol the 15 'older' Member States pledged to reduce their emissions by 8 percent by 2012 (against a 1990 benchmark). According to a report from the European Environment Agency (EEA) rather than falling, EU CO₂ emissions have actually risen by a small amount over the last year. The EEA notes that carbon emissions for 2004 were only 0.6 percent below 1990 levels – putting it more than 4 percent off where it should have been if the targets are ultimately to be met. The report claims that road transport contributed the most to recent increases, as did iron and steel production. Spain recorded the biggest rises in emissions – partly as a result of increased fossil fuel use when droughts caused a drop in hydroelectric power generation. Denmark and Finland recorded the biggest falls in their emissions – apparently as a result of greater use of hydroelectric power generation. The apparent failure to stay on track regarding its emissions targets is likely to increase pressure within the EU to take a tougher line as it puts together the next phase of the Emissions Trading System (ETS). Following the end of the first phase certain states found that they had significant carbon emission surpluses under the allowances set for them under the ETS – leading many

to claim governments had been far too generous in setting emissions targets for their own companies. It is also likely to be highly embarrassing for the EU, as it did much to champion the Kyoto Protocol after the US refused to take part in it. <http://org.eea.europa.eu>

UN call for action to manage ocean resources

Governments have been called to develop guidelines to conserve the world's entire marine environment in a new report by the UN Environment Programme. The report entitled 'Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Deep Waters and High Seas' underlines the value of the marine environment as a natural resource. In the report, the UN warns that rapid acceleration in exploitation of the seas and oceans is irreversibly destroying vulnerable marine ecosystems. The expansion of commercial activities such as fishing and industrial exploration is outstripping conservation efforts to protect marine ecosystems. The damage is primarily being caused by pollution, litter and over-fishing. Important food species such as cod, marlin and swordfish have lost 90 percent of their global stocks in the last century. Officials and experts met in New York to discuss ways in which the international community could improve the management of international waters. The UN advises countries to manage the marine environment according to ecological boundaries, not political borders, since our oceans and seas fall beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. The spread of other activities, such as mining, to the sea floor for the first time, highlights the importance of conservation efforts to sustain the health of the marine environment.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk> <http://www.unep.org>

EU increases research funding for clean energies

The European Parliament (EP) has allocated €2.4 billion for research into clean energies. The money will be available in the next seven-year research and development (R&D) programme. The programme – which begins in 2007 – has allocated two thirds of the budget to renewable energies and energy efficiency projects. The overall R&D programme has a total budget of €50.5 billion. This is a substantial increase compared to the €16.3 billion available under the previous programme from 2002-2006. The decision by the EP to make more funds available for research into clean energies is seen as a response to increasing governmental legislation aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions. In a parallel vote, the Parliament allocated €4 billion to nuclear research and training activities.

<http://www.euractiv.com>

ICMM launches biodiversity best practice model

The International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) has issued its Good Practice Guidance for Mining and Biodiversity which advises mining companies on how to improve their biodiversity performance. The document is intended to act as a highly practical guide for use by mining companies at all stages of their operations, from

initial exploration to mine closure planning and implementation. The document includes background information on biodiversity and its relevance to mining companies, advice on the management and integration of biodiversity and an introduction to some of the tools and processes needed for effective progress. Other sections include those on stakeholder engagement, a checklist of supporting materials which can be used to improve performance on a day to day basis and a series of case studies. ICMM's corporate members are Alcoa, Anglo American, AngloGold Ashanti, BHP Billiton, Falconbridge, Freeport-McMoRan, Lonmin, Mitsubishi Materials, Newmont, Nippon Mining & Metals, Rio Tinto, Sumitomo Metal Mining, Xstrata and Zinifex. <http://www.icmm.com>

China embraces smaller, efficient cars

China is making smaller, more efficient and cleaner cars. The move is in response to both environmental and economic pressures. Levels of pollution in the country continue to increase and fuel costs continue to rise. China has the world's third largest vehicle market with 24 million cars on the road in 2005. Oil demand for transport is expected to increase by 30 percent to 60 percent by the year 2020. This has motivated China in working towards some of the world's tightest fuel efficiency standards. Beijing is encouraging the manufacture of small-engine cars and has imposed taxes up to seven times higher on cars with the largest engines. Likewise a new round of taxes on the most polluting cars is shaping consumer's choices. Cars with emission controls equivalent to Euro III standards – covering pollutants including nitrous oxides, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons – are now widespread in big cities like Beijing. This forms part of the city's push for a green Olympic Games in 2008. China is also working on developing its own hybrid and fuel cell technology and is experimenting with biofuels.

<http://www.planetark.com> <http://www.planetark.com>

Norway: US\$3.2 billion renewable energy fund

The Norwegian government announced the establishment of a US\$3.24 billion fund to promote renewable energy in the country. This is seen as an important step towards Norway's targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions laid down by the UN's Kyoto Protocol to curb global warming. Under the Protocol, Norway agreed to limit any rise in emissions to no more than one percent by 2012 – compared to levels in 1990. In 2005, the country's emissions of the heat-trapping gas carbon dioxide were far above this target – about 9 percent above 1990 levels. This has been attributed to the increasing use of fossil fuels in Norway. The Oil and Energy Minister, Odd Roger Enoksen, said "bioenergy, windpower, hydropower and energy efficiency will contribute to new possibilities, new jobs and new optimism over the whole country". The fund will be managed by state energy firm Enova.

<http://www.planetark.com>

China's Yangtze River basin cleanest in years

The Chinese government reported that it is making significant advances in restoring the Yangtze River. The river is alleged to be the cleanest it has been in years and is indicative that China is taking its fresh water crisis seriously. The Yangtze forms part of the country's five-year development plan, which focuses on sustainable development. The announcement contradicts earlier reports, which stated that the Yangtze River – the third-longest in the world – was dying from pollution. In the past, vast floodplains and lakes across the central Yangtze basin have been intensively drained and damned – for example the Three-Gorges dam project – to make way for towns, factories, and agricultural land. Consequently the Yangtze has served as a vast drain for sewage, industrial waste, fertilisers and other pollutants. The Yangtze is an important resource, runoff from which accounts for 35 percent of the fresh water in China. Previously as much as 72.3 percent of the Yangtze – supplying water to 12 percent of China's 1.3 billion people – was declared unsafe for drinking or swimming. It has been a major factor in contributing to China's freshwater crisis. The opening of sluice gates to reconnect the river to eight lakes – totalling 800 square kilometres – has helped to clean up the degraded river. Migration and breeding patterns of fish have consequently been re-established resulting in greater fish yields and increased incomes for local communities. <http://www.greenconsumerguide.com>
<http://www.planetark.com> <http://www.wwf.org.uk>

Night flights may increase climate impact of aircraft

Night-time flying restrictions could reduce the impact aircraft have on climate change, according to researchers at the Department of Meteorology, Reading University. The researchers analysed flight data and atmospheric conditions to determine when contrails from aircraft are most likely to form. They then calculated the impact the contrails would have on the earth's temperature. Aircraft contrails trap energy emitted from the earth's surface and atmosphere. This prevents loss of this energy into space, warming the climate. Daytime flights have less impact on climate warming because contrails also reflect some of the sun's energy back into space, which has a cooling effect. At night only the warming effect of contrails is observed, consequently night-time flights have a greater contribution to climate warming. Approximately 25 percent of flights in Britain take off between 6 pm and 6 am, accounting for 60-80 percent of climate warming linked to contrails. Similar statistics were found for flights in the US and SE Asia. Though the overall effect contrails have on climate change is small – about 3.5 percent of the potential from all human causes – scientists warned it could gain importance as the volume of air traffic increases. <http://www.co2e.com>
<http://www.greenconsumerguide.com>

Energy rating for homes to cut carbon emissions

The introduction of a new energy rating standard for homes in England and Wales was announced by the Housing Minister, Yvette Cooper. The system will be known as the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). The EPC was developed to meet the dual challenge of climate change and rising energy costs. Currently households account for 27 percent of the UK's CO₂ emissions. Heating, hot water and lighting costs in the home will be assessed by the EPC. Home buyers will be given a rating – from A to G – indicating their level of energy efficiency. Advice will be given on how to improve a household's green performance – increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions. This may include measures such as thicker loft insulation and the erection of solar panels. Increasing household energy efficiency should help to cut carbon emissions as well as reducing fuel bills.

