



December 2009

Dear Rotary District Governors,

Rotary International's more than 32,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographic regions draw on wide range of volunteer talent and expertise to improve the quality of life for all people. Rotary's humanitarian efforts are complimented by its emphases on high ethical standards in business and all the professions. Rotary upholds such ethical standards in its "Four Way Test" and in the practical application of "Service Above Self" through countless humanitarian endeavors around the world.

In a like manner, the United Nations Global Compact is a public-private initiative for businesses worldwide committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. The United Nations Global Compact emphasizes that business, as a primary agent driving globalization, can influence and ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere.

The United Nations Global Compact exists to assist the private sector in the management of increasingly complex risks and opportunities in the environmental, social and governance realms. By working with private companies and leveraging the expertise and capacities of a range of other stakeholders, the United Nations Global Compact's more than 5,200 corporate participants and stakeholders from over 130 countries seek to build a more sustainable and inclusive global economy and catalyze actions in support of broader United Nations goals – including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The United Nations Global Compact and Rotary International share the ideals of high ethical business practices, sustainable humanitarian action, and world peace and understanding. Recognizing that such similar missions can lead to fruitful collaboration, Rotary International and the United Nations Global Compact encourage:

1. Education and information sharing between Rotary clubs and districts and Global Compact Local Networks through attendance or invitations to speak at key meetings;
2. As appropriate, individual Rotary members coordinate or facilitate their own businesses to commit to the United Nations Global Compact or invite Global Compact Local Network participants to join a local Rotary club;
3. Local project implementation or collaboration – particularly those addressing the Millennium Development Goals – between Rotary clubs and districts and Global Compact Local Networks; and

4. Joint collaborative efforts promoting the best of corporate social responsibility practices and volunteer leadership and action at the local, district or national level.

Working with the United Nations Global Compact, Rotary clubs and district can expand their impact by better understanding how high ethical standards in business, industry and society can address humanitarian concerns and enhance community development worldwide. We therefore urge you to inform clubs in your district that such opportunities exist and to encourage them to contact their Global Compact Local Network with a view to developing dialogue and mutually beneficial collaboration.

Information on the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles can be found at the following website: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/TheTenPrinciples/index.html>. In addition, information on Global Compact Local Networks can be found at: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NetworksAroundTheWorld/index.html>.

In a letter similar to this one, the UN Global Compact will also encourage its Global Compact Local Networks to contact local Rotary clubs and the appropriate district governor.

Through discussion, collaboration and joint cooperation, Rotary clubs and the United Nations Global Compact can foster high ethical standards, universal principles, humanitarian values and tangible humanitarian successes. Together, we can work for the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely,



Edwin H. Futa
General Secretary
Rotary International



Georg Kell
Executive Director
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