

100 climate change leading organisations

The 2006 *Corporate Governance and Climate Change: Making the Connection* report, commissioned by the Ceres organisation from the Investor Responsibility Research Center, presents the findings of how 100 leading global companies (76 US and 24 non-US) are preparing and positioning themselves to face the challenges of climate change.

The research makes motivating reading for anyone contemplating how Asia Pacific organisations must adapt to climate change and carbon risk factors.

The companies were selected from the ten most carbon-intensive industry categories in the US:

- Electric power (19 companies)
- Oil and gas (20 companies)
- Automotive (8 companies)

- Chemicals (10 companies)
- Industrial equipment (8 companies)
- Metals and mining (10 companies)
- Coal (5 companies)
- Food products (8 companies)
- Forest products (5 companies)
- Air transport (7 companies)

The report uses a 14-step, 100-point 'Climate Change Governance Checklist' to measure and rank the performance of each company in the areas of board oversight, management performance, public disclosure, emissions accounting and strategic planning.

In general, the non-US companies performed better than the US companies. Oil and gas company BP ranked the highest of all 100 companies, while chemical company DuPont ranked second overall



and highest of the US companies.

The report also includes a useful two- to three-page case profile on each organisation.

2006 Corporate Governance and Climate Change: Making the Connection

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Ceres, USA

2006, Online report (open access)

www.ceres.org/pub/publication.php?pid=84

Long-term prosperity needs 'resilience'

Current approaches to sustainable natural resource management are failing us, according to *Resilience Thinking*, a new book by CSIRO scientist Brian Walker and science writer David Salt.

Dr Walker, an international leader in the field of resilience research and one of Australia's most highly published ecologists, calls for land managers and planners to drastically change their approach to the way our landscapes and natural resources are managed.

According to Dr Walker, the key to sustainability lies in enhancing the resilience of communities, not in optimising isolated parts of the system.

The book argues that local communities are better able to withstand various cycles of change if they know more about the ecological drivers of their region, embrace rather than control the processes of natural change, and are empowered to make their own decisions about appropriate local developments.

Dr Walker says land managers and planners need to look beyond control, intensification and greater efficiency for sustainability solutions.

'Increasingly, cracks are appearing in the capacity of communities, ecosystems and landscapes to provide the goods and

services that sustain our planet's well-being,' Dr Walker says.

'Resilience explains why greater efficiency by itself cannot solve resource problems, and offers a constructive alternative that opens up options.'

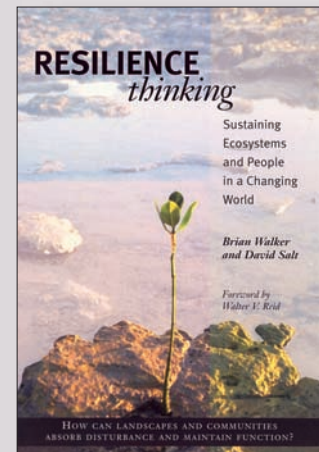
Resilience Thinking is an accessible introduction to the emerging paradigm of resilience – the ability of a system to absorb change and still retain its basic function and structure.

Dr Walker says that while the world's human population doubled between 1960 and 2000, an alarming toll is being taken on the global resource base required to feed, clothe and house a growing population.

'To meet this demand, food production increased by two-and-a-half times, water use doubled, wood harvests tripled,' Dr Walker says. 'Global grain production will need to increase by 40 per cent to meet demand in 2020.'

'We live in a time of growing population coupled with declining resource bases and uncertainty about a range of environmental issues, including climate change. How can we make the systems that we depend upon resilient?'

Resilience Thinking looks at five case studies of changing structures or



ecosystems – The Everglades in Florida, the Goulburn-Broken Catchment, the coral reefs of the Caribbean, the Northern Highland Lakes District of Wisconsin and Sweden's Kristianstad Water Vattenrike.

Resilience Thinking

Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World

Brian Walker and David Salt

Island Press, USA

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