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Corruption, Capital, Power: Today's World Through The Lens Of Corruption

Professor Robert Barrington, Professor of Anti-Corruption Practice, University of Sussex

Monday, 20 June 2022

A Word From Today's Chairman

Professor Michael Mainelli

Executive Chairman

Z/Yen Group

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Today's Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:05   Chairman's Introduction
- 10:05 – 10:25   Keynote Presentation – Professor Robert Barrington
- 10:25 – 10:45   Question & Answer

Today's Speaker

Professor Robert Barrington

Professor of Anti-Corruption Practice

University of Sussex

Summary

Corruption is a term increasingly used in political discourse and international relations. But what does it really mean, and can understanding the world through the lens of corruption reveal anything new? This webinar will look across the world from Afghanistan to Ukraine, examining concepts such as state capture and strategic corruption, and discuss the role of London as a centre for corrupt capital. It will conclude by analysing global leadership on tackling corruption, and where that might be heading

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What are we talking about?

Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

LORD ACTON
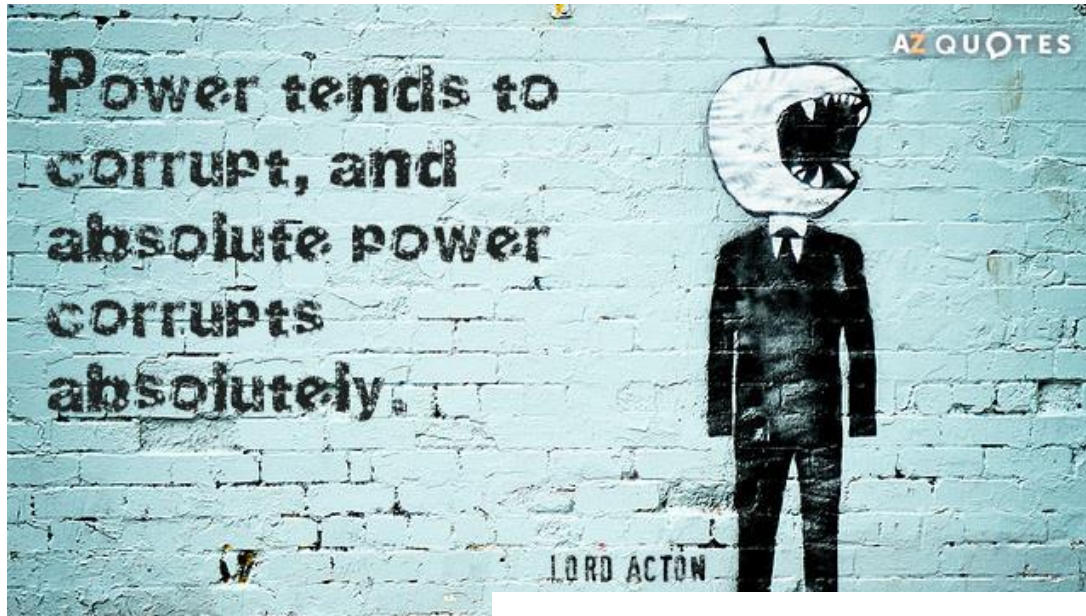
DEFINITION

- 'The abuse of entrusted power for private gain'

Regional averages

66
WESTERN EUROPE & EU
Average score
Top: Denmark (88/100)
Bottom: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania (44/100)

36
EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
Average score
Top: Georgia (56/100)
Bottom: Turkmenistan (19/100)

43
AMERICAS
Average score
Top: Canada (77/100)
Bottom: Venezuela (15/100)

39
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
Average score
Top: United Arab Emirates (71/100)
Bottom: Syria (14/100)

