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About the Conference Board
The Conference Board is the world’s leading business membership organization, with a global network of 2,000 enterprises in 61 countries. The Conference Board creates and disseminates knowledge about management and the market-place to help businesses strengthen their performance and better serve society.

Working as a global, independent membership organization in the public interest, we conduct research, convene conferences, make forecasts, assess trends, publish information and analysis, and bring executives together to learn from one another.

The Conference Board is a not-for-profit organization and holds 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in the United States.

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Directors’ Compensation and Board Practices in 2006

This report, based on a survey of 402 manufacturing, financial, and service companies, presents the amount and type of compensation paid to outside directors in 2006.

Presents benchmarking for Boards of Directors in the following areas:

- Compensation levels
- Highest paying industry categories
- Use of stock compensation
- Number of board meetings
- Committee service
- Size and diversity of board

The full report includes 51 detailed tables.

The Evolving Relationship Between Compensation Committees and Consultants

This report brings together information developed by The Conference Board Commission on Public Trust and Private Enterprise, as well as by various Conference Board working groups examining this information in light of legal precedent and recent developments in case law.

Furthermore, this report deals in-depth with directors’ fiduciary duties to preclude conflicts of interest or other impediments to advisor independence. This report focuses on threshold issues that a board must address when deciding whether one or two consultants is appropriate. It also addresses the need for oversight and monitoring if the committee’s consultants are to perform other work for the company.

Note: If you choose to purchase the report in “hard copy,” you will receive a CD-ROM containing both the full report and compensation calculator. There is no printed version of the full report available.


The Working Group on Executive Compensation Consulting was formed by The Conference Board during a time of highly publicized criticisms of executive pay practices. Composed of executive compensation consultants and corporate human resources executives, this group set out to develop a set of best practices to guide corporate managements and compensation committees in their use of executive compensation consultants.

Topics covered:

- Preamble
- The best practices
- Role of consultants
- Role of the compensation committee
- Role of management
- Standards for using consultants
- Standards required of consultants

R-1396-06-RR 38 pages, 2006
R-1382-06-RR 23 pages, 2006
R-1394-06-RR 150 pages, 2006
SR-05-03 15 pages, 2005
citizenship and sustainability

JUST RELEASED

The 2006 Corporate Contributions Report

This annual report, based on information given by over 200 of the largest U.S. corporations, provides an overview of corporate giving in 2005. Specifically, this report disseminates annual corporate contributions data, including pretax income, sales per employee, and other benchmarking data.

Topics covered:

- Total U.S. contributions and international contributions
- Contributions as a percentage of pretax income
- Contributions as a percentage of sales
- Contributions per employee
- What they gave: Cash and non-cash contributions
- Foundation pay-in and payout
- Where they gave: The beneficiaries
- Matched cases
- Contributions projections for 2006

NEW BEST SELLER

Philanthropy and Business: The Changing Agenda

Corporate philanthropy is encountering many of the same stresses and challenges—tight budgets, increasingly global demands, and non-traditional stakeholder groups—as global business is in general. Based on a comprehensive survey, this report reveals how corporate giving and philanthropic programs determine their issue and topic strategies and how these change or stay the same over time.

Topics covered:

- Factors influencing corporate giving priorities in 2006
- Which program areas will be more important or less important in 2006
- Giving outside the home country
- Regional giving priorities
- Management priorities
- Challenges in managing giving programs
- A profile of the corporate contributions executive

CLASSIC

The Measure of Success: Evaluating Corporate Citizenship Performance

A research project in collaboration with the Committee to Encourage Corporate Philanthropy (CECP) and funded by the Ford Foundation, this report presents a discussion of the evolution of corporate citizenship and how the political debates surrounding the topic have influenced measurement practice; an overview and inventory of commonly used measurement techniques; and a discussion of measurement as a management tool in the design and implementation of corporate citizenship programs.

Topics covered:

- The evolution of corporate citizenship
- Internal and external measurement approaches
- Measurement as a management tool for corporate citizenship
- The bottom line

CLASSIC

Corporate Citizenship Reporting: Best Practices

A research project in collaboration with the Committee to Encourage Corporate Philanthropy (CECP) and funded by the Ford Foundation, this report presents case studies of five companies that exemplify best practices in the public reporting to stakeholders of citizenship performance.

Topics covered:

- Communicating priorities and performance
- The big picture of sustainability reporting
- Case studies of: BP, HP, Novo Nordisk, Procter & Gamble and UPS

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Driving Toward “0”
Best Practices in Corporate Safety and Health

Many leading companies and trade groups question whether the current pace of improvement in workplace safety is enough and have adopted best practices that they believe will drive their injury and illness rates down further and faster. This study, based on a list of 23 best management practices and a survey of 68 safety executives, is a benchmark on corporate safety culture and a rating of the policies and best practices that affect corporate safety performance.

