

GLOBAL COMPACT



NETWORK NEWS

ISSUE 5

JULY 2005

DEAR NETWORK FOCAL POINTS,

We are pleased to present this new issue of the Global Compact Network News with information from the Global Compact Office and country networks around the world. Thank you to those who shared their successful or innovative activities with other networks by contributing to this publication.

ANNUAL NETWORK MEETING

The III Annual Networks Conference in Barcelona will focus primarily on the Local Network governance, although it will take into account the global governance restructuring process which takes place in parallel. The overall objective of this conference is to stimulate network growth and competition so that the Local Networks can advance the GC goals in their respective cultural and linguistic settings.

We have high expectations that this meeting will clearly define network governance. We believe that in addition to providing Network Focal Points with opportunities to present network activities, share information and participate in learning events, Barcelona will also build strong momentum for action, overall shape expectation for the future growth of the initiative and lay the foundations for a vibrant global organization.

Topics of the Conference

1 Global Governance: a) presentation of the present reconstruction; b) differentiation between local governance versus global governance; c) to focus discussion in local governance.

2 Local Network Governance - Structural Parameters: a) discussion on governance parameters; b) instruments of coordination and communication.

3 Local Network Governance - Strategic Parameters: a) discussion on issue guidance; b) learning and dialogue; c) complaint mediation; d) partnership projects.

4 Resources, Incentives and Value Added - Growing and Strengthening the GC: a) definition of suitable instruments of support for networks; b) the context and its influence in local governance; c) incentives systems and structure; d) global-Local link; e) role of the Barcelona Centre.

5 Synthesis and plan of action: a) main conclusions of the conference; b) steps to follow, c) planning of actions.

Invitations to the III Annual Networks Conference have been sent out. We would like to invite you to send your comments, suggestions or consultations to us about the issues that you would like to discuss in the context of the indicated topics. Please keep in mind that the registration deadline for the III Annual Networks Conference is **Friday, 15 July 2005**.

The Global Compact Office, in collaboration with the Barcelona Centre, is preparing a discussion paper covering the objectives mentioned above, which will be distributed to networks together with a final agenda in the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

SUSANA WEYER
NETWORK COORDINATOR A.I.

MEET THE GC TEAM

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GERMANY

Working Meeting of the German Network

More than 90 participants from the private sector, government, civil society and the scientific community convened in Berlin on 26 April for a working meeting of the German GC Network to discuss current Global Compact issues and initiatives as well as the further development of the network.

During the morning sessions, participants were invited to attend one of four workshops:

- 1 The 10th Principle - Transparency and the Fight Against Corruption in Practice:** The ratification of the UN Convention Against Corruption and the role of the private sector.
- 2 Companies' Responsibility in the Value-Chain:** A pilot project of the "Round Table Code of Conduct", to promote communication between management and employees.
- 3 The South-Asian Tsunami:** From emergency relief to reconstruction and development: How can companies contribute to sustainable and transparent emergency aid (distribution)?
- 4 Economy and Human Rights:** Presentation of the new online training-tool created by Global Compact and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and feedback by NGO and private sector representatives.

In the afternoon, a plenary discussion focused on national and global governance issues:

Participants agreed that the current policy of allowing all interested companies to join the network should be maintained. This includes the right to participate in regular meetings. However, it was suggested that a selection by relevance take place beforehand, as not every new member can be given the opportunity to present and to be introduced in the plenary sessions.

As the network faces a growing number of participants, it was felt that new ways of joint private and public financing must be discussed. One proposed solution was the establishment of a public-private partnership. The informal "German Friends" will discuss this issue internally and report their findings at the next network meeting.

The German contribution to the international governance discussion on the role and function of local GC networks has been submitted to the Nordic Network (Scandinavia), which is collecting all contributions from "informal" networks, without formalized organisational structures (membership fees, PR, etc.).

Most network members rejected the idea of setting up a separate compliance mechanism to ensure the brand management and implementation of the ten GC principles in Germany. Consequently, GTZ suggested to invite the OECD national contact point to the next network meeting to discuss synergies and complementarities between the GC and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Companies. All participants welcomed a close collaboration among these two initiatives and expressed their interest to learn more about the OECD procedures and experiences in Germany.