<http://www.greenconsumerguide.com>

<http://www.wwf.org.uk>

BP and DuPont plan UK's biggest 'green' fuel plant

BP and DuPont have formed a partnership to build Britain's largest 'green' petrol plant. The project is planned in collaboration with one of Europe's biggest food groups, Associated British Foods. The plant in Norfolk will use agricultural surpluses to make 70 million litres of biobutanol per year. Biobutanol can be made from a range of common crops, including sugar beet and wheat. The biofuel can be mixed with petrol without any modifications to a car engine. This is seen as a move to prepare for government-imposed targets aimed at reducing CO₂ emissions. Millions of tonnes of surplus agricultural produce are wasted each year. It is thought that much of this surplus could be used in green fuel plants in the future, providing an alternative to fuels produced by other traditional power plants. Traditional, coal-fired power plants such as Drax, in Yorkshire, are currently the largest single emitters of greenhouse gases in the UK. In a separate issue, BP launched its new biofuels business. The company pledged to spend US\$500 million establishing an Energy Bioscience Institute to fund long-term research on biofuels. BP hopes to start early research programmes by the end of next year. <http://business.guardian.co.uk>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

Madagascar CO₂ project connects rain forest

A novel project initiated in Madagascar aims to improve environmental conservation efforts, whilst also promoting the country's economic development. The country plans to benefit from the emerging market in carbon credits while conserving the diversity of its rainforests. The aim of the project is to replant 3,000 hectares of tropical rain forest. 'Green corridors' will be created to link habitat fragmented by human activities such as slash and burn farming. The increased amount of carbon absorbed by the new forests can then be traded as credits on the market. Local communities will

plant indigenous tree species to reflect the diversity of the country's rainforests. Each hectare of new indigenous forest planted creates 230 tonnes worth of carbon credit. At prices of between 5 and 20 euros per tonne, this could mean a welcome influx of cash into poor local communities. Carbon credits can be sold to developed countries as a means of counteracting greenhouse gas emissions (GGE). Under guidelines from the Kyoto Protocol, developed countries are obliged to meet GGE targets by the year 2012.

<http://www.alertnet.org>

Emissions-free fuel-cell buses debut in Beijing

China launched the first stage of its sustainable public transport system in Beijing. Three new hydrogen fuel-cell buses were officially introduced to run on an 18.2 kilometre route leading to the Wudaokou area. An associated hydrogen refuelling station will be the first of its kind in China. China hopes to build the foundation for full-scale commercialisation of hydrogen fuel cell buses. The country is increasingly promoting sustainable transport, the use of renewable energy and cleaner air. China ranks second among the world's largest oil consuming countries. Coal combustion and oil consumption, the two primary sources of air pollution, constitute at least 90 percent of China's total energy use. Public buses are among one of the major contributors to air pollution in Beijing. Hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles have been developed with the aim of decreasing the environmental impact of transport through the reduction of air pollutants – CO, NO, HC. The new vehicles also offer an alternative to further depletion of the fossil fuel base. Phase II of the project, to start in late-2006, will launch three additional fuel-cell buses. Partners in the US\$30 million project include the Ministry of Science and Technology, DaimlerChrysler, BP and Sino-Hytec.

<http://content.undp.org>

Dry-cleaning chemical makers fined US\$178m

Three chemical manufacturers have been fined US\$178 million in damages for contaminating groundwater in California. The chemical manufacturers – Vulcan Materials Co., Dow Chemical Co. and RR Street & Co. Inc. – failed to advise the dry cleaning companies how to use the chemicals without harming the environment. The chemicals involved, perchloroethylene and trichloroethylene, are suspected carcinogens. It is the first time manufacturers of these chemicals have been held accountable for the damage caused by their products. The chemical manufacturers plan to appeal the decision. The dry-cleaning companies responsible for using the chemicals will not have to pay damages because they did not know of the contamination risk.

<http://news.findlaw.com> (AP)

Japan using biofuels to cut greenhouse emissions

Japan has launched an initiative to run 40 percent of its cars on biofuels by 2010. The initiative aims to cut both

greenhouse gas emissions (GGE) and the country's dependence on the Middle East for oil. The use of biofuel cars is expected to help the country to meet the requirements of the Protocol – to cut GGEs by 6 percent from 1990 levels by 2012. Vehicles in Japan consume about 20 percent of the country's energy imports. The use of imported fuels is becoming an economic burden amid soaring crude oil prices. The government will allocate US\$2.6 billion for the project into the development of gasohol, a blend of gasoline and ethanol. <http://www.koreaherald.co.kr> (ANN)

Sanyo to invest US\$350 million in solar energy

Sanyo Electric Co. will invest US\$350 million in solar energy over a period of five years. The plan is aimed at meeting part of the growing demand for renewable energy sources as oil prices continue to rise worldwide. Sanyo are currently the world's fourth-largest maker of solar cells behind Sharp Corp., Q-Cells and Kyocera Corp. As part of its plan, Sanyo will introduce a solar cell using less expensive multi-crystal silicon wafers. The company aims to increase production capacity by 60 percent. Solar power is one of the fastest-growing sectors in energy, though it currently provides less than 1 percent of the world's power. Sanyo estimates that worldwide demand for solar power will more than double by 2010 and could account for 15 percent of the global market. <http://www.planetark.com>

Governance

Drug firms accused of marketing malpractices

A report by Consumers International (CI) – the world federation of consumer organisations – has claimed that pharmaceutical companies are committing wide-scale marketing malpractices. These range from attempting to persuade consumers that they are ill to misrepresenting the results of safety and efficacy tests on their products. The report analyses the marketing conduct of the 20 largest pharmaceutical companies and notes that they spend twice as much on marketing as on research (US\$60 billion in 2005), yet do not publish information on their marketing practices. The report notes that only Bristol-Myers Squibb provides a marketing code of conduct to consumers. Issues examined in the report include transparency in reporting marketing budgets, sales representatives' visits to doctors and distribution of free samples, gifts/payments/hospitality to health professionals, use of promotional materials, direct-to-consumer advertising, disease awareness campaigns, sponsorship of patient groups, competition and post-marketing research. The companies studied included: Abbott, AstraZeneca, Adirall Prodesfarma, Bayer, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson (J&J), Lilly (Eli), Lundbeck, Menarini, Merck Sharp Dohme, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Nycomed, Orion Pharma, Pfizer, Roche,

Sanofi-Aventi, Schering AG, Schering-Plough and Wyeth. <http://www.consumersinternational.org>

Microsoft accused of breaking EU competition laws

The European Commission's antitrust directorate has drafted a ruling accusing the US software group Microsoft of breaking EU competition rules. The Commission alleges that Microsoft has failed to provide rival software companies with complete and accurate information about its Windows operating system. This could constitute a failure by the company to implement the EU's previous antitrust decision of March 2004. The latest ruling follows a series of accusations leveled at Microsoft by the Commission during the past seven years. Action against Microsoft would represent the first time the Commission has punished a company for failing to comply with one of its rulings. If found guilty, the company could face fines of up to US\$2.5 million for each day of the violation. Microsoft said in a statement that it found the ruling to be unjustified.

