Equal in an Unequal World: The Value of Values in Responsible Business
Global Conference, 3-5 January 2014, IIMB, Bangalore, India

The Context

Crises and Opportunities - the Inequality Dimension

In the context of the five deepening global crises - economic, financial, environmental, political and leadership crises - the growing inequality related to gender, to wealth distribution and access to natural resources, jobs and education is becoming a major factor and a key challenge in the transition towards a sustainable social, economic and ecological model of development. The simultaneous surge in economic growth and inequality has led to serious implications for the BRIC countries like India and China, but also has revealed deep tensions and has posed risks for the Western societies in the so called developed industrialized world. One of the promises of the globalization is that economic, political and social development could reduce many inequalities through access to resources, education, gender awareness etc. But inequalities persist to exist and new forms came up which lead to social unrest, protest, revolutions, physical and mental diseases.

So what are the current and future dimensions of inequality on national and global levels, and how are they interrelated with the various aspects of sustainable development? How can equality be improved? How much inequality is needed in competing markets? What is the role of business ethics and CSR in this process? The 2014 GEF conference addresses the above and many other questions through a diverse framework of plenary and workshop sessions bringing together the voices of key leaders from India and worldwide, the concepts, practical tools and solutions resulting from the Globethics.net workgroups and activities, and the potential of global networking.

Organized in collaboration with:
Centre for Corporate Governance and Citizenship, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB)
Centre for International Business Ethics (CIBE) China
The 2014 Global Ethics Forum (GEF) Conference Equal in Unequal World: The Value of Values in Responsible Business will be held 3-5 January 2014 in Bangalore/India. The GEF international conference is not just an ordinary event - it is a sequence of annual conferences combined with customized exchanges during the year, joint practical projects and specific access to documentation and publications for partners. The 2014 GEF Conference is organized by Globethics.net in collaboration with the Centre for Corporate Governance and Citizenship, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), India and the Centre for International Business Ethics (CIBE), China, under the leadership of three International Chairs:

- **Mr. Walter Fust**, Swiss Ambassador, President, Globethics.net and Co-Chair of The Global Ethics Forum (GEF);
- **Prof. Judge Mervyn King**, Chairman of the International Integrated Reporting Committee (IIRC); and
- **Mr. S.D. Shibulal**, CEO and Co-Founder, Infosys Technologies, India

The main focus of the conference will be on showcasing best practices in ethical business and corporate responsibility showing the value of values in business with renewed accent on the humanistic multicultural ethical values of responsible leadership and their role in addressing inequality as part of the transformation of business and society towards sustainability. Equality of all human beings is a core ethical value and a core human right. The global society can only be sustainable if it is capable to manage the diverse forms and dimensions of inequality on the base of preservation of the harmonious balance between human and non-human beings and the environment. Keynote speakers from companies, politics and academic sector in India, Europe, USA, Africa and Asia will challenge the conference participants. The open discussions and networking are an important part of the event. **Expected outcomes:**

- The GEF 2014 will define a set of principles for responsible leadership towards sustainable economy based on ethical values.
- The conference will bring together the messages and commitments of influential thinkers, practitioners and leaders in CSR and business ethics and will disseminate them to Globethics.net’s 75 000 members and to the GEF expanded regional audiences.
- The Globethics.net constituencies together with the conference participants and their constituencies and networks will be mobilized through the social media and will give their input to the GEF 2014.

The above actions will be accompanied by **coordinated regional and global media forecast of the event’s sessions, release of articles and other publications during and after the event, as well as through launch and provision of tools and practical solutions to business ethics dilemmas** on the Globethics.net platform and at the conference.

