

Introduction

Perhaps the most difficult and perplexing year in finance, at least for our generation, has entered the history books. I hope you all found ways to relax, keep positive and also make some good investment returns throughout the roller coaster ride that was 2009.

I wish one could expect 2010 to be a little more predictable, a little more boring ...but I doubt that is going to happen. If you believe Marc Faber, who spoke at our last Speaker Series of the year in December, 2010 could well be the start of what some call The Long Emergency. Out of control money supply growth, hyper inflation and shortages in food, commodities and other basics of life leading to a vast reordering of the world as we know it.

Who knows? But what we do know is that the world never just ends and despite whatever doom and gloom scenarios may play out, there will be a role for diligent and smart investment professionals to do well for their clients. Professionals who fit the description of the typical CFA charter holder, I might add!

And that is where SFAM comes in. What better way to fully participate and emerge yourself in successfully navigating the murkiest investment waters? Most of us have always thought the stress of the CFA exams was one of our career's toughest challenges. Wrong. It's the real world stress of managing to keep your client's portfolios safe this past year and the next few years. Your fellow SFAM members are a great sounding board of peers who truly understand the demands on investment pros in these troubled times.

And the great news is that SFAM membership growth is really picking up and there are more of us than ever now. See inside for details and we do hope to see you soon at one of our next events. With SFAM, your investment portfolio will never walk alone!

Sincerely,

James Benoit, CFA
President, SFAM

Inside this issue

Members & Candidates Updates....	2
The feeling of a new Charter Holder	3
Dr Marc Faber's event & Charter Ceremony Event.....	4
CFA Program & CFA Charter receive Master's level recognition.....	6

Contact Details

James Benoit, CFA
President
james.benoit@afasiabank.com

Imrith Ramtohol, CFA
Vice-President
iramtohol@mauritiunion.com

James Leung Yin Kow, CFA
Secretary
james.leung@mcbcm.mu

Mehzabine Pirbhai, CFA
Assistant Secretary
mehzabine.pirbhai@mcb.co.mu

Deepa Jhamna, CFA
Treasurer
djamna@yahoo.com

Craig Downes, CFA
Assistant Treasurer
craig.downes@multiconsult.mu

Randhir Mannick, CFA
General MC Member
randhir.mannick@rogers.mu

Prem Beejan
Advocacy Chair
prem@beejan.com

Upcoming Events

Just so you can plan, we have a nice roster of events on tap for the next few months. Details as always will be sent out well in advance, but check these out.

☞ CFA Course Curriculum donation event in February. Trying to organize a very important recipient for this year's donation and you will be invited. Watch for more details soon.

☞ A half/three quarter day interactive training session on the soon to be launched currency and commodities exchange in Mauritius. This will be an official CFA Continuing Education event in association with two key partners. Expected date is March.

☞ Speaker Series in April. How we will top Dr Faber is not yet clear, but surely we must.

☞ Corporate Member Program – 2010 Edition

SFAM enjoyed excellent support from three Corporate members during 2010, whose names are in banners scattered throughout this E-letter. We are now seeking to renew our support from them and add additional Corporate Members for our 2010 Calendar Year of activities. If you think your company would be interested to Sponsor SFAM during the year, please have them get in touch with James Benoit, President at his contact details on the cover page.

Members and Candidate Updates

At the end of December 2009, SFAM had 30 members with 26 Regular and 4 Affiliate, up from the count of 22 at financial year end of 30 June 2009. We also note that 6 more membership applications are pending for final approval. Finally, we have an additional 7 potential applications that have specifically advised of their intention to apply and another 3 that have expressed their strong desire to apply!

So we are still on target for the headcount of 36 in the next few weeks and with 10 more in the pipeline a total of 46 members is in sight. We continue to close in swiftly on the target of 50 set by CFA Institute to reach by June 2010.

Here are some of the great benefits of membership (CFA Institute & SFAM) and won't you please share the message with your colleagues and associates:

☞ **Lifelong learning resources:** printed editions of *Financial Analysts Journal* & *CFA Magazine*, webcasts and podcasts of world class speakers and conference proceedings

☞ **Continuing education:** track, record and tailor efforts to be updated on latest issues & trends

☞ **Career resources:** JobLine to search free for jobs around the world posted by top employers, Career Centre to get personalised advice, tools, and coaching to hone your job search

☞ **Exclusive news & networking:** financial newsbrief to get a daily summary of global news for the investment industry and member directory of nearly 100,000 members, meet investment professionals during speaker series organised locally by SFAM

☞ **Volunteering:** serve on the local society, grading CFA exams / curriculum development, write summaries for *CFA Digest*

All these benefits come for an annual cost of only US\$265, \$225 for CFA Institute and \$40 for SFAM.

