Deloitte’s Heather Hancock to join Board of Social Progress Imperative

Washington, DC 6 August 2013—The Board of Directors of the not-for-profit Social Progress Imperative is pleased to announce that Heather J. Hancock, Managing Director at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, will join the organization as a Director, effective immediately.

“Heather’s expertise in the ability of government and business to work together to solve problems will contribute enormously to our efforts to improve national decisions about how to use scarce resources,” said Brizio Biondi-Morra, Chair of Social Progress Imperative’s Board of Directors. “She is an invaluable addition to our small team committed to developing a global movement around measuring and accelerating social progress in new ways.”

Hancock joins five other current Directors: Biondi-Morra; Roberto Artavia Loria, President of VIVA Trust (Vice Chair); Sally Osberg, President and CEO of the Skoll Foundation; Álvaro Rodríguez Arregui, Managing Partner of IGNIA Partners, LLC; and Tae Yoo, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Cisco.

The Social Progress Imperative’s goal, to improve the lives of people around the world, aligns with Deloitte’s broader belief that business plays a fundamental role in shaping and creating a prosperous society.

Separately, Deloitte is working with the Social Progress Imperative team to deploy the Social Progress Index, which was designed by an advisory board led by Professor Michael Porter and including Matthew Bishop, U.S. Bureau Chief for The Economist; Hernando de Soto, President of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy; Judith Rodin, President of the Rockefeller Foundation; Professor Scott Stern of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Ngaire Woods, Dean of Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford. It ranks countries by their social and environmental performance and shows where nations should focus their efforts to improve the wellbeing of their people.
As part of a three-year partnership, Deloitte will leverage its global presence and employees’ skills, tapping into experts and leaders in business to convene and create networks of influencers. Using the Index as a guide, these influencers will work to collectively design and deliver new, innovative solutions to help address some of society’s biggest challenges.

“To tackle the issues outlined in the Index, we need to think differently – government, business and civil society need to work together in new and innovative ways,” said Hancock. “We believe the Index will provide a framework that will aid a different conversation, making it easier for business to understand where and how it can more actively get involved. This will help to prioritize social investment decisions, galvanize collective action, and hopefully unlock future growth and competitiveness.”

The Social Progress Imperative launched publicly in April 2013 at the Skoll World Forum, when it also published the first year of the Social Progress Index.

About the Social Progress Imperative
The Social Progress Imperative’s mission is to improve the lives of people around the world, particularly the least well off, by helping government, the private sector and the nonprofit sector to collaborate more effectively and make better use of the resources available to solve pressing social and environmental problems. Our goal is to effect this change by providing those stakeholders with useful, timely information to help them make better choices.

Social progress is defined as **the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.**

The Social Progress Index, a measure of nations’ social and environmental performance, debuted in April 2013 at the Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship, the premier international platform for accelerating entrepreneurial approaches and innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing social issues. The Social Progress Index is distinctive for being based entirely on social and environmental measures covering basic human needs, foundations of wellbeing and opportunity. The Index shows where nations should focus their efforts to improve the wellbeing of their people. It uses a rigorous statistical technique and the best available data from internationally recognized sources, including the World Bank and the World Health Organization.

More information is available online at: [http://socialprogressimperative.org](http://socialprogressimperative.org)

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