



JSE SRI GRI Focal Points

On Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th February 2013, the Bench Marks Foundation participated in a panel discussion at the JSE on the relevance of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). The Bench Marks Foundation was introduced as the highly vocal and critical conscience of the business community. The following points were made:

1. Global reporting is not helpful and reports need to be localised per operation in order for communities and civil society to be able to verify and to make use of them.
2. Reports should be in easy, accessible language.
3. Reports should include audits by community organisations and NGOs and in particular, include social auditing.
4. Communities should be involved in setting performance standards that they are able to measure.
5. There should be nothing about communities without input by communities.
6. Reporting is an outcome and not an end all of sustainability reporting.
7. Reports should cover issues such as cost accounting on the environment and social and economic consequences on other interest groups.
8. The materiality of an issue must be decided by communities and not corporations as per how corporate practices impact on them.
9. The most critical groups in communities should be listened to first and foremost.
10. A hierarchy of stakeholders must guide who companies engage with.
11. Relocations of communities and the negative impacts they suffer must be recorded in reports.
12. Issues like changing water direction must be recorded and the impacts of this on local communities and farmers.
13. We must go beyond compliance.

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