Topics covered:
- Developing a safety culture
- The role of regulation
- Best practices in policies and programs, management practices, supervisor procedures, and employee involvement
- What is the most successful best practice?

Revisiting Stock Market Short-Termism

Representing a unique consensus achieved at the Corporate/Investor Summit on stock market short-termism held in London last year, this report addresses: the causative factors and the economic implications of a capital market system inclined towards short-termism; why Summit delegates believe that now is the right time to search for concerted solutions to the distortions of short-termism; and what The Conference Board Global Corporate Governance Research Center intends to do to foster the continuation of this debate and stimulate future actions by corporations, investors, and intermediaries to address the issue of short-termism.

Topics covered:
- A business and political climate to restore confidence in the system
- Shareholder activism movement and corporate governance
- The pay-for-performance debate
- Reporting extra-financial measures of performance
- The impact of sustainability issues on long-term performance
- Restructuring the securities research industry
- Summit delegates’ suggestions for future action

Corporate Governance Handbook 2005:
Developments in Best Practices, Compliance, and Legal Standards

The 2003 report, Corporate Governance Best Practices: A Blueprint for the Post-Enron Era, was intended as a sourcebook of leading governance practices for board members and management. Considerable developments have occurred in the field of corporate governance since that piece was published. In addition to bringing the 2003 report up-to-date, this report aims to provide boards and management with a compendium of the leading corporate governance practices.

Topics covered:
- Setting a new standard for corporate governance
- Corporate governance practices
- Nominating corporate governance committee practices
- Compensation committee practices
- Audit committee practices
- Disclosure, compliance and ethics
- Strategy and enterprise risk oversight

Update will be published in the summer of 2007.

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Corporate Governance Best Practices: A Blueprint for the Post-Enron Era

Directors need to be sensitive and responsive to the new level of scrutiny and exposure caused by the Enron bankruptcy, the WorldCom debacle, and other corporate scandals. This blueprint best practices report—the result of the work of both The Conference Board’s Director/Senior Executive Roundtable Project and its Commission on Public Trust and Private Enterprise—is intended to serve as a compendium of leading corporate governance practices boards and management should consider within the context of each company’s unique circumstances.

Topics covered:
- A new framework for corporate governance
- Corporate governance practices
- Audit practices disclosure, compliance and ethics

Resisting Corruption
How Company Programs Are Changing

The Conference Board, in collaboration with the Ethics and Compliance Officers’ Association (ECOA), surveyed companies about anti-corruption programs and practices. The results show that company anti-corruption practices and procedures have become significantly more widespread, detailed, and sophisticated since 2000. Results suggest that companies are now much more comfortable with the operational challenges of anti-corruption efforts and that their programs and policies are more adept at meeting the needs of a global workforce. But challenges remain, and “Resisting Corruption” offers solutions for developing effective anti-corruption systems.

Topics covered:
- Key findings
- Cutting off corruption’s supply: Confronting 30 years of company skepticism
- Non-governmental pressures: The FTSE4Good Initiative
- Steps toward anti-corruption systems that work
- Step One: High-level commitment – Who is involved and why
- Step Two: Detailed statements of policies and operating procedures
- Step Three: Training and discussion
- Step Four: Hotlines and helplines
- Step Five: Investigative follow-up, reporting and disclosure
- Anti-corruption programs – The key challenges

Universal Conduct: An Ethics and Compliance Benchmarking Survey

Over the last 20 years, The Conference Board has undertaken four studies examining corporate ethics programs and practices. The most recent of these documents the efforts of 225 companies to design, implement and monitor their compliance and risk assessment programs for effectiveness. Conducted in 2005, the study examines current practices and provides a point of comparison to what is known about ethics programs from earlier surveys conducted in 1986-1987, and in 1991 and 1998, after Federal Sentencing Guidelines became effective.

Topics covered:
- Effective compliance systems: New challenges and opportunities
- Enterprise training and communication
- Hotlines and investigations
- Risk assessments
- Ethics and compliance programs: An evolution

Emerging Governance Practices in Enterprise Risk Management

Rising expectations from stakeholders and a reformed legal environment have put pressure on corporations to assess the quality of their overall response to business risk issues. Intended as a complement to the recent report on The Role of U.S. Corporate Boards in Enterprise Risk Management, this study presents the findings of inquiries conducted by The Conference Board Research Working Group on Enterprise Risk Management and examines how ERM departs from the fragmented and compartmentalized risk management solutions already in place at many organizations.
Companies are looking at best-in-class peers for sound ERM oversight practices. Directors should consider making improvements in their ERM systems.

