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Financial Times/IFC name SAM “Sustainable Investor of the Year”

- **SAM judged best out of 34 global asset managers**
- **Award recognizes pioneering achievements in the area of sustainable investment**
- **Jury honors SAM for its efforts in bringing sustainable investment to the mainstream**

SAM, the investment boutique focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing, has been named “**Sustainable Investor of the Year**” by the *Financial Times* (FT) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC, a member of the World Bank Group). Part of the annual FT/IFC Sustainable Finance Awards, the award recognizes ground-breaking achievements in the area of sustainable investment and innovation or leadership in creating environmental, social and financial value.

The panel of judges evaluated award nominees on financial performance, innovative strength, and best practice. Overall, 34 asset managers, pension funds, sovereign funds and life insurance companies from all over the world applied for the sought-after award. Seven were shortlisted and SAM was a joint winner of the award, which was presented at the FT/IFC Sustainable Finance Conference in London on June 14, 2012. SAM was praised during the awards ceremony for its success in bringing sustainable investment to the mainstream.

Martin Dickson, Deputy Editor of the Financial Times and co-chair of the awards judging panel: “The winners of this year’s awards should be congratulated as they stand out from a very strong group of financial institutions that are leading the way on making environmental and social considerations a major part of their business.”

Michael Baldinger, CEO, SAM: “Being named ‘Sustainable Investor of the Year’ underscores SAM’s leading position in delivering superior sustainability investment solutions to a global client base. For us, the award also represents an important endorsement of our daily work towards raising awareness of the importance of integrating sustainability into traditional financial analysis.”

To qualify for “Sustainable Investor of the Year” asset managers must fulfill a comprehensive list of criteria. These include leadership in environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) integration, strong financial performance, agenda-setting engagement and ongoing stakeholder consultation.

A pioneer in sustainable investing solutions since 1995, SAM continuously works to enhance its sustainability research and product offering in anticipation of major sustainability trends in order to generate solid investment returns for its global client base.

For more information about the awards and the award criteria, please visit:
<http://www.ftconferences.com/sustainablefinance/>

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About SAM

SAM is an investment boutique focused exclusively on Sustainability Investing. The firm's offering comprises asset management, indexes, private equity and sustainability benchmarking services. Its asset management capabilities include a range of sustainability theme and broad ESG integrated investment strategies catering to institutional asset owners and financial intermediaries internationally. SAM partners with Dow Jones Indexes in the publication of the globally recognized Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes (DJSI). Based on its Corporate Sustainability Assessment, SAM has compiled one of the most comprehensive sustainability databases and analyzes over 2,000 listed companies annually. SAM's proprietary research and sustainability insight – through its direct contact with companies – are fully integrated into its offering.

[SAM](#) is a member of the global pure-play asset manager Robeco, which was established in 1929 and offers a broad range of investment products and services. Robeco is a subsidiary of the Rabobank Group, which has the highest credit rating of all privately owned banks, according to rating agencies Moody's, Standard & Poor's, Fitch and DBRS. Robeco is committed to both practicing and implementing its [Responsible Investing](#) principles group-wide. Within Robeco, SAM acts as the center of expertise for sustainability insight. In its domestic Swiss market, SAM also represents Robeco by handling sales, client services and marketing for Robeco's product range.

SAM was founded in 1995 on the conviction that corporate commitment to sustainability practices enhances a company's capacity to prosper, ultimately creating stakeholder value. As a reflection of its own commitment to advocating sustainable investment practices, SAM is a signatory of the UNPRI and a member of Eurosif, Asria and Ceres. SAM is headquartered in Zurich and employs over 100 professionals. As of December 31 2011, SAM's assets under management and advice amounted to a total of USD 11.4 billion.

Sustainable Asset Management, USA Inc. ("SAM" or the "Firm") is an Investment Adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. SAM is a subsidiary of Robeco Groep N.V. ("Robeco"), a Dutch investment management firm headquartered in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. In connection with providing investment advisory services to its clients, SAM will utilize the services of certain personnel of SAM Group Holding AG ("AG"), and Robeco Investment Management, Inc. ("RIM"), each a wholly owned subsidiary of Robeco Group.

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