



Global Compact Network Australia

WA Welcomes the UN Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA)


Meeting held on Wednesday 23 February, 2011,
Kindly hosted by Western Power, and supported by ERM

SUMMARY REPORT

On Wednesday 23 February, 2011 an outstanding turn-out and successful evening for the Global Compact Network Australia was held including:

- o Welcome from the Host: Western Power
Rita Sully, Manager, Sustainability Assessment and Community Engagement, Western Power
- o Overview of the UN Global Compact and briefing on its Australian Network
Rosemary Sainty, Head Secretariat, Global Compact Network Australia:
 - o **Vision:** "To become Australia's strongest corporate citizenship movement committed to the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption"
 - o **and Mission:** "To engage the UN Global Compact signatories in Australia through local events and the fostering of a strong, supportive network of like-minded businesses"

and its Australian Network activity to date including the launch of the Business and Human Rights Working Group.

	Global Compact Network Australia	Network Activities
Outreach- Welcome Events August/Sept 2010 – Melbourne and Sydney, Hosted by KPMG Value add: Welcome, networking, acknowledge new Network members, delegate feedback from New York UNGC Leaders Summit – Corporate Sustainable Leadership Blueprint. Addresses from UN on MDGs (Melb) and the UN Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI) (Syd)		
Joint Event with GRI Focal Point: International Thought Leader John Elkington Oct 2010 – Sydney, Hosted by Westpac Value add: Key opportunity to converse with global thought leader on key trends – the "transparent economy" and future of sustainability and the integrated reporting agenda		
Senior Leadership Event- Sir Mark Moody-Stuart (former global Chair of Shell and current Chair of the Foundation for the Global Compact) November, Melbourne, Hosted by ANZ. Value add: Business leadership luncheon - opportunity to engage board/exec level senior. Afternoon tea for signatories and members- networking, connect with UNGC Leadership on latest thinking and planning. "Mix with others working in this space, and to remember that much is being achieved"		
Human Rights Working Group for Business December 2010 – Human Rights Day, hosted by Allens Arthur Robinson Multi-stakeholder panel followed by working group led by facilitators and presenters. Value add: International and National briefings, Peer learning (Woolworths, Sebel Furniture), resource sharing, Chatham House Rule. First of a quarterly series, partnering with the Australian Commission for Human Rights		

- o Presentation by Greg Maher, Communities and Partnerships, Rio Tinto on the business experience of the Compact from Rio Tinto – signatory to the UN Global Compact and member of the Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA). Key points included:
 - o the necessity of understanding and implementing "CSR", not to be seen as more difficult than other activities undertaken by business
 - o synergy with Rio's activities and the Global Compact principles
 - o changing the way we do business- measurable, accountable, importance of long term access, mindsets and clear leadership



OUTCOMES

A discussion on the merits of the formation of a West Australian GCNA based community of practice produced the following outcomes:

1. Creation of a group that would reflect the unique nature of WA's CSR needs
2. A working group that identifies WA's unique needs; advocates for research papers/position papers to drive the agenda with government & industry
3. Consideration of how to effect a cumulative community impact and greater collaboration between business operations

With a number of related discussion points:

- o the legitimacy of the UN Global Compact- convening power, interest of government
- o long-lead environmental issues such as water management
- o work cross-sectorally and involve SMEs, include beyond mining companies
- o being clear on the benefits of the Global Compact
- o using the UN Global Compact to lift profile internally on key issues
- o looking at how high level commitment to the Global Compact translates on the ground, the operational level
- o Millennium Development Goals (supported by the Global Compact) – regionally, a chance for Australia be a leader
- o benefits that exist for SMEs- what can they get and give back
- o consideration of human rights issues- indigenous employment and more
- o cumulative effects of water and climate change and understanding the relevant contexts
- o diversity
- o leadership



NEXT STEPS



Given the level of interest in establishing a WA “community of practice” supported by Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA), planning will commence for future activity. Please contact me directly if you would like to be involved in the planning phase: rsain@ethics.org.au.

Meanwhile I look forward to maintaining communication as regards Australia-wide Global Compact events.

Rosemary Sainty
Head, Secretariat, Global Compact Network Australia

Perth event supported by:



Organisations in attendance included:

Fortescue Metals Group Pty Ltd, BHP Billiton Petroleum, Newmont Mining, Curtin University, Engineers Without Borders, , Parsons Brinckerhoff, Western Power, S3 - Sustainable Strategic Solutions, Business for Millennium Development, BankWest, Rio Tinto, Accenture, Coakes Consulting, ERM, Chevron, BPW Australia, Ernst &Young, KPMG, Unity Resources Group.

Founding Members:

**Accenture | Allens Arthur Robinson | Australia Post | KPMG | Nestle Australia
St James Ethics Centre | Westpac | Woolworths**