45
ASIA PACIFIC
Average score
Top: New Zealand (88/100)
Bottom: North Korea (18/100)

32
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
Average score
Top: Seychelles (66/100)
Bottom: Somalia, South Sudan (12/100)
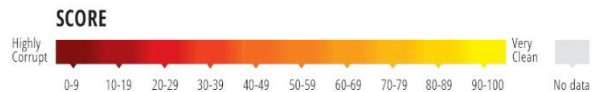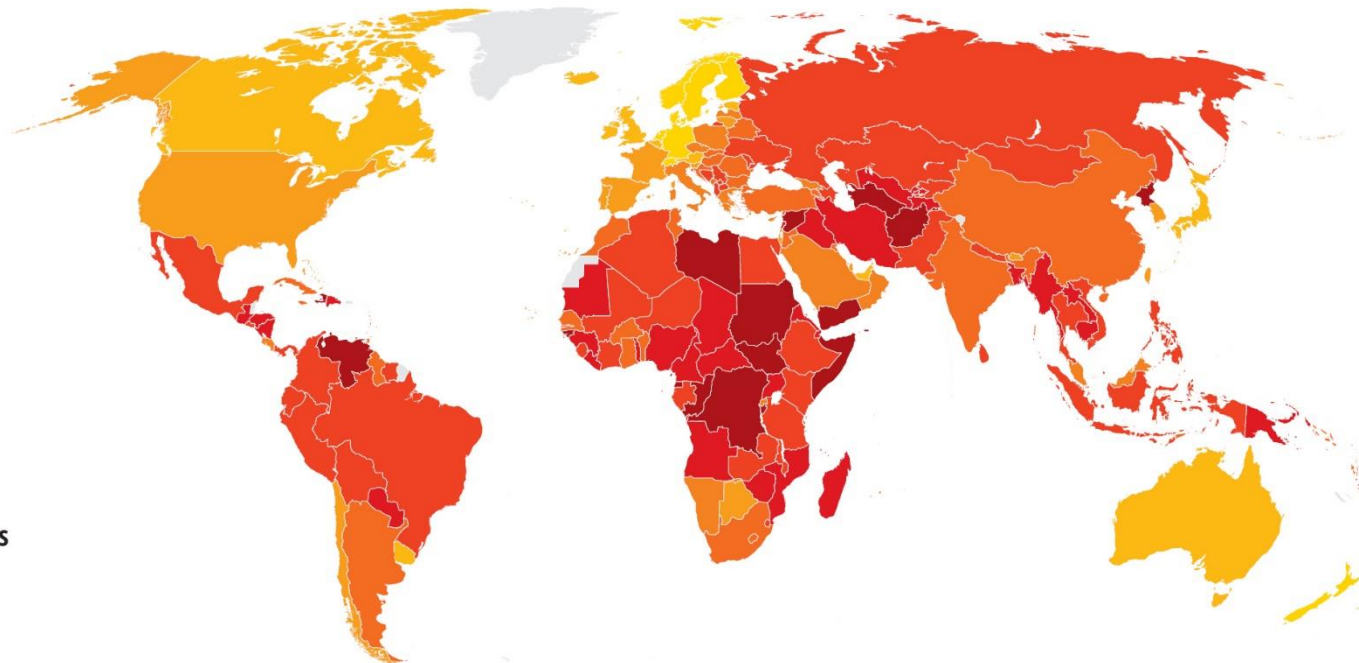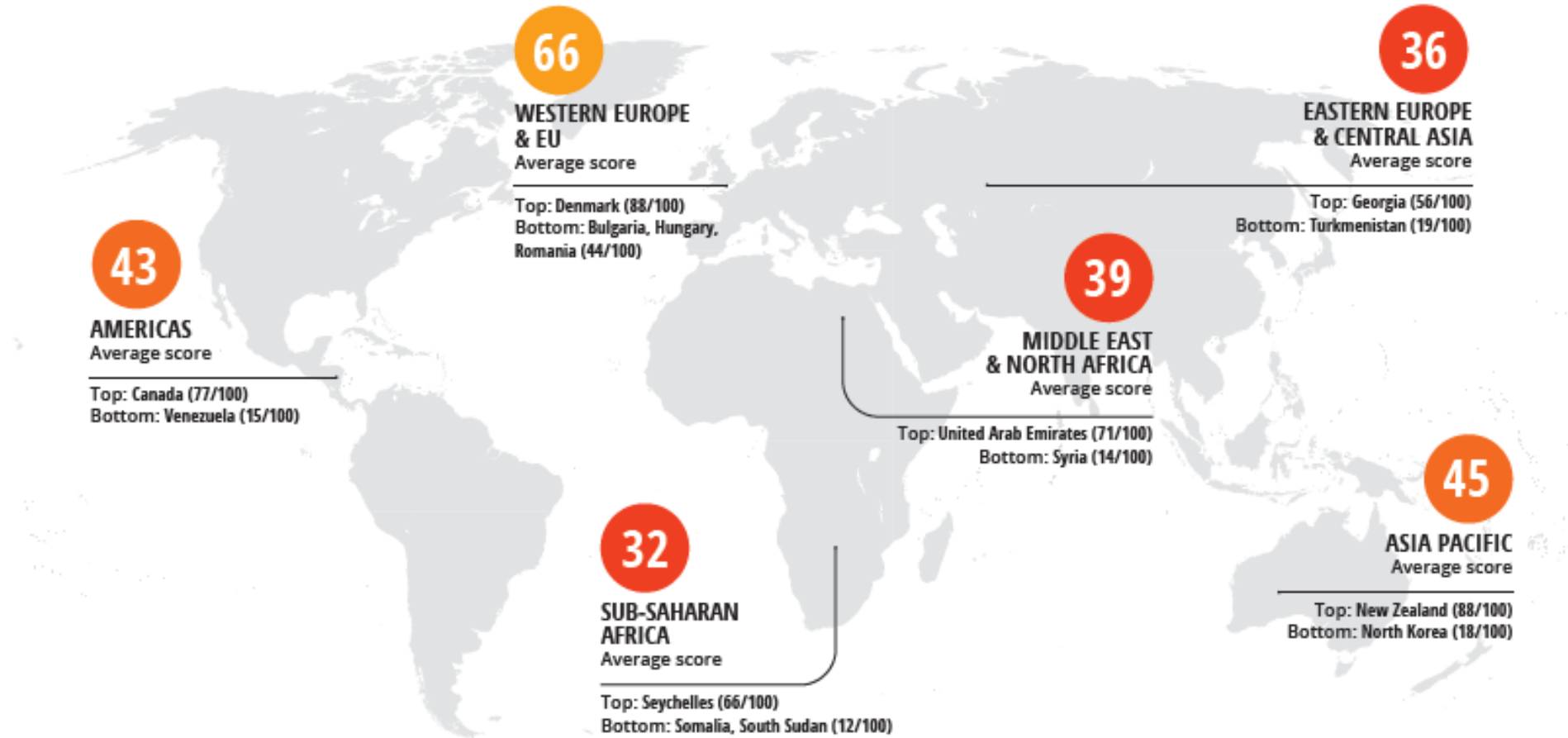
Global Corruption Barometer – Asia 2020

