



On the Horizon ▪ A l'Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte
A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights

Issue 37 - September 2014

This bulletin is prepared by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://www.business-humanrights.org) for those working in this field. It presents contributions from a number of experts & organizations, and is designed to keep all of us informed of future initiatives.

If you would like to contribute to our next bulletin planned for early November 2014, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 9 November to Sam Whannel: [whannel \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:whannel@business-humanrights.org). Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 28 October 2014.

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International

1. Forthcoming guidance for companies on stakeholder engagement and children’s rights

[UNICEF](#) will soon be releasing guidance for companies on engaging stakeholders on children’s rights in order to inform the development of company policies and human rights due diligence processes. Engaging stakeholders on children’s rights can also feed into a company’s broader sustainability strategy and long-term goals, by investigating specific children’s rights issues pertaining to the workplace, marketplace or the community.

This tool serves as a companion piece to [UNICEF’s suite of tools](#) aimed at supporting companies in the implementation of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles. The objective of this tool is to guide companies on why, with whom and how business should engage stakeholders – both children and children’s rights representatives – on issues affecting children in order to gain a better understanding of a company’s actual or potential impacts on children’s rights. It will provide:

- Guidance to help companies determine the relevance and appropriate level of engagement with stakeholders on children’s rights.
- Guidance and tools on identifying and prioritising child rights stakeholders, including children themselves.
- Guidance for companies that plan to consult children directly and how to do so appropriately and ethically, with appropriate child safe guards in place.

→ *Contributed by Amaya Gorostiaga, UNICEF, [agorostiaga \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:agorostiaga@unicef.org)*

2. Institute for Human Rights and Business launches public procurement Initiative

[The Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) (IHRB) is launching a new project, supported by the [Open Society Foundations’ International Migration Initiative](#), to examine and help develop human rights criteria and guidance for public authorities on how labour exploitation (particularly as faced by migrant workers) can be addressed as part of government procurement of goods and services, both at home and via supply chains in other countries. The new initiative will map the current operational background for public procurement around the world. This will include the January 2014 EU Public Procurement Directive encouraging states and municipalities to consider social criteria in their purchasing and also the impact of existing legislation to prevent exploitation and abuse. It will also include the US Federal Procurement Directive on Trafficking and Forced Labour, the Dutch Government’s existing requirements in terms of the ILO Core Labour Conventions, and new guidance issued by the Government of Finland in January 2014.

The project will be research-driven, drawing together a number of key strands and existing research whilst also undertaking fresh investigations. Given IHRB’s developing activities to promote human rights due diligence in relation to Mega-Sporting Events (see <http://www.megasportingevents.org/>) and the opportunities afforded by

upcoming events around the world, the new project will also examine the particular requirements of public procurement associated with these occasions.

IHRB would welcome input from any organizations or researchers who have undertaken work in this area. Please contact IHRB's Migration Programme Manager Neill Wilkins: [neill.wilkins \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:neill.wilkins@ihrb.org)

→ *Contributed by Neil Wilkins, Migration Programme Manager, IHRB, [neill.wilkins \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:neill.wilkins@ihrb.org)*

3. NGO group to publish joint study into transnational corporate accountability - October

[Together](#), [Bread for the World](#), [MISEREOR](#) and [European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights](#) have analysed the individual obstacles to corporate accountability, in a joint study titled "Calling companies to account: experience gained in transnational human rights lawsuits". The study is based on research into 60 cases of human rights violations by German and European companies in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The English translation will be made available in October.

For more information contact Sarah Lincoln: [sarah.lincoln \(at\) brot-fuer-die-welt.de](mailto:sarah.lincoln@brot-fuer-die-welt.de)

→ *Contributed by Sarah Lincoln, Bread for the World, [sarah.lincoln \(at\) brot-fuer-die-welt.de](mailto:sarah.lincoln@brot-fuer-die-welt.de)*

4. Global survey to map government actions on business & human rights

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is launching a new project to publicly map actions by governments on business & human rights. The project will survey 100 governments worldwide, aiming to encourage government implementation of the UN Guiding Principles through greater transparency and awareness of steps governments are taking. Government responses will be publicly available on an online platform in early 2015 to share understanding of leading practices and help identify areas for improvement.

→ *Contributed by Eiko Horvath, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [horvath \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:horvath@business-humanrights.org)*

Africa

5. Workshop on security and responsible investment in Kenya's Extractives Sector - Nairobi, 6-7 Oct

[The Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) (IHRB) and the [British High Commission Nairobi](#) are convening a two-day workshop on "Building a Secure Environment for Responsible Investment in Kenya's Extractives Sector" on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 October in Nairobi.

