



## Business contributes to inclusive development, responsible growth, but challenges of scale remain: CSR Asia Summit 2013

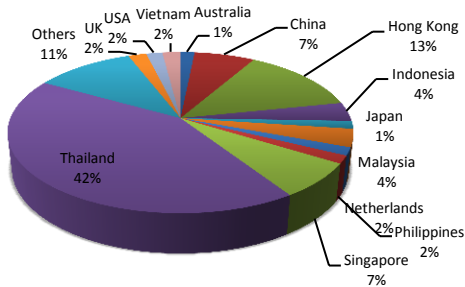


The 7<sup>th</sup> CSR Asia Summit 2013, with 450 delegates from 31 countries in attendance, was concluded successfully on 17-18 September in Bangkok, Thailand. It was a great success: Setting the trends for CSR professionals and strengthening the CSR network in the region.

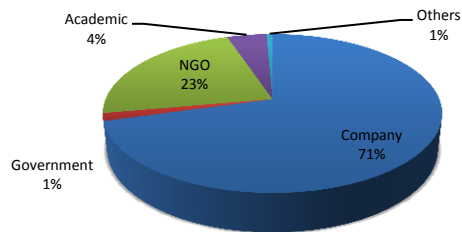
The Summit was praised as a dynamic multi-stakeholder platform for strategy discussions

and ideas exchange. 71% of the delegates were from the corporate sector and 90% were from Asia. There was also a good mix of representatives from NGOs, development agencies, academia and government who enriched the debates by offering views from a different perspective. Throughout the two-day conference, 22 organisations set up exhibition booths to showcase strategic partnership models and CSR solutions.

**Delegate Breakdown By Country**



**Delegate Profile**



**List of Exhibitor in CSR Asia Summit 2013:**

- Akara Mining Limited
- AsianNGO
- CARE International
- Coca-Cola
- CSR Asia
- FHI360
- Prudence Foundation
  - Foundation of Older Persons' Development (FOPDEV)
  - Plan International
  - Save the Children
- Fuji Xerox
- IUCN / Marriott
- Lloyd's Register (LRQA)
- RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests
- Schneider Electric
- Thai Union Frozen Products Public Company Limited



- The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- UNICEF
- VSO
- Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource (WOCAN)

*‘Urgent action is required to find innovative, creative and workable solutions to tackle equity and development in Asia’* said Professor Richard Welford, Chairman of CSR Asia, echoing the sentiments of the conference. *‘Despite conclusive evidence that businesses can make profits at the same time as addressing social needs, more action must be taken to increase shared value and achieve inclusive development’* he added. It is not possible alone – multi-stakeholder partnerships between businesses, civil society and governments are going to be vital to achieve progress, agreed participants.



Action needs to be accompanied by greater transparency and disclosure. Reflecting a regional trend of embracing sustainability disclosure by stock exchanges, the Stock Exchange of Thailand announced that the Securities and Exchange Commission in the country will soon be publishing guidance for listed companies on ESG disclosure.

The two-day Summit highlighted many examples of far sighted companies that have already demonstrated positive economic, environmental and social impact through their actions, and disclosed the results through annual sustainability reports. Coca-Cola is aiming to empower five million women in its value chain by 2020, New Britain Palm Oil uses the Free Prior and Informed Consent principles to engage with communities impacted by its activities in Papua New Guinea, and Levi Strauss is investing in the well-being of workers in its supply chain beyond the factory walls. Fuji Xerox displayed its strong environmental commitment and shared its experiences on reporting and disclosure.



Key learnings from these examples shared with participants demonstrate that successful responsible business strategies require leadership, innovation, risk taking, partnerships and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Participants called for more research in the field of corporate social responsibility to independently verify results and help galvanize





internal support for initiatives. Despite the good work of some businesses, participants agreed that an accelerated rate of change was required in the adoption of responsible business practices by companies in Asia.

CSR Asia will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and will host the 2014 Summit in Hong Kong. A series of events will be organized and we would expect over 500 international delegates attending the Summit. For more updates and information, please stay tuned at [www.csr-asia.com](http://www.csr-asia.com) and CSR Asia weekly newsletter.