Corporate Citizenship

Creating value through responsible business

NOVARTIS
caring and curing
Our place in the world

Patients are the reason for what we do. We provide medicines to treat and prevent their diseases, ease their suffering and improve their quality of life. Our strategy is to provide healthcare solutions that address these evolving needs worldwide. We believe that the right to health is fundamental, so we must do what we can and where we can to fulfill our responsibilities to society.

Our corporate citizenship programs are extensive and deep, both geographically and in the variety of avenues that we pursue, focusing on improving access to existing medicines while also researching for new therapies to help those with neglected diseases.

How can we fight neglected diseases? How can we provide or improve access to our medicines, for people in both developing and developed nations? Our programs also focus on the communities where our patients and employees live.

Our business in society

Novartis has a unique portfolio that we believe best meets the evolving needs of patients and societies. This portfolio includes truly innovative medicines with improved efficacy and fewer side-effects, cost-saving alternatives such as generics, vaccines and diagnostic tools that protect against life-threatening diseases, and consumer healthcare products readily available to patients.

Providing such value gives Novartis purpose, and our work, meaning. It is vitally important to us to create value beyond our own business success and in the world at large. We, of course, have economic responsibilities – to our customers, associates and shareholders. When we operate in a way that is respectful of human rights, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable, we can better meet our economic responsibilities. The two concepts – strong corporate citizenship and a strong business – are mutually inclusive and in fact, dependent upon each other.

Our respect for human rights is at the core of our commitment to be a socially responsible company. Our Corporate Citizenship Policy and Guidelines embrace the Global Compact principles and describe how we live up to our commitments. Our Code of Conduct defines our associates’ individual responsibilities. The high global standards established by these documents complement, and often exceed, the legal frameworks in the markets where we operate.

It is important to note that being a socially responsible company isn’t an exercise where ‘one size fits all.’ Rather, we try to meet each community’s individual needs, engaging in an active dialogue via community panels, patient groups, healthcare professionals and international agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

Our efforts were recognized by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, which named Novartis the 2006 Super Sector Leader in healthcare, and cited our record in risk and crisis management, code of conduct, environmental performance as well as environmental reporting. As a further recognition, Novartis was included in the 2006 FTSE4Good Global Index. The move identifies Novartis as a socially responsible business and increases our visibility and attractiveness to individuals and asset managers looking to invest in sustainable companies.

Throughout the world, Novartis country organizations are active in corporate citizenship.
Being a corporate citizen

Why do we place such a strong emphasis on corporate citizenship at Novartis? Part of the reason is that it is the right thing to do. But it also makes good business sense. By doing right, we reduce our risk and become trusted by the people, communities and governments that give us our ‘license to operate, innovate and grow.’

How does it work?

For a company to be successful, it is essential that its relationship with the communities it serves be based on trust and good will. Communities do recognize when companies take responsibility for their actions and when they practice good corporate citizenship. Communities – patient or interest groups, or investors, to name a few – reward these efforts with their trust. A strong corporate citizenship program thus reduces business risks, provides a competitive advantage when entering or operating in emerging markets, and increases access to products.

At Novartis, we put an absolute premium on ethical business conduct and fair dealing. Our credibility provides assurance for those who regulate and invest in our industry, helping us to finance the costs of pharmaceutical development and to run our corporate citizenship programs.

Good corporate citizenship also reduces the cost side of the ledger. For example, efficient use of natural resources, such as energy, and waste reduction will lower manufacturing costs and mitigate environmental risks – along with the associated energy, and waste reduction will lower manufacturing costs and mitigate environmental risks – along with the associated community surrounding the manufacturing plant benefits.

Maintaining the support of society facilitates innovation and growth, as it helps us to communicate the benefits of our products and to overcome concerns about the costs of research and development.

How we manage corporate citizenship

“We do everything we can to operate in a manner that is sustainable: economically, socially, and environmentally – in the best interest of long-term success for our enterprise.’”