This multi-stakeholder convening will bring together key government officials, oil and gas industry representatives and civil society organizations from Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda, and participants in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. The event will be an opportunity to discuss the relevance and practical application of the Voluntary Principles to the complex security challenges facing the emerging oil and gas sector in Kenya. The overarching aim of this convening is to create a common plan of action for all stakeholders for further engagement and collaboration. By working together and sharing information, we aim to develop a framework to more effectively address security concerns in the Kenyan extractive sector collectively, and improve practices on security and human rights.

As the current chair of the Voluntary Principles initiative, the UK Government is engaging all stakeholders in dialogue on how this initiative can foster corporate respect for human rights and contribute to conflict prevention objectives.

IHRB has been engaging with oil and gas exploration companies and government and civil society in Kenya for over a year through the "Nairobi Process: A Pact for Responsible Business" which it has been leading, in collaboration with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, addressing challenges such as security, local content and community engagement.

This meeting is by invitation only. For further information, please contact: Kelly Davina Scott: [kelly.scott \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@ihrb.org)

→ *Contributed by Kelly Davina Scott, Program Support Manager, IHRB, [kelly.scott \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@ihrb.org)*

6. Symposium on human rights & the mining sector in Senegal, November

[Unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from original text in French]

As part of the 15th Francophonie Summit planned in Dakar in November, the [Senegalese Committee for Human Rights](#) (CSDH) and its partners are organizing a symposium on the mining sector in Tambacounda (or possibly Thies), Senegal, in early November. This meeting will be organised in partnership with stakeholders in the mining sector and local communities to facilitate sharing of ideas on human rights, peace and development in mining regions.

The main purpose of the symposium is to contribute to building a culture of accountability in the mining sector through the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It aims to encourage dialogue between the different actors involved in the fight against poverty, to foster respect for human rights and to share best practices in the mining sector. Expected outcomes include: for local communities, a better understanding of standards and best practices, and of remedies for rights violations; for all stakeholders, improved understanding of the role of mining companies in human rights; and the identification of an action plan for the CSDH for effective implementation of the Guiding Principles.

→ *Contributed by Abdoulaye Mar, CSDH, [layemar2 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:layemar2@gmail.com)*

7. Mazingira Network-Tanzania to launch report on uranium mining - September

[Mazingira Network – Tanzania](#) (MANET) is an umbrella organization with more than 71 civil society member organizations working primarily in four thematic areas; wildlife, fishery, forestry, and extractives. In September, MANET will release its first report on “Environmental Challenges Related to Uranium Mining in Tanzania: The Case of Selous Game Reserve”. This report will highlight policy and legal framework issues linked to uranium mining in Tanzania and the challenges that this type of mining for people and the environment. Based on the report, MANET will undertake high-level advocacy work with relevant government ministries in order to ensure environmental justice is considered by stopping uranium mining in Tanzania, particularly in environmentally protected areas.

→ *Contributed by Frank Luvanda, MANET Secretary, [fluvanda \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:fluvanda@yahoo.com)*

8. Launch of Tanzania Lawyers for Energy and Natural Resource Watch - Dar-es-Salaam, 14 Oct

A new Tanzanian NGO focused on natural resources extraction and energy is to be launched 14 October. The overall goal of the organization is to ensure that natural resource extraction contributes to sustainable development and that this sector meets the needs of present and the future generations.

Tanzania Lawyers for Energy and Natural Resource Watch (TLENW) will work to strengthen governance of natural resources in Tanzania. The organization will advocate transparency in business practices, promote community participation and monitor companies’ extraction activities to ensure that they respect environmental concerns and human rights. TLENW will work to achieve these goals through research, monitoring, advocacy, litigation and capacity building.

Our objectives:

- Become an effective watchdog of the energy and natural resources sector
- Provide support, coordination and a platform for action for researchers, policy makers and social justice activists especially those in academic and civic spaces to strengthen accountability in natural resource extraction and governance
- Monitor corporate and state conduct in the extraction and distribution of energy and natural resources in Tanzania and assess their contribution to sustainable development
- Become a key contributor to clear strategic policy, law, research and advocacy on issues of natural resource extraction in Tanzania

→ *Contributed by Benedict Ishabakaki, Legal/Protection Officer, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition [bshabakaki \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:bshabakaki@gmail.com)*

9. IPIS Research launching learning programme on business and human rights - Dar-es-Salaam

[IPIS Research](#) is launching a three-year Business and Human Rights Learning Programme. The programme aims to work with Tanzanian civil society organizations in order to enhance local capacity in business and human rights, including research, documentation, and training on the UN Guiding Principles.

The programme's opening activity, a two day workshop entitled "Business and Human Rights in Tanzania" was a multi-stakeholder training event held in Dar-es-Salaam on 18 August 2014, coordinated by IPIS and the [Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance](#). Civil society organizations, media, and private organizations from the extractive sector attended, and highlighted human rights impacts that ranged from fatalities linked to mining operations, to child labour in the tourist industry.