If you are not yet a member of SFAM & CFA Institute, or you know someone who would be interested in joining us, please contact either myself, Mehz Pirbhai (mehzabine.pirbhai@mcb.co.mu) for further information and in my absence Mr James Leung, Secretary (james.leung@mcbcm.mu).

Mehzabine Pirbhai
Membership Chair

The feeling of a new Charter Holder..

Is it Exhilaration? Excitement? Pride? Sense of Achievement? I can't find just one word to describe the way I feel holding this huge piece of paper awarding my Charter, but it is surely a mix of all these feelings! At the SFAM event, one question that I have been asked several times by candidates and interested parties – is it really that tough? I do not wish to mislead anyone and to be honest, yes it is very tough...but very achievable too. I will also add that holding the Charter in my hands made me feel that all the hard work, effort, time, frustration, sacrifice have been so well worth it. Added to that the recognition and kind words by those present and/or among our peers, it feels simply...perfect!

Thus, to all of you who have started the exams, to all of you having reached and struggling at the different levels, to all of you going through the books and thinking this is way too much, to all of you feeling the frustration of giving up so much of personal life and not getting the expected results...my message is don't give up. Many times I have felt that I should never have started the exams in the first place, too much time and hard work involved...but right now, if it was to be done again I would do it all over without hesitation.

I am also a new member of SFAM...one who almost completed her application 2 years back but didn't know any local CFA Charter Holder to sponsor me thus delaying my application! After my results came out, I had to find someone and contacted one SFAM Committee member...the rest unfolded briefly – fast and efficient. In just a few days, my application was completed, processed and I became a member of CFAI and SFAM. I also realized that I have missed out a lot by not being a member previously – scholarships are awarded by SFAM to sponsor the exams fees, CFAI provides us with extensive resources/articles/newsletters, without forgetting the networking with local financial players. The past couple of months as SFAM member and also member of the MC have been very eventful and exciting. I can't wait to see what next year holds...



By Mehz Pirbai

CFA Charter Holder

MCB Account Executive

SFAM Management Committee Member

Editor's Note: *We definitely know you now, Mehz! We will never let keen young SFAM members like you out of our sights!*

Dr Marc Faber event & Charter Ceremony

Dr Marc Faber spoke to SFAM members and the public on the current state of the global financial markets. Over 100 people heard him speak at Maritim Hotel on **“Could Expansionary Monetary Policies and Large Deficits Lead to High Inflation Rates?”**

Mr. Milan Meetarbhan, Chief Executive of the FSC, opened the evening event and expressed his support for SFAM in its mission to promote strong ethics and public trust in financial markets. He also noted that all regulators across the globe are increasingly focused on macro-economic matters these days, in addition to the core activities of regulating individual firms in the markets.

James Benoit, President of SFAM, introduced Dr Faber who is known globally as the Publisher of the Gloom, Boom and Doom report

[www.gloomboomdoom.com]. At the end of Dr Faber’s presentation, Benoit noted that Faber viewed the current financial crisis as resulting directly from many misguided policies and actions of many banks, economists and regulators, primarily in the so-called developed countries.



Dr Faber’s comments can be summarized as below:-

- ▮ The current synchronized global economic boom and the universal asset bubble, which lasted between 2002 and 2007, has led to a colossal bust.
- ▮ The wealth destruction arising from falling asset prices is unprecedented post Second World War.
- ▮ Expansionary monetary policies, which caused the current credit crisis, are the wrong medicine to solve the current problems. But, what options does the Fed have with a total credit market debt to GDP of 375%?
- ▮ Central bankers have become hostage to inflated asset markets! Will tight money - whenever necessary - be implemented again?
- ▮ A short-lived “crack-up” boom, driven by expansionary fiscal and monetary policies, is a possibility. How sustainable will it be?
- ▮ The current crisis has failed to clean up the system, and policy responses are the same as those applied post 2001.

Dr Marc Faber event & Charter Ceremony (Cntd')

But the end of the world is not yet in sight. He encouraged investors to look into the following themes to protect their financial security.