Key steps in implementing an ERM system:
- Certification standards and the loss of business
- Security, risk and competitive advantage
- Influence vs. support in security decision-making
- Access to senior management
- Involvement in security activities
- Different metrics for different industries
- Alignment with business objectives
- Risk-related metrics
- Putting a limit on security spending

The Role of U.S. Corporate Boards in Enterprise Risk Management
Boards of Directors in the United States, having focused heavily on Sarbanes-Oxley requirements and more rigorous governance and compliance standards, are now beginning to assess their evolving role in providing oversight in the area of enterprise risk management (ERM). In view of the rapidly developing state of ERM in U.S. corporations, boards face a particularly challenging set of issues in responding to the need for improved oversight of risk management. The Conference Board with McKinsey & Company and KPMG’s Audit Committee Institute conducted research on the role of U.S. corporate boards in Enterprise Risk Management.

Topics covered:
- Recommendations to corporate boards
- Key steps in implementing an ERM system
- Directors should consider making improvements in their ERM oversight processes
- Sound ERM oversight practices are now recognizable in a number of leading companies
- Companies are looking at best-in-class peers for emerging practices in ERM oversight

Employee Engagement
“A Review of Current Research and Its Implications”
“Employee Engagement” provides a review of current research on this important and timely topic. When workers feel mentally and emotionally connected to their jobs, they are willing to apply discretionary effort to help their company succeed. This literature review summarizes what is known on the topic and what companies can do to foster true engagement in the workplace.

Topics covered:
- Defining employee engagement
- Meta-analysis of drivers of employee engagement
- Current state of employee engagement
- Role of the first-line manager on employee engagement
- Impact of employee engagement
- Interventions for supporting employee engagement
Strategic Workforce Planning: Forecasting Human Capital Needs to Execute Business Strategy

Once limited to calculating the gap between talent supply and demand, workforce planning is now a far more sophisticated process, akin to risk management or supply chain management. It enables an organization to adjust and respond quickly to immediate and future changes to its business requirements.

This report, in response to this emerging business need, is the culmination of presentations by thought leaders and best practice organizations, a literature review, and company interviews of 20 companies, from which nine were chosen for detailed case studies. Using these sources, the report seeks to answer:

- What is strategic workforce planning?
- What have organizations learned from their experience about its implementation?
- How should strategic workforce planning be adapted to fit specific organizational contexts?
- What impact has strategic workforce planning had? What challenges limit its impact?

Maximizing Rotational Assignments: A Handbook for Human Resources Executives

The rotational assignment — an integral component of talent development plans at many leading corporations — creates an opportunity for companies to provide their executives with an accelerated learning experience that can lead to demonstrable results for both the executive and the company. This handbook explores the dynamics at play in identifying and executing business unit, geographic, and staff-line rotations.

This piece is based on research conducted by the Working Group on Rotational Assignments. The group’s focus was to examine the ways in which companies are using rotations and to focus on the role that HR might play in guiding a rotational assignments program. Its goal was to create a practical handbook, containing pragmatic advice, guidelines, and a set of tools, that HR executives could refer to when launching or implementing a rotational assignments program.

Included with the hard copy of the full report is a CD-ROM containing: a PowerPoint Presentation to aid in building executive commitment; and, a PDF of detailed worksheets, forms, checklists, and samples that can be used to plan, execute, and evaluate an effective rotational assignments program. The online report includes the detailed worksheets, forms, checklists and samples. Buyers of the online version will have to request the PowerPoint Presentation, separately, from Customer Service.

Managing the Mature Workforce

The report’s goal is to uncover the degree to which labor shortages and aging workforce issues are being recognized by corporations, and explore what is being done to address them in terms of best practices. It is the culmination of discussions within the Managing Mature Workers Working Group and represents a combination of qualitative and quantitative research. Issues of focus include:

- Capturing the desired knowledge and expertise of valued retiring employees
- Creating and maintaining a corporate culture that is welcoming to employees of all generations
- Developing flexible programs to suit the needs and desires of valued retirement-eligible employees, including benefits choices and phased retirement options

Topics covered:

- Trends, realities, and business implications
- Major issues and best practices: corporate responses
- Legal considerations
- Strategies and action plans for creating change
- Awareness today, but little planning for tomorrow

Talent Management Value Imperatives: Strategies for Execution

Talent management is a compelling business issue—to some, even a strategic imperative. To get at the essence of how integrated talent management provides value, this report, through in-depth interviews, looks at three P’s:

- Prerequisites: Cultural characteristics, top management behavior, and other requirements for talent management success
- Processes: Specific ways organizations are using talent management initiatives
- Performance: How organizations show value and prove the business case for talent management

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Measuring More Than Efficiency
Over three-quarters of the respondents to a recent Conference Board survey indicate that they expect their use of human capital measures to help meet strategic targets or KPIs will increase over the next three years. This finding illustrates that companies are interested in finding new applications for their people metrics that extend beyond the traditional functions of determining head count and costs. This report provides both an overview of current HR metrics practices and a discussion of how these measures can be linked to strategic goals and initiatives.

