

AMEC's Global Conference November 2007

Leading an ethically aware business requires all senior managers to be kept up to date with ethical risk issues which may affect the business.

At least once a year AMEC invites senior management from across the business to the company Global Conference. It is an opportunity to renew relationships and plan the direction of the business over the coming year. These conferences have driven Step Change and Operational Excellence processes which are key elements in the transformation of the business (refer to Annual Report and Accounts 2007).

As important to planning and developing the future of the business the conferences are also an opportunity to discuss major issues facing the business.

At the November 2007 conference two leading industrial experts on managing corruption and bribery risk were invited to speak.

James Wareham, Global Chairman of Paul Hastings' Litigation Department spoke about the issue surrounding North American anti-corruption and bribery legislation. Using his experience and case law he illustrated key risk areas for managers to be particularly aware.

Following Mr Wareham's presentation George Brown a Partner in the European Litigation

group for Reed Smith a leading international law firm outlined the European framework for anti-corruption and bribery. This presentation focused on practical ethics based issues which have arisen in the energy industry and how the legal system and voluntary codes of practice have developed to manage the problem.

Increasingly AMEC works in certain locations around the world where corruption and bribery are real issues. Indeed AMEC has been successfully managing ethical risk in more difficult areas, such as West Africa, where there is a culture of corruption and bribery at local official level for many years.

Sharing experience and raising awareness about how AMEC is potentially exposed to risk is fundamental to ensuring that we continue to manage these issues. In the words of our Chief Executive,

"this is an extremely serious matter and we must have an attitude of zero tolerance towards it."

These awareness sessions are imperative to key decision makers, they serve as a useful reminder that a reputation can be won or lost on the decision of one employee.