

Corporations Impact Moral and Ethical Values Worldwide Charlene Dykman (Panama 2005)

Biography

Charlene Dykman, Ph.D. is a professor of management and information systems at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX. She teaches international management and business ethics at the graduate level. Dr. Dykman had a distinguished career in information systems prior moving into the academic arena. Her professional experience included managing systems implementation projects worldwide. Dr. Dykman has over 100 publications and has received numerous teaching and research awards. She was awarded a Fulbright grant to lecture, research, and consult in Panama, Central America in 2005. She worked there with Ciudad del Saber, a United Nations and World Bank funded initiative devoted to the understanding and advancement of Knowledge Management. While there Dr. Dykman conducted workshops regarding online education for University Presidents and Academic Administrators throughout the Caribbean basin. She also consulted with the United National Program Development Office in design of their Capacity 2015 project addressing leadership development in remote regions of the world. Dr. Dykman was a founding member of the Houston/Southeast Texas Chapter of the Fulbright Alumni Association and currently serves as Chapter President.

Background

There is little doubt that globalization of business is having a profound impact in the far corners of the world. We all hear of factories where workers, often only children, create garments, shoes, and other products for eager consumers in other countries. We hear of call centers and around the clock software development as work tasks follow the day around the globe. At first glance, this appears to be a "win-win" process for all involved, providing income in poor countries and inexpensive products for the rest of us. This roundtable will involve discussion of the often unrecognized transmission of values and ethics that accompanies this phenomenon called globalization. Governments often do not communicate with each other, legal and political systems are very different around the world. However, globalization of commerce is forcing changes in ways that are just not possible for governments and legal systems to accomplish. This roundtable will focus on this phenomenon.

Discussions Questions

1. Why do some people say that corporations have become the new "empires" in the world? As the "sun never set on the British Empire" now the sun never sets on Dell, IBM, General Electric, Infosys, etc.
2. How have corporations become the conduit for transmission of values around the world?
3. How can corporations be used to advantage to improve the situation of global citizens?
4. What are the threats presented by the global corporate model?
5. What can governments do to influence the impacts of corporations around the world?