Topics covered:
- Current concerns and future trends
- Measuring what matters most
- Employing metrics to strengthen strategy and improve communication
- Final thoughts

Integrated and Integrative Talent Management
A Strategic HR Framework
This report, based on interviews and survey responses from more than 75 executives, looks at a range of talent management initiatives from the perspective of their integration. Its findings shed new light on ways that companies can manage their talent needs and potential.

Topics covered:
- Framing the talent management issue
- Wider involvement in talent management integration
- The "picture" of integrated talent management
- Initiatives most frequently cited as integrated
- Common and distinct approaches to achieving talent management integration
- What makes talent management integration work?
- Cohesive elements of integration
- The maturity model of integrated talent management
- Strategic considerations for action

Linking People Measures to Strategy
From Top Management Support to Line Management Buy-in
Based on a survey of 110 participants, this report explores how organizations are applying human capital measures in their individual businesses. The study examines in-depth the current barriers to the use of people measures and the methods companies are using to overcome these obstacles.

Topics covered:
- Top lessons for management
- Exploring the uses of people measures
- Establishing connections to strategy
- Integrating metrics into business operations
- Making the case for metrics

Developing Global Leaders
Companies that aim to develop global leaders should be clear about whom they consider to be leaders and what they deem leadership to be. Moreover, since the demands of international business differ from their domestic counterpart, companies’ development of individuals for international leadership roles should differ as well.

This report presents approaches other companies have developed, or recommended, to answer important questions. It is hoped that the best practices presented will be adapted and supplemented to the benefit of individual global leadership programs.
The Business Value of Leadership Development

Leadership development focuses on the high-potential executives who are being groomed to become an organization’s cadre of the future. But how much are leadership development programs worth in business terms? Through interviews with executives at companies in both Europe and North America, this report delves into how such value is determined. Other questions addressed include:

- What are the processes by which talent for future leadership is identified and nurtured, and what are the competencies being sought?
- What measures of value are used: qualitative or quantitative, perceptual or empirical, direct or indirect, or some combination?
- Are there formulas with which leadership development’s impact on financial results can be calculated?

Developing Business Leaders for 2010

The demands on today’s leaders and those of the next generation will continue to grow. This study, based on extensive interview and survey data, addresses the efforts of leading-edge companies to develop the leadership strength they will need to ensure competitive success in the coming years.

Topics covered:

- What forces will have the largest impact on the business environment of the future?
- New ideas: What leading-edge companies are doing now to develop the next generation of leaders
- Future skills: The competencies and skills predicted to be essential to leadership success in 2010
- Developing leaders: Not a risk-free activity, even in best practice companies
- Organizational characteristics: The structure, policies, and culture believed to best support developing leaders

CEO Challenge 2006: Top 10 Challenges

This report provides an overview of the “Top 10 Challenges” cited by over 650 CEO respondents to this year’s CEO Challenge 2006 Survey, with attention to points of convergence and departure across region, industry, and company size.

Topics covered:

- Top ten challenges overall
- Companies of different sizes, regions and industries
- Are industry CEOs different in different regions?
- Are more successful companies different?

Update will be published in the summer of 2007.
Human Resources at Corporate Headquarters
A Management Update

This study of how companies currently organize the human resources function at their corporate headquarters highlights key roles, responsibilities, and reporting relationships.

Topics covered:
- The context of HR@HQ’s changing role
- Changing HR@HQ issues
- Key HR@HQ issues
- Company-wide HR alignment

The Conference Board organization chart collection

"...an excellent insight into the organization structure of American enterprise...a good starting point to understand any company."

LeRoy Raspa, UNICOA

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For more information, please contact Linette Waters at 212 339 0216 or via email: linette.waters@conference-board.org.

Performance 2005:
Productivity, Employment and Income in the World’s Economies

This is the fifth year The Conference Board has reported estimates of productivity per hour worked for major industrial economies and productivity per employee for a much larger set of countries. The report is based on a comprehensive and regularly updated statistical database that now covers 97 countries and extends back several decades. The 2005 report covers economic performance through the end of 2004, with comparisons of both productivity levels and growth rates of national economies.

Topics covered:
- Key findings
- Commentary
- Recent productivity developments
- Determinants of differences in income
- Building a worldwide picture of productivity

Engaging Employees Through Your Brand

As a competitive response in a tight talent market, organizations are turning increasingly to strategies of “employer branding.” This report, based on surveys and follow-up interviews with executives responsible for corporate or employer branding, compares corporate and employer branding methods and provides benchmarks for successful implementation of programs to engage your employees through your brand.

Topics covered:
- Branding goals and perspectives
- Responsibilities, tactics, and connections
- Achieving objectives: Defining and measuring success

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