<http://www.ft.com> <http://today.reuters.co.uk>

Diamond trade to strengthen ethical supply chain

Michael Rae, the new CEO of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices (CRJP), has said that the organisation would set up a system of independent third party monitors to ensure that all of its members were strictly following the Kimberley Process. Members of the CRJP include mining company DeBeers, trading company Rosy Blue NV and retailer Tiffany & Co. The Kimberley Process was established in 2003 to get rid of the trade in so-called 'conflict diamonds' and it required all diamonds to be traceable back to origin in order to bring a greater degree of transparency in the industry. NGOs such as Global Witness say that whilst the larger companies have essentially excluded all conflict diamonds from their own supply chains, gaps remain – for example the difficulty in regulating smaller, less formal trading networks, as well as the artisanal diamond trade. NGOs such as Global Witness say that whilst the larger companies have essentially excluded all conflict diamonds from their own supply chains, gaps remain. Rae is reported to be looking at ways in which to tackle the issue.

<http://www.ethicalcorp.com>
<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com>

CEO of Deloitte calls for criminal sanctions

CEO of Deloitte William Parrett has called for the criminalisation of lying to auditors in order to help deter fraud and false accounting. Currently it is not a criminal offence to lie to auditors in many countries. His comments came in an interview with The Financial Times, reflecting efforts by the big accountancy firms to improve accounting standards following several high profile corporate scandals involving companies such as Enron and Parmalat. Much of this work reportedly accounts for a sizeable proportion of Deloitte's current revenue-growth thanks to its role advising companies on how to navigate Sarbanes-Oxley and other post-

Enron regulations. Deloitte was implicated in the Parmalat scandal and is the subject of large legal claims over its role – despite the fact that Deloitte claims it was misled by Parmalat managers when acting as the company's auditor. The Financial Times reports that Parrett's comments come as accountants in the UK try to head off company law proposals for criminal charges to apply to auditors in the event of deceptive and/or misleading information being included in audit reports. Accountants are reported to be trying to shift the focus of any potential criminal charges onto the companies being audited, as they are the ones who provide the relevant information in the first place.

<http://www.ft.com>

FT survey links drugs companies, patients' groups

The Financial Times reports that most of the major pharmaceutical companies have complied with a new code of conduct by providing information on the patients' groups they provide support to. The new code comes amid concern about aggressive marketing and the lobbying activities of patients' groups – for example over the provision of anti-cancer drug Herceptin. Merck is reported to disclose links with 10 patients' groups, Wyeth with 16, Pfizer with 19 groups, Roche with 20, Bristol Myers Squibb with 28, GSK with 64 and Sanofi-Aventis with 77. Leading pharmaceutical companies Astra-Zeneca and Novartis are to delay disclosure of the patient groups they provide funding to for up to 18 months. The companies are obliged to make such disclosure under a new industry code aimed at introducing greater transparency into the relationships between pharmaceutical companies and lobbying groups. The Financial Times reports that both companies have said they believed that they were not obliged to reveal the relevant details until they published their 2006 annual reports in spring 2007. The confusion results from differing interpretations have been given to the text of the new code of practice, which was issued by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) in November 2005. It is reported that Astra-Zeneca and Novartis intended to provide the relevant information on their websites before their annual reports are published – on condition that the relevant patient groups agree.

<http://www.ft.com>

BA in cartel investigation over fuel surcharges

British Airways is being investigated by the UK's Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and the US Department of Justice into the existence of a possible cartel. Virgin Atlantic, American Airlines and United Airlines have also been assisting the investigation. The BA investigation is focusing on alleged price co-ordination by airlines in relation to surcharges on long-haul flights to and from the UK. BA first introduced a fuel surcharge of £5 in May 2004 to offset the rising cost of oil. Current surcharges cost passengers £70 on a long-haul return trip. The rise in the cost of fuel surcharges is far greater than concurrent increases in the cost of oil. Virgin

Atlantic also levies a £70 fee, while American and United charge an additional £74 for transatlantic flights. The surcharges levied by the airlines are often increased within days of each other. Complaints have been levied against airlines in the past for creating schemes to fix fuel surcharges and coordinate price increases. Since it was first introduced, the surcharge may have increased BA's revenues by up to £640 million. If found guilty of anti-competitive behaviour, BA could face fines equating to 10 percent of its worldwide sales. BA is assisting the OFT and the Justice Department with their investigations. Authorities have yet to establish conclusively if any competition laws have been broken. The names of the airlines with which BA allegedly colluded remain unclear. BA shares have decreased in value since the investigation was announced. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>
<http://news.independent.co.uk>

KFC sued over trans fat products

KFC is being sued by a US consumer group over possible risks its products pose to public health. The Centre for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) alleges that cooking oil used in making KFC food products increases the risk of heart disease. The oil in question contains trans fats. Trans fats are vegetable oils that have been altered to help them stay solid at room temperature and giving them a longer shelf life. Due to their altered chemical structure, trans fats raise levels of 'bad' cholesterol while lowering levels of 'good' cholesterol in the blood. The lawsuit aims to force KFC to use other types of oil and to inform customers of the amounts of trans fats in their products. KFC plans to fight the lawsuit, though it is thought to be looking into using other types of oil for cooking. Last week another US burger chain, Wendy's, pledged to cut trans fat from its menu by switching to corn and soya oil. <http://msnbc.msn.com> <http://www.cspinet.org>

Cadbury investigated over salmonella in chocolate

Cadbury – one of the world's biggest confectionery firms – has been ordered to remove 1 million chocolate bars from shelves over fears of contamination with salmonella. The move came after pressure from the Food Standards Agency (FSA), which issued a 'food alert' to ensure the bars were recalled. The contamination was uncovered during an investigation by the government's Health Protection Agency into an outbreak of salmonella among more than 40 people in the UK. The health agency found an exact match of the strain with a sample of bacteria found in Cadbury's chocolate. The FSA has accused Cadbury of failing to alert them of the problem. Cadbury discovered the bacterial contamination problem in January though failed to report it to the FSA. The chocolate bars, including Turkish Delight, have consequently been recalled during the past 6 months. The bacterial contamination is thought to have been caused by a leak from a waste water pipe, which was then blended into

ingredients used to make fillings for the chocolate bars. Investigations into the contamination are ongoing. <http://www.guardian.co.uk>

Unilever to increase diversity of board of directors

Unilever plans to increase the diversity of people on its board of directors to reflect that of the wider company. The move follows criticism by shareholders at its annual meeting. Shareholders highlighted the lack of women and people from different ethnic backgrounds on the board. Currently it contains only one woman and no representatives from ethnic groups in the southern hemisphere. Unilever hopes to improve the company's image with investors and analysts by adopting the changes. <http://www.ft.com>

Competition Commission focuses on supermarkets

Several UK supermarket chains have been referred to the country's Competition Commission (CC) by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). The CC will conduct a full-scale investigation into the unfair behaviour of supermarkets towards their suppliers. The UK grocery sector is a £95 billion industry in which supermarket chains have the power to sell and buy produce below-cost. This is claimed to prevent, restrict and distort competition thus flouting competition laws. Produce bought by supermarkets at low prices has resulted in UK suppliers suffering significant monetary losses. One complaint stated that when cauliflowers were recently in short supply, Tesco paid £1 per cauliflower for imports from Germany but only 50p for UK-grown produce. Complaints to the CC have been submitted by farmers, the TUC, the consumer group Which?, the animal welfare body Compassion in World Farming, the National Federation of Woman's Institutes and Oxfam. The building of land banks by Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury and Morrisons has also come into question. The companies have acquired a number of undeveloped sites with a view to building new stores, raising competition concerns as they try to further increase their share of the market. The CC reviewed the grocery sector in 2000, leading to the establishment of a supermarket code of practice. It is alleged that the code fails to offer protection to suppliers because many are too scared of jeopardising relationships with retailers to complain. Together the four supermarket chains hold a 67 percent share of the UK's grocery market. <http://news.independent.co.uk>