This is the opening sentence of our Corporate Citizenship Policy adopted in 2001. The policy is based on the fundamental rights of every individual, such as the protection of privacy, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of association and non-discrimination. The policy reflects the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact.

Our Corporate Citizenship Policy is supported by specific guidelines, covering material areas such as working conditions, business ethics, human rights and the management of third parties. Senior managers within Novartis are responsible for implementing these guidelines, and performance is measured.

Our progress against these objectives is documented in our annual report and in an online report in accordance with the guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative. Regular communication on our progress is also issued in line with our commitments under the UN Global Compact.

Corporate citizenship is anchored at the highest level within Novartis. Responsibility for implementation lies with the Executive Committee of Novartis, which has established a Corporate Citizenship Steering Committee. This body, composed of senior executives representing global functions (e.g., human resources, HSE and ethics compliance) and the company’s four divisions, has overall responsibility for providing strategic guidance on corporate citizenship. A senior member of the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (NIBR) is also represented on the committee.

In the Board of Directors, the Audit and Compliance Committee is responsible for monitoring regular audits of corporate citizenship implementation and compliance.

The business affiliates within each of our four divisions establish appropriate structures and resources to meet the aspirations of the Corporate Citizenship Policy. Divisions appoint Corporate Citizenship Officers, and country heads ensure that corporate citizenship principles are implemented nationally.

Corporate citizenship is embedded in the way we manage our daily business. The following pages illustrate our commitment to:

- Patients
- Ethical business conduct
- Our people and communities
- Environmental care

“Shawn Watts was a young father when he got the bad news: a diagnosis of chronic myeloid leukemia. A few years later, he discovered that a new medicine could treat him – if only he could afford it.

The medicine was Glivec®. Luckily for Shawn, Novartis wants to provide Glivec to patients who would otherwise not have access to it. Through its Glivec International Patient Assistance Program (GIPAP), Novartis has made it possible for the young South African to have a continual supply of the drug that has saved his life.

Since 2002, Novartis has helped more than 20 000 patients in 80 countries through GIPAP. The program’s value in 2006: USD 362 million. But GIPAP is about much more than money. It also gives patients access to support groups, treatment and disease information and education, and emotional support, to help them cope.

GIPAP gave Shawn back his life, and he has committed himself now to helping other patients, ‘talking to them as buddies, trying to answer any questions or address doubts they may have. And that alone gives people a lot of encouragement.’ Just like GIPAP gave Shawn.”

>>> NOVARTIS CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP POLICY

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We do everything we can to operate in a manner that is sustainable. Our associates are key to our success. We base our human resources policies and practices on fairness, openness and mutual respect. We want to be a leader in Health, Safety and Environmental Protection. We care about the expectations and concerns of our stakeholders. We integrate the principles of Corporate Citizenship into our business practices.
Patients

We endorse the right to health. This is our primary responsibility. In the quest for global health, the greatest gains are achieved when companies operate in concert with other interested parties, such as governments, charities and medical professionals. Sustained access to treatment cannot be assured by a single organization or sector. Meeting this challenge depends on a host of highly complex factors and demands the cooperation of many parties.

Barriers to health

Many factors determine the quality of healthcare a patient receives. In various countries, perhaps the majority of countries, a simple lack of access to medicines is the major stumbling block between a patient and good health. Even if appropriate medicines are available, widespread treatment may not be, if government policies are inappropriate and healthcare systems are ineffective or underfunded.

Too many countries suffer from a lack of doctors for diagnosis, hospitals for care, laboratories for support services and educated patients for compliance. While close to 95% of the items on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) list of essential medicines are available at reduced, off-patent prices, more than a third of the world’s population still has no access to them.

Barriers may be political, financial or even physical, such as inadequate roads or other infrastructure preventing people in rural areas from reaching healthcare facilities.

Overcoming these barriers

From a medical perspective, the majority of current health problems in poor countries can be controlled; effective preventive and curative treatments are available, most of them at reasonable prices.

