



# Global Compact Network Australia



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

Welcome to our first Global Compact Network Australia Newsletter for 2010. 2009 was an 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% (local and global signatories) and support from our Federal Government.

**In 2010 we are on track to hold our first annual Meeting from our first steering committee and deliver a range of activities to support Australian signatories through the activation of the Network and we look forward to your involvement. All this in the year of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Compact!**

I am delighted to announce our most recent Australian Signatories to the Global Compact - Sebel Furniture, Hoadley Budge Olphert & Edwards Madigan Torzillo Briggs (Australia) Pty Limited, NDA and John Ferguson Pty Ltd and we warmly welcome them to the growing list of Australian Global Compact Participants.

#### UPDATES:

1. Last week you would have received the following invitation: **On 15-16 March 2010, the Global Compact Indian Network** will host a regional meeting for all Global Compact participants based in the Asia-Pacific region. This would be an excellent Networking opportunity to join in developing a road map for strengthening the responsible business movement across Asia-Pacific. For more information on the programme and to register (free of charge), please visit:  
<http://bulletin.unglobalcompact.org/t/r/l/uddkhr/tjjkisk/rwww.globalcompactconclave.in> or send an email to <mailto:gcnindia@gmail.com> [gcnindia@gmail.com](mailto:gcnindia@gmail.com). I would also be keen to hear from those of you able to attend.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT DIARY DATES FOR 2010:

2. **April 21 (tentative) - Inaugural Annual Meeting of the Global Compact Network Australia:** Planning is underway for our inaugural annual meeting to include a welcome to all new signatories (from 2009), a business and government leaders panel to discuss corporate citizenship in the Australian context, followed by the business of the meeting – voting in of the inaugural Australia Network Steering Committee, and acceptance of documents from the Working Group- mission statement, network brochure, general governance docs, proposed activities for the year. These will be circulated for comment prior to the meeting. Once the date and venue are confirmed I will send out a more formal diary notice. This will be the most important meeting of the year.
3. **27 and 28 May 2010- Parliament House, Canberra - [The 11th National Business Leaders Forum on Sustainable Development \(NBLF\)](#)** – the theme for this year's Forum: Sustainable Business Leadership in the Asia Pacific: Growing the Low Carbon Economy. The NBLF supports the UN Global Compact Network Australia and will therefore feature a presentation/panel on the GC. The program is under development but I would be keen to hear from those of you interested in participating. The Forum is positioned for senior decision makers across business, government and civil society and speakers are usually CEO/executive level. A CEO/Ministerial roundtable is included in the program. More on this as it comes to hand.

**4. 24-25 June, New York- [UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010](#)** – by invitation . The Leaders Summit will convene chief executives with leaders from civil society, government and the UN to elevate the role of responsible business. Held every three years, the Summit is the forum for Global Compact participants to renew their commitment to responsible practices, share progress made and set the direction for the coming years. This year the summit celebrates the 10 year anniversary of the Compact.

**5. 17 September, Brisbane - [Australia-Pacific Earth Charter \(+10\) Festival: Corporate and Global Governance Conference](#).** The conference is being held as part of the Earth Charter festival (also celebrating 10 years), sponsored by Griffith University and with the support of the Qld Government, The Brisbane City Council and a host of NGOs. The conference organisers- including the UN Association of Australia- have generously offered the Global Compact Network the opportunity to feature in the Corporate and Governance Conference which is one day stream of a three day event focussed on social responsibility and the UN Global Compact, with the involvement of UNGC members in the Pacific as well. The organisers are currently seeking our advice on-

- the development of the Program, including inspirational keynote speakers to attract and motivate CEOs/Board members/Senior management in particular.
- Dr Simon Longstaff's and my involvement on the day as a presenter and/or facilitator of one of the Workshops. These will include a Management Workshop in relation to the GRI and other practical tools (eg. GRI) and a senior level session.
- assistance in marketing the Conference across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island nations possible involvement as sponsors in the Corporate and Governance Program.

**6. 2 June, Brisbane - Pre-Event** mid-year in the lead up to the to celebrations of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in New York of the UN Global Compact and to raise the profile of the Conference and the Earth Charter Festival, with the United Nations Association of Australia, Sandra Waddock and Malcolm McIntosh (international CSR authorities) , and a Global Compact signatory.

#### **NEWS FROM THE NETWORK:**

**[The "Good Business Register"](#)** –an online platform **mapped to the Global Compact principles**, developed by St James Ethics Centre, a range of project collaborators and funded by the Federal Government (Treasury) has recently been created to allow small to medium sized business the opportunity to learn and build a sustainability profile in order to communicate responsible business practices to suppliers, customers etc - an increasingly necessary part of doing business. I will send out a separate communication to invite SME signatories to participate on the Register with support through until Easter.

**Principles for Responsible Social Investment (PRSI)** – acting on a proposal initially voiced by the Prime Minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, Dr Simon Longstaff, St James Ethics Centre has been working with project collaborators internationally, distilling best-practices into a set of principles that guide the ongoing practice of social investment, to create the Principles for Responsible Social Investment (PRSI). The PRSI will be launched at the Global Compact Leaders Summit in June to be used in conjunction with the Global Compact. I look forward to sharing these documents with you shortly.

#### **IN THE NEWS:**

"A coalition of global investors is writing to 86 major companies urging them to honour the reporting requirements of the United Nations Global Compact, the world's biggest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative" [Read more here](#).

<http://www.moneymanagement.com.au/Article/Investors-call-for-more-responsible->

[corporate-reporting/511238.aspx" \o  
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corporate-reporting/511238.aspx](http://www.moneymanagement.com.au/Article/Investors-call-for-more-responsible-corporate-reporting/511238.aspx)

Rosemary Sainty  
**UN GLOBAL COMPACT FOCAL POINT FOR AUSTRALIA**