

Newsletter # 2- Q 4/ 2010



2010 has been a very active year for AIM-PROGRESS: read more about our initiatives to educate and engage suppliers, and ultimately increase our understanding and confidence in our respective supply chain partners. We continue to encourage new or less active members to participate in group meetings, conference calls, and the various working groups, to learn more, share experiences, benchmark processes, and drive social responsibility in our supply chains.



Supplier Training Seminars continue to drive supplier awareness and engagement

The AIM-PROGRESS Supplier Training Work Stream has been extremely active in 2010. With a goal of reaching 500 suppliers via group training this year, we developed a plan to conduct four live, face-to-face events, and two web-based events. To date we have conducted three events in Russia (June), India (August) and China (October), with the next one planned for Brazil (November). Not to mention, two web-based sessions conducted for US and European suppliers in June and September, respectively.



Gurgaon, India – August 31

The second supplier training event assembled 290 participants representing 123 suppliers and was hosted by The Coca-Cola Company at the Hotel Crown Plaza, Gurgaon, India on August 31. Other leading FMCG companies Britvic, Diageo, Kraft Foods/Cadbury, Mars, Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever joined Coca-Cola in holding a first of its kind Forum on Responsible Sourcing on the Indian continent. Participants included business leaders from the AIM-PROGRESS brands, representatives from suppliers and internationally accredited third party audit agencies. The key focus of the forum was to establish responsible/sustainable business as the paradigm for business relationships in the future and reinforce the need for a collaborative effort collectively from the customer brands, as well as the supplier partners for building sustainable business.

Chengdu, China – October 31

The China event brought together over 250 representatives from AIM-PROGRESS members' supplier base and was hosted by Kraft Foods with support from Bacardi, Britvic, Diageo, Mars, Nestlé and The Coca-Cola Company. Leading local corporate procurement directors from the AIM-PROGRESS membership delivered a strong message about how brand manufacturers value the importance of responsible sourcing as part of sustainable business practices. The objective of AIM-PROGRESS to minimise duplication of audits for suppliers was received with great enthusiasm. The latter part of the day focused on local regulations and labour conditions, as well as education and training about auditing standards.

Moscow, Russia – June 24

AIM-PROGRESS hosted the Russian Supplier Responsible Sourcing event at the PepsiCo Domodedova facility, Moscow, on June 24. 150 representatives from more than 75 suppliers participated in the seminar. PROGRESS members from Unilever, Nestlé, Coca-Cola, Cadbury, Kraft, Mars, and PepsiCo coordinated the event, and were also on hand to engage suppliers and show support. The group recognizes that social responsibility is a newer idea in the Russian market, but were encouraged by strong supplier feedback. Engagement measurement continues, and those brands leveraging Sedex expect improved response rates with the expansion of a Russian-language SAQ in November.

All presentations delivered at the training events can be downloaded from the AIM website: www.aim.be (responsible sourcing).



Look forward to the upcoming training events:

- Sao Paulo, Brazil November 16th hosted by Unilever (elaine.pitt@unilever.com).

In addition to on-site Supplier Seminars, in 2010, AIM-PROGRESS also leveraged the power of the internet to reach even more suppliers. The group hosted two web casts for US suppliers in June, and two additional web-based events in September for European-based suppliers. 476 suppliers participated in the EU events and 225 suppliers in the US webinars. The events communicated key program details, and discussed market-specific topics like common non-compliances and local laws. Two sessions were held for each market to accommodate schedules and availability that drove over 100 questions via live chat per sessions - lively conversations at a nominal cost and virtually no carbon emissions!

GSCP and AIM-PROGRESS

Bronx Zoo – site of the September Global Social Compliance Programme meeting, brought together AIM-PROGRESS members from Coca Cola, PepsiCo, Unilever and Kraft Foods/Cadbury. The meeting was a useful update on the numerous GSCP Expert Working Groups, including Auditing Competence, Management Systems, the Environmental Module, and the [Audit] Equivalence Process (supporting audit mutuality). The meeting was an opportunity for AIM-PROGRESS members Petar Sobic (Unilever), Stuart Kyle (Coca-Cola), Russ Wood and Jorgette Marinez (PepsiCo), Sheri Brodersen (Kraft Foods) to learn more about the various projects underway, and identify areas of convergence and opportunity. A follow-up conference call between GSCP and AIM-PROGRESS took place on 21 October to explore opportunities for more GSCP– AIM-PROGRESS collaboration, based on a discussion document circulated by Petar Sobic. Engagement with GSCP and the Consumer Goods Forum in general will continue to be on the agenda for 2011.

AIM-PROGRESS Dublin meeting

Diageo hosted the last AIM-PROGRESS meeting this year at their Guinness Storehouse, an event attended by close to 30 members. The task force reviewed 2010 achievements and made concrete plans for 2011.



On the achievements side, congratulations were extended to the supplier training group for reaching out to more than double our target for 2010, i.e. over 1000 companies! Plans for 2011 include proposals for up to six face-to-face training sessions in regions such as Africa and China, as well as a number of webinars for both Europe and US. AIM-PROGRESS will also remain active on mutual recognition of audits with a view to broaden the list of audited suppliers substantially to allow for increased commonality. The task force agreed that AIM-PROGRESS would benefit from a leadership team of half a dozen active members to drive our future strategy and ensure that AIM-PROGRESS continues to deliver added value to members. Participants were particularly enthused by the guest speaker from ILO, Simon Steyne, head of operations on child labour, about how manufacturers can engage more with international organisations. The group was also happy to welcome Heineken and Beiersdorf as new members.

