

Press Release

Zurich, 15 October 2003

Tessa Tennant wins the Third SAM/SPG Sustainability Leadership Award

Tessa Tennant is not only the first woman to win the annual Sustainability Leadership Award, sponsored by SAM Sustainable Asset Management and Sustainable Performance Group (SPG), but has also had a pioneering role in the field of sustainable investments.

For Tessa Tennant, sustainability is much more than a catchphrase. The winner of the Third SAM/SPG Sustainability Leadership Award co-founded the first sustainability fund in the UK – and one of the first in Europe as well – back in 1988. The Jupiter Ecology Fund, originally launched in 1988 as the Merlin Ecology Fund, now has assets of around CHF 250m under management. After her groundbreaking work with the Jupiter Fund, Tessa Tennant switched to the UK financial services group NPI where her team built SRI assets from CHF22m to over CHF1bn before the company's assets were merged with Henderson Global Investors.

Since 1997, Tessa Tennant has specialised in the Asian markets. She initiated the research of Asian companies for SRI portfolios and just a year later, in 1998, she set up the world's first sustainability fund for the Asian region. In 2001 she set up Asia's first SRI organisation, the Association for Sustainable and Responsible Investment in Asia (ASrIA), based in Hong Kong. This is a non-profit organisation committed to developing and promoting corporate social responsibility and sustainable and responsible investment (SRI) in Asia. One of the goals of ASrIA is to encourage the key players in Asia's financial centres to learn how to integrate sustainability criteria in their investment decisions. ASrIA has over 100 members, including many financial institutions with total assets under management of some USD 2 trillion.

Apart from her specialist interest in Asian markets, Tessa Tennant continues to perform various roles in numerous organisations. She sits on the Board of Directors of Calvert World Values Fund, Washington DC and of Solar Century Co Ltd in the UK. She is an advisor to the UNEP Finance Initiative. In 2000 Tessa Tennant co-founded and was first Chair for the Carbon Disclosure Project, the world's largest institutional investor initiative on any environmental issue. She also co-founded and chaired the UK Social Investment Forum from 1993 to 1997. In addition, she has served on environmental advisory committees for the British government and The Prince of Wales.

Selection criteria

The Sustainability Leadership Award presented at the Sustainability Leadership Forum has a prize worth CHF 50,000. It is awarded annually by the independent asset manager SAM Sustainable Asset Management and by Sustainable Performance Group, an investment company founded by SAM, Swiss Re and Volkart Group. The prize is awarded for extraordinary and active leadership by individuals who succeed in making a practical contribution to sustainability within a company or institution.

The 43 candidates nominated for the award (compared with 33 last year) were selected on the basis of the following criteria: Nominees must play an exemplary role in the field of sustainability. They must also show concrete evidence of their achievements within the private sector. They must be strong, convincing and visionary personalities with innovative ideas. Criteria such as religion, gender, nationality, age or professional background have no impact whatsoever on the selection process. Previous winners of the award include Ray C. Anderson, CEO Interface Inc. (2001) and Michael Otto, CEO of Otto, and José Maria Figueres Olsen, former President of Costa Rica (joint winners 2002).

Members of the Selection Committee:

- Professor Meinrad K. Eberle, former Director, Paul Scherrer Institute, Villigen, Switzerland
- Beat Curti, Founder and Member of the Board of Directors, Bon appétit Group, Küsnacht, Switzerland
- Susan Davis, President, Capital Missions Company, Elkhorn, WI, USA
- Dr. Alex Krauer, Honorary Chairman, Novartis, Switzerland
- Ashok Khosla, President, Development Alternatives, Inc., New Delhi, India
- Barbara Kux, Chief Procurement Officer, Royal Philips Electronics
- Prof. David Marks, Director, Laboratory for Energy and the Environment, MIT

If you have any other queries, please contact:

Cécile Heusser-Bachmann
Communications Coordinator
SAM Sustainable Asset Management
Seefeldstrasse 215
8008 Zurich
Tel. +41 1 397 10 10 (switchboard)

SAM Sustainable Asset Management was founded in 1995 as an independent asset management company specializing in sustainability investments. Today SAM ranks among the world's leading institutions in this sector. Its clients include banks, insurance companies, pension funds, trusts as well as private investors.

Through systematic analysis, SAM seeks to identify companies with sustainable success criteria. Integrating these forward-looking criteria with the investment process gives the investor the greatest possible degree of control, transparency and an attractive return.

Besides individual mandates for institutional investors and private clients, SAM offers financial products in the field of future-oriented energy technologies, sustainable food production, water, efficient use of resources, sustainability pioneers, sustainability leaders and private equity.

SAM's expertise stems from its own research as well as an active, worldwide sustainability network. In cooperation with Dow Jones and STOXX, SAM launched the world's first family of sustainability indices, tracking the performance of companies that lead their industry in terms of sustainability. For SAM this means evaluating more than 1,000 companies each year.

SAM Sustainable Asset Management is headquartered in Zollikon-Zurich (Switzerland), and has offices in Chicago (USA), Melbourne (Australia) and Milan (Italy).

Sustainable Performance Group (SPG), based in Zurich, was founded in May 1997 as a joint-stock company under Swiss law. The company's listing in the main section of the Swiss Stock Exchange (SWX) in August 1997 saw the emergence of the world's first quoted investment company for sustainability investments – an investment vehicle that enables private and institutional investors to invest their money in accordance with the principle of sustainability. The success of SPG's investment concept is borne out by the growing relevance of sustainability, both on the world's financial markets and at the corporate and political/statutory level.

The SPG portfolio comprises investments in around 15 to 20 companies, with which it maintains an intensive dialogue. In this context SPG focuses on seven to ten strategic core investments, together accounting for about 65% of the portfolio. These core holdings are diversified with seven to ten satellite holdings, which constitute the remaining 35% of the portfolio. Up to 10% of the company's assets may be invested in companies whose shares are not traded on a stock exchange.
