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THE RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS EXPERTS

UN Global Compact Annual Communication on Progress

January 2009



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Registered in the United Kingdom No. 03624247

*Registered Office: Canada House, 272 Field End Road,
Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 9NA*

Responsible Business Experts

Article 13 Group Ltd.



Company: Article 13 Group Ltd.

Address: 71a The Grove
London
W5 5LL
United Kingdom

Contact name: Neela Bettridge
DIRECTOR

Phone: +44 0) 20 8840 4450
Website: www.article13.com

Membership: 19th January 2004

Sector: Consulting and Auditing



Responsible Business Experts

Article 13: Description of nature of business



Article 13 are experts in business responsibility, typically in the area of corporate social responsibility (CSR) comprising sustainable development (SD) (social, environmental, and economic sustainability), ethics and governance. We work regionally and internationally in CSR and (auditing, assessments, research and impact analysis) consultancy, CSR and SD training, executive coaching and mentoring, stakeholder engagement and communication.

Statement of continued support



In 2004, Article 13 signed up to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative. As a signatory to the UNGC, Article 13 are first and foremost concerned with exhibiting and building the social legitimacy of their business and markets. Article 13's commitment to the UNGC and its principles continues to have board-level support and involvement.

Active participation in UNGC-related actions over the past five years shows Article 13's commitment to aligning its operations and strategies with the ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. These principles are embedded in our internal structures and are an integrated element of all strategic insight we provide to our clients as well as our research and advocacy work.

For 2009, we have directed our efforts towards areas which we believe will have the most impact as well as those areas which resonate most strongly with the Article 13 team.

UNGC Commitments

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1. Partnership development, building year on year, with ***international partners*** undertaking efforts in one specific project/ area in the areas of alleviating *famine and poverty*.
2. Partnership development, building year on year, with ***local partners*** undertaking efforts in one specific project/area in the areas of *women's rights, disadvantaged youth, the disabled and other disenfranchised groups*.
3. Continue our ***engagement*** in the areas of *climate change, natural resource management, energy solutions, and other actions for ecological protection*.
4. Increase our engagement with the local community through increased ***volunteerism*** activities which support our local target areas of *child poverty, gender equality, and 'greening' business*.

UNGC Commitments

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5. Increase our **participation** in local and global 'green' initiatives and actively increase our in-house targets for environmental foot printing to achieve real progress.
6. Actively **researching and advocating** the diffusion of new green technologies, not only as a link between emerging green technology and funding, but also assisting start up companies in being investment ready and effectively entering the market to make a positive difference.
7. Attend local **conferences and events, participate, and gain deeper knowledge** about **empowering women in the local community** and enable Article 13 to start local partnerships and join various campaigns.
8. **Disseminating research and best practice** through our website, reporting and external networks. Therefore we have included communication as a method of delivery in our UNGC strategy and formalised it as advocacy for all principles and goals.

CSR and the MDGS



In addition to the UNGC principles, we have also adopted two of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

MDG 1: The eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, and

MDG 3: The promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.



UNGC Caring for Climate Platform

Article 13 commits to uphold our commitment to tackling climate change and the UNGC's Caring for Climate business platform by;

- Taking practical action; achieve at a minimum, nil growth in carbon emissions from our actions in 2008/09;
- Building capacity; offset our emissions created through business activities, including those accounted for in our carbon clause;
- Working collaboratively; seek new models of collaboration and joint partnerships to develop, meet and innovate to adhere to regulation and standards; and
- Being an active business champion; respond to climate change risks with a precautionary approach and encourage others to take similar action when appropriate.



HUMAN RIGHTS: Article 13 Key actions in supporting the protection of human rights, and ensuring we are not complicit in human rights abuses.

- Article 13 signed the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Article 13's website feature in September 2008 will focus on human rights. Linked to Amnesty International's Irrepressible campaign.
- Article 13 added an Integrity Clause to our terms and conditions, raising awareness in Article 13's network to our commitment to the protection of human rights.
- Article 13 reviews each client and checks the brief to ensure that the company upholds the protection of human rights.



LABOUR: Article 13 key actions to; uphold the freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining; to contribute to the elimination of forced and compulsory labour, child labour, discrimination in respect of employment or occupation.

- Article 13 operates a coaching culture which provides a significant communication channel for all staff including management.
- Article 13's director, Neela Bettridge, signed the Business Call to Action for the Millennium Development Goals on behalf of the Article 13 Group.
- Article 13 has continued its joint venture work in partnership with Indian company Collage.
- Article 13's recent staff feedback survey showed that staff are encouraged to contribute to their professional needs in a supportive and comfortable environment.

ENVIRONMENT: Article 13 key actions to support the precautionary approach to environmental challenges; promote environmental responsibility in business; and encourage the diffusion of green technologies.

- Article 13 has completed all possible actions recommended in our annual environmental audit and assessment.
- Article 13 included individual and company carbon footprinting in our monthly environmental reporting, reaching our target of a 25% reduction of CO2
- Article 13 actively researches innovative and potentially clean technologies acting as a link between the funding community and new green technology
- Article 13 abides by a Sustainable Events Code that sets the environmental and social standards for our supply chain.



Transparency & anti-corruption: Article 13 key actions to work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

- Article 13 added an Integrity Clause to all client, supplier, and associate agreements. This is available on our website and was communicated to all Article 13 members and clients at the time of entry.
- Article 13, in January 2009, updated our transparency and anti-corruption pages. They now include the most up to date campaigns, legal information, resources and events to keep our network and web visitors well informed.





Communication

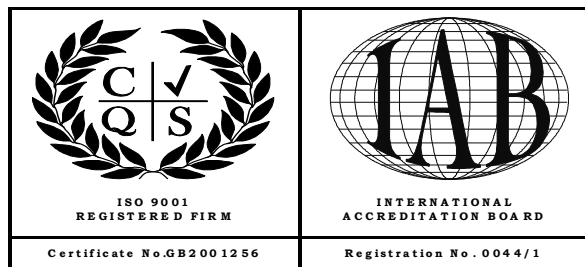
- The complete version of Article 13's half year COP is available on;
 - www.unglobalcompact.org
 - www.article13.com
 - www.wheelhousecoaching.com
- Article 13 also communicated the COP to Article 13 employees, board members, clients, suppliers, associates and other members of the Article 13 network, as appropriate. This was done by our internal electronic communication channels, and externally through our quarterly updated e-newsletter.
- Other appropriate or interested stakeholders are informed via PowerPoint presentations given in face-to-face meetings, workshops or training programmes.

Article 13 Group is recognised as meeting the international Investors in People standard for being committed to effectively developing our people in order to improve business performance.

Article 13 Group's Quality Management System covers:

- The customer's quality requirements, and
- Applicable regulatory requirements, while aiming to
- Enhance customer satisfaction, and
- Achieve continual improvement of its performance in pursuit of these objectives.

Our Quality Management System is assessed and audited by CQS Ltd.





For further information contact
Fiona Banyard



Article 13
71a The Grove
London
W5 5LL

Tel: 020 8840 4450
Fax: 020 8566 4738
Email: fionab@article13.com
Web: www.article13.com

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