→ Contributed by Gabriella Wass, Analyst, IPIS Research, [gabriella.wass \(at\) ipisresearch.be](mailto:gabriella.wass@ipisresearch.be)

10. Community and policy conference on oil & gas impacts - Turkana, Kenya, 22-25 Sep

[Friends of Lake Turkana](#) (FoLT) through funding from the Canadian International Development Agency are organising a conference from 22 to 25 September in Turkana, Kenya, which will bring together community members and their representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), national and county governments, investors and development partners. The gathering will focus on a strategic framework for increased productive dialogue among communities, local CSOs, county and national government authorities and investors.

Hosting of the conference in Turkana will enable stakeholders to engage with issues directly facing local communities. The conference will focus on three major activities; research; community outreach, and media engagement. FoLT will work with the Institute of Law and Environmental Governance to carry out research on oil and gas in Turkana County.

Policy briefings arising from this research will be presented at the conference. Some sessions will involve visiting identified communities and sites. For more event details, please visit: <http://ices.or.ke/events/event/community-and-policy-conference/>

→ Contributed by Maggy Waithiru, Coordination Forum Officer, Information Centre for the Extractives Sector, [maggy.waithiru \(at\) ices.or.ke](mailto:maggy.waithiru@ices.or.ke)

11. Community dialogue on the impact of business in Meatu and Arusha, Tanzania

[Tanzania Centre for Research and Information on Pastoralism](#) (TCRIP) is a non-profit organization in Tanzania. Throughout September, the Centre together with Chama Cha Wafugaji Tanzania will facilitate and encourage public discussions on the human rights impacts of businesses in pastoralist regions in Tanzania. These dialogues will involve business and community leaders.

The TCRIP is currently registered and hosted by Chama Cha Wafugaji Tanzania. Its vision is to be a source of a well-researched information and analysis about pastoralism in Tanzania.

For further information please visit <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tanzania-Centre-for-Research-and-Information-on-Pastoralism-TCRIP/456644031101982>

→ Contributed by Onesmo Paul Olengurumwa, National Coordinator, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition, [opngurumwa \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:opngurumwa@gmail.com)

12. Tanzanian NGO monitoring compensation offer by Shanta Mining

[HakiMadini](#), an NGO in Tanzania, plans to monitor developments in a dispute between Shanta Gold and Singida residents in Mang'onyi Village in Central Tanzania. Land claimed by Shanta Gold for mining operations led to over 30 families (more than 200 people) being evicted from their land. The victims of displacement do not yet know the amount of compensation they will receive. Shanta Gold has made compensation payments in other regions of Tanzania in similar circumstances but Singida residents are hesitant to accept terms as they are not satisfied with the kind of compensation made in these previous instances. HakiMadini will be monitoring the valuations, boundaries marked and the amount and structuring of any compensation payments offered to the victims of the evacuation order.

→ Contributed by Erick Luwongo, HakiMadini [erick \(at\) hakimadini.org](mailto:erick@hakimadini.org)

For Shanta Gold's perspective on its corporate responsibility issues, including community relations, [click here](#).

13. First African women's leadership institute on oil & gas - Dar-es-Salaam, 22-26 Sep

[Akina Mama wa Afrika](#) (AMWA) will host oil and gas leadership training from 22 to 26 September in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, on the theme "Women in Oil and Gas". The purpose of the training is to strengthen professional development opportunities for young women currently working in this field. The event will also provide networking, information, training and mentoring opportunities to young women seeking opportunities to join the sector.

The training is aimed at young women from the East Africa region (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) aged between 25-45 years from NGOs, private sector, government, oil companies and development partners.

→ *Contributed by Maggy Waithiru, Coordination Forum Officer, Information Centre for the Extractives Sector, [maggy.waithiru \(at\) ices.or.ke](mailto:maggy.waithiru@ices.or.ke)*

14. Synthesis of business & human rights issues in Africa & presentations planned for regional forum

[Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) is preparing a synthesis of business & human rights issues in Africa, including an evaluation of over 400 instances where it has invited companies to respond to human rights concerns raised by civil society since 2005. This paper will be launched in advance of the African Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights organised by the UN Working Group on business & human rights, 16-18 September in Addis Ababa. At the Forum, two of the Resource Centre's regional researchers on Africa, Joseph Kibugu and Nokukhanya Mncwabe, will present on topics including challenges and opportunities for civil society engagement with business on human rights issues; business, conflict and peace in Africa; and tools and guidance for companies in Africa to improve respect for human rights in their operations and business relationships.

→ *Contributed by Greg Regaignon, Research Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [regaignon \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:regaignon@business-humanrights.org)*

"Managing Congo's Resource Wealth – From Plunder to Shared Prosperity", New York City, 31 Oct

See item 23 below, in the Americas section. We include reference to this entry here in the Africa section because it concerns Democratic Republic of Congo.

Americas

15. Investors call for an end to the misuse of medicines in executions

A group of the world's largest investors is calling on a number of pharmaceutical companies to prevent the sale of their medicines to US prisons for use in executions.

