

Public Forum: Equal in an Unequal World

Thursday 27 June 2013, 14:30-18:00

Main Hall, Ecumenical Centre, 150 route de Ferney, Geneva, Switzerland

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. 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? What is the role of business ethics and CSR in this process? The 2013 GEF Public Forum "Equal in an Unequal World" will address the above and many other questions through an open discussion of the UN *Synthesis Report of Global Public Consultation Addressing Inequalities* (<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/inequalities>) involving key leaders and experts in sustainability and business ethics from different parts of the world and different sectors of the society. **Note that the Public Forum is in English**

Public Forum Agenda

- 14:30 - 14:40 Opening by Ambassador Walter Fust, President Globethics.net
- 14:40 - 15:00 **Equal in an Unequal world - The global perspective on current and future dimensions of inequality based on the joint Civil Society/UN Synthesis Report of Global Public Consultation *Addressing Inequalities***
Guest Speaker: Dr Sarah Cook, Director, UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) / Advisory Group for the Consultation on Addressing Inequalities, UK/Global
- 15:00 - 16:15 **Tackling inequality as a key element of the sustainability and business ethics agendas - highlights from Asia, Africa, Turkey and the Middle East, and Europe**
Moderator: Teodorina Lessidrenska, Programme Executive Business Ethics, Globethics.net
Panellists:
 - Liu Baocheng, Prof., Director, Center for International Business Ethics, Beijing, China and Director of Globethics.net China
 - Rajiva Kumar Srivastava, Former Executive Director, Bharat Electricals Ltd., India
 - Gedeon Josua Rossouw, Prof., Ethics Institute of South Africa, South Africa
 - Tayfun Zaman, Director Ethics and Reputation Society (TEID), Turkey
 - Rémy Zinder, Director Department Regional Affairs, Economy and Health (DARES), Cantonal Sustainable Development Service (SCDD), Geneva, Switzerland
- 16:15 - 17:15 **Global Ethics Forum as a catalyst for action against inequality**
Moderator: Christoph Stückelberger, Prof., Executive Director and Founder of Globethics.net
Panellists:
 - Philip Lee, World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), Canada / Global Ethics Forum Workgroup Media Ethics
 - Teodorina Lessidrenska, Programme Executive Business Ethics, Globethics.net / Global Ethics Forum Workgroup SMEs & Ethics
 - Aurélien Atidegla, President of Dynamique OSCAF, Benin / Global Ethics Forum Workgroup Francophone Africa
 - Abaa Rosa Hänseler, Programme Coordinator African Law Library (ALL), Globethics.net
- 17:15 - 17:30 Announcements: Global Ethics Forum 2014 and Social Media Campaign "People's Choice for Equality"
- 17:30 Closing Remarks followed by Refreshments

The Global Ethics Forum (GEF) project organised by Globethics.net aims at providing an open platform for access to information and knowledge, dialogue, leadership and training as well as for action to the private sector and to all stakeholders on issues related to business ethics, corporate social responsibility and sustainable development in all sectors worldwide. The ultimate goal of the Forum is to bridge the knowledge gap in the field of business ethics between diverse cultures, sectors and members of the society, and between the West and the emerging economies and the Global South. Its unique process, comprised of the largest global digital library on ethics, interactive internet-based tools and work-group platforms, combined with face-to-face meetings and events, allows ethics and corporate social responsibility practitioners from disadvantaged parts of the World to share their knowledge, learning and good practices as part of an open global dialogue on applied business ethics, and together with the experts from industrialized countries to identify and work jointly on identifying the key challenges and business ethics dilemmas and finding practical solutions.

The GEF international conference is an important element of the Global Ethics Forum project and a flagship event of the Globethics.net. GEF is not just an ordinary event - it is a sequence of annual conferences combined with customised exchanges during the year, joint practical projects and specific access to documentation and publications for partners. The 2009, 2011 and 2012 editions of the GEF have been successful in setting up a platform for development of a global network of experts, institutions and individuals which are exchanging expertise and working on innovative practi-

cal solutions to ethical challenges in the business practice. Thus the 2011 and 2012 GEF resulted in development of GEF Workgroups organized around “seed” projects and engaging the Globethics.net membership in practical research, exchange of information and documentation and development of tools and giving advice on specific issues related to ethics and corporate responsibility.

The next Global Ethics Forum Conference will be held in early January 2014 in Bangalore/India, by Globethics.net in collaboration with the 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**, Ambassador, President, Globethics.net and Co-Chair of The Global Ethics Forum (GEF); **Judge Mervyn King**, Chairman of the International Integrated Reporting Committee (IIRC); **Mr. S.D. Shibulal**, CEO and Co-Founder, Infosys, India.

The Global Ethics Forum 2013 Working Session and Public Forum builds on the success of the first (2009), second (2011) and third (2012) Global Ethics Forums and plays key role in the preparation for the 2014 GEF in India. The two-day GEF 2013 event includes Working Sessions combined with the Public Forum “Equal in an Unequal World”.

The long-term goal of the GEF conference is, by providing a platform for open dialogue and knowledge sharing between diverse stakeholders with different ethical and cultural background, to build trust and create synergies for global dialogue and collaboration on the practical application of business ethics and corporate responsibility.



Globethics.net

Globethics.net is a multi-lingual, multicultural global online network on applied ethics with over 80'000 registered individuals and 175 institutions from all continents and sectors of society. It has a special focus on business ethics, 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 on a global level and with a special focus on emerging and developing countries by: (a) knowledge sharing through access to ethics information and know-how through 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, www.globethics.net was founded in 2004 as a non-profit association and has been a Swiss Foundation since 2009. It has regional programmes and/or national contacts on all continents and registered participants from over 200 countries and territories. Its international head office is based in Geneva/Switzerland.

Contact

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