Three quarters of UK investors in favour of OFRs

A survey carried out by IR Magazine has found that more than three quarters of investors and analysts want UK companies to publish full operating and financial reviews (OFRs) despite the government's decision to drop the requirement. The decision of the government to get rid of the obligation in November 2005 caused protest amongst governance experts, unions and environmental lobby groups. The survey found that 78 percent of 250 fund managers and analysts thought

companies should publish a full OFR, providing narrative on their performance and prospects to supplement the data in annual reports. The dropping of OFRs was presented by the government as a means of pushing back government regulation and avoiding the costs associated with OFRs. Without the OFR requirement, companies will be subject instead to a looser EU requirement to produce an annual business review. <http://www.ft.com> <http://www.ironthenet.com>

Conflict and political risk

Annan warns of "sleepwalking" to proliferation

UN General-Secretary Kofi Annan has told the UN Conference on Disarmament that without action to stop nuclear proliferation, more and more countries were likely to seek their own nuclear weapons. This also increased chances that such weapons could fall into non-state hands. Annan is reported as saying that the international community "seems almost to be sleepwalking down that latter path - not by conscious choice, but rather through miscalculation, sterile debate and paralysis". His comments come as tensions are raised about North Korea's potential testing of a long-range missile. Some, including the US, South Korea and Japan, fear this missile could eventually be adapted to carry the country's nuclear weapons. Annan made particular reference to North Korea and urged its leadership to desist from further complicating the security situation in the region. He also urged Iran to reassure the world of its peaceful intentions by cooperating fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This follows Western efforts to get Iran to halt its uranium enrichment programme – a vital element in the development of nuclear arms. In addition, Annan urged current nuclear powers to move towards nuclear disarmament in order to restore faith in the Non-Proliferation Treaty – a treaty that has increasingly been seen by some as simply preserving the nuclear privileges of the established nuclear powers. <http://www.alertnet.org> (Reuters)

ICC tells UN of Darfur atrocities

Luis Moreno Ocampo, prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has submitted a report to the UN in which he claims to have amassed evidence of thousands of killings of civilians in Darfur, including large scale massacres and rapes – with pro-government militias generally being behind such crimes. Ocampo also used the report to criticise Sudan's own investigations. The report could potentially be significant, as the ICC can only prosecute perpetrators if Sudan has not provided justice for victims. Ocampo told the BBC that he and his team had faced "serious obstacles" whilst pursuing their investigations and now needed "unconditional co-operation" to identify those responsible. The report notes that around 2 million people have been displaced by the violence, with

increased levels of violence in certain parts of the region in the first few months of 2006. Khartoum insists they are establishing courts to deal with the issue and that investigations would take place, but Ocampo says that little appears to have been done.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Oxfam says small arms trade out of control

UK-based charity Oxfam has published a report on small arms, which calls for greater control and regulation. The report claims that up to 14 billion bullets are manufactured each year and that a lack of stringent control means that millions of bullets and small arms end up in the hands of human rights abusers and fuel conflict in states such as Liberia and Sierra Leone. Oxfam's report 'Ammunition: the fuel of conflict' says that big ammunition manufacturers such as China, Egypt, Iran, Brazil, Bulgaria, Romania and Israel provide no data at all on their ammunition exports apart from shotgun cartridges. Though the report notes that there has been significant progress in terms of regulating the trade in small arms (albeit with noteworthy gaps that are potentially open for exploitation), it says that the trade in ammunition was often ignored. One of the suggestions in the report is that bullets be properly marked in order to be able to trace casings from particular events such as massacres. The report was published in advance of a UN meeting on 26 June to discuss the regulation of the trade in small arms and ammunition.

<http://www.oxfam.org>

Business school focuses on peace efforts

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), a business school accreditation board is launching a programme called 'Peace Through Commerce' in order to raise awareness about the role of business in promoting peace. Participants in the programme include the SDA Bocconi School of Management in Italy and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in South Korea. The move was initiated by Carolyn Woo, the dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame, who believed that decades of work on topics such as corporate social responsibility and corruption had not penetrated into the core of business-school teaching and thinking – and in particular the role that business and commerce can play in preventing or discouraging conflict. Notre Dame is one of four business schools planning conferences around the peace-through-commerce theme this year. The others are George Washington University, the University of Southern California and Case Western Reserve University.

<http://users1.wsj.com>

Global military spending reaches US\$1.12 trn

An annual report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has found that global military spending has reached US\$1.12 trillion. The

report found that the US accounted for 48 percent of global arms spending in 2005 and that its expenditure on conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan did much to push global expenditure up by 3.5 percent. The UK and France were also cited for carrying out costly foreign operations. The report also found that oil revenues generated by high oil prices were being used by states such as Saudi Arabia (where military spending has increased by US\$4.6 billion in 2005 to US\$25 billion) and Russia to strengthen each country's military capabilities. Likewise China and India are using domestic economic growth to boost their respective capabilities. Worryingly, SIPRI has identified particularly noteworthy increases in the Caucasus, with Georgia increasing spending by 143 percent, Azerbaijan by 51 percent and Armenia by 23 percent. It is suspected that Georgia's large increase could be accounted for by its desire to regain control of its rebel-dominated regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz> (Reuters)

<http://yearbook2006.sipri.org>

Filipino oil workers kidnapped in Delta

Nigerian newspaper The Daily Champion reports that two Filipino oil workers employed by an oil surveying company near Port Harcourt have been taken hostage by an unnamed group. The oil workers were reported to be in a boat in the Rumuolumeni area of the Obio Akpor local government area and are thought to have been taken into the creeks of the Niger Delta. The newspapers report that they were working for a Norwegian company known as PGS. The kidnapping occurred at almost the same time that another group, the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC) said it would target select members of the Nigerian government and judiciary. The announcement was made in relation to the continued incarceration of the Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force [NDPVF] leader Alhaji Mujihad Dokubo-Asari. The Filipino hostages, who worked for Beaufort International under a contract with the Norwegian oil services company Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS), were later released. There was no confirmation that a ransom was paid for their return. The Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), which has been responsible for a series of attacks in the region against international oil companies, has denied being involved and no other group has claimed responsibility. <http://allafrica.com> (Daily Champion) <http://www.channelnewsasia.com> (AFP)

US, Venezuela in UN Security Council struggle

A two year seat on the UN Security Council is to become available this year, leading Venezuela to seek support for its own bid to become a member. Lobbying by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in Latin America and the Caribbean is reportedly being countered by US diplomatic efforts aimed at supporting rival candidate Guatemala. The Financial Times reports that Argentina and Brazil have already signalled their

support for Chavez's bid, as have countries such as Syria. Washington is likely to be particularly concerned about Venezuela's potential membership of the Security Council as the US steps up pressure on Iran to abandon its nuclear enrichment programme – something that is likely to require them to seek UN Security Council support for potential sanctions and/or military action against the Middle Eastern state should the need arise. César Mayoral, Argentina's ambassador to the UN, has been reported however as indicating that US support could actually undermine rival Guatemala's bid for the vacant seat. <http://www.ft.com>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

Socially responsible investment

Co-op criticises First Group on staff policy

The Co-operative Insurance Society has backed an investor's resolution calling on the transport company First Group to adopt a human rights policy to counter concerns about how the company treats its staff. The resolution was initiated by bus workers who own shares in First Group in order to raise the issue at the company's next AGM. The Guardian reports that the resolution calls for a policy designed to "minimise the risks to shareholder value that could arise from unsatisfactory labour relations outcomes such as workplace stoppages, reputational harm, poor employee morale, high employee turnover, or high levels of internal or external conflict." First Group has called on shareholders to reject the resolution on the grounds that it claims to have already put systems in place to deal with the issue.

