

Report – A joint Sedex – CRT Event Bringing transparency to multi-tier supply chains

Date	Tuesday, January 28, 2014 15:00-17:00
Venue	Lambuth Hall, Kwansei Gakuin University, Tokyo Marunouchi Campus Sapia Tower 10th Floor, 1-7-12 Marunouchi Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Organizer	Caux Round Table Japan, Sedex Group

Caux Round Table Japan is deeply grateful to participants of the Sedex-CRT Japan Joint Seminar “Bringing Transparency to Multi-tier Supply Chains” on January 28, 2014, which was successfully concluded with 29 participants from 23 companies/organizations.

At the outset, CRT Japan introduced some key changes in supply chain sustainability in recent years and their backgrounds, rationale and steps taken in the supply chain sustainability initiatives at global companies, and some common concerns of Japanese companies shared at past workshops run by CRT Japan.

Given such context, significance of the following three factors was presented: (1) to discuss whether to implement all the steps in actions (data collection, data use, data capture and reporting) as a single entity or as collaborative efforts with other bodies, in order to optimize efficiency and impact of the actions; (2) actions for data use and data capture be selected and deployed based on impact analysis; and (3) to be aware of ‘who’ are stakeholders, and communicate ‘why’ and ‘how’ clearly in reporting. And as for conclusion, Sedex was introduced as a provider of a collaboration platform for the data collection activity in supply chain.

Presentation by Tom Smith from Sedex was based on their rich data and highlighted that criticality of supply chain management beyond tier 1 suppliers is as high as that of the tier 1 suppliers, in order to reduce critical and material sustainability risks. Several specific issues in implementing the supply chain sustainability were illustrated, and also some online tools for the supply chain

risk management were introduced as possible solutions for the issues. Sedex online data base service enables companies to (1) screen their supply chains based on size of potential/evident risks identified; (2) effectively select high risk suppliers and work on their risk efficiently; and (3) identify issues subject to audit and follow-up their corrective actions.

Subsequent Q&A session was very interactive: Tom sincerely responded to questions raised by Japanese corporate participants.

CRT Japan continues to serve for the supply chain sustainability of Japanese business in collaboration with Sedex.