BRIBERY RATES BY COUNTRY*

* Percentage of public service users who paid a bribe in the previous 12 months.

⬆ HIGHEST

INDIA
39%

CAMBODIA
37%

INDONESIA
30%

⬇ LOWEST

MALDIVES
2%

JAPAN
2%

SOUTH KOREA
10%
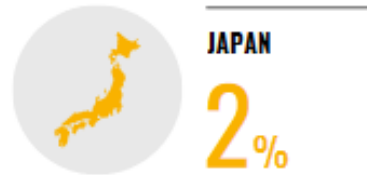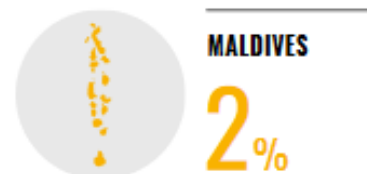
Poll

What size bribe (pre-Taliban) do you pay to become a Police Chief in Afghanistan?

1) $5,000

2) $50,000

3) $100,000

The fall of Mosul 2014

- Ghost soldiers – 15,000 out of 25,000

- Unqualified and absent leaders – purchase of rank

- Under-fed and disillusioned soldiers

- Missing equipment

Afghanistan

What role did corruption play in the rapid fall of the Ghani government?

How the Taliban won in a country of corruption

Joe Biden's claim of Afghans not willing to fight has at least 66,000 rebuttals

Afghanistan collapsed because corruption had hollowed out the state

Zack Kopplin

The Afghan state was held together by theft, extortion and nepotism – at the highest levels

How Afghanistan's Army was pulled apart by corruption and backroom deals

▶ Coalition efforts to build an effective Afghan force to hold back the Taliban failed to overcome persistent hurdles

The U.S. ignored corruption within the Afghan government

Aug 20, 2021 6:45 PM EDT

Politics · Analysis

Cronyism, corruption and indifference: Insiders describe Afghanistan's fall

Corruption analysts knew it was coming....

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction
SEPTEMBER 2016

Our analysis reveals that corruption substantially undermined the U.S. mission in Afghanistan from the very beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. We found that corruption cut across all aspects of the reconstruction effort, jeopardizing progress made in security, rule of law, governance, and economic growth. We conclude that failure to effectively address the problem means U.S. reconstruction programs, at best, will continue to be subverted by systemic corruption and, at worst, will fail.

CORRUPTION IN CONFLICT:
LESSONS FROM THE U.S. EXPERIENCE IN AFGHANISTAN

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

WHAT WE NEED TO LEARN:
LESSONS FROM TWENTY YEARS OF AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION

August 2021
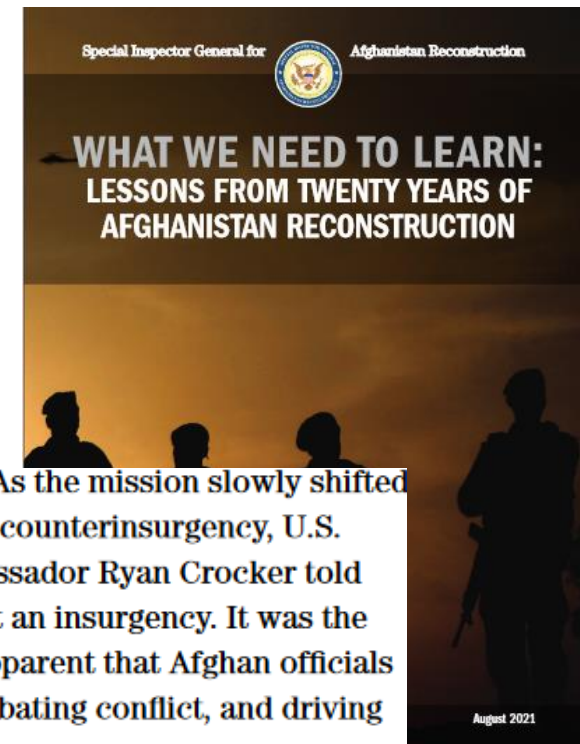
Despite these investments, security continued to worsen. As the mission slowly shifted away from counterterrorism toward reconstruction-heavy counterinsurgency, U.S. officials added a nebulous new enemy to the list. As Ambassador Ryan Crocker told SIGAR, "The ultimate point of failure for our efforts wasn't an insurgency. It was the weight of endemic corruption."[65] It became increasingly apparent that Afghan officials themselves were corrupting reconstruction efforts, exacerbating conflict, and driving

Ukraine: 2014 vs 2022

2014: weakened Ukraine military

In 2014, the 'decrepit' Ukrainian army hit the refresh button. Eight years later, it's paying off