<http://business.guardian.co.uk>

WRI/Citigroup reports climate change opportunities

The World Resources Institute has produced a joint report with Citigroup, which identifies 12 companies likely to benefit from global warming. The report is entitled 'Investing in Solutions to Climate Change', and examines those companies which offer products and services in four different areas of climate change mitigation. It identifies four main areas that companies can potentially profit from, including: improved energy conversion efficiency, low-carbon energy conversion technology, carbon capture/storage and the displacement of high-intensity carbon sources with low-intensity ones. Analysts have then selected 12 companies that are already generating strong revenue in these areas. Recommended companies include Archer Daniels Midland, Caterpillar, Cypress Semiconductor, GE, Itron, Johnson Controls, Monsanto and Waste Management. The report also offers an overview of climate-related regulatory trends at the regional, national and international levels – all of which are likely to affect these companies' prospects.

<http://climate.wri.org>

Canadian SRI funds matching mainstream funds

Toronto-based magazine Corporate Knights has carried out a survey of 43 Canadian socially responsible investment (SRI) funds – ranking them on the basis of both their social/environmental practices, as well as their financial performance. Scores were awarded out of a hundred and the top ranking funds included the Inhance Balanced Fund (82), the Ethical Balanced Fund (78), the Ethical Canadian Dividend Fund (94), Desjardians Environment Fund (84), the Ethical Income Fund (79) and the Ethical Monthly Income Fund (76). Corporate Knights claims that the results of the survey demonstrate that the assumption often held by investors that SRI funds automatically under-perform is a false one. The report compared SRI funds to mainstream funds in the same sub-asset class - for example special equity funds. It found that in general, SRI funds both outperformed and under-performed compared to mainstream funds – indicating that as a body they presented no more investment risk than any other fund. <http://www.corporateknights.ca>

Labour and human rights

ILO report warns of rise in violence in the workplace

A new report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) claims that Violence at work, ranging from bullying and mobbing, to threats by psychologically unstable co-workers, sexual harassment and homicide, is increasing worldwide and has reached epidemic levels in some countries. The report, entitled 'Violence at Work, Third Edition' notes that this costs millions of dollars due to absenteeism and sick leave and that the problem is entering professions previously considered 'safe' such as teaching and health care. The report analyses regional trends and costs around the world, including group harassment of individuals, aggression, violence, bullying, rape and molestation. The report notes that in developing countries, women, migrants and children are amongst the most vulnerable. It notes that widespread sexual harassment and abuse were major concerns in South Africa, Ukraine, Kuwait, Hong Kong/China, amongst other countries. Not all news was negative however, as England/Wales showed a decline in violent incidents and threats, whilst in the US work-related murder and assaults have fallen. The report identifies a number of 'best practices' examples from local and national governments, enterprises and trade unions that have successfully implemented 'zero tolerance' policies and violence-prevention training programmes. <http://www.ilo.org>

Microsoft, US\$1m to stop trafficking in Asia

Software giant Microsoft has awarded more than US\$1 million to countries in Asia to help protect people from human trafficking. This forms part of the US\$9.2 million Microsoft is contributing to Asian countries this year. The latest project aims to help local people improve

their computer skills, offering them better employment opportunities in an attempt to reduce human trafficking, cyber crimes and child exploitation. The grant system will help vulnerable people in countries such as Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Cambodia, Indonesia and India have some of the highest, or significantly increasing rates of human trafficking in the world. A statement from Microsoft said that the company wants to "reach out both to those who are vulnerable to trafficking....and also to those who have been victims of trafficking". It is hoped that NGOs from the six initial countries involved in the program will train 100,000 people in the region over the next three years. Other countries including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam are also beneficiaries of the project. <http://abcnews.go.com>
<http://news.xinhuanet.com>

Apple investigates iPod 'slaves' claims

Computer and electronics manufacturer Apple is investigating a newspaper's claims that workers in some of the factories producing iPod music players in China are working long hours in 'slave' conditions. The article carrying the claims was published in the UK's Mail on Sunday. The newspaper claimed that workers received as little as £27 per month in pay in return for 15 hour shifts. The paper also claimed that workers lived in dormitories housing 100 people and that outsiders were banned from accessing them. The article claimed that at another factory, in Suzhou near Shanghai, workers were paid £54 per month - but half of it went on accommodation and food within the factory complex. Apple has said that it would investigate the claims and stated that it would not tolerate its supplier code of conduct being violated. The company issued a statement saying that it is "committed to ensuring that working conditions in our supply chain are safe, workers are treated with respect and dignity, and manufacturing processes are environmentally responsible." <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

BHP Billiton strikes may disrupt copper supply

BHP Billiton, the world's biggest mining company, is facing strike action by mining workers. This threatens to disrupt as much as 18 percent of the company's copper supply. The mining workers are preparing for strike action at the company's Escondida mine in Chile, unless demands for higher wages and bonuses are met. Strike action could compromise the production of 3.2 million tons of copper, used to make wires and pipes globally. Escondida currently accounts for 7 percent of the world's copper supply. In the past year, strikes by workers have impeded mining activities, causing copper prices to rise according with decreases in supply. The action has implications for other mining companies – including Teck Cominco and Coledco – which also face talks with miners over the renewal of labour contracts. <http://quote.bloomberg.com>

ILO accuses Myanmar of forced labour

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) accused Myanmar, formerly Burma, of the unprecedented use of forced labour. Forced labour has been officially outlawed in Myanmar since 2000, following the country's ratification of ILO conventions banning the practice. The Myanmar military – rulers of the country since 1962 – frequently oblige people to do unpaid work. People who make complaints regarding such labour abuses have often been imprisoned. Following the accusations, Myanmar pledged to cooperate with the ILO to eradicate forced labour in the country. The ILO called for people currently imprisoned for reporting labour abuses to be released by the end of July. In response to this recommendation, Myanmar also agreed to suspend prosecution of those who report forced labour cases. Myanmar was asked to provide further details on the prosecutions moratorium and extend it to cover prosecutions currently in progress. The ILO intends to refer to the world court if the deadlines are not met.