Please contact Ms. Paula-Marie Hildebrandt (paula.hildebrandt@gtz.de) for more information.

PAKISTAN

GC Network Supports the Pakistan Environmental Reporting Awards

The Global Compact Foundation Pakistan has engaged with ACCA to support the Pakistan Environmental Reporting Awards (PERA). This move is another step towards the implementation of a strategy that involves working with partners to provide incentives for promoting CSR. The PERA are Pakistan's first awards for encouraging business community to report on environmental aspects and were initiated by ACCA and the World Wildlife Fund. The Global Compact Foundation fully supports the PERA, endorses the principles it embraces and the criteria it uses to gauge stakeholder efforts for environmental reporting, as these correspond closely with the Global Compact Foundations own vision of a more accountable, transparent and responsible corporate sector. The Foundation intends to work closely with the ACCA and WWF in encouraging more members of the corporate sector to engage in environmental reporting and will be mobilizing resources for providing technical assistance to build requisite capacity for developing such reports.

New Study to Explore State of CSR in Pakistan

The Securities & Exchange Commission Pakistan (SECP) has commissioned a study on Evaluation of the state of CSR in Pakistan. Funded by the UNDP Pakistan from its resources meant to further the Global Compact agenda, the study is being carried out by Responsible Business Initiative (RBI), a leading not-for-profit organization on CSR issues. The study aims to map out the spectrum of CSR related activities in Pakistan, across several industries and to present specific recommendations for action by SECP and the Global Compact. The study is scheduled to be completed within the next quarter.

Contacts: Mr. Onder Yuzer, UNDP Resident Representative in Pakistan (onder.yuzer@undp.org); or Mr. Farhan Sabih (farhan.sabih@undp.org).

SPAIN

Spanish Global Compact Association Formed

On the occasion of its third General Assembly, the Spanish Global Compact Network became the *Asociación Española del Pacto Mundial de las Naciones Unidas* (ASEPAM), being one of the first networks worldwide to achieve legal status as a chartered organization.

ASEPAM'S members are expected to progress towards excellence in the fulfilment of the ten principles and in observing the integrity measures of the Global Compact. A membership fee has been introduced to support the association's operations. In return, members can participate in all activities undertaken by the association (e.g. learning, dialogue and networking events), and have the right to vote and stand as candidates in both the Executive Committee and the General Assembly. ASEPAM will also play a key role in collecting companies' communications on progress.

This new governance model is a response to ever-growing level of activities of the Global Compact movement in Spain, which includes "The Square Table," a functional multi-stakeholder tool for dialogue, as well as the Learning Forums already in operation.

The first ASEPAM Square Table, held on 4 April 2005, brought together representatives of leading companies, small and medium enterprises, NGOs, educational institutions and business civil and labour organizations. As an introduction to the dialogue, German Granda presented the Foretica Report on Corporate Social Responsibility in Spain and Manuel Escudero explained how Spanish Companies are implementing the ten Global Compact principles. Two main conclusions emerged from the meeting's discussions: the need to provide more quality information on CSR and the Global Compact; and the lack of mechanisms to help companies in the selection of providers regarding social, sustainability and ethical issues.

Please contact Ms. Ines Ruiz de Arana (inesruizdearana@pactomundial.org) for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Southern African Corporate Citizenship Symposium: Priorities for Research and Teaching on Business and Sustainable Development

21-22 July

Midrand/South Africa

Colombian GC Network event on CSR for private companies in the public services sector

2-3 August

Bogota/Colombia

10th International Business Forum: Business and the Millennium Development Goals: An Active Role for Globally Responsible Companies

10-11 September

New York

GC Launch in Singapore

16 September

Singapore

GC Launch in Bosnia & Hercegovina

19 September

Sarajevo

Annual GC Networks Conference in Barcelona.