More than a dozen pharmaceutical manufacturers have already imposed controls to stop their drugs being sold to death rows, preventing prisons from obtaining "traditional" execution drugs and leading some states to stop executing altogether. A small number, however, have moved on to experimental cocktails of drugs produced by a handful of manufacturers without controls in place; including [Akorn](#), [Mylan](#), and [Sagent](#). These companies' association with executions exposes them to reputational damage, high profile litigation, and divestment by mainstream portfolios.

[BNP Paribas Investment Partners](#) and the [New York Common Retirement Fund](#) (which between them manage more than \$800 million worth of assets worldwide) are seeking to bring investors together to encourage these manufacturers to extricate themselves from the execution drug trade. The initiative is being run in conjunction with the Clearinghouse platform of the [United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment \(UNPRI\)](#).

The initiative will be hosting open briefings for investors this autumn, the first of which will take place at the offices of the New York Common Retirement Fund at a date to be confirmed. Similar sessions will be scheduled in London and Paris over the coming weeks. To register interest or learn more about the issue, contact Dan Dolan on +44 (0)20 7553 8147 or at [dan.dolan \(at\) reprieve.org.uk](mailto:dan.dolan@reprieve.org.uk), or visit the initiative's [dedicated page on the UNPRI website](#) (where event updates will be posted).

→ *Contributed by Dan Dolan, Reprieve, [dan.dolan \(at\) reprieve.org.uk](mailto:dan.dolan@reprieve.org.uk)*

16. Training on community-based human rights impact assessments - Bogotá, 29 Sep

[Oxfam America](#) and [Federation Internationale des ligues des droits de l'Homme](#) (FIDH), in collaboration with Poder and Caroline Brodeur, will deliver training on Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIAs) using a powerful tool created by Rights and Democracy, called [Getting it Right](#).

This training offers a great opportunity for organizations working in the field of business and human rights to acquire practical skills to better protect communities' human rights, and to become more familiar with the *Getting it Right* tool. Specifically designed for civil society, this tool enables community-based organizations to identify investment projects' human rights impacts, propose responses, and encourage government and corporate actors to take action to respect human rights.

Through the training, participants will learn about HRIA and *Getting it Right*, and will be able to establish in which contexts this tool could be useful. The presentation of past case studies will enable participants to gain a better understanding of the HRIA process, of the challenges that can be encountered, but also of strategies to overcome these difficulties.

More information on HRIA by Oxfam America available [here](#), and by FIDH available [here](#)

Date: Monday 29 September in Bogotá, Colombia

Contact [SZoen](#) (at) [OxfamAmerica.org](#) if interested in attending. (Participants must cover their travel costs.)

→ *Contributed by Sarah Zoen, Oxfam America, [SZoen](#) (at) [OxfamAmerica.org](#)*

17. Event: "Mitigation and Adaptation to the impacts of climate change" - Buenos Aires, Argentina, 23-25 Oct

An interdisciplinary event hosted by [Instituto IGÉ](#) on climate policy is taking place 23-25 October in Buenos Aires "to create a platform for strategic dialogue between academics, civil society organizations and political leaders to address the issues of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in Argentina."

While climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing the world, Argentina has not yet developed coherent climate strategies for adaption and mitigation at either a local or national level. This forthcoming event is being hosted to provide a forum for dialogue and to encourage active participation in responses to climate change by bringing together representatives from government, academia, private enterprise and civil society. It is supported by Environmental Institutes of La Matanza, the Inter American Open University (Universidad Abierta Interamericana), the National University of Comahue (Universidad Nacional del Comahue) and the University in Business and Social Sciences (Universidad en Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales).

→ *Contributed by Instituto IGÉ*

→ *For more information, contact [info\(at\)interclimatico.com.ar](#) or [igeinstituto](#) (at) [gmail.com](#)*

18. University forum on "Emerging realities in Chiapas 2014" - Mexico, 23-25 Sep

[Otros Mundos](#) (Friends of the Earth, Mexico) along with civil society organizations and the Autonomous University of Chiapas (Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas, UNACH), will host a forum to discuss issues including mega-projects and human rights, human trafficking, migration, violence against women, access to water, eco-technologies and child labour. Students and the public are invited to participate in workshops, conferences and cultural activities. The purpose of [the Forum](#) is to create spaces for students to raise their concerns in an interactive dialogue with activists and NGOs. The forum will aim to encourage reflection and debate on local, national and international issues and will take place 23-25 September.

The venue is at the Autonomous University of Chiapas, Social Sciences Faculty, C-III located at Presidente Obregon St, S/N Colonia Revolucion Mexicana, San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas.

