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***Company-Community Dialogue Facilitators Forum Formed
by Leading Organizations in the Field***

Cambridge (MA), USA -- Leading organizations in the field of dialogue facilitation and dispute resolution have joined together to build the practice of dialogue facilitation and provide better access to independent facilitation services to the communities and companies which may need them.

The *Company-Community Dialogue Facilitators Forum* invites individuals and organizations with direct experience as independent facilitators of company-community dialogue processes to build a global network. The Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement, University of Stellenbosch Business School (South Africa), Cambio Democrático (Argentina), Conflict Resolution Group Foundation (Philippines), Consensus Building Institute (USA), Futuro Sostenible (Peru), The Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School's Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government (USA), Meta-Culture (India), and RESOLVE (USA) laid the foundations for the *Forum*. It is expected to go live with first activities in 2012.

There is a growing awareness of the need for better company-community dialogue processes to avoid creating or exacerbating conflict, and to resolve disputes where they arise. Yet this awareness can only lead to progress if there are sufficient independent experts in company-community dialogue facilitation available and accessible to those who may need their assistance.

The *Company-Community Dialogue Facilitators Forum* will be a meeting place for experienced, neutral facilitators from around the world. Its objectives are to:

- (a) build a global network of individuals and organizations with direct experience as independent facilitators of company-community dialogue processes;
- (b) support the further development of this area of expertise through shared lessons and insights, partnering, training and mentoring among *Forum* members;
- (c) develop public learning materials and outreach activities on the benefits, opportunities and experiences of company-community dialogue facilitation;
- (d) enable access to information about experienced company-community dialogue facilitators for the benefit of those seeking independent support in managing or preventing conflict between companies and communities.

Interested individuals and organizations should contact Thurid Bahr at thurid_bahr@hks.harvard.edu for more information on joining the *Forum* and participating in upcoming activities.

