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ATTN: BUSINESS EDITOR

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'Socially Responsible Investing – Here and Abroad' **Conference - Monterey, Ca – June 26, 2009**

Monterey, Ca. 6/9/09 - On June 26, 2009 at the **Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS)** a special conference on the recent trends emerging in the domestic and global investment communities regarding Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) and Micro-Finance will be held.
(<http://www.mbita.org/events/socialinvesting.html>)

This conference will feature presentations from SRI and Micro-Finance experts who are leading the path to a more environmentally sound and sustainable future through new, dynamic investment vehicles that are altering the landscape of the traditional investment community while providing the grist for a sustainable future and a more prosperous world.

The conference will provide information and spur discussions of how investors can realize a good return on their investment while experiencing the satisfaction of helping save the planet from environmental degradation while also contributing to the economic development of the poor and oppressed of our global communities.

Leading experts in the Micro-finance community will be speaking to an audience of businesses and private investors interested in using these new investment vehicles for business development in the U.S. and in developing countries, such as Peru, where one of the speakers at the conference, **Charles Fishel** of **Abundant Biofuels**, is using micro-finance to support small Peruvian farmers in the growing of the *Jatropha* plant for bio fuel.

"21st century socially responsible investment channels and creative micro-finance schemes for business development here and abroad are now poised to offer solutions for both small and large investors alike creating new investment methodologies that can help lead us out of our current, unstable investment environment that currently belabors our small business communities throughout the world", states **Tony Livoti** of **MBITA** who is organizing the event.

"After a decade of scandals on sweatshop labor in the apparel and footwear industry, and lead in toys made in the global supply chain, it's surprising how many companies still do not have adequate policies in place to address such crucial social and environmental flashpoints. Any company with global sourcing operations needs to be sure it has adequate corporate responsibility policies in place to avoid future problems", says **Conrad McKerron**, one of the presenters at the conference and director of the **Corporate Social Responsibility Program** at the **As You Sow Foundation**.

Another presenter at the conference, **Almaz Negash** of **Entwine Global** states, "The infrastructure to create a sustainable economic development in Africa will no longer come from aide by developed countries alone. Rather by identifying, training & investing in human capital of the indigenous community members who have vested interest in combating poverty through education and promotion of sustainable business formation is where 'micro-lending' programs plays a key role."

'A booming resurgence in microfinance is now taking place throughout the world as a vehicle for business development and many people don't realize that microfinance has been used successfully for 30 years as a vehicle for Socially Responsible Investments", states **Sanjay Sinha** of **Micro-Credit Enterprises (MCE)** and another presenter at the conference. A complete list of all the presenters can be seen at www.mbita.org/events/socialinvesting-agenda.html.