<http://www.alertnet.org> (Reuters)

Development

UN, launch global alliance for ICT and development

The UN and the Malaysian Prime Minister have announced the launch of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Development at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The Alliance is intended to provide a platform for technological development in the developing world through public-private partnerships. The Alliance recognises ICT as a vital tool for development and the benefits to be gained as a result of greater access to technology and to knowledge in the developing world. It will operate as a decentralized network, complementing the work of existing networks and institutions. The Alliance's Strategy Council also met for the first time. Its 60 members are drawn from the fields of ICT, development, public policy, education, health and other spheres. <http://www.un.org>

Microsoft, Nike back ninemillion.org refugee campaign

Microsoft and Nike are backing a UNHCR campaign to help refugee and displaced children around the world. The campaign, 'Ninemillion.org', is a public-private initiative aimed at promoting education and sport amongst refugee children and raising their sights for the future. Two-thirds of the money raised as part of the campaign will go towards education projects in refugee camps around the world, whilst the remaining third will be used to fund sporting activities and play programmes. Nike has pledged a US\$1 million donation and 40,000 footballs to the initiative and has launched a special series of T-shirts to be sold from their shops and through the initiative's website. The proceeds from

sales of the T-shirts will also go towards the campaign. Microsoft is using its Hotmail and Messenger sites to promote the initiative and is donating software to NGO partners as well as education and training materials. Other partners in the campaign include Toronto-based NGO Right To Play, Earth Water International, Manpower Inc., Merck & Co, Inc. and Procter & Gamble. <http://www.unhcr.org>
<http://www.ninemillion.org>

WB reports improvements in health info in Africa

A World Bank report says that there has been a "dramatic advancement" in information on health, disease and demographics in sub-Saharan Africa. The report, entitled 'Disease and Mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa', notes that tuberculosis has re-emerged as a leading cause of death for adults and that cases of malaria in children had increased in the 1990s. The report, which was launched with the South African Medical Research Council (MRC), also claims that one in six African children die from preventable and treatable diseases before they are five. Encouragingly the report claims that HIV/AIDS prevalence has fallen in Uganda, measles now rarely causes death in southern Africa and the control of onchocerciasis (river-blindness) has continued to improve during the 1990s. It notes that if the 2015 Millennium Development Goals are to be met, developing countries and donors needed to give greater priority to improving disease surveillance and monitoring. <http://web.worldbank.org> (BuaNews SA)

ML/Capgemini reports increased commodity wealth

Investment bank Merrill Lynch and consultancy Capgemini have published their 2006 World Wealth Report, which shows sharp increases in the number of High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs – those who have liquid assets of more than US\$1 million) in the developing world. The number of HNWIs increased for example, by 19 percent in India and 17 percent in Russia. The report notes that by the end of 2005, there were 8.7 million HNWIs around the world (an increase of 6.5 percent on 2004) who collectively own wealth of US\$33 trillion (an increase of 8 percent on 2004). The report claims that much of this increase in numbers can be accounted for by increased oil and commodity prices in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Middle East. The report notes even bigger increases in the increase in 'Ultra' HNWIs (those with financial assets of US\$30 million or more) to 85,400. Collectively, the Ultra HNWIs control 24 percent of the world's entire wealth.

<http://business.guardian.co.uk>

<http://www.us.capgemini.com>

Cameroon and France sign debt-for-nature swap

France and Cameroon have signed a unique agreement focusing on debt relief and development. The agreement aims to reduce poverty whilst also investing in environmental conservation in the African country.

Established under a joint initiative by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, it is the first Debt Development Contract to allocate funds to natural resources. Previous funding has been allocated to the education and health sectors. The goal of France's Debt Development Contract is to provide 100 percent debt relief on concessional loans contracted to other countries. At least US\$25 million will be invested in Cameroon to protect parts of the Congo River Basin. The area - the world's second largest rainforest after the Amazon - is threatened by growing human populations, illegal logging and the clearing of land for agriculture. Cameroon's action plan focuses on controlling illegal forest exploitation, poaching and increasing the involvement of local communities in forest conservation. <http://www.ens-newswire.com>

Sustainability and reporting

Miners, retailers meet to certify ethical metals

Some of the biggest mining companies in the world met with retailers in Vancouver in order to discuss the creation of a new seal of approval for sustainably produced metal goods. The companies involved in the project include BHP Billiton, Cartier (part of Richemont), Falconbridge, Newmont, Piaget (part of Richemont), Richemont, Rio Tinto, Tiffany and Wal-Mart. The Ottawa Citizen reports that the companies met with groups such as Oxfam America, the World Wildlife Fund, the International Council for Mining and Metals and Jewellers of America. Talks focused on the consolidation and homogenisation of currently-existing rules and standards in order to introduce a reliable benchmark for ethically produced metal and metal goods in order to reassure consumers. Certification would be a voluntary process, but it is likely that any future system would be subject to independent verification. The move mirrors similar efforts in the gold mining industry. Amid concerns about use of cyanide in gold mining, Jewellers of America and about 12 other industry participants founded the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices - a body that is working on an ethics code to apply throughout the gold supply chain. <http://www.canada.com>

Barclays in financial literacy drive

Barclays has launched a US\$3.6 million scheme to encourage financial literacy - aimed at older people and disadvantaged people in particular. The scheme will fund training at charities Help the Aged and NCH in financial management and debt advice. In addition, the bank is encouraging its staff to volunteer with the charities in order to provide advice first hand - for example on the sometimes complicated issue of pensions. The bank says that the scheme fits into its broader efforts to promote financial inclusion - a core part of its corporate social responsibility programme. The Financial Times reports that the UK government is

to put aside £120 million over three years for a Financial Inclusion Fund to support initiatives such as the provision of face-to-face money advice, the promotion of financial services and the stimulation of demand for mainstream financial services. A total of 18 projects will be introduced across the UK, each of which will have a financial adviser supported by volunteers. The scheme is intended to run over three years, during which Barclays hopes it will help about 30,000 people through sessions at Help the Aged offices and another 100,000 through a telephone advice line. Diamond trade seeks to further strengthen ethical supply chain.

<http://www.ft.com>

HSBC wins award for sustainable banking - FT

HSBC, the world's third largest financial services group, was awarded the first Sustainable Banking award by the Financial Times (FT). The award was made in recognition of its leadership in merging social, environmental and business objectives into its commercial operations. HSBC came ahead of 49 other financial service companies to win the award. The FT award was made in association with the International Finance Corporation, a sector of the World Bank. In addition, HSBC was commended for establishing a finance package to provide 1,800 low emission buses to Santiago, Chile. In a statement HSBC said that it "is committed to meeting the environmental and social challenges that face communities where it operates". The group is also the first big bank to commit to achieving carbon neutrality, offsetting the emissions it generates associated with global warming.

<http://www.insnet.org> <http://www.ft.com>

Nestlé publishes 2006 CSR report

Nestlé, the world's biggest food and beverage company, has published its 2006 corporate social responsibility report, entitled 'The Nestlé concept of corporate responsibility as implemented in Latin America'. This follows the company's 2005 report 'The Nestlé commitment to Africa'. The latest report focuses on the concept of 'Shared Value Creation' in the context of Nestlé's Latin American operations. It reviews Nestlé's operations throughout Latin America. Nestlé chairman Peter Brabeck-Letmathe says Shared Value Creation aims to focus on the whole contribution that a company makes to society, rather than just its more narrow focus on specific social and environmental issues. 'While corporate social responsibility and sustainability represent a useful set of principles and practices, we believe the true test of a business is whether it creates value for society over the long term,' he said. The report is divided into three main sections. 'Agriculture & Sourcing' examines Nestlé's efforts to build sustainable agricultural practices across the region. 'Manufacturing & Distribution' looks at Nestlé's response to the challenge guaranteeing food safety, developing and protecting employees and achieving sound environmental practices. 'Products & Consumers'



highlights how the company's products contribute to sustenance, nutrition and health through product innovation and renovation; and through nutritional education programmes. <http://www.nestle.com>

Countryside Properties issues sustainability report

Property developer Countryside Properties Plc has published its fifth Environmental, Social and Ethical (ESE) performance report. It is the fifth year that the company has reported its environmental, social and ethical performance. The report describes the company's progress against each of the actions and targets that it established in 2002, gives details of its Environmental, Social and Ethical (ESE) policies and highlights its commitment to urban regeneration and the creation of sustainable communities. Highlights of the report include the fact that 93 percent of all new Countryside Properties development in the UK is on 'brown-field' and recycled urban land - compared with the national average of 70 per cent. Sustainability themes include land acquisition, sustainability planning, future designs, construction processes and resource management. The company was presented with the 'Sustainability Award' at the Building Magazine Awards and was named 'Sustainable Housebuilder of the Year' at the inaugural Building Sustainability Awards. <http://www.countryside-properties.com>