Global Ethics Forum and Globethics.net

The Global Ethics Forum (GEF) project organized by Globethics.net aims to bridge the knowledge gap in the field of business ethics and corporate social responsibility between diverse cultures, sectors and members of the society, and between the West and the emerging economies and the Global South. The sequence of GEF conferences is combined with an on-going process during the year, including four key activities: **events, research, exchange and documentation**. Backed up by the largest global digital library on ethics, interactive internet-based tools and work-group platforms, and face-to-face meetings and events, GEF allow ethics and corporate social responsibility practitioners from different parts of the World to share their knowledge, learning and good practices as part of an open global dialogue on applied business ethics, and to identify and work jointly on finding practical solutions to the key challenges and business ethics dilemmas.

Globethics.net is the leading global platform for the exchange of and research on ethics and values representing a multi-lingual, multicultural global online network on applied ethics with 80’000 registered individuals and 175 institutions from all continents and sectors of society. It has a special focus on ethics, particularly business ethics, corporate social responsibility and sustainability, responsible leadership, environmental ethics, interreligious ethics and ethics of science and technology. It offers an online library with over 1 million full text documents, a Directory of 500 business ethics experts and a Directory of 1500 institutions on ethics and responsibility. Globethics.net strengthens ethical dialogue, reflection and action among emerging and developing countries by: (a) knowledge sharing through open access to its flagship global digital library on ethics; (b) networking to combine contextual and global ethical perspectives; (c) empowering people and institutions in their efforts to promote ethical behaviour and structures; (d) stimulating international collaborative research on ethics; and (e) training people for responsible leadership.

Globethics.net was founded in 2004 as a non-profit association and has been a Swiss Foundation since 2009. The Founder and Executive Director of Globethics.net is Christoph Stürckelberger, Professor of Ethics and internationally recognized expert, author and consultant in business ethics, environmental ethics and political ethics. The international Board of Foundation is composed of eight highly recognized personalities from all continents and different sectors of society. The international secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland. Regional programmes and offices exist in China, India, Indonesia, East Africa, and Francophone Africa. Globethics.net has cooperation agreements with over 100 partner organizations and networks. The website, www.globethics.net is a documentation center, a networking platform, and a research tool and partner portal.
# The Event

**Global Ethics Forum 2014, 3-4 January** with follow up events on 5 January

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day One</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Speakers (names in progress, not yet listed)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Early Morning</td>
<td>Equal in an Unequal World - What are the current and future dimensions of inequality on national and global levels, and how are they interrelated with the various aspects of sustainable development?</td>
<td>Keynotes and high level panel - Corporate and governmental leaders from India and international incl. UN agencies</td>
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<td>Late Morning</td>
<td>How much equality and how much inequality? The Value of Values - What are the mechanisms for minimizing the various forms of inequality, what are the role of business ethics and CSR? and what role the business sector and the other non-business sectors can play? Presentation of Globethics.net social media campaign “Your choice for equality” - messages of young people</td>
<td>High level panel - Experts in Ethics together with CEOs, Heads of governmental, academic and religious organizations, NGO leaders</td>
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<td>Early Afternoon</td>
<td>Tackling the Economic Dimension of Inequality - challenges, opportunities, and way forward Workgroup sessions</td>
<td>Made and presented by members of youth leadership initiatives and others</td>
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<td>Late Afternoon</td>
<td>Good Practices Corporate Cases: 4-8 parallel Q&amp;A sessions - life interviews with companies addressing inequality</td>
<td>Four parallel workshops. One Chairperson per workshop. GEF Workgroup Moderators report at relevant workshops</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
<td>Cultural programme and networking dinner</td>
<td>Interviewers and company representatives</td>
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<th>Day Two</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<td>Early Morning</td>
<td>Tackling the Social, Environmental and Spiritual Dimension of inequality - challenges, opportunities, and way forward&lt;br&gt;W5 Gender Equality&lt;br&gt;W6 Holistic business education to overcome inequality&lt;br&gt;W7 Spirituality for sustainability: overcoming inequality human-non-human&lt;br&gt;W8 Innovation ethics: Innovation for and with marginalized</td>
<td>Four parallel workshops. One Chairperson per workshop. GEF Workgroup Moderators report at relevant workshops. Equity studies and praxis eg Equity indices India.</td>
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<td>Late Morning</td>
<td>How can equality be improved - practical tools and cross-sector collaboration&lt;br&gt;W9 India-China-Africa-Middle East exchange/cooperation for equality&lt;br&gt;W10 2% for CSR in India: Private-Public-NGO-Partnerships&lt;br&gt;W11 Certification of SMEs: efforts in Europe and China&lt;br&gt;W12 Social media for participation and equal access to information</td>
<td>Four parallel workshops. One Chairperson per workshop. GEF Workgroup Moderators report at relevant workshops.</td>
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<td>Early Afternoon</td>
<td>Way forward: The global society should manage the diverse forms and dimensions of inequality on the base of preservation of the harmonious balance between human and non-human beings and the environment.</td>
<td>summary of outcomes from workshops (posters, cartoons, reports)</td>
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<td>Late Afternoon</td>
<td>Endorsement of Principles for Responsible Leadership towards Sustainable Economy and Equality based on ethical values. Social campaign awards.</td>
<td>High level closing panel - Experts in Ethics together with CEOs, Heads of governmental, academic and religious organizations, NGO leaders Closure of the social campaign “Your choice for equality”: 3-7 people’s awards (company, NGO, public admin, rel org)</td>
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Partners