Real Estate in Emerging Economies	Avoid real estate in financial sectors
Equities in Asia	Major lows were established in October/November 2008
Healthcare in Asia	Pharmaceutical, hospital management companies will benefit from an ageing population
Local Brands	Will displace some international brands
Commodities	Volatile, but uptrend intact. Corrections of 50% are common
Tourism	Hotels, casinos, airports, beach resorts. Potential problem is oversupply
Financial Services	Banks, insurance companies, brokers, REITs in emerging economies
Infrastructure	Bottlenecks everywhere. Potential problem could be cancellations
Plantations & Farmland	Indonesia, Malaysia, Latin America, Ukraine
Japan	Very depressed, banks look interesting
New Regions	Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Mongolia
Gold and Silver	Long
U.S. TBonds	Short
Corporate Bonds	Long
Multinational Corporations	Highest quality companies will gain market share during next economic recovery

Dr Faber's end word was oriented towards the US government bond.

"Buy a 30 year US government bond, frame it, put it on your wall and see if has any value in 30 years from now. Some important investment lessons may finally be learned" he concluded. His thought provoking presentation was well appreciated by all present.



Attila Koksai, CFA Institute, EMEA, PCR on right applauds new Charter Holders and also acknowledges passing Level 3 exam .

On the same evening, SFAM held a gala Charter Ceremony for its new charter holders. Special guest, Attila Koksai, CFA Institute EMEA PCR presided over the ceremony. Many leading regional fund managers and other employers attended along with the Chief Executives of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius and the Financial Services Commission, thus giving the Society and the Charter, new found profile and recognition in Mauritius.



Mehz Pirbhaj, SFAM Management Committee Member and Account Executive, The Mauritius Commercial Bank presents Thank You gift to Dr Marc Faber. SFAM President, James Benoit in the middle along with Imrith Ramto-hul, Vice President

The CFA Program and CFA Charter Receive Master’s Level Recognition in the United Kingdom

London, November 12, 2009 – The CFA Program and CFA charter, the globally recognized investment management qualification and designation administered by CFA Institute, has been benchmarked as comparable to a master’s degree in finance within the [English Qualification and Credit Framework](#) (QCF) by the National Recognition Information Centre (UK NARIC), the UK National Agency responsible for providing information, advice and expert opinion on vocational, academic and professional skills and qualifications.

The analysis by UK NARIC provides an independent benchmarking of Levels I, II, and III of the CFA Program and CFA charter, against levels within the QCF. The outcome is that completing the CFA Program and meeting the criteria necessary to be awarded the CFA charter makes it comparable under the QCF to master’s qualifications in finance.

Commenting for CFA Institute, Nitin Mehta, managing director, EMEA, said, “The benefit of this benchmark is that employers, practitioners, educational institutions, regulators, and the UK National Border Agency will be able to compare the levels of the CFA Program against the English Qualification and Credit framework. This provides an easily understood comparison against other qualifications and demonstrates to employers and investors the exacting standards needed to become a CFA charterholder.”

Commenting for NARIC, Dr. Cloud Bai Yun, head of UK NARIC said, “Benchmarking the CFA Program and charter has proved to be a valuable exercise for both UK NARIC and CFA Institute. The study has not only furthered NARIC’s understanding of their professional qualifications in finance, but also enabled the Institute to benefit from NARIC’s extended international networks to market its provisions more widely and most effectively.

About CFA Institute

CFA Institute is the global association for investment professionals. It administers the CFA and CIPM curriculum and exam programs worldwide; publishes research; conducts professional development programs; and sets voluntary, ethics-based professional and performance-reporting standards for the investment industry. CFA Institute has nearly 100,000 members, who include the world’s 89,220 CFA charterholders, as well as 136 affiliated professional societies in 57 countries and territories. There are currently 105 [CFA Program Partners](#) in the world.

About UK NARIC

The National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC), is the National Agency providing the only official source of comparison information and advice on international education and training systems and overseas skills and qualifications. It is part of a wider network of information centers (ENICs) across Europe, including also Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the USA. Its services help individuals and organizations to understand qualifications and skills from across the globe, enabling pursuit of employment and education opportunities in the United Kingdom. More information may be found at www.naric.org.uk.