A great deal can be done to improve access to healthcare, with action focusing on five key factors:

- Quality of care: the competence and performance of healthcare staff, the guidelines in force and the facilities available (including electricity, water, sanitation, cleaning and maintenance services)
- Availability: the availability of diagnosis as well as drugs, trained healthcare staff and health infrastructure
- Acceptability (of treatment): cultural factors that determine the perceived causes of symptoms and the readiness to use appropriate drugs
- Accessibility: physical accessibility of health facilities
- Affordability: the direct and indirect costs to the patient or the community, allowing for flexibility in reimbursement and considering available resources

What Novartis is doing to improve access

While the fundamental aspects of healthcare provision are the responsibility of governments and inter-government agencies, we play a supporting role wherever and whenever possible to improve patient access to our medicines.

We have created innovative access programs, including some in a range of partnerships with organizations such as the WHO, other procurement agencies and non-governmental organizations. In 2006, our contributions valued at USD 755 million reached 33.6 million patients globally.

In the developing world, we provide free leprosy and tuberculosis treatments and supply our antimalarial drug Coartem® without profit. In September 2006, we brought the average cost for a treatment course of Coartem down by more than one-third. This decision undermines our commitment to effectively roll back malaria, the No. 1 killer of pregnant women and children in Africa. Further, our program GIPAP is one of the most far-reaching patient assistance programs ever implemented on a global scale for our anticancer product Gleevec®/Glivec®.

In developed countries, we also offer discounts and support programs to patients who lack medical insurance or cannot afford the treatment.

Talking with patients

Developing effective medicines and healthcare involves an ongoing dialogue with patient groups. In all of our interactions with patient groups, we strive to create partnerships that are open, transparent and based on mutual respect. In Europe, for example, we supported the launch of a forum that brings together parties interested in improving access to quality healthcare across the different national health systems.

Further, Novartis joined forces with diabetes patient groups to conduct an audit of diabetes prevalence and treatment in all European Union (EU) member states, prompting the EU Parliament to call for improved prevention, care and treatment.

Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development

For more than 25 years, the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development has made significant contributions to the health of people in the developing world and its social marketing and education programs to de-stigmatize leprosy have improved patient access to a Novartis multidrug therapy. These programs have reduced the number of leprosy cases, with four million patients treated since 2000. In November 2005, Novartis agreed to continue supplying the therapy free of charge to the WHO worldwide until 2010.

The foundation also runs access-to-treatment programs for patients with malaria and tuberculosis. It is currently testing an informal health-insurance program for rural people in Mali and working to improve the diagnostic skills of auxiliary health personnel. In yet another initiative, the foundation is helping AIDS orphans come to terms with their trauma and rebuild self-esteem.

Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases

Novartis established the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases, known better as the NITD, in Singapore in 2003. The NITD works with local and international researchers – as well as Novartis research centers – to develop medicines to combat rapidly spreading conditions such as dengue fever, malaria and tuberculosis. Medicines discovered by the institute will be made available at cost to poor patients in those countries where they are most needed.

Perhaps as important, a top NITD goal is to become a center of knowledge and education and, through teaching and training for post-doctoral fellows and graduate students, help people in the developing world learn how to continue to address these problems in their own countries.

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- Malaria kills a child under age five every 30 seconds in Africa
- Only 10% of R&D funds are used for research into 90% of the world’s health problems
- The NITD was granted USD 20 million in 2006 by the Wellcome Trust, the Singapore Economic Development Board and Medicines for Malaria Venture to initiate joint research on malaria
- Leprosy has dropped by over 90% since 1985
- Deliveries for Coartem have climbed from four million treatments in 2004 to over 60 million in 2006
Ethical business conduct

Strong ethical standards are essential to our drive for top performance. We have established a high-integrity corporate culture based on trust, respect and compliance with legal regulations. We do so because we are convinced it is the right thing to do – and is key to our business success.