21-23 September

Barcelona/Spain

GC Launch in Tunisia

29 September

Tunis

Global Compact Summit: China

30 November - 1 December

Shanghai/PR China

For more information on upcoming events, please visit the Global Compact website:

www.unglobalcompact.org

INDIA

First Annual General Meeting of the GC Society

The first Annual General Meeting of the Global Compact Society (GCS) of India was held on 3 May 2005 in New Delhi. All 24 members of the Society attended the event. Mr. Subir Raha, President of the Indian GC Society, chaired the meeting. Among the key decisions taken were:

- 🌐 The Governing Council, headed by Mr. Subir Raha, will continue its work for another term of two years, until June 2007.
- 🌐 There will now be four Vice Presidents (instead of one), each representing a region in the country.
- 🌐 The Global Compact Society will establish chapters in major cities, such as Mumbai, Bangalore, Calcutta, etc.
- 🌐 All Indian companies participating in the Global Compact, whether members of GCS or not, were requested to post their Communication on Progress on their web site, in accordance with UNGC guidelines, and inform the UNGC Office and the focal point Uddesh Kohli.
- 🌐 Orientation Workshops have been conducted at different places on the issue of COPs (the first of such workshops took place on 3 June in New Delhi).
- 🌐 The Annual Report for 2004-05 was approved and the Program of Activities for the GCS for 2005-06 was endorsed.

For more information please contact Mr. Uddesh Kohi at uddeshkohli@lycos.com.

JAPAN

Japanese Network Announces Steering Committee

In 2002, the Global Compact was first introduced in Japan. By May 2005, 35 Japanese companies joined the initiative.

On 25 May 2005, a draft agreement for the Global Compact Japan Network (GCJN) was considered and approved at the general meeting, which included representatives of most Japanese participants, as well as other stakeholders. In accordance with the Agreement, on the same day, a Steering Committee was formed to set out the network's priority areas. The Steering Committee's members (with a tentative term of two years) are as follows:

- 🌐 **Business** (in alphabetical order): Amita Corporation; Fuji Xerox Company Ltd.; Kikkoman Corporation; Mitsui & Co., Ltd.; Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd.; RICOH Company Ltd.; Sakaguchi E.H.VOC Corp.;
- 🌐 **NGO community**: Mr. Toshihiko Goto, Director-General, GRI Japan Forum;
- 🌐 **Academia**: Professor Toru Umeda, Deputy Director, the Business Ethics and Compliance Research Center;
- 🌐 **United Nations**: UNIC Tokyo (as Secretariat)

It was also decided that the Steering Committee would plan GCJN's annual CSR forum in November 2005, as well as a series of briefings from the UN team on the relevance of the GC principles in daily business practice.

Please contact Mr. Akio Nomura (nomura@untokyo.jp) for more information.

CANADA

Global Compact Roundtable in Montréal

On May 30, the North American Forum on Integration (NAFI) organized a panel on the United Nation's Global Compact. The panel had as its objective to disseminate information to Canadian businesses concerning the Global Compact. Internationally, more than 2000 businesses have responded to the challenge of developing a more sustainable and inclusive global economy. Up to date, there are only 25 participants in Canada.

The event, organised during the *Conférence de Montréal*, brought together around 60 participants. Exchanges focused around how to integrate and reconcile business practices with principles recognized in international agreements, without hindering the business's ability to remain competitive globally.

The participants agreed that the Global Compact's principles are simple, flexible and inclusive and concluded that they can be easily integrated by various types of organizations. At the same time there are real and pressing limitations to the adoption of the Global Compact. The rules of the game must not be so stringent as to exclude businesses in emerging countries from being able to be competitive on the global scene.

Mr Martin Abega Executive Secretary of the Inter-Enterprise Group of Cameroon (GICAM), expressed the idea that an eleventh principle on fostering equality amongst nations should be enunciated for the communication channels to be reinforced amongst nations in order for true improvements and dialogue to ensue. Mr François Rebello, Chief Executive Officer of the Groupe Investissement Responsable (GIR) stated that the Global Compact is a credible and a good reference point for investors to evaluate a company and that infringing companies can be punished through the power of its shareholders and public denunciations of such transgressions. Mr Rebello pointed to the example of both Talisman and Wal-Mart's shares significantly dropping following the disclosure of their ill conduct towards their employees and hosting communities.