**The CFA Institute Code of Ethics –
(Always worth repeating)**

I will:

*Act with integrity, competence,
diligence and respect,
and in an ethical manner with the
public, clients, prospective clients,
employers, employees, colleagues
in the investment profession and
other participants in the global
capital markets.*

*Place the integrity of the
investment profession and
interests of clients above my own
personal interests.*

*Use reasonable care and exercise
independent professional
judgement when conducting
investment analysis, making
investment recommendations,
taking investment actions, and
engaging in other professional
activities.*

*Practice and encourage others to
practice in a professional and
ethical manner that will reflect
credit on ourselves and the pro-
fession.*

*Promote the integrity of, and
uphold the rules governing, capital
markets.*

*Maintain and improve my
professional competence and strive
to maintain and improve the com-
petence of other investment
professionals.*

The Management Committee office-bearers 2010

James Benoit, CFA PRESIDENT



James was a co-founder of the SFAM in 1999 prior to SFAM becoming a full society in 2002 under the leadership of Sanjay Jagatsingh. He serves in the role of President in 2009. He is a CFA Charterholder since 1996 and has been a member of CFA Institute societies in Hong Kong and the Philippines as well.

James is CEO and Executive Director of AfrAsia Bank Limited. He was previously an international management executive for 20 years with HSBC Group internationally.

Imrith Ramtohum, FCCA, CFA VICE-PRESIDENT



Imrith Ramtohum joined SFAM in 2006 and previously held the position of Assistant Treasurer (2007) and Treasurer (2008). He was appointed as Vice-President of the Society in 2009 and is also presently the Awareness/Programming Chair

Imrith is a CFA Charterholder and a Fellow Member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants UK. He also holds a Bachelor of Business Science (Honours) degree from the University of Cape Town. He is currently Head of Investment at Mauritius Union Assurance. Imrith has more than 10 years experience in the financial services sector both in Mauritius and abroad.

James Leung Yin Kow, CFA SECRETARY



James was the founding treasurer of SFAM from 2001-2005. Within the SFAM, he was President (2007) and VP (2008). He is a CFA charterholder since 2000.

James has a Honours Bachelor of Commerce from McMaster University, Canada in 1993 as well as a Master of Arts in Economics from York University, Canada in 1994. He was a stockbroker at Newton Securities from 1995 to 1998 before joining MCBIM in his current position of Fund Manager.

SFA Mauritius - Contact Details

James Leung Yin Kow, CFA
Fund Manager
MCB Investment Management
Level 6, Travel House
Sir William Newton street
Port Louis
Mauritius

Phone - Direct:
+230 202 5516
Phone - Operator:
+230 202 5515

Fax:
+230 210 5260

E-mail:
james.leung@mcbcm.mu

Web:
www.membersocieties.org/mauritius



*"Leading the development
of the Investment Profession
in Mauritius"*



www.membersocieties.org/mauritius

The Management Committee office-bearers 2010

Mehzabine Pirbhai, CFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY



Mehz qualified as a CFA Charterholder and joined SFAM in 2009 as Assistant Secretary. She has a Bachelor of Business Science (Finance) and Honours in Financial Management from the University of Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. She presently holds

the Membership Chair.

Mehz has been in the banking sector for over 9 years, her experience being geared towards Treasury, Corporate Banking and International Project Finance. She is currently handling a large portfolio of clients operating in various industries as part of her relationship management duties within the International Division of the MCB Ltd.

Deepa Jhamna, CFA TREASURER



Deepa joined the SFAM in 2006 and acted as Secretary for two consecutive years prior to taking up the position of Treasurer in 2008.

Deepa graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Economics & Finance) from the University of Melbourne in 2000, and qualified as a CFA charterholder in 2004. She held several managerial positions at Ernst & Young Mauritius & PricewaterhouseCoopers before recently joining the Indian Ocean Real Estate Company Ltd, a newly incorporated joint venture between Groupe Mon Loisir and Actis, as Investment Principal.

Craig Downes, CFA ASSISTANT TREASURER



Craig is a charterholder since 2008 and joined SFAM later the same year. He is also a member of the CFA society in South Africa.

Craig graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Bachelor of Business Science in the special field of Finance. Currently he holds the role of Chief Operating Officer and Director of Multiconsult Limited, a company providing professional services to offshore companies and funds in Mauritius. He is also a director of Cim Asset Management. Previously he worked in private banking and fund administration.

Randhir Mannick, CFA GENERAL MC MEMBER



Randhir has been a member of the Society of Financial Analysts of Mauritius (SFAM) since the launch. He has occupied different posts in the past including President, Treasurer and Secretary and is presently the Education and Scholarship Committee Chair.

He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation, an Master of Business Administration and a BA Honours in Economics. He has more than eleven year experience in the investment industry and has been appointed as Manager – Corporate Finance at the Rogers & Co Ltd since August 2007.