

Press release

News from the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

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Please see foot of release for contact details

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ICMA announces three new courses in Financial Markets Operations

(London, UK) The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) is pleased to announce the launch of three new courses in **financial markets operations**: Corporate Actions, Global Custody and Investment Funds Administration.

These **three new specialist courses** are in-depth extensions of topics covered in the Operations Certificate Programme (OCP), ICMA's benchmark course in financial markets operations. Recent market events have demonstrated a need for more and better programmes in financial operations. ICMA considers this area a key component of its training and education mandate and will further expand the number of courses in financial markets operations in the future.

Corporate Actions – 2 days

Overview - the course will provide delegates with a detailed explanation of common corporate actions, describing the types, their purpose, features and processing lifecycles. Risks will be highlighted at all appropriate points and typical mitigating controls will be described.

Course Tutor – Mike Simmons is the author of two books on Operations: “Corporate Actions: A Guide to Securities Event Management” and “Securities Operations: A Guide to Trade & Position Management” both published by Wiley Finance. Mike is also a regular instructor on the OCP.

Global Custody – 2 days

Overview - the course describes the roles and responsibilities of global custodians and a framework for “best practice” in the services that they offer their clients. It also looks at current threats and opportunities custodians face as the industry evolves. Global custody plays an important role in the post-trade environment and affects the sell-side and institutional investors alike.

Investment Funds Administration – 2 days

Overview – the course covers a broad range of fund types and asset classes. It is designed to broaden attendees' knowledge and understanding of fund administration services and provide a framework of “best practice” in managing this business.

Course Tutor (Global Custody and Investment Funds Administration) – Keith Dickinson is a Visiting Fellow at the ICMA Centre and Programme Director for the OCP. Keith has spent twenty years managing operations departments in the areas of equities, fixed income and derivatives markets for securities houses and fund managers.

Financial Markets Operations

Education and training are essential activities and core to ICMA's services to its Members. Products and markets have always been covered by ICMA education but these three new courses represent a new investment by the Association in financial operations training.

All three courses are scheduled to run in 2009 but enquiries from ICMA member banks to run courses on an in-house basis for their staff and clients are welcomed.

The starting point of ICMA's operations courses remains the OCP, which is a one week residential course held annually and a "Recommend Exam" on the Wholesale Banking/Operations list compiled by the FSSC (Financial Services Skills Council) in the UK. The qualification has also met the FSSC's Key 6 "Appropriate Exam" standards. The next **OCP takes place in Montreux, Switzerland from 29 March – 4 April 2009.**

-ENDS-

Notes for editors:

1. ICMA Centre

The ICMA Centre ('The Business School for Financial Markets') was established in 1991 with funding provided by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) in Zurich. The Centre is housed in a purpose-built modernist building with state-of-the-art facilities including two dealing rooms using software similar to those found in major investment banks. Due to the great success of the Centre and growing demand for its programmes from a worldwide audience, ICMA has invested a further £5 million expansion to the building which will include an additional 50 seat dealing room, 190 seat lecture theatre as well as new seminar rooms and dedicated research area.

See: www.icmacentre.ac.uk

2. International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

ICMA is the self-regulatory organisation representing the financial institutions active in the international capital market worldwide. ICMA's members are located in some 50 countries across the globe, including all the world's main financial centres, and currently number almost 400 firms.

See: www.icmagroup.org

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