

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)



Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 16 October 2015

To: 16 October 2017

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

We also pledged to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact in the following ways:

- To support and facilitate businesses that support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges." (Principle 7)
- To collectively promote business that "undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility" (Principle 8); and
- To encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies (Principle 9).

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Mori", is written over a horizontal line.

Hideyuki Mori
Executive Director
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan

Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested. *Please refer to the complete list of suggested activities for your type of organization found [here](#).*

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) has promoted the GC and its principles through the following activities:

- 1) Collaborated with Global Compact Network Japan (GCNJ) to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among business and other stakeholders in Japan and beyond.
 - ✧ Jointly collaborated with GCNJ to translate “SDG Compass – The guide for business action on the SDGs” from English to Japanese and published the Japanese version, and held a joint launch seminar to widely disseminate the importance of SDGs among Japanese companies and other stakeholders (March 2016).
http://www.ungcnj.org/sdgs/pdf/SDG_COMPASS_Jpn.pdf
 - ✧ Conducted joint research on the status of SDGs integration into business activities by Japanese private companies to understand the overall picture of SDG implementation taken by Japanese companies (July 2016 – June 2017).
 - ✧ Published a joint research report between IGES and GCNJ, called “SDGs and Business in Practice - Early Actions by Japanese Private Companies” in Japanese (April 2017) and English (June 2017).
https://pub.iges.or.jp/pub/SDGs_Business_in_Practice (JP)
https://pub.iges.or.jp/pub/SDGs_Business_in_Practice (EN)
 - ✧ Disseminated the key findings from the above-mentioned joint research report through invited lectures, media briefings and articles by other organizations (e.g. Global Compact International Yearbook 2017 and IISD’s SDG Knowledge Hub)
<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/59401686/global-compact-international-yearbook-2017> (Global Compact International Yearbook 2017, pp157-160)
<http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/japanese-companies-sdg-actions-growing-awareness-and-remaining-challenges/> (IISD’s SDG Knowledge Hub)
- 2) Provided support to UN Global Compact business participants in their own sustainability implementation and disclosure efforts through above-mentioned activities as well as continued participation in GCNJ study groups and other related meetings, such as:
 - ✧ Participated in and promoted the above-mentioned outputs in UN Private Sectors Forum etc.
 - ✧ Jointly organized and invited GCNJ members to the annual conference, “International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific 2016 (ISAP2016),” organized by IGES and United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS).
<https://www.iges.or.jp/isap/2016/en/index.html>
 - ✧ Regularly participated in GCNJ study groups on SDGs, supply chains, and environment.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

As a result of the above-mentioned activities, IGES has contributed to the increased recognition of SDGs among Japanese business and beyond through several outcomes witnessed so far, including: increased media coverage, inquiries about possible research collaboration and invited lectures, as well as a growing number of business participants and membership in UN Global Compact/GCNJ networks. More details are as follows:

- ✧ Witnessed the increased number of new UN Global Compact/GCNJ business membership after publishing the SDG Compass in Japanese in March 2016.
- ✧ Increased media coverage on SDG Compass in key Japanese newspapers and online articles (approx. more than 20 times).
- ✧ Increased media coverage on the key findings from the IGES-GCNJ joint research in key Japanese newspapers and online articles (approx. more than 30 times).
- ✧ Increased number of invited lectures on SDG Compass and the key findings from the IGES-GCNJ joint research. During March 2016 – October 2017, IGES conducted more than 20 lectures in Asia, including Japan.
- ✧ Distributed more than 500 copies of the IGES-GCNJ joint report at UN and other relevant events (e.g. HLPF, SDG Business Forum and the 7th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development).
- ✧ Increased number of partnerships formalised with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles through joint research and participation to GCNJ working groups.