Date: March 18th 2012

Press Release

Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment joins ACIIA

The Association of Certified International Investment Analysts, ACIIA®, is pleased to announce that the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) has become a Member of ACIIA®.

CISI membership of ACIIA® is an important step forward in the promotion of ACIIA® and its internationally recognized qualification, the Certified International Investment Analyst (CIIA®) in the English speaking world.

Since its inauguration, ACIIA® membership has grown to thirty six associations worldwide. The members are spread throughout Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Europe and the Middle East and encompass a wide variety of languages, cultures and business customs.

Mr. Fritz H. Rau, Chairman of the ACIIA said: "The ACIIA® fully supports the further development and promotion of the CIIA® within the UK, and we look forward to a long and prosperous cooperation with the CISI in the interests of investment professionals worldwide."

The CISI is the largest and most widely respected professional body for those who work in the securities and investment industry in the UK and in a growing number of major financial centres worldwide. Evolved from the London Stock Exchange it now has more than 40,000 members in 89 countries. In the past year it set almost 40,000 examinations in over 79 countries, covering a range of vocational qualifications.

Ruth Martin, CISI Managing Director said: "We are very pleased to be joining the ACIIA® at this time and its approach to qualifications recognises the importance of local as well as global relevance. We look forward to working with them to further enhance professionalism and competence globally in the area of securities and investment."

Ends

Notes to Editors

For future information on CISI contact Lora Benson, Head of Media, London, UK Tel: +44 20 7645 0662/+44 7801 521034 or lora.benson@cisi.org or for information on ACIIA contact Fiona Tween, Secretary General, Switzerland, Tel: +41 44 872 3551 or tween@aciia.org

ACIIA®

Established in 2000, the Association of Certified International Investment Analysts ACIIA® is the international umbrella organisation for national and regional associations of investment professionals representing over 60,000 analysts, investment advisors and asset managers worldwide. Its role is to provide a flexible, internationally recognised qualification — Certified International Investment Analyst CIIA® — which examines candidates at a high standard and in a practical fashion in the global areas that are necessary to pursue a career in the investment profession, and also in the local topic areas of their respective home markets. The examinations are offered in 11 languages through ACIIA member societies.

Achieving the CIIA® genuinely signifies that the holder has the essential skills and knowledge required for professionals working across the major financial centres in the world. The qualification is technically rigorous and has academic creditability. It has been developed under the umbrella of the world's best and most experienced financial market experts.

<u>CISI</u>

The CISI's mission is to help members attain, maintain and develop their knowledge and skills and to promote the highest standards of ethics and integrity in the securities and investment industry. With representative offices in financial centres such as Dublin, Singapore, Dubai, Mumbai and Colombo the CISI works in close cooperation with regulators, firms and other professional bodies worldwide.