The Value Creation of Active Engagement Workshop

Wednesday, 14 July 2021, 10:00-12:15 (BST)/ 17:00-19:15 (CST)

Recognising the importance of sustainable investing, the UK and China have been working closely to encourage the growth of green and sustainable finance across financial services industry under the UK-China Green Finance Taskforce, established in 2017.

The Taskforce, led by the late Sir Roger Gifford, Chair of UK Green Finance Institute and Dr Ma Jun, Chair of China Green Finance Committee, initiated the UK-China ESG Leaders Forum (ELF) in early 2021. The Forum is a practitioner-led initiative to further embed ESG integration into the UK and Chinese investment community and to promote the best practice that can support UK and Chinese asset owners and managers on their transition journey to sustainable asset allocation.

The ELF focuses its research and exchanges in two areas, 1) Value creation of active engagement 2) Scaling ESG solutions for asset owners across asset classes in public and private markets. This workshop will focus on the first workstream, with the project team, led by Prof. Robert Eccles, the world’s foremost expert on integrated reporting and a leader on how companies and investors can create sustainable strategies, explaining the core elements of an active engagement framework and how asset owners and managers can work together to influence corporate decisions.

Agenda

Introduction
Moderated by Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation & Growth, City of London Corporation

10:00-10:05 Opening remarks by Alderman William Russell, Lord Mayor of City of London Corporation

10:05-10:10 Scene setting on Global & China Sustainable Finance by Dr Ma Jun, Chairman of China Green Finance Committee & Founder and President of BIFS

10:10-10:20 Keynote speech
10:20-10:30  - **Introduction to The Value Creation of Active Engagement** by Robert G. Eccles, Professor at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

10:30-10:45  - **Presentation on key findings** from ELF project team

**Part 1: What is the policy framework required for effective engagement?**
(e.g., common objectives of engagement activities, how ESG fits in, how it can apply to different asset classes, and regulatory barriers)

10:45-11:25 Discussion moderated by Dr. Wang Dequan, Founder & CEO of Governance Solutions Group

Panellists:
- Robert G. Eccles, Professor at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford
- Catherine Howarth, Chief Executive of ShareAction
- Paul Chandler, Director of Stewardship, PRI
- Katherine Han, Head of ESG Research, Harvest Fund Management
- Alex Mou, Director for International Equity Investment, Head of ESG Research, Bosera Asset Management Company

**Part 2: How can asset owners and managers work together to influence corporates?**
(e.g., What role can initiatives like the PRI and NZAO Alliance play? Examples of partnerships between asset owners and asset managers? Sharing case studies?)

11:25-12:05 Discussion moderated by Rongrong Huo, Co-Chair of ESG Leaders Forum & Executive Director of Ninety One

Panellists:
- Yoo-Kyung Park, Head of Responsible Investment & Governance for APAC, APG Asset Management
- Henry Loh, Investment Manager, Aberdeen Standard Investments
- Crystal Geng, Principle ESG Expert, Ping An Group
- Wilson Wei, Head of Equity ESG Research, E Fund Management
- Miranda Zhao, Head of ESG Research, Global Capital Investment, China Asset Management Co., Ltd

**Wrap-up:**
12:05-12:10 **COP26 and role of finance** by Rhys Gordon-Jones, Counsellor, Financial and Professional Services, British Embassy Beijing
12:10-12:15 **Concluding Note by Helen Huang**, Co-Chair of ESG Leaders Forum & CEO of Hwabao Fund Management
12:15-12:20 **Closing Remarks** by Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation & Growth, City of London Corporation