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Paul Corbit Brown and Keeper of the Mountains receive Ethical Shareholders of Germany's Henry Mathews Award

Coal industry in the centre of the annual meeting on 21st September in Cologne

The Henry Mathew Award 2013 of the Association of Ethical Shareholders is given to the photographer and environmentalist Paul Corbit Brown and the foundation Keeper of the Mountains. This year the president of the foundation participated in ten general annual meetings in Europe and protested against mountaintop removal in his homeland West Virginia.

Brown who came to Europe in spring 2013 by invitation of the German environmental and human rights organisation *urgewald* draws the attention to the global problems caused by the coal industry. "Often the coal issue appears to us only as an environmental problem. The target of our activity is to stop coal as a source of energy. Coal is nourishing corrupt governments and is the origin of serious human rights violations."

Brown participated in the annual general meetings of seven banks. The environmentalist focussed on how they finance mining companies. "The coal industry everywhere is financed by external fundings and cannot exist without the financial support of the banks." Over 500 Appalachian mountains have already been destroyed by blasting and removing their tops.

Barbara Happe, board member of the Association of Ethical Shareholders Germany, emphasized Brown's extraordinary commitment. "During the shareholder meeting season 2013 you brought pictures of the destruction of your homeland in the Appalachians caused by coal mining into our hearts and into the assembly halls of stock corporations, and you did it in a strongly captivating and very authentic way. Members of the companies' boards were shocked, employees shivered and shareholders felt affected and were silent when they were listening to your speeches."

The award ceremony takes place at the annual conference of the Association of Ethical Shareholders in Cologne on 21st September. Brown will be linked by video broadcasting from West Virginia. The public annual conference has as motto "Strengthening Ethical Shareholding". In the afternoon the participants of the meeting will discuss the problems in the Rhenish lignite coal field in Germany.

The Association of Ethic Shareholders endowed The Henry Mathews Award in 2007. It is named after the manager and board member who died in 2006.

Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 21, 2013, 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Information on the Internet: <http://www.kritischeaktionaere.de/323.html>

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