For some participants, a GC network in Canada is not perceived as essential to the already extensive network of organizations related to corporate social responsibility and environmental issues. Others believe that a network would in effect strengthen the Global Compact's presence in Canada and would heighten the credibility of the initiative amongst shareholders because it would provide greater transparency and accountability on the part of its members.

For more information on this project, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Corriveau (ecorriveau@fina-nafi.org).

EGYPT

Global Compact Learning Forum

As part of the efforts to improve the implementation of the Global Compact in Egypt, the Egyptian GC Network, together with the office of the UN Resident Coordinator, organized a learning forum. The forum was divided into a number of learning events and dialogues that focused on the ten Global Compact principles and various issues related to Corporate Social Responsibility. The forum aimed to ensure a more coherent understanding of the principles, a better implementation of the principles, a substantive dialogue among the various stake holders and to guarantee a better quality of the participants' Communications on Progress due by June 2005.

-  Workshop I: Business and Human Rights
-  Workshop II: Business and Labor
-  Workshop III: Business and Environment
-  Workshop IV: "Understanding GC's Anti-Corruption Principle"

The final workshop, "Understanding the GC's Anti-Corruption Principle", took place on 18 April in Cairo. The meeting concentrated on solid steps that companies can operationalize, such as developing an internal system to detect and deal with corruption. On a national level it was discussed whether a lobby group could be organized to engage with government representative to combat corruption on a larger scale.

Please contact Mr. Mohamed El-Kalla (mohamed.elkalla@undp.org) for more information.

FRANCE

International Conference on Business Contribution to MDGs

On 14 June, the leaders of France and Britain, along with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, met in Paris with executives of more than 140 companies participating in the GC, during a conference on the business contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The event was organized by the French Global Compact Network.

The leaders called for stronger momentum for development in Africa, and urged worldwide business to join the effort.

"We must urgently redouble our efforts," said U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, adding that at the upcoming September summit on the MDGs "we cannot be satisfied ... with simply repeating promises made five years ago."




Tony Blair praised the agreement by G-8 finance ministers to cancel US\$40 billion in debts owed by the world's poorest countries. But French President Jacques Chirac insisted that "significant guarantees" be joined to the accord, which will immediately wipe out all debts that 18 countries owe the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank. "This accord must absolutely be financed by new resources and not by a simple reallocation ... so as not to affect the capacity of these institutions to finance projects in poor countries," Chirac said.

Looking toward the September U.N. summit, the British prime minister said he believes there is a chance for "real progress" this year toward meeting the MDGs.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stressed: "It is the absence of broad-based business activity, not its presence, that condemns much of humanity to suffering. Indeed, what is utopian is the notion that poverty can be overcome without the active engagement of business".

"I do hope there again there can be a strong partnership between business and government. We need your help," Tony Blair told business leaders.

During the afternoon session of the conference, five high-level working groups (Financing for Development; Public Governance; Health, HIV/Aids, TBC, Malaria; Education & Capacity-Building; Social & Environmental Responsibility and Fair Trade) issued strong recommendations to governments to create incentives so that business can more fully contribute to the advancement of the MDGs. More specifically, the working groups proposed to:

-  institute effective platforms for partnerships at the global and local level;
-  create government incentives so that responsible business practices are rewarded; and
-  improve governance, so that entrepreneurship and business growth can play their full role in development.

The participants also made specific recommendations to promote development in Africa and addressed key areas, such as health and education.

A full report of the meeting is now available on the Global Compact website. *Please contact Mr. Conrad Eckenschwiller (eckenschwiller.conrad@wanadoo.fr) for more information.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NETWORK NEWS

The Global Compact Office encourages networks to submit articles (if possible with photographs) about their activities for publication in future issues of the Network News. The deadline for the next issue of the Network News is the end of September. Please send your contributions, including contact information to **Ms. Nessa Whelan (whelan@un.org)**. If you wish to include photographs and/or other graphical materials, please send them as high-resolution (300 dpi) JPG or TIFF images or as vector graphics (EPS).

