



Press Release

Hong Kong, 17 September, 2003

BAREP FORECASTS POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR 2004

EMERGING MARKETS AND HIGH YIELD BOND MARKETS HOLD GOOD OPPORTUNITIES

BAREP Asset Management, a direct subsidiary of SG Asset Management and a fully-owned indirect subsidiary of the Société Générale Group, remains positive on the emerging markets and high yield bond markets in the second half of 2003 and into 2004.

Although the company expects volatility in the global markets to remain high for the foreseeable future, opportunities are available if investors look at risk assets such as equities, credit and hedge funds to find opportunities, according to James Edwards, BAREP's Head of Global Credit Markets.

"During this period of uncertainty, there are good opportunities but investors need to be willing to take risks," he said. "That said, the emerging markets and high yield bond markets have consistently generated strong returns over the past decade."

Savvy investors are taking advantage of opportunities in these asset classes. For example, as emerging market bonds have generated returns of 67 percent over the last five years, and 18 percent to date in 2003, and high yield bonds have generated returns of 24 percent over five years, and ten percent this year.

"BAREP Asset Management follows a formalised 5 step top-down approach which is supported by a range of objective indicators and implemented through a number of strategies to best seize opportunities in both sovereign and corporate credit markets," added James Edwards.

BAREP Asset Management has been selected as the second Best Alternative Asset Management house 2002 by a survey done by French Pension and Insurance Companies. BAREP is the first French alternative asset management company to be awarded AIMR and GIPS certification, confirmation the compliance of BAREP's procedures with AIMR-GIPS recommendations.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

SOCIETE GENERALE GROUP

Société Générale is one of the largest financial services groups in the eurozone. The Group employs more than 80,000 people worldwide in three key businesses:

- **Retail Banking:** Société Générale serves 14,7 million retail customers worldwide.
- **Asset Management & Private Banking:** Société Générale ranks third in the eurozone in terms of assets under management (EUR 270 billion in 2002).
- **Corporate & Investment Banking:** SG is the third largest bank in the eurozone based on net banking income.

Société Générale is included in the four major socially responsible investment indexes. www.socgen.com

BAREP ASSET MANAGEMENT

BAREP Asset Management ("BAREP") is a direct subsidiary of SG Asset Management and a fully-owned indirect subsidiary of the Société Générale Group. BAREP specializes in alternative and structured investment products within SG Asset Management Group. As a leader in Europe in its sphere of activity, BAREP manages EUR 7.7 billion (as of July 2003) of which USD 335 million for Asian investors. BAREP's 102 staff work together to provide innovative ideas, technical expertise, tight risk control and good performance to its investors, who are mainly corporates, institutions and distributors. BAREP has a presence in Paris, Chicago, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Dublin and Bahrain. www.barepam.com