



GLOBAL INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (GIPS®)

GIPS COUNTRY SPONSOR COMMUNIQUE

MESSAGE FROM CARL BACON, CIPM GIPS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

There is quite a bit of activity and excitement surrounding the 30th anniversary of the GIPS standards. Recent GIPS Newsletters have featured bits about GIPS history and we will be having a celebration at the upcoming Annual GIPS Conference in San Diego on 14–15 September 2017. As you know, each GIPS Country Sponsor has been invited to participate the conference and the workshop the day before and offered complimentary registration for both events as well as reimbursement of 75% of travel and hotel costs associated with their trip to San Diego. There will also be a celebration dinner on Wednesday 13 September to honor all GIPS volunteers. We hope to welcome a representative from each of the 41 GIPS-endorsed Country Sponsors.

The comment period for the GIPS 2020 Consultation Paper closed on 16 July and more than 60 comment letters were submitted, and I am very pleased that 16 of those were submitted by GIPS Country Sponsors. It is important to receive industry perspective and valued feedback from you, our local partners. Over the coming weeks, each of the comment letters will be reviewed, analyzed, shared, and discussed with the GIPS Technical and Executive Committees, and an Exposure Draft of GIPS 2020 will then be created.

As part of the GIPS 20/20 project and to broaden the applicability of the GIPS standards to make them relevant across all security products/classes, we will need volunteers with expertise in private equity, real estate, overlay, hedge funds, pooled funds, commodities, illiquid securities, infrastructure, and alternative investment structures. If you are willing to share your expertise in developing “Pillar 2” (one to many) of GIPS 2020, please visit the [GIPS Volunteer Page](#) and submit your information.

In closing, it is with gratitude that I acknowledge the significant contributions of four dedicated volunteers who will be rotating off our committees on 1 September. From the GIPS Executive Committee, we appreciate the many years of service contributed by Trevor Persuad and Mohammad Shoaib, CFA. Their vision and leadership will be missed. Rotating off from the GIPS Technical Committee are Sunette Mulder, and her many years of steady guidance, and Stephen Xiadong Zhu, CIPM, who served as Asia-Pacific Regional Technical Subcommittee chair and AP representative on the GIPS Technical Committee.

Looking forward to greeting you in San Diego,
Carl

NEWS...LATEST UPDATES

- CFA Institute Board of Governors approved Justin Guthrie, CFA, (USA) and Drew Vaughan (Australia) as incoming members of the GIPS Executive Committee and Yoh Kuwabara (Japan) as the incoming GIPS Technical Committee member. Additionally, Asia-Pacific Country Sponsors elected Wee Tian Sing, CFA (Singapore) to serve as the Asia Pacific Regional Technical Committee chair and member of the GIPS Technical Committee. All four terms begin effective 1 September 2017.
 - View the [GIPS 20/20 Consultation Paper and Project interview](#). Paul Glenn, a member of the United States GIPS Country Sponsor (USIPC) interviews Jonathan Boersma, CFA, GIPS Executive Director, about the concept, process, and next steps in developing GIPS 2020.
 - Please register for the [Asset Owner Guidance Statement webinar](#) on Thursday 17 August at 12:00 p.m. EDT. This webinar will discuss the changes made in the final revised Guidance Statement on the Application of the GIPS Standards to Asset Owners, which will be released in mid-August.
 - Please submit your comments on the [Exposure Draft of GIPS Guidance Statement on Risk](#) that will be available for comment until 26 September 2017.
 - The [Exposure Draft of GIPS Guidance Statement on Verifier Independent](#) was released for public comment on 28 July. Please provide your feedback no later than 26 October 2017.
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COUNTRY SPONSOR FEATURE:

Trevor Persaud — Singapore Country Sponsor Representative and GIPS Executive Committee Member

Mr. Persaud is head of Insurance coverage at Standard Chartered Bank (SCB). Trevor joined SCB from Stradegi, a specialist management consultancy focused on asset management and insurance, where he was a managing partner. Prior to Stradegi, Trevor was the CEO of Russell Investments in Singapore and responsible for its business in ASEAN, Hong Kong, and Taiwan focused on multi-asset outcome oriented investments, strategic and tactical asset allocation, and investment governance advisory for asset owners, and insurance companies. Trevor started his career in London with Schroders, where he was responsible for building and managing their global Investment risk and performance function, before developing the MSCI Hedge Fund Index at Morgan Stanley and then managing the investment performance function of Insight Investment. Trevor relocated to Singapore from the United Kingdom in 2007 to become Head of Investment Risk Oversight and Investment Performance at Prudential Asset Management in Asia before joining Russell. Trevor is a Chartered Management Accountant, has been conferred the Distinguished Fellow designation by the Institute of Banking and Finance in Singapore, and is a past Chair of the GIPS Executive Committee. Trevor is also an adviser to the Investment Management Association of Singapore and is actively involved in industry efforts to promote and further best practices and transparency in investment management.

Interview by Carl Bacon, CIPM, Chair of the GIPS Executive Committee

Bacon: How long has Singapore been a GIPS Country Sponsor?

Persaud: The Investment Management Association of Singapore (IMAS) was endorsed in June 2007 as GIPS Singapore Country Sponsor, so this year is our 10th anniversary.