Titan publishes 2005 CSR report

Greek cement group Titan has published its 2005 Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Report. The report has been prepared in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative principles and uses performance indicators developed within the framework of the Cement Sustainability Initiative of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The report highlights the company's efforts in areas such as health and safety, community support for education, water recycling and carbon emissions. Cited initiatives include new state-of-the-art filters in the company's plants, a new Technical Program for the unemployed in Skopje and a health and safety awareness program for the families of our employees in Egypt. The report notes that whilst the carbon output of the company has increased with production, its carbon emissions per tonne of cement produced has actually fallen. As well as covering more traditional areas of CSR activity, the report includes a section on the company's cultural contributions. Titan is a founding member of the Hellenic Network for CSR. <http://www.titan-cement.com>

Coca-Cola publishes its 2005 environmental report

Coca-Cola has issued its 2005 Environmental Performance Measures Report, which highlights progress in four areas of environmental performance. The company has achieved a 5 percent reduction in the energy use ratio (the amount of energy used per litre of product produced), a 4 percent reduction in the water use ratio (the amount of water needed to produce a litre

of product), a 3 percent reduction in the solid waste ratio (the amount of waste generated per litre of product produced) and a 3 percent increase in recycling within plants. The report is based on data gathered from 741 production plants around the world, which are collectively responsible for 90 percent of the company's sales volume in 2005. Cited initiatives include efforts to install more energy efficient coolers, reductions in the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as a refrigerant, water risk assessments in local communities, projects to help protect local watersheds, participation in the foundation of the Global Water Challenge to supply safe drinking water and sanitation in the developing world. The company says it has also put in place projects to reduce waste and raw materials - for example through innovations in packaging that reduce the use of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic by over 10,000 tons. <http://www2.coca-cola.com>

E.ON UK publishes 2005 CSR report

E.ON, the UK's largest integrated energy company, has launched its latest CSR report. E.ON UK is part of the E.ON Group, which has electricity and gas interests across Europe, the US and Russia. The new report has moved towards an issues-based style of CSR reporting which examines the supply of energy, climate change, customer experience plus employee recruitment and retention. The report provides background information, followed by details of activities and performance in the above areas. The report notes that E.ON UK generated more than 10,500 MW of electricity, had over six million gas and electricity customers and almost 13,000 employees in 2005. <http://www.reportalert.info>
<http://www.eon-uk.com>

Vodafone publishes 2006 CR report

Vodafone, the world's leading mobile telecommunications company, has published its latest CSR report. The report highlights progress the company has made towards achieving the objectives of its five-year corporate responsibility strategy. The report aims to provide answers to questions relevant to the company's stakeholders, including: what can parents do to safeguard their children from accessing inappropriate internet content on their mobile phones, how can deaf people be helped to make phone calls, how can old mobile phones support global development and could text messages save healthcare services millions of pounds? Vodafone Group Plc is providing a wide range of services worldwide, including voice and data communications. www.vodafone.com
<http://www.reportalert.info>

Recruitment

Recruitment at Maplecroft

Opportunities for interns, researchers and software engineers to contribute to Maplecroft maps

<http://www.maplecroft.net>

Upcoming events

New events appear in red

2nd International Conference on Quantified Eco-Efficiency Analysis for Sustainability

This conference aims to develop understanding of the concept of eco-efficiency, how it is being implemented in industry and what policies are most effective in promoting it. The concept of eco-efficiency has emerged as one of the crucial themes linking the economy and environment, and presenting opportunities for joint improvement in economic and environmental performance. The conference aims to further develop understanding of the concept of eco-efficiency, how it is being implemented in industry and what policies are most effective in promoting it.

- Organiser: Leiden University
- Date/Location: 28-30 June, Leiden, Netherlands
- Website: <http://www.eco-efficiency-conf.org>

Globalising Your Ethics and Compliance Programme

A one-day seminar aims to assist CSR practitioners working within multinational companies who have ethics and compliance responsibilities. The seminar will address such topics as globalising an ethics programme while maintaining company standards, developing a global code of conduct, and assessing risk.

- Organiser: Institute of Business Ethics
- Date/Location: 29 June, London, UK
- Website: <http://www.ibe.org.uk>

4th International Conference on Corporate Governance- 'Global Developments in Corporate Governance'

This conference will appeal to academics, policy makers and business/industry professionals. The conference will provide a forum in which delegates can interact and network, with the topic areas being at the forefront of corporate governance developments in an international context. There will be a panel of keynote speakers and presentation of papers by leading academics in the field. Sir Adrian Cadbury will be attending the event as the External Advisor to the Centre for Corporate Governance Research.

- Organiser: The Birmingham Business School
- Date/Location: 3 July, British Columbia, Canada
- Website: <http://www.ssrn.com>

International Workshop: Where does Corporate Responsibility Begin and End

This workshop focuses on the evolving roles and responsibilities of business in society, and in particular the drivers that are promoting corporate social and environmental responsibility world wide and growing societal expectations of business working in developing countries. Over the last decade foreign investment in developing countries has increased ten-fold and business is the main source of investment and work in developing countries. This session will inquire: How have different businesses working in challenging developing country environments started their corporate responsibility journey - where is it going, how do they define the boundaries of responsibility and what have been the milestones along the way.

- Organiser: Warwick Business School, University of Warwick
- Date/Location: 4 July, Warwick, UK
- Website: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk>

An Introduction to Ethical Trading and ETI

Aimed at newly appointed CSR/ethical staff in retailing, supplying and auditing companies. Attend this module to gain an overview of the key concepts behind ethical trade, an introduction to ETI and the ETI Base Code, and pointers on how to get started on implementing a code of practice within your organisation.

- Organiser: ETI
- Date/Location: 5 July, London, UK
- Website: <http://www.ethicaltrade.org>

The Africa Conference 2006

The conference aims to look at the role of the African diaspora in the continent's development. The conference will hear from Africans and others of the role that diverse African communities outside Africa have played or could play in the development of their home countries. The conference is aimed primarily at outsiders – people who want to understand more about the issues and to gain ideas of what could be done to support the participation of the exiled communities in Africa.

- Organiser: Ethical Events
- Date/Location: 8 July, London, UK
- Website: <http://www.ethical-events.org>

EU Emissions Trading 2006 - Competitive and Financial Implications

The EU Emissions Trading aims to assess Phase I emission limits, discuss proposed Phase II allocations, introduce leading industry and government specialists, provide networking opportunities, discuss the potential for using CDM and JI credits and detail legal issues in the EU ETS.

- Organiser: Environmental Finance Publications
- Date/Location: 10-11 July, Brussels, Belgium
- Website: <http://www.environmental-finance.com>



Managing Supply Chains

Aimed at those at the coalface of driving improvements in labour practices in their supply chain, be this in a corporate, NGO or trade union setting, and who already have some practical experience in ethical trade. This two-day module focuses on providing practical guidance and tips on resolving typical ethical trade challenges, such as double book-keeping, excessive overtime and lack of co-operation from suppliers.

- Organiser: ETI
- Date/Location: 12-13 July, London, UK
- Website: <http://www.ethicaltrade.org>

Corporate Responsibility and Global Business: Implications for Corporate and Marketing Strategy

Aimed at practitioners, business leaders, policy-makers and academics, an outstanding line-up of speakers and paper presentations will guide, teach, excite and challenge participants to strive to bring CSR to the top of their organisation's agenda. The conference will focus on consumer behaviour, branding & corporate responsibility, marketing communications and corporate responsibility issues, 'mainstreaming' corporate responsibility, marketing strategies for the 'bottom of the pyramid', metrics & reporting and corporate responsibility in developing economies.

