

AIM® AIM-PROGRESS Task Force



For Release:

AIM-PROGRESS Members host Supplier Responsible Sourcing Seminar at the PepsiCo Domodedovo facility Moscow, Russia

Leading fast-moving consumer goods manufacturers Cadbury, Kraft Foods, Mars, Nestlé, PepsiCo, The Coca-Cola Company and Unilever collaborate as members of AIM-PROGRESS – the European Brands Association’s PROGRAM for RESponsible Sourcing to inform suppliers about “Responsible Sourcing” in the supply chain.

Focused on promoting responsible sourcing practices and sustainable production systems, the seven major brands conducted the AIM-PROGRESS Supplier Responsible Sourcing Seminar at the PepsiCo Domodedovo facility in Moscow, on June 24th. This one-day training event was designed to familiarize suppliers with AIM-PROGRESS, its mission and major activities, in addition to the following:

- provide perspectives on why Responsible Sourcing is important;
- review methods and tools used to verify compliance to social & environmental standards;
- provide a forum to share questions, best practices, and collaborate.

Alexander Zhukovsky, Director of Operations, PepsiCo Beverages Russia, opened the event by introducing Responsible Sourcing as a corporate imperative for all major global brands to stay competitive, be responsive to our customers’ and consumers’ demands, and mitigate risk. He encouraged suppliers to recognize the need, and challenged them to engage. Regional and local leaders from Unilever, Nestlé, and The Coca-Cola Company also helped to reinforce the business case for action.



AIM-PROGRESS Supplier Responsible Sourcing Seminar
Domodedovo, Moscow, Russia
June 24, 2010

150 representatives from more than 75 suppliers participated in the seminar, which addressed the four major pillars of responsible sourcing: labor standards, health & safety, environmental management, and business integrity.

Intertek, an independent third-party auditing firm led the review of the methods used to verify compliance with the standards supporting these pillars. Leveraging market –specific issues and case studies, the presenters engaged the participants in applying the standards defined in compliance to the local laws addressing forced labor, wages and rights, working hours, freedom of association, child employment, discrimination, abuse of work force, health and safety, environment, bribery and corruption.

Charlotte Robinson, AIM-PROGRESS account manager from Sedex (www.sedex.org.uk), a not-for-profit organization that hosts a tool supporting the mutual recognition of supplier data (e.g. self- and third-party assessments), provided key organizational and system details. Several of the AIM-PROGRESS members leverage Sedex to manage supplier data, assess risk, and enhance efficiency of compliance assessments/mitigate supplier audit fatigue. (enabling a single assessment to be shared with multiple customers).

Initial post-event comments were unanimously positive...

"what a well organized event"..."what an effective use of time, with real impact"..."how impressive to have all you brands working together"

The event closed as it began, with the challenge to suppliers to quickly engage in the AIM-PROGRESS programs - join Sedex, complete the Self Assessment Questionnaire within 60 days, and have a third-party social assessment/audit completed by the end of 2010.

This is the first of four planned AIM-PROGRESS Responsible Sourcing Seminars in 2010. Similar events are scheduled in India, Brazil, and China later this year, in addition to two webinars held earlier in June for North American suppliers.

AIM-PROGRESS is a forum of leading Fast Moving Consumer Goods manufacturers (FMCG) promoting responsible sourcing practices and sustainable production systems. AIM-PROGRESS is a global programme, comprised of 24 companies, including the following active members: Unilever, The Coca-Cola Company, Nestlé, Danone, Diageo, PepsiCo, Cadbury, Kraft Foods, Mars, General Mills, Kellogg's, Bacardi, McCormick, Orkla, Reckitt Benckiser, Britvic, United Biscuit and Procter & Gamble, representing a total turnover of over 0.5 trillion dollars worldwide.

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