



Global Compact Network  
Korea

## **Regional Meeting for Global Compact Network Focal Points in Asia**

**Draft Report**

**16-17th June 2008, Seoul**

**Grand Hyatt Seoul, Seoul – Rep of Korea**

## **Opening Session:**

The opening session began with Mr. Marinus Sikkel giving an opening address, welcoming Focal Points to the meeting and providing an overview of the agenda.

Mr. Soren Petersen then provided participants with a brief update on the current status of the Global Compact. His presentation:

- detailed the growth of the initiative to date in terms of the participant numbers and geographical spread.
- emphasized the strength of the COP as the key integrity measure of the initiative
- provided with an update on the preparations for the upcoming Annual Local Networks Forum taking place on 21-22 October in Bonn, Germany.
- informed Focal Points about the GCO's current undertaking to develop a knowledge-sharing system for GC Networks. This will be a web-based resource tool which will facilitate and encourage the sharing of learning and best practice related to the GC Network management and activities. The intention to have the tool launched at the ALNF was announced.
- presented the governance element of the Forum and informed Focal Points that each Network is requested to send a "representative" to the ALNF. This representative would have a mandate from all Network participants to act on behalf of the Network should the need arise.

A round of presentations from each of the Network Focal Points was carried out in which each Network was invited to identify one highlight and one challenge:

### **China**

Highlight: Mobilised 80 CEOs to attend the Summit, gave exposure to Chinese business leaders at a global level CSR event

Challenge: Scaling up of the Network and engagement of private sector will be a challenge particularly in light of the rapidly emerging private sector in China

### **India**

Highlight: The recent National Convention convened 300 participants and had the participation of Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director, GC

Challenge: Facilitating COPs is a challenge particularly given when the CEO or contact point within the company changes

### **Malaysia**

Highlight: Malaysian govt has an active policy towards CSR. CSR reporting has become mandatory for all publicly listed companies

Challenge: This has resulted in a backlash from companies who debate the regulatory nature of CSR

### **Vietnam**

Highlight: Recent launch of the Network which had the attendance of 200 participants

Challenge: Involving companies on these issues is not easy, 95% are SMEs, there is competition with other sustainable development initiative

## **Bangladesh**

Highlight: Launch of CSR center housed within BEI, recently increased the number of participants – Leaders Summit was a good recruitment opportunity

Challenge: The challenge is to convince companies to internalize the principles, and to adopt a formal network

## **Nepal**

Highlight: Increased the number of participants, and is working with ILO on labour issues, facilitating joint projects to achieve MDGs

Challenge: Private sector is concerned about the current political situation

## **Japan**

Highlight: Adopted new innovative governance structure for the Network, established a secretariat to communicate with stakeholders, funding mechanism

Challenge: Increase membership of Network to 200 by next year

## **Korea**

Highlight: Recent growth in number of participants

Challenge: Finding CEOs that are really committed

## **Pakistan**

Highlight: Developed partnership with ILO, published best practices report for GC participants

Challenge: Submission of COPs by participants, identification of focal point within the companies, Network secretariat infrastructure

## **Sri Lanka**

Highlight: Launch of sustainability awards

Challenge: Emphasis on quality vs quantity, engaging subsidiaries in a more meaningful way

## **Indonesia**

Highlight: Increase in number of participants

Challenge: To engage the small/micro enterprises

## **Singapore**

Highlight: Full time secretariat, increase in number of participants

Challenge: Submission of COPs by participants, active engagement of the Network

## **Network Sustainability Session:**

UN ESCAP presented the Network Sustainability Framework (NSF) and asked for feedback from Focal Points.

During the following discussions:

- GC Network Pakistan questioned whether we are risking the viability of the Network by formalizing it.
- In answer to the question from GC Network Nepal regarding the “ideal home” for a network in order to ensure its sustainability, there was general agreement that one of the key elements of a sustainable Network is that it is business-led and has some form of organizational structure.
- It was noted that the identification of the appropriate partner/s was key. Strategic selection of partners would be useful, particularly in relation to the in-kind support that could be made available as a result. However it should be noted that strategic partners are culturally specific.
- CEO leadership and commitment to the Network is key to ensure its success.
- Attention was drawn to the fact that not all participants in a country are necessarily participants of the Network.
- Clearer articulation of the “business case” is key and can assist resource mobilization.
- Linking private sector from developing and developed worlds is a good example of the value-added that GC can make in the field of CSR.

UN ESCAP presented the website template for the Asian GCLNs and sought input from Focal Points on their training needs.

- The template website was well received but some Networks questioned whether they had to use the template and if so, language may be an issue.
- GCO warned that linking to the global database of participants was unlikely, at least in the foreseeable future, therefore the managing of COPs and company information would not be possible on the local websites.
- Some Focal Points expressed the desire to have more training regarding the main messages and communications about the Global Compact.

### *Outcomes of the Network Sustainability Session:*

- The idea of creating a website template for Asia GCLNs was warmly welcomed by the focal points
- The UN ESCAP gained constructive input on what focal points need in terms of capacity building and training
- The Network Sustainability draft discussion paper will be updated and the final version will be distributed for adoption

## **Climate Change Session:**

Mr. Claude Fussler, Programme Director of Caring for Climate, UN Global Compact presented to participants the Global Compact's environmental leadership platform, Caring for Climate. Using the brochure, Mr. Fussler went through the "business leadership statement" in detail outlining precisely the commitment being sought from signatories.

During the discussions that followed:

- Given that the GC already has environmental principles, questions regarding the need for a special initiative to tackle this area were raised. The response given was that in light of the urgency of the climate change agenda, it was decided that the GC needed a special focus. The C4C focus is on business strategy eg carbon targets. It is at the engagement and operational level.
- C4C invites business to set its own timeline.
- Some focal points questioned the relevance of the C4C to participants with priorities of a more immediate/survival nature.
- Fussler indicated the need to be strategic in approaching companies to sign on – need to focus on those that are the innovators in their area, bigger companies always have more leverage.
- Focal Points were encouraged to recruit more companies for C4C