Bacon: What is the structure of the Singapore GIPS Country Sponsor and how was it formed?

Persaud: IMAS set up a committee in October 2008 to administer its responsibility as the GIPS Country Sponsor, with me as the first chair. IMAS's structure is similar to that of other investment associations, and its membership includes investment managers, custodians, verifiers, and consultants. The committee is made up of representatives from various parts of the investment community in Singapore, asset managers, consultants, verifiers, and custodians, and in the last year or so, we are very proud to have an influential asset owner join the group. Over time the committee's remit has been expanded to include all issues that relate to Risk and Performance in the local jurisdiction, and so it is now called the Risk and Performance Committee (RPC) of IMAS, with a broader scope than just GIPS.

Bacon: What are the key issues in the Singapore market regarding the GIPS standards?

Persaud: The Singapore Government has had a long-running and successful strategic initiative to promote the growth of the investment industry and capital markets in Singapore. We have a significant onshore and offshore retail market, a government-provided mandatory provident scheme, and a robust financial market. There is a significant amount of assets managed in Singapore, rivaling the size of other much more mature developed markets. Most, if not all, global players are present in the local industry.

As a result, Singapore experiences many of the issues that are present in other developed and mature financial centres in relation to GIPS (i.e., the relevance of GIPS to retail investors), and in some cases, apathy around GIPS compliance and stability in the high-level of compliance amongst managers. IMAS runs a survey every couple of years, and although the May 2009 survey revealed 57% of firms were GIPS compliant, by October 2016, that number had increased and stabilised at 75% by number of international and domestic managers.

Bacon: Looking over past history, what is the most important or exciting contribution of the Singapore GIPS Country Sponsor?

Persaud: IMAS has demonstrated active promotion of the GIPS standards in Singapore, leading to that significant increase in the number of firms adopting the Standards over the years. We also have a long history of addressing non-GIPS issues that are related to the local industry.

IMAS conducts at least four lunch-and-learn sessions annually to provide educational and promotional sessions on the GIPS standards and other industry topics, such as liquidity risk measurement, style analysis, etc. The committee also helped produce recommendations for the local regulator (MAS) for introducing a new risk and complexity framework for investment products. More recently, the committee produced guidance for local firms on best practice for Risk and Performance teams and also a document detailing “Recommended Disclosures to Support Yield Presentation in Advertisements”. This latter guidance will be explicitly referred to in the next update of the local regulations governing collective investment schemes.

In the last month, IMAS has also published in collaboration with an investment management consultant (Stradegi) a document that details “Fund Management Fair Valuation Best Practices for Exchange Traded Instruments”. All these documents are available on the IMAS website.

Bacon: You have a long-standing involvement with the GIPS Singapore Country Sponsor. What has meant the most to you, and what you are most proud of?

Persaud: I feel very privileged and proud to have served both the local country sponsor and as part of the global governance structure of the Standards. As I mention above, the Singapore sponsor has been extremely active in the local industry for which I am very proud. But more than that, I think the committee itself is made up of some of the brightest minds in this important area, and I am very proud to be the chair of such a group of talented and motivated individuals.

It’s also worth recognising that IMAS has been a significant, long-time, and consistent source of experienced, committed volunteers for all levels of the GIPS organization, demonstrating the depth of expertise in the local market—from Country Sponsor representatives, subcommittee volunteers, and GIPS Executive Committee members.

As regards the global governance structure, I’ve been involved with the Executive Committee for seven of the last eight years and am sadly rolling off in September this year. During this time we published GIPS 2010, restructured the governance of the Standards (with the formation of the distinct Executive and Technical Committees), and had greatly improved the management of the GIPS standards in the process. As I move on, the Standards are set to become even

more relevant to the investment community with the planned changes in GIPS 2020. I'm glad to have been part of the foundation for this important work.

On a broader note, I am thankful for the privilege to have worked and interacted with the many talented people (both staff and volunteers) that I have met through my involvement with the GIPS standards over these years, not to mention the personal development that I have been afforded by the experience of chairing both the local and global committees.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT GIPS STANDARDS?

- Visit the GIPS website: www.gipsstandards.org
- GIPS Standards Handbook, Third Edition: www.cfapubs.org/toc/ccb/2012/2012/4
- Current guidance statements: www.gipsstandards.org/standards/guidance/Pages/CurrentGuidance.aspx
- Review the GIPS standards: www.cfapubs.org/doi/pdf/10.2469/ccb.v2010.n5.1
- GIPS Standards Mission and Vision: A Road Map (PDF): www.gipsstandards.org/resources/Documents/gips_mission_vision_road_map.pdf
- GIPS Standards Fact Sheet (PDF): www.gipsstandards.org/about/Documents/factsheet.pdf
- GIPS Standards Q&A Database: www.gipsstandards.org/standards/faqs/Pages/index.aspx
- GIPS Standards News: www.gipsstandards.org/news/Pages/index.aspx
- GIPS Executive Committee: www.cfainstitute.org/about/governance/committees/Pages/gips_executive_committee.aspx
- Purchase a hard copy of the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS Standards) Handbook: www.efastcom.com/CFABookstore/control/productdetails?item_id=125301

August 2017 – Fifth Edition

www.cfainstitute.org