→ *Contributed by Otros Mundos*

→ *For more information, contact [forouniversitario2014](#) (at) [hotmail.com](#)*

19. 5th Latin American Congress on Popular Education - Puebla, Mexico, 2-7 Nov

[The Latin American & Caribbean Popular Education Network of the Holy Heart Religious Congregation](#), the [Mexican Institute for Community Development](#), the Continental Network of Ecclesial Grassroots Communities and

the “Ignacio Ellacuria” Latin American Course of the Ibero-American University of Puebla (Universidad Iberoamericana de Puebla), invite you to two events at the Ibero-American University of Puebla, Mexico, on 2-7 November.

The [5th Latin American Congress on Popular Education](#) is open only to civil society organizations who have worked for at least three years on mining issues in Latin America and the Caribbean and/or popular educators. The 1st Latin American Forum “Protection and defense of territory vs transnational corporation and their predatory policies” will host a maximum of 150 people. [Registration will remain open until 30 September](#).

→ *Contributed by Otros Mundos*

→ *For more information, contact [martinezmaqueosocorro \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:martinezmaqueosocorro@gmail.com)*

20. Event: “Agro fuels, oil palm and their impacts on food security” - La Ceiba, Honduras, 9-10 Sep

A forum and workshop titled “Agro fuels, oil palm and their impacts on food security” will take place 9-10 September in La Ceiba, Honduras, organised by the Honduran Black Fraternity Organization (Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña, [OFRANEH](#)), Friends of the Earth Latin America & the Caribbean, the Latin American Network against Tree Mono-cultivation (RECOMA), the Honduran Social and Popular Movements Platform, the World Rainforest Movement and the Biodiversity Alliance. This workshop will analyse the impact of the expansion of plantations by large corporations on communities’ human rights, including rights to water, health, land and food.

Further information: <http://www.ofraneh.org>

→ *Contributed by La Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña*

21. Workshop on CSR and extractive industries - La Paz, Bolivia

Fundación Jubileo have been monitoring activities in the Bolivian extractive sector for over five years. In the past months, it has conducted an analysis of corporate social responsibility (CSR) practices in the petroleum and mining industries in Bolivia. The study has identified the main economic impacts of industries operating in the region. The report also revealed areas of serious concern in the conduct and impact of companies in the sector operating in Bolivia. The lack of state involvement in mining and oil operations in isolated areas is responsible for significant confusion among local communities, particularly with regard to health, education and housing services.

The study and all these issues will be shared and analysed in a national workshop that will take place in La Paz, by mid-October.

→ *Contributed by Patricia Miranda, Fundación Jubileo: [patmiranda \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:patmiranda@gmail.com)*

22. Forum on modern slavery - São Paulo, 12-14 Nov

[Repórter Brasil](#) and the [Contemporary Slave Labor Research Group](#) will host an event at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo on contemporary slave labour, 12-14 November.

The event will offer a forum to engage with issues of modern slavery. With the importance and timeliness of the slave labour issue, we understand that the university cannot shirk the challenge of producing knowledge for better understanding of social relationships that result in disrespect for fundamental human rights.

The meeting, organised by Reporter Brazil and by the Contemporary Slave Labor Research Group of the Center for the Study of Public Policy on Human Rights Suely Souza de Almeida (NEPP-DH) at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, will be hosted on the Perdizes campus of the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC0-SP).

Location: PUC-SP: rua Ministro de Godoy, 969, Perdizes, São Paulo-SP. Sala 239.

For more information contact: [marilia \(at\) reporterbrasil.org.br](mailto:marilia@reporterbrasil.org.br)

23. “Managing Congo’s Resource Wealth – From Plunder to Shared Prosperity” - New York City, 31 October

On 31 October from 2-4pm at the Ford Foundation headquarters in New York City, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will host the fifth annual event in the Mary Robinson Speaker Series on Business and Human Rights.

The subject is “Managing Congo’s Resource Wealth – From Plunder to Shared Prosperity”. The keynote speaker is Emmanuel Umpula Nkumba, Executive Director of African Resources Watch (AFREWATCH). Based in Katanga province, Emmanuel has advocated for many years on behalf of people impacted by extractive industries. He has worked to empower local communities, report on abuses, and pursue redress through Congolese courts as well as African and international mechanisms.

Emmanuel will be introduced by Mary Robinson, and his keynote speech will be followed by a high-level panel discussion involving representatives from civil society, business and government. The event will be followed by a public reception.

[Reserve a place here](#). Or for further information contact Annabel Short: short (at) business-humanrights.org

→ *Contributed by Annabel Short, Program Manager, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre*

24. Resource Centre legal accountability mission to Brazil

The Resource Centre is planning a corporate legal accountability research mission to São Paulo, Brazil for late 2014. Sif Thorgeirsson, manager of the Corporate Legal Accountability Project, and Julia Mello Neiva, Brazil, Portugal & Portuguese-speaking Africa Researcher & Representative, will conduct the mission.

