Baron-Moore Associates Global Survey of Institutional Investors



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Hong Kong, July 03, 2014 -- /<u>EPR NETWORK</u>/ -- Institutions Will Move out of Cash, Growing Role for Hedge Funds and Private Equity

Major institutional investors (www.baron-moore.com) around the world are poised to increase their allocations to alternative investments, with a bias towards real estate and real assets, during 2014, according to a global survey of institutions conducted by Baron-Moore Associates.

Approximately half of institutions surveyed– 49 percent – expect to increase their real estate allocation and over 40 percent indicated they will increase their investment in real assets this year. At the same time, about one-third of the institutional investors surveyed intend to reduce their cash holdings in 2014.

"Institutional investors are seeking to build portfolios better suited for an investment landscape characterized by low yields, sluggish growth, volatile markets, and rising correlation between stocks and bonds," said Robert Guanghe, Senior Managing Director and head of Baron-Moore Associates' Institutional Client Business and Baron-Moore Associates Solutions.

"Divergent economic and geopolitical conditions globally offer institutions a menu of real estate and real asset opportunities that meet a variety of investment objectives," said Guanghe.

"The results of the survey likely reflect a recognition that, going forward, the portfolio diversification benefit traditionally offered by equities and bonds might be less powerful than in the past," Guanghe said. "Indeed, the price correlation between equities and bonds, which had been negative from 2009 through mid-2013, has been positive ever since then – suggesting that institutions definitely will be looking to other asset classes for more effective 'portfolio buffers' in coming months."

"Within the alternatives category, we believe hedge funds and private equity also will command a growing role in institutional portfolios in 2014, with investors casting a wide net for appropriate diversification tools," said Guanghe.

About Baron-Moore Associates

Baron-Moore Associates (www.baron-moore.com) is one of the Hong Kong's most acclaimed providers of financial services. The firm is an awarded provider of investment management, retirement planning, portfolio guidance, brokerage, benefits outsourcing and many other financial products and services to more than 10 million individuals and institutions, as well as through 2,000 financial intermediary firms. Every set of services for an account is highly individualized, because every client has unique needs. We don't just offer you products & services; we aim to offer you the best solutions for managing your wealth keeping in mind your personal financial goals. We provide un-biased and independent investment solutions through professional investment strategy, so that your investments are as successful as you.

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