- Organiser: London Business School, Aspen Institute's Business and Society Program, Boston University School of Management, and the Haas School of Business Centre for Responsible Business
- Date/Location: 13-14 July, London, UK
- Website: <http://www.haas.berkeley.edu>

Developing and Implementing an Ethical Trade Policy

Aimed at recently appointed CSR/ethical staff in retailing, supplying and auditing companies. This two-day module aims to take participants through the key steps in developing and implementing an ethical trade strategy, and provides an overview of the key considerations that need to be taken into account at each stage.

- Organiser: ETI
- Date/Location: 2-3 August, London, UK
- Website: <http://www.ethicaltrade.org>

3rd Annual Gathering of Women Entrepreneurs

This event, based on the highly successful Social Venture Institute model, will be an intensive, interactive gathering that focuses on ways to lead a successful, socially conscious enterprise. This unique forum is designed for participants who are familiar with socially responsible business practices and have the desire to develop additional expertise and connect with a community of women entrepreneurs.

- Organiser: Social Venture Institute
- Date/Location: 4-6 August, California, US
- Website: <http://www.svn.org>

Interfacing with Internal and External Stakeholders

This module aims to assist ethical trade practitioners in developing and maintaining more effective partnerships with appropriate stakeholders. It intends to take participants through how to identify appropriate partners, how to build relationships, and how to develop and implement collective approaches to tackling ethical trade challenges.

- Organiser: ETI
- Date/Location: 9-10 August, London, UK
- Website: <http://www.ethicaltrade.org>

Sustainable Facilities Summit

The 2006 Sustainable Facilities Summit is a private, invitation only summit designed exclusively for senior level facilities professionals from across all industries. The summit is specifically geared towards those administrators who are responsible for the management, design, construction and operations of the sustainable initiatives within their organization. In recent times we have become much aware of the need to build environmentally responsible buildings. Buildings are our largest users of energy and natural resources and we are now beginning to realize the importance of constructing buildings that last longer, leave less of an ecological impact and that are a lot more efficient. This Sustainable Facilities Summit aims to provide facilities professionals with the solutions to incorporate green components into their upcoming projects as well as how to implement these strategies into existing structures.

- Organiser: CraigMichaels, Inc.
- Date/Location: 13-15 August, San Diego, US
- Website: <http://www.craigmichaelsinc.com>

AIDS 2006

The International AIDS Conference is one of the most important gatherings for the release and discussion of key scientific and other developments in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. As the largest and most diverse international gathering devoted to a global health issue, the Conference brings together the movement of people responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic to share their lessons and together stake out the road ahead. In so doing, the Conference directly affects the lives of those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and is an important catalyst for change.

- Organiser: International AIDS Society
- Date/Location: 13-18 August, Toronto, Canada
- Website: <http://www.aids2006.org>

Social Venture Network

At the Social Venture Institute, join business leaders and social entrepreneurs for an intensive, interactive inquiry into how to face the day-to-day challenges of running a socially conscious enterprise. Fine tune business strategies, learn best practices for solving problems and build long lasting relationships with business peers and mentors. Get direct feedback for your current business challenges, hear inspiring 'True



Confessions' from experienced entrepreneurs and their struggles to reach success combining social mission with business.

- Organiser: Social Venture Institute
- Date/Location: 6-10 September, British Columbia, Canada
- Website: <http://www.renewalpartners.com>

5th EABIS Annual Colloquium: Corporate Sustainability, Strategic Management

The Colloquium aims to promote multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives, thought leadership and cutting-edge research that seek long-term, business-relevant best theories and practices to integrate corporate responsibility into business strategy and management education.

- Organiser: European Academy of Business in Society
- Date/Location: 11-12 September, Milan, Italy
- Website: <http://www.eabis.org>

3rd Corporate Social Responsibility Summit

The 3rd Corporate Social Responsibility Summit aims to address, examine and evaluate the future of CSR both globally and regionally. International policy makers and top business executives along with the top representatives from the region will share their expertise. Participants will not only hear from leading minds across all industries, but also be able to put questions to the experts and take part in the lively debates.

- Organiser: Corporate Social Responsibility
- Date/Location: 17-20 September, Dubai, UAE
- Website: <http://www.iirme.com>

EBEN Annual Conference 2006

The theme of the European Business Ethics Network's 2006 annual conference is 'Ethics in and of Global Organisations'. The conference aims to include: Managing values in global institutions, responsible leadership, stakeholder management in global institutions, global institutions, multinationals and national sovereignty, public management ethics, public service ethics, procurement and contracting, ethical aspects of finance and investment, consulting and lobbying, corruption & nepotism, teaching ethics/ethics training, cross-sector collaboration, ethical challenges in/of public-private partnership, global business ethics, global corporate citizenship and supply-chain integrity.

- Organiser: Huckster-Consult
- Date/Location: 21-23 September, Vienna, Austria
- Website: <http://www.huckster-consult.com>

Practical Tools to Communicate your Ethical Values to Employees

This event aims to address the following questions: How engaged is your workforce? How much do people in your organisation know about your corporate values? Where do they stand in regards to these values? Are

they in a position to deliver positive brand messages to your customers? Getting buy-in at all levels of your organisation, from part-time employees to senior level managers is crucial. It ensures that your CSR initiatives work to their full potential.

- Organiser: Ethical Corporation
- Date/Location: 26-27 September, Brussels, Belgium
- Website: www.ethicalcorp.com

GRI International Conference

The third generation of the GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (G3) will be released at this global conference which is expected to attract over 1,000 multi-sector participants.

- Organiser: Global Reporting Initiative
- Date/Location: 4-6 October, Amsterdam
- Website: <http://www.globalreporting.org>

Eco6

Eco6, the first annual event of the international socially responsible community, will be the first to explicitly bring together SRI and CSR to address themes such as 'SRI: Just Another Marketing Ploy?' and 'CSR: Fact or Fiction?'. It will address attitudes to these movements, promote channels for social and environmental change and provoke debate.

- Organiser: Economie
- Date/Location: 9-10 October, Zurich, Switzerland
- Website: <http://06.economie.co.uk>

Sustainable Innovation 06: Global Challenges, Issues and Solutions

Sustainable Innovation 06 will provide a platform to discuss global challenges and opportunities for sustainable product/service development and design. It will highlight best practice and provide a range of case studies and examples. Sustainable Innovation 06 will include invited and refereed papers covering sustainable product/service development and design from academics, consultants, product designers and design engineers, sustainability, environment and CSR managers and other business functions.

- Organiser: The Centre for Sustainable Design and the Centre for Sustainable Enterprise, Stuart Graduate School of Business
- Date/Location: 23-24 October, Chicago, US
- Website: <http://www.cfsd.org.uk>

Building Sustainable Corporate and Voluntary Partnerships

This conference will offer vital insights into achieving sustainable, mutually beneficial charity and corporate partnerships. Attendees will get the opportunities to meet 12 of Britain's leading socially responsible companies and 6 inspirational charities who will answer your questions through highly interactive sessions.

- Organiser: Haymarket Events
- Date/Location: 31 October, London, UK



- Website: <http://offlinehbpl.hbpl.co.uk>

Swiss Master Class in CSR 2006 – Facing the Postnational Constellation

The Swiss Master Class in CSR aims at a fresh and trans-disciplinary analysis of the future of Corporate Social Responsibility in a globalizing world. It will bring together outstanding doctoral students, world-leading experts from all relevant fields of research, and top-level managers in order to propel research on global governance and inspire constructive dialogue among academia and practitioners.

- Organiser: HEC University of Lausanne
- Date/Location: 8-9 December, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Website: <http://www.hec.unil.ch>