Julia and Sif will meet with lawyers and advocates in São Paulo to gain a better understanding of their work on corporate legal accountability and how we can assist them through our global platform for sharing information about their cases. They will also be organising a roundtable meeting bringing together Brazilian legal accountability advocates to discuss the need for more effective judicial remedies for corporate abuses and develop strategies for victims of corporate human rights abuse to access justice.

→ *Contributed by Sif Thorgeirsson, [thorgeirsson \[at\] business-humanrights.org](mailto:thorgeirsson@business-humanrights.org), and Muriel Soares, [soares \[at\] business-humanrights.org](mailto:soares@business-humanrights.org)*

Asia/Pacific

25. Forthcoming event on development and sustainability in India - Mumbai, 10-15 Nov

[CRT Japan](#), [Initiatives of Change Japan](#) and [Caux Initiatives for Business](#) are bringing together a team of senior leaders from major corporations in Japan to study what's been done on CSR and human development in India. The event will explore "Collective Impact towards Sustainable and Human Development", identifying the new challenges businesses are facing and global trends on business and human rights.

The Indian government passed legislation as part of the "Companies Act 2013" on this issue, mandating that 2% of an organization's profit must be used for CSR projects. If properly handled by businesses, it could result in a significant growth and development and provide much needed facilities to the poor.

More information on the event is available at http://www.crt-japan.jp/files/projects/India_tour_2014.html (Japanese only) or email to [info \(at\) crt-japan.jp](mailto:info@crt-japan.jp).

→ *Contributed by Guillermo Juarez Salinas, Caux Round Table – Japan, [guillermo_juarez_salinas \(at\) crt-japan.jp](mailto:guillermo_juarez_salinas@crt-japan.jp)*

26. Training on UN Guiding Principles - Phnom Penh, 12 Sep

The [Cambodian Center for Human Rights](#) (CCHR) will provide training on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and their implementation, for labour unions, land rights groups and civil society organizations on 12 September. We expect to provide this training to at least 30 participants. This will be the fourth such training CCHR has conducted so far this year. The training will help civil society groups and workers achieve a greater understanding of the obligations for businesses to respect and protect human rights in their day-to-day

operations, as well as advocacy and legal remedies available to promote these rights – resulting in more effective advocacy, legal and other actions to protect their own rights.

For further information, please visit our business and human rights portal at <http://business.sithi.org/>

→ *Contributed by Piseth Duch, Project Coordinator, CCHR, [duchpiseth \(at\) cchrcambodia.org](mailto:duchpiseth@cchrcambodia.org)*

27. Understanding and implementing the UN Guiding Principles in Japan

[CRT Japan](#) hosted the "2014 Global Conference on CSR and Risk Management" to explore ways of strengthening risk management by implementing the UN Guiding Principles. It presented an opportunity to learn and share experiences from different experts on business and human rights issues, supply chain management, sustainability reporting and global risk mapping from Europe, America and Asia. The programme of the event is at http://www.crt-japan.jp/EN/press/1409_Conference_E.html.

The conference also represented an opportunity to engage with stakeholders from non-profit organizations, researchers and international initiatives to gain a deeper understanding into specific issues addressed during the conference such as children's rights, workers' rights, mega sporting events and human rights, and the water, energy and food security nexus. Going forward, CRT Japan expects that this conference will contribute to illuminating the links between human rights issues, CSR activities and reporting (transparency). The final report on the event and more information regarding Human Rights Due Diligence is at <http://www.crt-japan.jp/EN/index.html>

→ *Contributed by Guillermo Juarez Salinas, Caux Round Table – Japan, [guillermo_juarez_salinas \(at\) crt-japan.jp](mailto:guillermo_juarez_salinas@crt-japan.jp)*

28. Oil and gas impact assessment by Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business - Myanmar, 4 Sep

On 4 September, [Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business](#) (MCRB) published its sector-wide impact assessment (SWIA) on oil and gas. This is the first of the SWIAs being conducted by MCRB. It draws on established environmental and social impact assessment methodologies, but applies a human rights lens. The SWIA goes beyond a particular project, to assess not only impacts on individuals and groups that may arise from particular projects but also the potential for the sector's impact on society as a whole. The SWIA contains recommendations intended to support responsible business conduct in the sector.

The SWIA contains recommendations intended to support responsible business conduct in the sector. These recommendations are addressed to the Government of Myanmar, companies in the oil & gas sector, investors, civil society, development partners and companies' home governments, and other stakeholders. MCRB stands ready to facilitate future discussions between various stakeholder groups in the oil & gas sector, and looks forward to implementation of these recommendations.

For more information on the recommendations in the report to government, businesses, investors, civil society and development partners for Myanmar please visit: <http://www.myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org/news/swia/oil-and-gas-swia.html>

→ *Contributed by Vicky Bowman, Director, MCRB, [vicky.bowman \(at\) myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org](mailto:vicky.bowman@myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org)*

Europe/Central Asia

29. Traidcraft launch Access to Justice Campaign

The UK fair trade organization [Traidcraft](#) is launching a new campaign on access to justice for people in developing countries who have been harmed by the activities of UK businesses. The campaign will highlight how a minority of UK companies are taking decisions which result in mistreatment or even abuse of workers, suppliers or local communities in the developing world. They are getting away with practices which would never be tolerated if they were operating in the UK. Traidcraft will be targeting UK political parties in the run-up to the next election to encourage them to put this issue onto the agenda of the next government.

