

DID WE HAVE FUN, OR WHAT?

Since only about 3,000 people managed to fit in the building, it's safe to say that most of you missed this year's Milken Institute Global Conference, held April 26-29 in Los Angeles. 'Tis a pity: Attendees rubbed shoulders with the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Vinod Khosla, Henry Waxman, Sumner Redstone, Andre Agassi, Harold Ford, Sam Zell, Benjamin Jealous, Annika Sorenstam and Rush Limbaugh. Better yet, attendees got to browse a cornucopia of 100-plus panel discussions starring some of the world's brightest lights from think tanks, governments, academia and the media.

But the Milken Institute isn't selfish: we're happy to share. The panels were recorded, and you are more than welcome to view the videos on the Web at no charge. Check them out at www.milkeninstitute.org.

SYNERGIES IN LIFE SCIENCES

A report by the Milken Institute, "The Value of U.S. Life Sciences: A White Paper Exploring Competitiveness, Delivery and Challenges," concludes that the sector is a model for innovation and technological change. The report analyzes the whole life sciences ecosystem, comprising biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, life sciences R&D and health care services. Download a copy from www.milkeninstitute.org.

CANADA RULES

Thanks to stable equity markets and economic policies, Canada dodged the worst of the global financial crisis and moved to first place in the Milken Institute's 2008 Capital Access Index.

Hong Kong slipped to second, due to lower international reserves and higher currency volatility. The United States moved from 11th place to sixth, while Spain showed the biggest improvement, rising from 43rd to 27th.

The top 10: Canada, Hong Kong, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Singapore, the United States, Netherlands, Norway, Australia and Finland. Read the report at www.milkeninstitute.org.

I CAN SEE CLEARER NOW

According to the Institute's latest Opacity Index, global finance has become more transparent. Thirty-three of the 48 countries improved their scores since last year's rankings.

Finland comes in first, underlining the country's stable regulatory environment, low level of corruption, and compliance with international accounting standards. The rest of the top 10: Finland, Hong Kong, Australia, Singapore, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom. The report, just released by the Institute and the Kurtzman Group, is available at www.milkeninstitute.org.

CALIFORNIA EXPLAINED

The 2009 Milken Institute State of the State Conference, which focuses on California's future, will take place on October 20 at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles. The annual conference draws some 500 business executives, elected officials and policy professionals to discuss California's biggest challenges, from education to infrastructure to the parlous condition of the state budget. For more, visit www.milkeninstitute.org/sos2009. **M**