



PRESS RELEASE

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The National Development and Reform Commission Training Center (NDRCTC) of China, the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) and the ICMA Centre sign agreement to develop a new corporate finance qualification for the Chinese market.

(London, UK – Beijing, China) The National Development and Reform Commission Training Center (NDRCTC) of China, the International Capital Market Association (ICMA), and the ICMA Centre have announced that they have signed an agreement to develop a corporate finance training programme in China. ICMA and the ICMA Centre will cooperate with NDRCTC by providing technical assistance and academic support in developing training materials and international training standards for the Corporate Finance Certificate.

The training of corporate finance professionals is key to the development of the financial markets in China. Pilot courses are being held at different locations in China throughout 2010 with a full programme planned from 2011 onwards. ICMA and the ICMA Centre at the Henley Business School, University of Reading, will provide input on design of teaching materials, course content, teaching delivery and exams, and together with NDRCTC, certification for the courses, to ensure the highest levels of internationally accepted best practice.

Ping Du, the Researcher and Director of NDRCTC Training Center, welcoming the agreement said: "For many years, we paid close attention to the international capital market. As a result of the gradual opening up of the Chinese market, we have seen the globalisation process of the Chinese capital market move forward. This has underlined the growing need of Chinese enterprises to attract enough qualified specialists who have a deep understanding of international capital market regulations. ICMA and ICMA Centre are one of the most professional and most targeted partners worldwide and we believe that this cooperation will bring quality corporate finance training to Chinese enterprises. With the right training and expertise in hand, this will assist Chinese enterprises to also expand in the international market and further spur the growth of the Chinese economy, which will likewise create opportunities for international capital market participants."

Martin Scheck, ICMA's Chief Executive, said: "This cooperative arrangement is absolutely in line with ICMA's central objective of enhancing efficiency in the securities markets. The provision of appropriate financial education has for many years been an important component of our activities in conjunction with the ICMA Centre and cooperating with such an influential government sponsored body as NDRCTC in the rapidly expanding Chinese market provides a practical basis for the sharing of knowledge and expertise in China."

Professor John Board, Dean of Henley Business School and Director of the ICMA Centre, said: "I am delighted to be part of this unique agreement in which a prominent UK Business School, an international trade body and an influential Chinese training centre are combining to provide professional accreditation to a very important part of China's financial services industry. We very much look forward to working with NDRCTC to offer high quality training and professional certification in line with that already offered by ICMA and the ICMA Centre in Europe."

Notes for editors

National Development and Reform Commission Training Center (NDRCTC)

The NDRCTC was founded in 1983 as a specialized training organization directly affiliated to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China. The NDRC Training Center is responsible for delivering and managing education and providing various kinds of quality training and further education programs to the public. The Center works on the affairs of the Office of Leading Group for International Intellectual Resource Exchange and organizes associated training and seminars in cooperation with international institutions. See: www.tnet.gov.cn

International Capital Market Association

ICMA represents the financial institutions active in the international capital market worldwide. ICMA's members are located in 47 countries across the globe, including all the world's main financial centres. ICMA's market conventions and standards have been the pillars of the international debt market for over 40 years, providing framework of rules governing market practice which have facilitated the orderly functioning and growth of the market. ICMA actively promotes the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the capital markets by bringing together market participants including regulatory authorities and governments. See: www.icmagroup.org

ICMA Centre

Part of the triple accredited Henley Business School, the ICMA Centre was formed as the first active collaboration between the securities industry and a university finance department. Offering a range of undergraduate, postgraduate and executive education, as well as professional and policy development research and consultancy, the ICMA Centre's aim is to deliver the highest standard in financial markets focused teaching, learning and research. The ICMA Centre's unique integration of theory with practice is achieved through the use of the Centre's three state-of-the-art dealing rooms. All equipped by Thomson Reuters, the terminals run the latest industry simulation software as well as the Centre's own simulation software platform; ICTrader. See: www.icmacentre.ac.uk

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