Business practice

The Novartis Code of Conduct and related policies set out our standards of ethical behavior. These are fundamental in creating and maintaining trust and encouraging values-based action. Our values and principles are also embedded in management processes, such as the performance appraisal system.

In 2005, we established the Business Practices Office (BPO) to facilitate reporting by associates of actual or suspected cases of misconduct. The office investigates such cases, enabling management to take appropriate action. In 2006, 651 cases of misconduct were reported to the BPO. Of these cases, 363 have been fully investigated, resulting in 228 cases being substantiated and 130 associates being separated from the company.

Ethics compliance training

A significant amount of Novartis training is devoted to our ethics compliance program. In 2006, associates worldwide completed more than 218,000 e-learning courses in ethics compliance. Those without email access were offered face-to-face training. This year, we also launched four new e-learning courses globally in 14 languages, covering human rights, e-compliance, sales and marketing as well as data protection.

Clinical trials transparency

Making information from clinical trials more widely available to healthcare professionals and patients provides significant public health benefits. We have decided to publish all trial results, favorable or otherwise. In 2003, we established a Novartis online registry providing retrospective data from more than 250 global and local clinical studies. In 2005, we participated in an industry-wide effort to improve transparency by creating an online portal, disclosing results from more than 250,000 clinical trials conducted worldwide.

Ethical marketing practices

We are committed to maintaining high ethical standards in the promotion and sale of all Novartis products. Each Novartis division has a marketing code that applies globally, supplementing national and international legislation, as well as industry codes. Where local laws and regulations are less stringent, Novartis standards take precedence.

Our local Medical Clearance Committees approve marketing and sales campaigns for our products, monitor compliance of local promotional materials and marketing activities with our marketing codes, local laws and regulations.

In addition, our marketing and sales associates receive formal training on marketing codes, and we audit to ensure compliance.

Product stewardship

Our Product Stewardship Boards assess any product-related risks and ensure that decisions arising from assessments are implemented.

The continuous and multidisciplinary product reviews protect and benefit patients as well as manage risks to Novartis as a whole.

Lobbying for improved health

It is often claimed that pharmaceutical companies exercise undue influence on governments and pursue their commercial objectives without taking into consideration society’s interests. We believe it is our responsibility to provide decision-makers in governments with the objective and fact-based information they need to formulate sound health policies.

Our efforts focus on increasing access to the best medicines and to health information globally, while preserving incentives for research and innovation through competitive pricing.

Novartis maintains full-time public affairs offices in Basel, Switzerland; Brussels, Belgium; and Washington, D.C., US. All markets are staffed by at least part-time public affairs personnel. Overall 2006 expenditure on lobbying activities was USD 25 million.

Animal welfare

Despite major progress in finding alternative methods to animal use in drug discovery and development, laboratory animal testing is in many instances still inevitable. The law also requires animal testing to determine the safety and efficacy of new medicines before testing on people.

At Novartis, a senior-level Animal Welfare Officer oversees our animal welfare policy, and there are officers in each division. Our policy is based on the concept of the 3Rs: reduce, refine, replace. This means that we reduce animal experimentation wherever possible, refine all experiments to ensure the minimum number of animals are used, and seek alternatives to animal testing.

The policy establishes standards, applicable worldwide, for studies conducted by Novartis or third parties. Laboratories in countries with less stringent animal welfare legislation are audited to ensure compliance with Novartis standards.

Managing the supply chain

With operations in more than 140 countries, our supply chain is complex and involves a vast range of corporate citizenship issues. These include labor conditions, health and safety, environmental issues and business ethics.

We give priority to suppliers who share our values and meet our Third Party Code, which governs relations with contractors. Our global network of 246 third party managers implements and maintains site compliance.

In 2006, we worked with more than 180,000 suppliers worldwide, and assessed some 30,000 for compliance with our Third Party Code. As a result of these assessments, 92 suppliers were audited.