Traidcraft believes that the next UK government needs to take practical measures to enable victims to get justice, in the UK if necessary, and for the companies to be held to account for their actions. It will be encouraging its supporters and customers, and members of the public, to take action by contacting the leaders of the main political parties to ask what they plan to do on this issue if elected in the UK General Election next May.

To find out more, visit www.traidcraft.co.uk/justicecampaign

→ *Contributed by Mary Milne, Campaigns Manager, marym (at) traidcraft.co.uk*

30. CORE to hold 3 fringe events on business & human rights at UK party conferences - Sep-Oct

During September and October [CORE](#) will hold three fringe events at the party conferences of Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats.

The Labour party event will focus on company reporting and how Labour can move the agenda forward. There will be a panel discussion chaired by Lisa Nandy MP, with Kerry McCarthy MP, Peter Frankental, Economic Relations Programme Director at Amnesty International UK, Steve Waygood, Chief Responsible Investment Officer, Aviva Investors, and MEP Richard Howitt.

The Conservative event will focus on the Modern Slavery bill. There will be a panel discussion with a representative from the business/investor community, a representative of the Conservative party, and Chris Bain, Director at CAFOD, the Catholic Overseas Development Agency.

The Liberal Democrat meeting will review progress made on the business and human rights agenda since the launch of the UK Government's National Action Plan in September 2013 and the work by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills on narrative reporting; BIS Minister Jo Swinson MP has been invited to speak. There will be a panel discussion with Alistair Dutton, Director of SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund) and Louise Rouse, Director of Engagement at ShareAction.

→ *Contributed by James Whiting, CORE, james (at) corporate-responsibility.org*

31. Forum to unite academics & activists on environmental & economic concerns - Brighton, UK, 12-13 Sep

The "Academics and Activists International Forum" will be held in Brighton on 12-13 September, with the aim of reuniting academics and activists around concerns that threaten both local communities worldwide and the next generation of academics. Issues of particular concern include: the incursions of the extractive industries on our environment, including hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') and the neo-liberal attack on our universities including outsourcing of services, support, and even teaching positions, alongside huge budget cuts.

The two-day event will aim not only to provoke discussion, but also to generate meaningful partnerships for research and campaigning around environmental justice, commons charters, and indigenous peoples' land rights. Case studies to be presented will include the Yasuni agreement (2008-2013) and lessons from Ecuador to improve international campaigns to "keep the oil under the ground" in the future. In the workshops, participants will have the opportunity to form working links for future cooperation on research, campaigns and development of toolkits, or methodologies. The aim is to make the work useful for people beyond academic circles.

Speakers include Ecuadoran anti-mining activist Carlos Zorilla and Samarendra Das from Foil Vedanta.

For more information visit:

http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cweh/newsandevents/conferences/academics_and_activists_forum

→ *Contributed by The Centre for World Environmental History, University of Sussex, actacdforum (at) sussex.ac.uk*

32. Series of seminars and events for businesses and NGOs facilitated by Global CSR - Denmark

Starting in October [Global CSR](#) will host a series of seminars and workshops in Copenhagen and Aarhus, to equip businesses and NGOs with the human rights expertise they need. These include the [CSR Compliance Lab](#) which will provide a solid understanding of contemporary corporate social responsibility (CSR) and updates on recent developments in business and human rights, particularly relating to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

A five-day professional training session on human rights and business will explore how to make use of the Guiding Principles in an NGO setting over two workshops, one in November 2014 and one in January 2015. The workshops will make use of a rights-based approach to business dialogue and provide participants the full understanding of the Guiding Principles and the expectations listed in them. A capacity building workshop for

business people on 9 December will identify the potential and actual adverse impacts that their business may cause, contribute or be linked to via its business relationships.

For further information on all these events and others contact Emma Altinkaya, ea (at) global-csr.com or +45 44 99 55 06, or visit: <http://global-csr.com/courses/>

→ *Contributed by Signe Andreasen Lysgaard, Director, Global CSR, sa (at) global-csr.com*

33. Affectio Mutandi to create new mediation facility to boost social responsibility of organizations

A recent study by Affectio Mutandi demonstrated how civil society organizations increasingly rely on CSR standards in their campaigns and use soft and hard-law tools (our full study is here).

The effectiveness of these campaigns is unpredictable, particularly if the disputes involve countries with poor governance. While grievance mechanisms are vital they often fail to take into account all the environmental, social and governance issues at stake. Affectio Mutandi are to launch, on 17 September, an approach to mediation combining social, normative and reputational analysis that draws on our expertise and understanding of varied stakeholders.

