



*Affiliated with the Centre for  
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## **Corporate Leadership in Mental Health**

### ***THE CHARTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY***

#### **From Awareness to Action**

- ❖ The mental health of men and women in their prime working years is vital to corporate success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy – an economy of mental performance which puts a premium on innovation and the cerebral not manual skills of the workforce.
- ❖ The years 2004 - 2006 are pegged by this Charter as the *Business Years for Mental Health* and in this period, participating companies will take steps to move from “awareness to action” through corporate leadership promoting and protecting the mental health of the global workforce.

#### **Clear and Present Danger**

- ❖ Depression and ischemic heart disease are on a course to become the leading causes of work years lost in the global economy by the year 2020 through human disability and premature death – especially among new entrants to the workplace and men and women in their prime working years. About 20-25 per cent of the working population.

#### **Vision 2020**

Four objectives define this Vision:

1. To pre-empt the gathering public health crisis of the year 2020 and prevent the disabling and deadly effects of depression, anxiety and addictions through early detection and effective treatment.
2. To eliminate management practices and the known sources of problem stress at work most likely to precipitate or aggravate mental health conditions in the workforce.
3. To promote the dual diagnosis and treatment of mental and chronic physical disorders including depression and heart disease. As a risk factor, problem stress is common to both.
4. To promote acceptance and understanding of addictions and mental illness – and thus eradicate stigma – through training, education and fostering workplace cultures which permit open and informed communication on these subjects among executives, managers, supervisors and employees – and their families.

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