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- In 2006, Novartis rolled out Integrity Lines in 70 countries to enable associates to seek advice or report incidents of misconduct in their native language.
- Named industry leader in the 2006 Dow Jones Sustainability Index, Novartis scored 100% for its ethics compliance programs.
- 98% of US associates say Novartis effectively communicates its commitment to a culture of ethics and compliance (2006 survey).
- 180 part-time compliance officers operate throughout the Novartis group.
Our people and communities

We endeavor to ensure the safety and promote the health, careers, diversity and livelihoods of our people. We also strive to be a good neighbor in the communities where our associates and their families live and work.

Safety and health promotion
We strive to provide our associates with the safest possible workplace and to offer programs that promote and improve their health and well-being. These include preventive measures that support good health, extending the scope of occupational health to include environmental, behavioral and lifestyle factors outside the workplace.

A case in point is smoking – one of the most significant threats to personal health. Novartis offers a range of programs that help people quit smoking, and our headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, is a non-smoking site.

Pandemic preparedness
Epidemics over a large area, known as pandemics, pose a risk to our associates, the long-term treatment of patients and the continuity of our business. In preparation for potential pandemics, such as avian flu, we have taken steps to protect the health of our associates and their families, to guarantee uninterrupted supplies of our life-saving drugs to patients, and to ensure business continuity. We have also issued a guide to our associates on how to prepare for a flu pandemic, and our emergency management team is coordinating plans to deal with this possibility.

Since 2002, Novartis has provided associates and their immediate families in developing countries with the necessary health care for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. This program is being extended to cover all employees with insufficient health insurance in countries lacking a state-funded health system.

Accident prevention
Reducing accidents is a top priority. Our lost-time accident rate has declined by 75% since 1997 – thanks to the rigorous application of safety systems and procedures, combined with ongoing employee training – and we are determined to reduce it further.

Diversity and inclusion
At Novartis, we believe that to operate successfully as a global company, it is essential that our people reflect the rich cultural, ethnic and gender diversity of our markets.

In late 2006, a group-wide Diversity & Inclusion policy, vision and strategy were developed. In November, we established an external Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Council with experts from academia, business and non-governmental organizations, who will advise the Executive Committee.

Employability and development
Every year, we conduct a worldwide talent assessment known as the Organization and Talent Review (OTR) to track performance and update development plans for associates.

These reviews are critical to the future employability of associates and to succession planning.

Another facet of our commitment to associates is our focus on training and development. Our learning programs provide a common language across the company when it comes to development and learning goals and allow associates to transfer their skills across geographic, organizational and functional boundaries.

Living wage
Novartis pays a living wage worldwide, the minimum pay sufficient to enable employees and their families to meet their basic material needs. In the absence of international standards in this area, we worked together with the global organization Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) to define the relevant components. These include, among other things, reasonable housing, healthcare, clothing, nutrition as well as child-education expenses.

Besides the social justice of the living wage, the standard contributes to stability and prosperity in the communities where we operate. As other companies are interested in the concept, we are collaborating with BSR to share our experiences.

Local communities
In addition to the economic contributions arising from our normal business activities – jobs created, goods and services purchased, and taxes paid – we support local communities in particular by promoting education, culture and sports.

The Novartis Community Partnership Day, held in April each year, provides an opportunity for our people around the world to make a difference in their local community, expressing their personal commitment to corporate citizenship. Activities have included renovating schools, accompanying children with disabilities on day-trips, and using business skills to help local organizations improve their efficiency. In 2006, more than 10,000 associates took part in the Community Partnership Day.

Emergency relief
Through our global headquarters and country organizations, Novartis contributes to collective disaster relief efforts in many ways. Depending on the situation, we donate medicines, provide in-kind resources or assist with financial resources. We also often match employee contributions. Examples of emergency relief donations include support for victims of the tsunami in Asia and hurricane Katrina in the US.

Emergency management
In the case of an emergency, we take all possible measures to protect our people and the public, to safeguard the environment and to defend our reputation. A key element of our risk management strategy is the Novartis Emergency Management (NEM) system, established to provide a quick and coordinated response to crisis situations.

