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Launch of Japanese translation of climate change investor guide

Asian investors must face up to major climate risks

Asian investors can protect long-term returns by taking greater measures to manage climate risk.

This is one of the key messages in a comprehensive climate change investor guide that is being launched in a Japanese translated version today at the RI Asia event in Tokyo by the Asia Investor Group on Climate Change (AIGCC).

“Asian investors are fast realising this region is one of the most at threat from climate change,” said Rebecca Mikula-Wright, Director of AIGCC. “This is not just in terms of the physical impacts such as increased natural disasters, it also includes the stranded asset risk inherent in fossil fuels as renewable energy becomes cheaper and climate regulation starts to kick in.”

As the Asia Development Bank (ADB) pointed out in its ‘Region as Risk’ report in July 2017, Asia faces ‘high risks and significant opportunities’ as a result of climate change.

While the USD\$7.7 trillion required for renewable energy and energy efficiency to meet the demands of China, India, Japan, and South-East Asia under a 2°C warming target represents a major upside, Asian cities face the brunt of global flood losses which are expected to reach US\$52 billion a year by 2050, an eight-fold increase on 2005.

Navigating this period of rapid change is one of the major challenges for Asian investors and this new guide provides the latest practical case studies from around the world of how climate risk management is implemented most effectively. From Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank in Japan to Norges in Norway, investors are moving to safeguard themselves against climate risk, whilst reaping dividends from the shift to clean energy.

The Guide was initially developed to inform discussion at the AIGCC CEO/CIO Asset Owner [Roundtable](#) in Singapore in September 2017. Participating investors included GPIF, NipponLife, Japan Post, Monetary Authority of Singapore, Temasek, GIC, CalPERS, Cathay Financial Holdings, ASABRI, International Finance Corporation, OP Trust, Catholic Super, Manulife Asset Management, Generation Investment Management, BlackRock

‘SumiTrust has been integrating climate change for many years and continues to be actively involved in local and international climate focused initiatives’, said Seiji Kawazoe, Associate General Manager at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Ltd. ‘We are proud to be involved in this guide and look forward to discussing it with our peers in Japan.’

AIGCC has recently welcomed new members such as Hermes EOS and ASABRI the Indonesian Military and Police fund. Japan Sustainable Investment Forum(JSIF) is also a member of AIGCC.

“There is no one-size-fits-all approach to addressing climate change, which the investor guide clearly highlights,” said Arisa Kishigami, Head of ESG, Asia Pacific, FTSE Russell. “As a welcoming additional tool, the report balances common frameworks with a diverse range of specific case studies which investors can learn from and adapt to their individual needs. Arisa is also a working Group member of AIGCC and Management committee member of Japan Sustainable Investment Forum (JSIF).

This guide is now available in on the AIGCC [website](#) in [Japanese](#), [Chinese](#) and [English](#).

AIGCC will continue to develop tools and resources for investors in Asia and collaborate with global investor groups to develop and coordinate major investor initiatives focused on climate change, such as the [Global Investor Coalition on Climate Change](#), [The Investor Agenda](#) and the [Climate Action 100+](#).

There are a series of climate related events during the week of RI Asia including a the Climate Action 100+ [Japan launch event](#) on Friday 13th April in Tokyo. There is an investors only briefing session and an open session for corporates in the afternoon.

Contact Rebecca.wright@igcc.org.au for further details.

About the Asia Investor Group on Climate Change (AIGCC)

The Asia Investor Group on Climate Change (AIGCC) is an initiative to create awareness among Asia’s asset owners and financial institutions about the risks and opportunities associated with climate change and low carbon investing. AIGCC provides capacity for investors to share best practice and to collaborate on investment activity, credit analysis, risk management, engagement and policy.

With a strong international profile and significant network, including pension,

sovereign wealth funds, insurance companies and fund managers, AIGCC represents the Asian investor perspective in the evolving global discussions on climate change and the transition to a greener economy.

Investors in the region are invited to participate in the group, including China, Japan, India, South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam and the Pacific.

AIGCC currently has 21 members who represent over USD550bn assets under management.

www.aigcc.net

About the Global Investor Coalition on Climate Change (GIC)

In December 2012, the four regional climate change investor groups, IIGCC (Europe), Ceres INCR (North America), IGCC (Australia & New Zealand) and AIGCC (Asia) formed the Global Investor Coalition on Climate Change (GIC). The coalition provides a global platform for dialogue between investors and governments on climate policy, facilitates corporate engagement on climate risk, and supports increased low carbon investment.

www.globalinvestorcoalition.com