



Global Compact Network Australia



Dear Signatories, friends and colleagues of the UN Global Compact Australian Network

This is the last e-news of our important foundational year for the Australian Network of the UN Global Compact, which has seen an increase in participating signatories in Australia by **more than 50%**.

As events in Copenhagen now unfold, our **Federal Treasurer The Hon Wayne Swan MP (last Friday Dec 4) acknowledged the UN Global Compact** as one of an important group of responsible business practice initiatives supported by the government:

"The Government has also taken action to promote corporate social responsibility and responsible practices here in Australia. We have supported the St James Ethics Centre to house the Australian focal point for the Global Reporting Initiative and the UN Global Compact, and provided \$2.5 million to the Responsible Investment Association of Australasia to establish a world-first Responsible Investment Academy."

On the same day the UN General Assembly has reaffirmed the critical role of the private sector in supporting UN goals and has recognized the central function of the Global Compact (agenda item 59: Towards Global Partnerships). Member States further recognized the roles of the Principles for Responsible Investment and the Principles for Responsible Management Education. Both initiatives were established with the critical support of the Global Compact.

UPDATES FROM THE NETWORK:

I am delighted to announce our most recent Australian Signatory to the Global Compact - John Ferguson Pty Ltd (Fergies Print & Mail) and we warmly welcome them to the growing list of Australian Global Compact Participants.

Updates to this email include a number of attachments which you may choose to download for further information.

1. Awareness Raising: [The Ethical Investor Magazine](#) article featuring our Network in this month's issue on human rights in business is attached. Thank you to those who got back to us for this request. For those whose stories were not featured, we would still like to include these on our website. This was an excellent awareness raising opportunity for the Compact and Australian Signatories.

2. Bangkok Report

I have now returned from a stimulating regional conference in Bangkok: the [1st Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Conference](#) – an OECD-UNESCAP CSR event with an overlapping UN Global Compact (UNGC) Regional meeting where I was joined by two Australian UNGC Signatories - CPA Australia and Lincolne Crown. Part of the event was dedicated to a discussion on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. A summary report is attached.

Of note was the presentation of the [CSR Asia Ratings](#) - featuring Australian companies in the top 10 - congratulations to these, 4 of whom are Global Compact signatories.

Importantly the event included a consultation session dedicated to the development of an Asia-Pacific Global Compact Community of Practice This promises to hold many excellent

opportunities for Australian signatories and I look forward to keeping you in the loop. You can check out the new regional portal- which is under development:

www.globalcompactasiapacific.org/regional . Further ideas to emerge from the visioning exercise include the identification of a "Group of 45" champion CEOs from within the region (3 per country) committed to the development of a regional Network and potentially available to speak on the Global Compact at regional events, together with case studies from the same 45 companies developed on a standard template and accessible from the Regional web portal. More on this as it comes to hand.

3. Capacity Building

Thanks to those organisations joining the webinar session on October 30: "Introduction to the Global Compact". More training to come next year.

4. Business and Human Rights Online Forum

Launched by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), John Ruggie, the forum is to gather input for the SRSG as he develops guiding principles to operationalize the U.N. "Protect, Respect, Remedy" framework, as requested by the Human Rights Council. The forum is currently focused on the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, the second pillar of the framework. The current topics will remain in place through February 2010. Click here to participate: www.srsgconsultation.org

Please note that the forum is not intended to be an introduction to business and human rights or to the SRSG's mandate. For background on the mandate, please visit the SRSG's web portal, which is hosted by the independent Business & Human Rights Resource Centre: <http://www.business-humanrights.org/SpecialRepPortal/Home>.

5. Call for Papers for a Special Issue of *Business & Society* - has been made by Professor Malcolm McIntosh to researchers in our Network interested in the Global Compact, calling for papers that deal with all aspects and dynamics of the Global Compact, ranging from comparative case studies, qualitative and quantitative work assessing the Compact's performance to date, as well as thoughtful essays about the Compact and its past, present, or future.

Regards

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