

Media Information

New FTSE4Good domestic index launched in Japan

Tokyo, 21 September 2004: FTSE Group, the global index company, today launches the ninth index in its successful FTSE4Good Series, FTSE4Good Japan. The new index will enable investors to identify Japanese companies within the FTSE Global Equity Index Series which meet a set of internationally supported standards of corporate social responsibility (CSR), including environmental, stakeholder and human rights standards.

FTSE Group is also strengthening its relationship with global children's charity UNICEF through local initiatives with the Japan Committee for UNICEF. FTSE has worked with UNICEF from 1997, contributing licensing revenue from the FTSE4Good series to be used for a range of UNICEF projects. The new FTSE4Good Japan index will also generate income that FTSE will contribute to the Japan Committee for UNICEF's projects.

The Japanese CSR specialists, Good Bankers, screens companies from within the Japan large and mid cap segments of the FTSE Global Equity Index Series, against the FTSE4Good criteria. Companies meeting the criteria will then be added to the FTSE4Good Japan Index. Currently, 166 Japanese businesses meet the criteria and are included in the index.

To ensure as many companies as possible can meet the criteria and be included in the index, FTSE Group operates an engagement programme, through which it works directly with companies to support and assist them to meet the criteria requirements.

The FTSE4Good Japan index has been created in response to strong market demand for a domestic SRI index, and FTSE expects investment products, based on the index, to be available soon.

Mark Makepeace, Chief Executive, FTSE Group said, "FTSE Group is committed to supporting institutions to meet standards of corporate social responsibility worldwide. There has been great effort from Japanese business to meet the FTSE4Good criteria, which has led to the creation of a new domestic Japan index within the series."

Ken Hayami, Secretary General for the Japan Committee for UNICEF said, "With the introduction of FTSE4Good Japan, FTSE is advancing the debate on socially responsible investment within the Japanese business community and encouraging good corporate practice. We all know that the community already plays a positive role in dealing with global environment and human rights related problems. To make the world fit for children, who are the future of our world, we still need to address scores of other issues like basic education, nutrition, health and the protection of children from exploitation and violence. UNICEF encourages Japanese business to play its part, alongside government and NGOs in building a world fit for all children to live in."

More information about FTSE4Good Japan, including companies included in the index, and details of FTSE's engagement programme at www.ftse.com/ftse4good.

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Notes to Editors

About FTSE Group

FTSE Group is a world-leader in the creation and management of indices. With offices in London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Madrid, Paris, New York, San Francisco and Tokyo, FTSE Group services clients in 77 countries worldwide. It calculates and manages the FTSE Global Equity Index series, which includes world-recognised indices ranging from the FTSE All-World Index, the FTSE4Good series and the recently launched Global Small Cap Index Series, as well as domestic indices such as the prestigious FTSE 100. The company has collaborative arrangements with the AMEX, Athens, Cyprus, Euronext, Johannesburg, London, Luxembourg, and Madrid exchanges, as well as with Nikkei of Japan (Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc), and Xinhua Financial Network of China. FTSE recently signed an agreement with Dow Jones Indexes to develop a single classification system for global investors, named the Industry Classification benchmark (ICB).

FTSE indices are used extensively by investors world-wide for investment analysis, performance measurement, asset allocation, portfolio hedging and for creating a wide range of index tracking funds. Independent committees of senior fund managers, derivatives experts, actuaries and other experienced practitioners review all changes to the indices to ensure that they are made objectively and without bias. Real-time FTSE indices are calculated on systems managed by Reuters. Prices and FX rates used are supplied by Reuters.

About FTSE4Good Index Series

FTSE4Good is an innovative series of real-time indices designed to reflect the performance of socially responsible equities. The series, created and managed by global index provider FTSE Group, covers four markets: UK, Europe, US and Global. Four tradable and four benchmark indices make up the FTSE4Good index series. A committee of independent practitioners in socially responsible investment, (SRI) and corporate social responsibility (CSR) review the indices to ensure that they are an accurate reflection of current CSR best practice.

FTSE Group contributes income including licence fees for FTSE4Good to UNICEF, the global charity.