

MIT Leadership Lab – UNGC Legacy write-up  
Tom Gallo

This summary is intended to provide a small link and introduction for UN Global Compact project teams across semesters in Otto Scharmer's Leadership Lab.

This project began by creating a four person team and performing some background research of the UNGC off of their website. After some coordination and contact with Ellen Kallinowsky (Head of the UNGC Learning Forum) the team drove down to the UN in NY for the day to meet with Ms. Kallinowsky along with Georg Kell, currently director of the UNGC, and the rest of their 13 person staff. Here we learned more about the UNGC's finite resources, challenges and their initiative for worldwide corporate responsibility dissemination.

We then took back what we learned and shared our highlights with the rest of the class' experiences at other organizations which practice corporate responsibility in one form or another. After discussion in the context of the lectures and other class excursions, our team was joined by three students originally from other class projects and together we shaped a final project around the UNGC. The plan included raising campus awareness by inviting and coordinating a UNGC spokesperson (Dr. de Silva) to give a lecture at MIT. In addition to the lecture the visitation was enhanced with personal and informal meetings between Dr. de Silva and other students/faculty. The team was able to facilitate a teleconference between Dr. de Silva and Associate Dean Alan White, who had been previously contacted by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 2001 year ago regarding MIT's potential role in aiding the UNGC. The talk and meeting sparked the formation of a faculty/administration/student task force at MIT to investigate the campus sustainability inventory, executive education courses, MBA courses, seminars and most importantly the development of a more formal structure around sustainability at MIT. Below are the participants in the taskforce. This is just a start however and making this initiative successful will take participation of students from successive classes.

Professor Richard Locke – CSR research

Associate Dean Alan White

Professor Leigh Hafrey – Developing a spring term class around UNGC 9 principles

Professor Peter Senge – Executive organizational learning

Professor Otto Scharmer – Executive organizational learning

Tom Gallo – Management of Technology '03

Neil Cantor – MBA '03

Haruhiko Casey Ohya – Management of Technology '03

Lesley McAdams – MBA '04

Anil Phull – MBA '04 – Senior Officer of Social Business Responsibility Club (SBR)