KENYA

Global Compact and GSB Initiative Launched in Kenya

Representatives from government, the private sector, civil society and the donor community met on Tuesday and opened discussions on two global UN initiatives that have now started in Kenya: the UN Global Compact and the Growing Sustainable Business (GSB) initiative. The Global Compact seeks to bring companies together with UN agencies, labour and civil society in an effort to advance universal social and environment principles. A complementary, but distinct initiative, the GSB aims to find ways to increase pro-poor business in Kenya and to facilitate greater business involvement in development and poverty reduction efforts.

The Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry, Hon. Zaddock Syongoh, Dr. Manu Chandaria, Founding Chairman of KEPISA and Executive Director of Comcraft, and Paul Andre de la Porte, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative opened the event. The regional representative of the Global Compact, Ms. Ellen Kallinowsky and the UNDP Special Advisor, Mr. William Day facilitated the discussions. The event was organized by UNDP, in collaboration with other UN agencies, the Government of Kenya, the private sector and civil society representatives.

More than 50 representatives assembled in the day-long meeting to discuss the role of the business community in delivering the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Companies were challenged to sign the Global Compact and hence, commit to making the ten Global Compact principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, part of business strategy and operations. Tetra Pak and Standard Chartered, who have already signed the Compact at HQ level, reaffirmed their company's commitment locally. Seven other companies joined the Global Compact for the first time.


The event also familiarized participants with the Growing Sustainable Business model, which facilitates business-led enterprise solutions to poverty and provides a framework through which the risks associated with specific private sector investments in least developed countries can be mitigated. The discussions focused on how business can help Kenya improve its domestic investment environment, grow the domestic business sector and meet the development targets spelled out in the Economic Recovery Strategy (ERS). Three companies, SC Johnson, Tetra Pak and Grameen Technology Center introduced their pro-poor business investment ideas.

The Growing Sustainable Business initiative stems from the United Nations Global Compact Policy Dialogue in 2002 on "Business and Sustainable Development", globally launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The initiative recognizes that little of the increase in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) to developing countries over the last decade goes to the Least Developed Countries. In addition, it also recognizes that by developing innovative products, services and approaches, and by working in partnership with other sectors, business can significantly contribute to sustainable development through its investments. The initiative therefore aims to facilitate and increase investments and business activities that have a positive impact on sustainable development and on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in particular on local economic development. The GSB is currently active in Tanzania, Madagascar, Ethiopia, and Zambia.

Please contact Mr. Sameer Hajee (sameer.hajee@undp.org) of UNDP Kenya for more information.

COMPACT STATS

BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS: 2142
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED: 80
(as of 5 July 2005)



**THE GLOBAL
COMPACT**

EGYPT PARTICIPANTS SHOWCASE ACTIVITIES

One year after the official launch of the Global Compact in Egypt, the Egyptian Global Compact Network hosted a high-level event at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria on 16 June to showcase company activities and discuss challenges and opportunities on the way forward.

The high-level event, entitled “Corporate Success through Social Responsibility in Egypt”, was organized by UNDP Egypt and sponsored by the Mansour Manufacturing and Distribution Group. It brought together close to 300 representatives from Egyptian business, civil society, government and the media. The opening panel included speeches by Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Minister of Investment of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Antonio Vigilante, UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt, Georg Kell, Executive Head of the Global Compact, and Youssef L. Mansour, Chairman and CEO of the Mansour Group.

Egyptian participants also used the opportunity to submit their Communications on Progress (COP), outlining company activities in support of the ten Global Compact principles.



Please contact Mr. Mohamed El-Kalla (mohamed.elkalla@undp.org) for more information.

MALAWI

Malawi Leaders Forum on Building Alliances to Eliminate Corruption

The AICC Africa Corporate Sustainability Forum, in partnership with the Malawi Global Compact, held a Leaders’ Forum on Building Alliances to Eliminate Corruption on the 7th of June 2005 at the Malawi Institute of Management (MIM).

