



# MAY 09 Newsletter

Date: May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009

From: Communications Team, UN Global Compact Network-SYRIA

**BRIDGING CULTURAL DIVIDES:** The second Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations took place in Istanbul on 6-7 April 2009. The Forum sought to address tensions and divides across cultures and religions, and to examine the broader challenges of good governance of cultural diversity in an age of globalization. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized the role of business, stating: *“Bridging divides helps keep the peace. It also gives the economy a boost by making societies more stable for investors. That is why the Alliance is working with the United Nations Global Compact to help corporations foster tolerance. Businesses know that, in today’s globalized world, they have to be able to compete in multicultural environments.”*

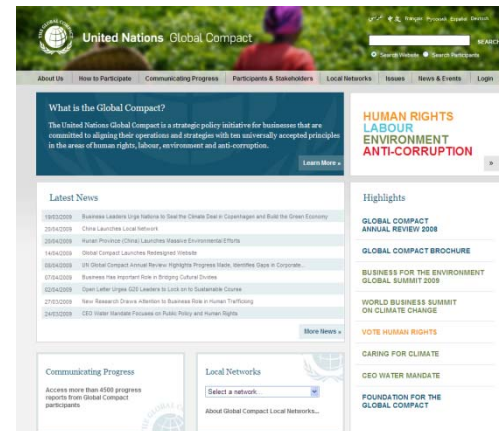
**GLOBAL COMPACT LAUNCHES REDESIGNED WEBSITE:** The United Nations Global Compact unveiled its new website [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org) which completes the adaptation of the Global Compact’s communications infrastructure to the new visual identity first introduced at the 2007 Global Compact Leaders Summit in Geneva.

**GLOBAL COMPACT SYRIA WEBSITE:** Our website continues to be updated with new members and will soon be linked to UNDP, SPC, Chambers of Industry and Commerce and corporate members’ websites and will include a pool of development projects. The website’s launching will accompany the launch of some of these development projects as well.

**GLOBAL COMPACT SYRIA AND THE FINANCIAL TIMES SPECIAL REPORT:**

The GC Syria initiative and members of the Network will be present in the first FT Special Report on Syria which will be launched on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the FT headquarters in London.

**CHINA LAUNCHES ITS GCLN:** The Global Compact Local Network in China was formally launched on April 20, 2009. In recent years, a large number of both state-owned and private companies joined the initiative, bringing the total number of Chinese participants to over 200.



**BUILDING THE GREEN ECONOMY IN COPENHAGEN:** Sealing a comprehensive climate deal in 2009 will be crucial for the future health of business and societies across the world. A gathering of senior business leaders said at the close of the Business for the Environment (B4E) summit on Paris on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The global crisis requires recovery plans that “provide for drastically expanded investment in clean technologies and sustainable infrastructure systems, building the Green Economy.”

**MAY '09 EVENTS:**

- **Donor Government Meeting: Copenhagen; May 20.** The Global Compact Office is funded by voluntary contributions from Governments to a UN Trust Fund. Current Donors are: China, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
- **World Business Summit on Climate Change: Copenhagen May 24-26.** The World Business Summit on Climate Change will bring together business with the world's top scientists, economists, civil society, media leaders, government representatives and other leading thinkers.