



Business and the Millennium Development Goals: An Active Role for Globally Responsible Companies

**10th International Business Forum
11-13 September 2005
New York**

While governments must lay the foundation for long-term economic growth in developing countries, business has a critical role to play as a creator of income and wealth. Long-term poverty reduction cannot happen without the employment, markets, trade and investment that business can create.

In this era of globalization, business interests increasingly overlap with development objectives. Reducing poverty helps create stable and inclusive markets. It also creates the purchasing power that allows markets to grow, while contributing to healthy and dynamic workforces and easing of social tensions – all tangible benefits for both the poor and business.

On the occasion of this year's 'UN Millennium+5 Summit', Heads of State from around the world will gather in New York to assess the world's progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This provides an important opportunity to demonstrate the critical role of business in contributing to the commitments embodied in the MDGs – alleviating poverty, improving education and health, protecting the environment, ensuring gender equality. **InWent**, the **World Bank Institute**, **Instituto Ethos** and the **UN Global Compact** are inviting leaders from business, civil society, governments and international organizations to participate in the **10th International Business Forum "Business and the Millennium Development Goals: An Active Role for Globally Responsible Companies"** to share experiences and lessons learned regarding the business contribution to the MDGs.

Objectives:

- Explore how companies of all sizes and from all sectors, both individually and collectively, can play an important role in contributing to the achievement of the MDGs - through their core business competencies, social investments and through advocacy.
- Showcase tools and practical actions companies have taken to contribute to development (i.e. partnerships with development agencies, reporting, capacity building, leadership, etc.) Share challenges and success stories and initiate a learning process on how innovative approaches might be replicated or scaled-up to achieve even greater impact.

Issues to be explored:

- What are the incentives for businesses to engage in contributing to the MDGs?
- What are the opportunities, challenges and risks?
- What are the benefits for shareholder and stakeholder relations?
- What are the benefits for society as a whole?
- How can business improve interactions with the UN system and donor agencies in contributing to the MDGs?
- What is the role and potential of SMEs?

The 10th International Business Forum will bring together business leaders and representatives of business-driven organizations with participants from governments, academia, civil society and international organizations. Participants will originate from industrialized countries, developing countries and from middle-income countries that are increasingly significant emerging markets, such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa.

Please visit www.businessandmdgs.org to download a more detailed agenda and related logistical information.

Registration Process:

In order to ensure effective interaction and discussion, attendance will be limited to 150 participants. Recognizing the desire for geographic representation, confirmation of participants will occur on a first-come first-serve basis. Kindly complete and return the attached registration form by email to: christiane.schumann@inwent.org or by fax to: +49 221 2098 116 by **30 July, 2005**.

The 10th International Business Forum is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). However, in order to enable participation of SMEs and civil society representatives from developing countries, participants are required to pay a conference fee of **550 Euros**. After submitting your registration form and receiving confirmation from the organizers you will receive a reference number and details of the account to which you should transfer the conference fee.

If you have any questions regarding the content of the Forum please contact:

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Sincerely,



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