At the center of any NEM lies a core team including senior managers in key functions (such as business unit heads, health and safety, security, quality or communications). The team ensures we are prepared for those emergencies most likely to surface, and provides the organizational readiness we need to manage adverse consequences and continue our business operations.

Training associates for emergencies is essential – in 2006 we held 20 workshops globally, training 400 associates.

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Novartis was selected a ‘Best place to work in industry’ by The Scientist in 2006

For the eighth consecutive year, Working Mother magazine named Novartis Pharma US one of the 2006 ‘100 best companies for working mothers’

In 2005, 73% of leadership positions in Novartis were filled with internal candidates compared to 21% in 2000

Novartis Pharma US was selected in 2006 as one of the ‘Top 50 companies’ by DiversityInc
Environmental care

Manufacturing pharmaceuticals involves the use of raw materials, energy and water. We have a clear responsibility to ensure we protect the environment by operating to the highest standards. We adopt a risk-based approach and focus on minimizing our use of natural resources, cutting our energy consumption and emissions, and preventing active ingredients from entering the environment.

Managing risks and opportunities

We assess the potential effects of our operations on the environment – and the health and safety of our associates and neighbors – to ensure that the benefits of new products, processes and technologies outweigh any risks.

At each site, key environmental risks are identified annually and mitigation plans developed. Group-wide targets are set (to be attained by local plants meeting their specific targets), and data are collected to measure performance. Key indicators of our environmental performance – such as energy and water use, air emissions and waste – are published annually, in accordance with the guidelines of the Global Reporting Initiative.

Our approach has helped us make considerable progress. While our sales have doubled since 1997, carbon emissions have been reduced and the rate of growth in energy and water consumption has declined (relative to sales).

Proactive in energy efficiency

Minimizing energy consumption is one of our priorities. Efficient use of energy and fossil fuels cuts costs, while also reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, the principal greenhouse gas (GHG). Novartis has made a voluntary commitment to reduce GHG emissions globally in line with the Kyoto Protocol, i.e., a reduction of 5% by 2012, compared with 1990 levels. A group-wide target has been set to improve energy efficiency by 6% between 2004 and 2006, based on 2003 values. In 2006, this target was exceeded, with an improvement of 27%.

Thanks to increased energy efficiency and a switch to natural gas, we have managed to keep our GHG emissions in balance so far. These efforts will be pursued, with increased use of renewable energy to meet the Kyoto target. Novartis is also examining the feasibility of offsetting GHG emissions by investing in long-term reforestation and biofuel projects.

Green car policy

We are also committed to improving fuel efficiency and reducing GHG emissions for our company’s vehicle fleet to 10% below the 2006 level by 2010. Technologies such as hybrid and diesel-powered cars fitted with particulate filters or the use of biofuels offer more environmentally friendly options. Hybrid cars consume on average 35% less fuel than comparable conventional cars. The fuel efficiency of modern diesel cars also compares favorably with standard gasoline.

By 2010, our ambition is to shift the vehicle fleet in the US to 40% hybrid cars, in Europe to 100% diesel cars with mandatory particle filters, and to use combined measures for the rest of the world.

Eco-efficiency in practice

Efforts to create more value with less impact – the principle of eco-efficiency – have saved costs and cut emissions at our plants, e.g., in Ireland and Bangladesh.

At Ringaskiddy in Ireland, where cyclosporin A (used to prevent organ transplant rejection) is produced, new technologies have led to dramatic improvements. While product yield has risen 18%, wastewater volumes have decreased 34%, non-hazardous solid waste 40% and solvent waste 20%. The new process also saves 1% of the site’s electricity consumption, and the investment was paid back in just over a year.

At our Tongi plant in Bangladesh, streamlined production lines have improved energy efficiency; the use of water pumps, chillers and cooling tower fans has been minimized. The reorganization has cut the plant’s annual electricity consumption 9%, while gas consumption and carbon dioxide emissions have both fallen 3%.

