

Debt Ratings Agencies: Their Role in the Global Debt Capital Markets – Past, Present and Future



February 29, 2012
8:00 am – 12:30 pm
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Debt ratings agencies are instrumental to the debt capital markets. Firms such as S&P, Moody's and Egan Jones commit considerable resources assessing the creditworthiness of borrowers, enabling investors and lenders to make, hopefully, informed credit decisions.

However, with the onset of the global financial crisis, there are many questions. Does the present debt rating system actually work? Is it proactive, or reactive? How was the present system created? Are there conflicts of interest? What impact does "politics" have with respect to rating determinations? Most importantly, does the present system and process serve investors adequately by providing independent information?

Please join us on February 29th at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia as we address these questions.

Jim Allen of CFA Institute will lead a panel discussion in which **John Carbone** of Vanguard, **Natalie Cohen** of Wells Fargo and **Peter Demirali** of Cumberland Advisors will share their views on the present ratings systems as it relates to money market funds, municipal securities, corporate debt securities and asset backed securities.

David Kotok of Cumberland Advisors will lead a panel discussion in which **Mark Adelson** of S&P, **Jim Nadler** of Kroll Bond Ratings, and **Bill Hassiepen** of Egan Jones Ratings Services will compare and contrast "issuer paid research" and "investor paid research". The essence of this conversation relates to the truly independent nature of rating agency research.

Norbert Gaillard, author of the book "A Century of Sovereign Ratings" will provide insight on sovereign debt ratings, an extremely relevant topic following the August 2011 downgrade of the US Treasury by S&P and the present European financial crisis.

Peter Kerstens will represent global investors' assessment of US ratings agencies.

Catherine Mann, Barbara '54 and Richard M. Rosenberg Professor of Global Finance International Business School, Brandeis University and Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, will present the keynote on "*The evolution of Credit Default Swaps and their relevance for the debt capital markets going forward.*"

We wish to thank the CFA Society of Philadelphia for joining the GIC in hosting this conference.

The mission of this conference is to provide knowledge for our guests, thus enabling them to better understand the debt ratings process and, as a result, be able to more fully serve their clients and constituents.

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After the event, **Norbert Gaillard** will be signing copies of his book, "**A Century of Sovereign Ratings.**"

Registration:

GIC Members/CFA Members \$50
Members \$75

Register online at:

<http://www.interdependence.org/programs/debt-rating-agencies%E2%80%99-role-in-the-global-debt-capital-markets-past-present-future/>