

Swiss Re to host sustainability and capital markets event

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Swiss Re hosts 'Sustainability and capital markets – roles, benefits and conflicts' at its Centre for Global Dialogue, Rueschlikon, on Tuesday 21 August 2001. The event will highlight the strategic importance of developing a sustainable approach to business planning in the financial sector. Discussions will be led by Swiss Re together with representatives of Novo A/S and BASF AG. The event is part of Swiss Re's partnership with The Sustainability Forum Zurich.

The sustainability and capital markets event will cover the topics of sustainable principles and corporate responsibility and governance. The key note speaker from Swiss Re will be Peter Forstmoser, chairman of the board of directors. In addition there will be two case studies, the first given by Lise Kingo of Novo A/S covers the strategic drivers of sustainable development. The second presented by Dr Matthias Hensel, of BASF AG, will tackle the role of senior management in promoting sustainability.

Sustainability is of great strategic importance to Swiss Re and as such the company is committed to a process of comprehensive planning which includes the financial, as well as the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable business development. In 1998 Swiss Re set up a sustainability organisation to explore these issues and establish a process to improve its use of resources, both natural and human. A major focus is on building a network for dialogue on environmental issues in which all Swiss Re's stakeholders are encouraged to participate. The relationship with The Sustainability Forum Zurich, is just one element of this ongoing process.

Swiss Re has achieved official recognition for its commitment to sustainability by, for the second year running, being listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Group Index (DJSGI) with a rating of 1 (opportunities) 2 (risks). Sustainability risks are rated from 1 for the greatest opportunities or the lowest risks, to 5 for the lowest opportunities and the highest risks. The index consists of more than 200 companies representing the top 10% of leading sustainability companies in 64 industry groups in 33 countries.

Formed in 2000, The Sustainability Forum Zurich, is a partnership of public and private organisations which promotes the transition to a sustainable society, through an exchange of ideas about sustainable business practice. Its annual International Symposium in Zurich, this autumn, will bring together current international opinion on sustainability.

Swiss Re is one of the world's leading reinsurers with over 70 offices in more than 30 countries. In the 2000 financial year, gross premium volume amounted to CHF 26.1 billion and the net income after tax reached CHF 3 billion. Swiss Re is rated "AAA" by Standard & Poor's, "Aaa" by Moody's and "A++" (superior) by A.M. Best.

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