

## Media release

Hong Kong, 17 November 2009

### Three sets of awards in three weeks:

Sarasin named “Best Research House/Consultant in Environmental Social Governance” and provider of “Germany’s most sustainable financial services”

Plus “Best Private Bank” for Portfolio Management and Innovation

Bank Sarasin has received its third set of awards in as many weeks having just been named “Best Research House/Consultant” by Investment & Pensions Europe (IPE) magazine – the premier industry magazine for pension fund managers in Europe - TBLI Group. This prestigious Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Leaders Award, announced on 13 November, pays tribute to Sarasin’s outstanding achievements in integrating environmental, social and governance principles with its investment research and advisory processes. In a similar commendation, on 6 November Bank Sarasin won the category “Germany’s most sustainable financial services” at the “German Sustainability Award 2009”. The jury picked Bank Sarasin from a field of 300 companies as the financial service provider that implements sustainability management in the most exemplary fashion.

#### Excerpt from the IPE/TBLI Group ESG Leaders Awards Report 2009:

“Bank Sarasin has long been at the forefront of the socially responsible investment world. Its entire governance rests on SRI and ESG principles and this has seen it grow into one of the most respected dedicated SRI ESG financial services companies in the world. A bank it may be, but pension schemes can use it for a whole myriad of services and solutions: from consultancy and advisory to asset management, investment solutions and investment funds. It is also a leading SRI and ESG research and support group.”

#### Burkhard P. Varnholt, Head of the Asset Management, Products & Sales Division and Chief Investment Officer of the Sarasin Group:

“Twenty years ago, Sarasin understood the importance of environmental, social and governance principles. It is inspiring to see Sarasin being repeatedly and internationally recognised for its unique sustainable investment offering for private and institutional clients across the globe.”

“Our victory in the category “Germany’s most sustainable financial services” strengthens our belief in the effectiveness of our approach, as does the growing number of investors who have recognised the added value that sustainable investment can provide. Bank Sarasin is not only committed to sustainability as a linchpin of its corporate philosophy, but recognised the significance of sustainable investments as long as 20 years ago.”

#### Extract from the German Sustainability Award 2009 jury’s verdict on Bank Sarasin:

“Bank Sarasin has shifted the focus of its business activity to sustainable investment. One particularly commendable trait is the extremely detailed analytical selection process used to screen its sustainable financial products. . . . In addition to its extensive activities in its core business, Bank Sarasin’s consistent internal focus on sustainability is very impressive. . . . Bank Sarasin is one of the pioneers offering sustainable investment products.”

This was only the second year the German Sustainability Award was held, which enjoys the patronage of the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel. The award recognises companies which successfully integrate commercial success with social responsibility and environmental protection, and that employ sustainable business practices to achieve future growth. The focus is consistent sustainability management and sustainability themes when promoting the brand.

An online questionnaire was conducted to establish the extent to which all (or some) of the company’s products and services incorporate environmental, economic and social sustainability factors. The way in which sustainability influences brand management was also investigated. The jury of experts then reached a verdict regarding the winners.

### **Three sets of awards in three weeks**

The awards comes shortly after Sarasin’s acknowledgment on 28 October as the “Best Private Bank for Portfolio Management” and “Best Private Bank for Innovation” by The Banker and Professional Wealth Management – both leading magazines in the private banking industry. Together with the award for “Best Research House/Consultant in ESG”, Sarasin has now received these prestigious accolades that recognise the banks achievements in the area of sustainability with regard to its private and institutional investors.

### **About Investment & Pensions Europe (IPE), TBLI Group and the ESG Leaders Awards**

IPE is the leading monthly magazine for pension fund managers in Europe. TBLI Group seeks to raise awareness in the financial sector of the benefits of sustainable investment by offering consulting services to businesses as well as investors on the one hand and by organizing the TBLI Conference, the leading annual ESG networking and learning event in Europe, on the other hand. IPE and TBLI GROUP established a short-list for each award category based on nominations. From this short-list, the winner of each award category was chosen by the readers of IPE to ensure an impartial selection process that is based on concrete expertise and experience. The ESG Leaders Awards honour institutional investors and service providers alike for performance, transparency and innovation within the ESG area.

### **For more information please contact:**

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### **Sarasin – [www.sarasin.com](http://www.sarasin.com)**

The Sarasin Group has its roots as a leading Swiss private bank. As an international financial service provider committed to sustainability, the Group is now represented in more than 20 locations in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. By end of June 2009 it managed total client assets of CHF 79.9 billion and employed around 1,500 staff. Its majority shareholder is the AAA-rated Dutch Rabobank.

### **Sarasin Rabo Investment Management Limited – [www.sarasin.hk](http://www.sarasin.hk)**

Incorporated in Hong Kong, Sarasin Rabo Investment Management Limited (“Sarasin Rabo”) is a subsidiary of Bank Sarasin and a licensed corporation regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission. Sarasin Rabo’s core business includes the provision of investment advisory and wealth management services for both private and institutional clients.