His Excellency the President Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika opened the event, which was a business-led initiative to explore how the sector could work actively with partners from government and broader civil society to effectively eliminate corruption in the country. After a series of short speeches provided the context for the event, several roundtables were held to identify the challenges that currently exist in fighting corruption. This in turn was followed by an additional set of roundtables, aimed at developing an initial action plan for progressing towards the elimination of corruption.

Key outcomes of the Forum were:

- 🌐 For an independent taskforce to be established, which would drive the action plan forward.
- 🌐 To review existing codes and the adoption or development of a code of conduct for the private sector and state enterprise in Malawi to promote a zero tolerance approach to corruption.
- 🌐 The initiating of an independent body that would build value around, or incentivise, a zero tolerance policy on corruption - particularly as it related to the supply chain of larger companies, state enterprise and government procurement. This would include the application of a scorecard or rating model that companies would agree to respect in terms of obtaining or providing goods or services. The Nigerian Convention on Corruption model was highlighted as a potential model to be followed if it was viewed to be appropriate in the Malawian context.
- 🌐 A recognition of the need to strengthen corporate governance practices of both private and public sector businesses in Malawi.
- 🌐 The development of a system for publicising all major procurement contracts and transparent processes for deciding on successful bids.
- 🌐 The formation of a government working group to highlight inefficiencies in the system that create loop holes for engaging in corrupt practices, and devise ways of eliminating such inefficiencies.
- 🌐 For government to look to ratify the AU Convention on Corruption • For donors to provide greater support for multi-sector alliance building initiatives that aim to eliminate corruption in the country.

Please contact Ms. Daisy Vakarathiwe Kambalame (daisy@aiccafrica.org) of the African Intitute for Corporate Citizenship for more information.

LITHUANIA

President Introduces Global Compact, 40 Businesses Join

The Presidential Office in Vilnius provided the setting for the official launch of the Global Compact in Lithuania on 2 June. In the presence of Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus, over 40 Lithuanian businesses joined the Global Compact, presenting their official letters of commitment to Georg Kell, Executive Head of the Global Compact Office.

In his opening speech, President Adamkus expressed his belief that the Global Compact will certainly make an impact on the state's economic and social development. "The process that has been started a couple of years ago as an idea, today transforms into a concrete actions. I truly believe that these actions will have an important effect for the people of Lithuania," the President said.

Georg Kell offered words of encouragement to the Lithuanian business leaders and stressed the simplicity and universality of the ten Global Compact principles. "This rather moral commitment is useful for the company's image and brand name because it brings added value. Also, it may give additional argument in highly competitive national and global markets," Kell said.

Among those Lithuanian companies that joined the Global Compact and the national network of socially responsible businesses are some of the country's biggest manufacturers, financial institutions, retail chains, labor and business associations as well as a number of small and medium-size enterprises.

"The enthusiasm of Lithuania's enterprises to support and promote the principles of socially responsible business is highly appreciated and welcomed by the United Nations Development Programme and other development advocates. With this initiative companies can not only help improve their image, exchange experiences on issues of importance to companies, and implement risk management strategies, but they also can be involved and become more efficient in the processes of economic and social development", said Cihan Sultanoglu, United Nations Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Lithuania.

For more information please contact Ms. Ieva Burneikaite (ieva.burneikaite@undp.org).

MEXICO

President Fox Pledges Mexico's Commitment to Global Compact

The Global Compact was launched in Mexico on 9 June, with more than 200 representatives of business, government, civil society and the UN system attending the official ceremony at Mexico City's Polyforum Siqueiros. Addressing the participants, President Vicente Fox praised Mexican businesses for their support of "this great cause" and announced the commitment of his administration and the country's entire public sector to the 10 Global Compact principles.

120 Mexican businesses joined the Global Compact at the launch, but the number rose to nearly 200 companies in the course of the day.



For more information please contact Ms. Susana Weyer at the Global Compact (weyers@un.org), or visit the official website of the Global Compact in Mexico at <http://www.un.org.mx/pactomundial/pactomundial.htm>.