

Annual Report - 2007

Turkish Cypriot Global Compact Network



Background

Turkish Cypriot Global Compact Network (“TC GC Network”) was officially launched on 27 July 2006 in Nicosia. The official launching was attended by UN Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of Mission for Cyprus. UNDP-PFF acts as the facilitator of the TC GC Network and is also the focal point of the network. The TC GC Network was launched by 18 founder members and the network continues to operate with its founder members.

The network plans to increase the number of members in 2008. All of the members of the Turkish Cypriot Global Compact Network are SMEs, except the two chambers of the business community, Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Industry.

Network objectives and priorities

In the first full operating year of the network, TC GC Network set the objectives listed below.

- Set up a steering committee and working group focused in the area of environment.
- Set up a network web site and e-mail group, www.tcungc.org
- Identify environment as the main operating area.
- Raise awareness about CSR and GC both within the network and outside the network.
- Raise funds for the projects to be implemented.
- Implementation of the identified CSR projects.

Organization

Erel Cankan, Programme Officer, UNDP-PFF is the focal point of the TC GC Network. Immediately after the launching of the network, a steering committee including the representatives of the two chambers was established by the founder members of the network. The Steering Committee does not have regular meetings at the moment but it meets whenever a need arises. As 2007 was the inaugural year meetings were carried out on a project basis.

In the meeting that was organized by the founder members of the network on 28 November 2006, seven members of the network were identified as steering committee; the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce (Coordinator), the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Industry (Coordinator), Cypri Cola Ltd., Kuzek Kıbrıs Turkcell Ltd., K. Paralık Metal İşleri Ltd., Shipyard Famagusta Ltd., Teknolojix Ltd. The network worked on the sustainability aspect and developed mechanisms for the

sustainability of the network. The network intends to complete its formal establishment and become a legal entity in 2008.

Participation

The TC GC Network has 18 members, representatives of a wide range of sectors including, construction, pharmaceuticals, soft drinks, banking, retailing, chemicals, food manufacturing, and information technology. Also, the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce and the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Industry, the largest business organizations are members of the network. Except the chambers, all of the other members are SMEs.

Activities

In the first full operating year of the network, as the main objective was to create awareness about the CSR and Global Compact among the TC GC network, Turkish Cypriot private sector and public in general, TC GC Network organized two awareness seminars on CSR and Global Compact.

Immediately after the launching, member companies started working on the implementation of the principles and tried to identify ways to internalize the Global Compact principles in their daily operations.

In the beginning of 2007, the members held a meeting regarding potential environmental actions. The meeting was chaired by a UNDP environmental specialist. Ideas were discussed and several projects involving NGOs and schools were put forward. At least four of these projects were implemented by October 2007. This received positive coverage in the media and contributed to the visibility of the network in its first year.

Four members of the TC GC Network participated to the 2007 Global Compact leaders' summit. Upon the return of the delegation, CEOs of these members shared their experiences with other members.

Both as a network, as well as individually, member companies implemented various CSR initiatives in 2007. The network chose environment as the main activity area and initiated projects mostly on the subject. Some companies also started working on projects, internalizing the GC principles into their daily work. Projects implemented by the TC GC Network and member companies individually are:

1. Corporate Social Responsibility and Global Compact awareness seminars.
2. Beach cleaning campaign at the three turtle beaches of the northern part of Cyprus with the participation of local schools.
3. Rehabilitation of the picnic areas in the northern part of Cyprus providing litter bins and informative signs for recycling.
4. European Computer Driving License courses for long term unemployed women, 18 women were sponsored by the network.
5. Environmental awareness campaign for primary schools and preparation and distribution of energy and water efficiency kits.

6. Census of ancient olive trees and sign posting for a nature path.

Progress

The major challenge of the network in its inaugural year was the lack of awareness on CSR among Turkish Cypriot companies in general. This challenge was met by the successful launch of the network and its subsequent operations in 2007. In its first year, the network focused more on operational issues and community-wide initiatives. This paid off as the network achieved a high profile. No new member companies joined. This was not due to the unwillingness of other companies but rather the need to solidify the profile of the network prior to expansion.

In 2008, there are plans to increase the number of members through trainings on CSR and the Global Compact, targeting not only private companies but also NGOs and academic institutions.

Founder members have to report on their progress in 2008. The network plans to organize some training for the member companies on Communication on Progress. Finally, the challenge facing the network in its second year is that of pro-actively internalizing the principles within their own operations through new projects.

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