



RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

Ionescu-Somers describes future projects of the IMD Forum for Corporate Sustainability Management

February 2, 2009

Aileen Ionescu-Somers, Deputy Director of the Forum for Corporate Sustainability Management (CSM), used her session during the Responsible Leadership Summit to describe IMD's intention to work with companies in an excitingly different way on corporate sustainability issues and strategy through the CSM Forum.

An IMD research partnership that at end of 2008 had a membership of some 30 learning network companies, the CSM Forum currently assists companies with the design and integration of economically relevant sustainability issues into corporate strategy. It does this by engaging its membership in a tangible way in the selection and design of its research agenda. CSM carries out research projects (some of them large scale), writes cases for use in IMD programs and conducts company specific projects. With IMD's increased emphasis on responsible leadership, the role of the CSM will further expand.

"In the future, the CSM Forum will become a veritable springboard for IMD to work with companies to help them achieve their sustainability goals in different ways," Ionescu-Somers said. "Bringing together the expertise we have accumulated in the area with the high level of learning partner interest in the topic, the CSM initiative will expand with IMD's increased emphasis on responsible leadership."

Participants at the Responsible Leadership Summit were able to get an early opportunity to bring input to the redesign of this initiative and to connect with IMD on the topic of corporate sustainability management.

Currently, members are able to network at CSM Forums three times a year to access the latest IMD research findings, exchange points of view in interactive learning sessions involving companies and their stakeholders and generally to cross-fertilize on the important and complex challenges companies face with sustainable development. The CSM offering and membership is set to expand greatly in the future.