Pharmaceuticals in the environment

Ingredients of pharmaceutical products are detectable in water in very low concentrations. These residues originate predominantly from the use of pharmaceuticals by patients and reach the aquatic environment through the sewage cycle, from discovery through to manufacturing and use. Although there is no evidence of an adverse impact on human health, aquatic life could be affected.

We take responsibility for our products throughout their life cycle, from discovery through to manufacturing and use. Long before a new product is marketed, it is thoroughly tested for its impact on the aquatic environment. Our production processes are optimized so as to minimize the release of active ingredients into the environment. We also subscribe to major market take-back programs to properly dispose of unused drugs.

Further research is needed to fully understand the long-term effects of pharmaceuticals in the environment. As well as striving for leadership on this issue, Novartis is working with partners in industry and academia to support and sponsor the necessary studies.

>>> FAST FACTS

- By 2010, Novartis intends to curb its vehicle emissions by 10% by using hybrid and diesel cars fitted with particulate filters.
- In 2005, Novartis installed its first array of solar panels in East Hanover, US.
- Over five years, the 32 projects submitted in 2006 to the Novartis Energy Excellence Awards (now in their third year) could yield net savings of USD 50 million.
- Natural gas makes up 90% of the fuel used by Novartis globally.
Throughout the world, Novartis country organizations are active in corporate citizenship. Here we offer a few highlights from a great breadth of activities.

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Corporate Citizenship – Review

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The Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research conduct research into rare genetic disorders, which allows for potential expansion into broader diseases. One example is an Anti-IL-1 antibody whose success in helping patients with Muckle-Wells syndrome is now being explored in rheumatoid arthritis.

More than 100 Sandoz associates in Switzerland volunteered their time to help participating athletes in the qualifying tournament for the 2007 Special Olympics, an international sports competition designed for athletes with intellectual or multiple disabilities.

A program called ‘Under the shelter of Novartis’ launched in 2004 in Mexico has offered support through the donation of medicines, meals and other items as well as by offering free medical check-ups. Novartis associates donated more than 4 000 hours of volunteer support in 2005.

Novartis Argentina has an access-to-medicine program with well-known national organizations, extending beyond traditional medicine donations to supporting initiatives aimed at self-empowerment of the poorest members of society.

A joint public information program launched in 2001 by Novartis Greece and the Greek National Research Institute brings together experts for annual medical symposiums to improve public understanding of important medical issues.

An initiative started by the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development with Swiss and Swedish development agencies provides support to the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSIS), which helps children affected by HIV/AIDS, poverty and conflict in 13 African countries. Novartis South Africa and the Corporate Human Resources team in Basel provide training to the staff on improving leadership skills.

Novartis Finland makes a donation to the pediatric heart unit at the Helsinki University Central Hospital for every package of Diovan® sold in the country. A donation of EUR 10 000 in 2005 enabled the hospital to buy a vital workstation for archiving pediatric heart film data.

Aiming to support government efforts in curbing the increasing incidence of breast cancer, Novartis Japan launched the Mammography Bus to offer free mammograms to women over age 40. More than 800 women in six major cities were tested in 2006 through this free program.

In the US, Novartis has teamed up with a New Jersey healthcare system for over 30 years to aid cancer patients and their families from initial treatment through survivorship. Donations of nearly USD 100 000 were made in 2005 and 2006 alone.

Novartis Argentina has an access-to-medicine program with well-known national organizations, extending beyond traditional medicine donations to supporting initiatives aimed at self-empowerment of the poorest members of society.

Under the ‘Tigray Project,’ Novartis Italy provides USD 400 000 between 2005 and 2007 to help fight malaria in Tigray, Ethiopia. This program provides donations of the anti-malarial medicine Coartem® and health education to 140 000 people. In just one year, about 80 000 people were diagnosed and treated in this program, and hospital admissions and deaths related to malaria have declined.

For more information on our corporate citizenship programs: www.novartis.com

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