2022: weakened Russia military

Corruption in the Russian Armed Forces

What does this not tell us?
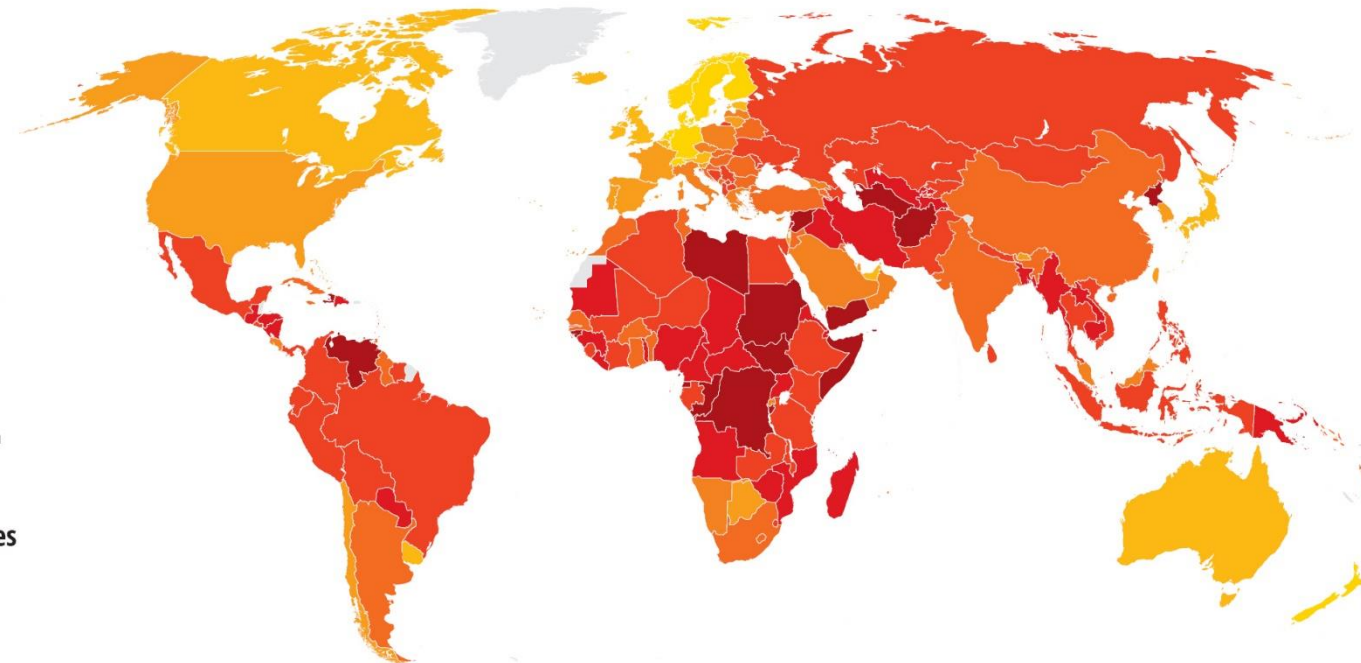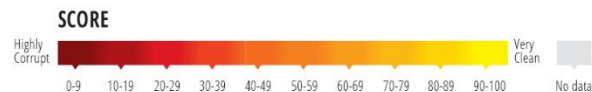

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
the global coalition against corruption

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2020

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries/territories around the world.

SCORE

Highly Corrupt   0-9 10-19 20-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70-79 80-89 90-100   Very Clean   No data

#cpi2020
www.transparency.org/cpi

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Corrupt capital flows

The Financial Secrecy Index

The Financial Secrecy Index ranks countries based on how much financial secrecy they supply to the world. A higher rank on the index does not necessarily mean a country is more secretive, but that the country plays a bigger role in enabling wealthy individuals and criminals to hide and launder money extracted from around the world.

The index is published once every two years.

