

Rebuilding Investor Confidence: IOSCO and IFIE to Hold Major Investor Education Conference in March 2009

In the Wake of the Financial Crisis, Focus on Investor Education Is More Critical Than Ever; "Investor Education: Creating and Delivering Successful Programmes" Is Theme of the Event.

WASHINGTON, D.C. and MADRID, SPAIN//News Advisory//The International Forum for Investor Education (IFIE) and the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) are holding their second joint investor education conference 2-3 March 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Experts from the world's leading regulatory organizations, stock exchanges, and financial firms will provide attendees with the information needed to start or improve investor education within their countries and organizations, and allow them to share and learn from one another's experience. In the midst of the current market turmoil and global credit crunch, the role of investor educators is more important than in helping to rebuild consumer confidence in the markets.

The IFIE/IOSCO investor education conference will take place at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in downtown Washington near the National Mall, major museums and historic monuments. Attendance at the conference will be limited to 125 individuals and early registration is strongly encouraged.

Additional details -- including early-bird conference rates available through 2 February 2009 and the full conference program -- are available at the IFIE/IOSCO conference Web page at <http://ifie.org/2009conference>.

Confirmed speakers, moderators and panelists include: International Forum for Investor Education Chairman Services Steve Joachim; Securities and Exchange Commission Director of the Office of Investor Education and Advocacy Kristin Kaepplein; and British Columbia Securities Commission Director of Communications and Education Patricia Bowles. Please consult the IFIE/IOSCO conference Web page for further program-related updates.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Ailis Aaron Wolf, +1 (703) 276-3265 and aawolf@hastingsgroup.com.

IFIE and IOSCO held their first joint investor education conference in October 2007 in Madrid, Spain.

ABOUT THE GROUPS

Chartered in 2005, the International Forum for Investor Education (<http://www.ifie.org>) is a unique alliance that brings together private sector and public sector providers of investor education to improve the global standards for investor education. The Forum is accomplishing this objective by serving as a clearinghouse for the exchange of information between providers of investor education from different jurisdictions, including organizations that are just developing or planning to develop investor education programs. IFIE enables providers of investor education to learn about investment products and the investment process in the international financial market and about investor education programs in different parts of the world. In addition, IFIE encourages providers of investor education to remain current with trends in investor education by disseminating relevant research and other materials in membership meetings and via a dedicated Web site (<http://www.ifie.org>) and other channels.

IOSCO is recognized as the leading international policy forum for securities regulators. The organization's wide membership regulates more than 95% of the world's securities markets and IOSCO is the world's most important international cooperative forum for securities regulatory agencies. IOSCO members regulate more than one hundred jurisdictions and the Organization's membership is steadily growing.

IOSCO aims through its permanent structures:

- to cooperate together to promote high standards of regulation in order to maintain just, efficient and sound markets;
- to exchange information on their respective experiences in order to promote the development of domestic markets;
- to unite their efforts to establish standards and an effective surveillance of international securities transactions;
- to provide mutual assistance to promote the integrity of the markets by a rigorous application of the standards and by effective enforcement against offenses.

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