Partners and Participants (selection from 2009, 2011, 2012 conferences)

African Innovation Foundation
Airbus
Arcelor Mittal
Aspen Institute
Banque de France
Biemerieux
BMCE Bank
BNP Paribas
CANON Europe
Carnegy Council
Cercle Ethique des Affaires
Comité Sénégalais des droits de l’homme
Compagnie Benjamin de Rothschild
Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia
EADS
Ecophilos
EDF
Enablon
ESSEC
GDF SUEZ
GSK Biologicals
Harvard Business School
HSBC
IMD
Indian Institute of Management
Insead/Ecclar
International Labour Organization
ILO
KPMG
Kroll
L’Oreal
La Sorbonne
La Tribune
Laboratoires FOURNIER - Solvay
Maaf
Malakoff Mederic
MEDEF
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes, France
Ministère du Développement Durable, France
Natixis
Nestlé SA
Nexity Corp
Novartis
Pacific Millenium Corp
Organisation de la Francophonie
Pôle Emploi
Présidence de la République Française
Publicis Consultant
SAS Institute
Sciences Po Paris
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken
SODEXO
Sogeti-Capgemini
Sontrach
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs Secco, Switzerland
TBWA
Top Management
TOTAL
UN Board of Auditors
UN Global Compact
UNCTAD
UNCE
UNHCR
UNRISD
World Economic Forum
World Microfinance Forum Geneva

Academic Partners and Associated Organizations

From 2011-2013 over 30 organizations are partners of the Global Ethics Forum Project. They include:

ACAMS Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists
AIESEC international student organisation
ALENE Latin American Business Ethics Network
BEN Africa Business Ethics Network of Africa
BFA Bread for All
CAUX Caux - Initiatives of Change
CBERN Canadian Business Ethics Research Network
CCGC Centre for Corporate Governance and Citizenship of the Indian Institute for Management (IIM-B), India
CIBE Centre for International Business Ethics, China
CEA Cercle d’Ethique des Affaires
CSR CSR Geneva, CSR wire
ECCS European Bahá’í Business Forum,
EBU European Broadcasting Union,
EBEN European Business Ethics Network,
ECOA Ethics & Compliance Officer Association,
EthicsSA Ethics Institute of South Africa
ETHIC Entreprises de Taille Humaine Indépendantes et de Croissance
GGCF Global Corporate Governance Forum
GRLI Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative
ICRS International Consortium for Religious Studies Indonesia
IEF International Environment Forum
ISBEE International Society of Business, Economics and Ethics
Johns Hopkins Carey Business School
KBC Kingdom Business College Hong Kong/China
Obsfin Observatoire de la Finance
Philias Philias Foundation
TI Transparency International
HEC University of Geneva Executive Education: CAS in Corporate Social Responsibility

Contact

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