GO TO INDEX

2022 ranking

1. United States
2. Switzerland
3. Singapore
4. Hong Kong
5. Luxembourg
6. Japan
7. Germany
8. United Arab Emirates
9. British Virgin Islands (British Overseas Territory)
10. Guernsey (British Crown Dependency)

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Londongrad

- Clearing house and destination for corrupt capital

- Considered high-risk by US authorities

- Successive UK governments ambivalent about acting

- New focus since Ukraine
  - Unexplained wealth orders
  - Magnitsky sanctions
  - Beneficial ownership transparency
  - Reform of Overseas Territories & Crown Dependencies
  - Focus on professional enablers

The future of Londongrad

- Will government appetite continue beyond Ukraine crisis?

- Will it extend beyond Ukraine?

- What kind of compromises will a post-Brexit economy need?

- Will Labour and LibDems stick to their promises?

- Who succeeds Johnson?

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Who's in charge of doing something?

- UN Convention Against Corruption

- OECD Anti-Bribery Convention

- IMF

- NATO

- Active leadership of United States/allies makes the big difference

- But: Russia, China and allies aiming to seize agenda

What's left out of this analysis?

- China

- Covid-19

- Climate change

- Johnson & Trump – populism in democracies

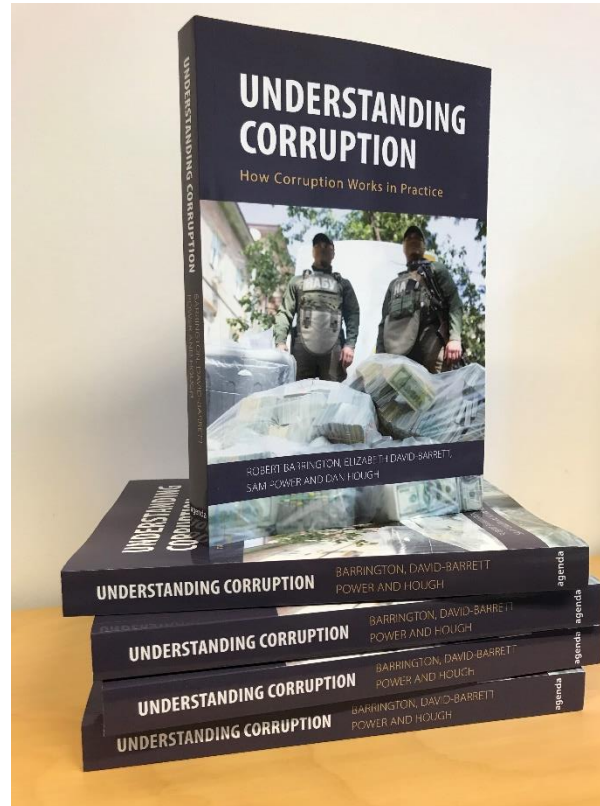- State capture

What does it mean for companies and markets?

- Corruption leads to uncertainty and political instability

- Unreliability of data, importance of intelligence

- Companies can be a target or a football

- Potential for rapid change

- Corruption is key to understanding both geo-politics and national circumstances – analysts should give it a high priority

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Want to know more?

CPD course

"Understanding Corruption"

Q&A

r.barrington@sussex.ac.uk

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Thank You For Listening

Forthcoming Events

- Tue, 21 Jun (16:00-16:45)   No More Dead Polar Bears: Art For Sustainability Engagement

- Thu, 23 Jun (15:00-15:45)   Share Schemes And The Impact Of Inflation

- Tue, 28 Jun (16:00-16:45)   Carbon Emission Accounts & Datasets For Global Corporates

- Tue, 05 Jul (15:00-15:45)   An Update On EU Financial Services Legislation & Associated Initiatives

Visit https://fsclub.zyen.com/events/forthcoming-events/

Watch past webinars   https://www.youtube.com/zyengroup

https://app.pzaz.tv/app/pzaz/store/zyentv