Based on an analysis of reputational issues within a normative environment, relevant due diligence measures are assessed and combined to build a road map for parties and mediators. We have an international network of mediators available (lawyers, NGO representatives, public decision-makers, workers' representatives, investors, consumer associations, etc.). Our ambition is to optimise the impact of CSR standards by building understanding of mediation and crisis resolution for organizations, companies, NGOs and public authorities.

For more information contact Yann Queinnec – y.queinnec (at) affectiomutandi.com

→ *Contributed by Yann Queinnec, Affectio Mutandi*

Middle East & North Africa

34. Roundtable on Unitary Taxation - Ramat Gan, Israel, 16 Sep

Tax Justice Network Israel, in collaboration with [the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Israel](#) will host a roundtable on unitary taxation on 16 September at the College of Law and Business, 26 Ben Gurion St, Ramat Gan, Israel.

Dr. Tamir Shanan will present a research draft on unitary taxation ([an alternative way of taxing transnational corporations according to the genuine economic substance of what they do and where they do it](#)). A panel discussion will follow in which representatives from the Israeli Tax Authorities as well as academics and practitioners will participate.

→ *Contributed by Moran Harari, Director, Tax Justice Network Israel, moranh62 (at) gmail.com*

Español

35. I Encuentro Interdisciplinario de Políticas sobre Cambio Climático: “Mitigación y Adaptación a los Efectos del Cambio Climático”

El cambio climático es en la actualidad la principal problemática ambiental a nivel global. Sin embargo, en Argentina aún el tema se mantiene por fuera de la agenda pública, ya que no se considera una prioridad a nivel local, con excepción de grupos de investigación y de ONG ambientalistas. Del mismo modo, también figura mayormente ausente dentro del marco de políticas públicas de los diferentes Estados, a pesar de diferentes iniciativas de oficinas gubernamentales. En este marco, el [Instituto IGÉ](#), con la adhesión de los Institutos de Medio Ambiente de La Matanza, de la Universidad Abierta Interamericana, del Comahue y de la Universidad en Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales y de importantes organismos de la sociedad civil convocan a la participación activa en el I Encuentro Interdisciplinario de Políticas Climáticas, a realizarse los días 23, 24 y 25 de octubre en la Ciudad de Buenos Aires. El objetivo general consiste en "conformar una plataforma de diálogo estratégico entre académicos, organizaciones sociales y dirigentes políticos para abordar la mitigación y la adaptación del cambio climático en Argentina".

→ *Contribución de: Instituto IGÉ. Contacto: Info (at) interclimatico.com.ar o igeinstituto (arroba) gmail.com*

36. Primer Foro Universitario "Realidades Emergentes en Chiapas 2014" - México

Otros Mundos, A.C. junto con otras organizaciones y la Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas (UNACH), abordarán problemáticas relacionadas con los Derechos Humanos como megaproyectos, trata de personas, migración, feminicidios, agua, eco-tecnologías, trabajo infantil, entre otras problemáticas. Se invita a los estudiantes y público en general a participar en los talleres, conferencias, actividades culturales, etc. En el marco del [1° Foro Universitario Realidades Emergentes en Chiapas 2014](#), se pretende crear un espacio de expresión para los jóvenes universitarios, para que estos puedan participar y crear un dialogo interactivo con los distintos actores sociales que en el participen. Además pretende abrir un espacio de reflexión y debate de las diversas temáticas y problemáticas sociales generadas en los distintos niveles: locales, nacionales e internacionales. El Foro se realizará los días 23, 24, y 25 de septiembre, en la Universidad Autónoma de Chiapas, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales C-III, Calle Presidente Obregón, S/N Colonia Revolución Mexicana, San Cristóbal de las Casas.

→ *Contribución de Otros Mundos, A.C. Para información: [forouniversitario2014 \(arroba\) hotmail.com](mailto:forouniversitario2014@hotmai.com)*

37. "Cuidado y Defensa del Territorio frente a las Mineras en América Latina y El Caribe" y "Cuidado y Defensa del Territorio Frente a las Transnacionales y Políticas Depredadoras" - México

La Red de Educación Popular Latinoamericana y Caribeña de las Religiosas del Sagrado Corazón, el Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario AC, la Articulación Continental de las Comunidades Eclesiales de Base y la Cátedra Latinoamericana "Ignacio Ellacuría", de la Universidad Iberoamericana de Puebla, invitan a estos dos evento, que se realizarán en la Universidad Iberoamericana de Puebla, México, del 3 al 7 de noviembre de 2014. El [V Encuentro Taller Latinoamericano](#) está dirigido solamente a todas las organizaciones que tengan tres años como mínimo de integración en acciones de minería-territorio centradas en América Latina y El Caribe y/o Educadores populares que están integrándose en esta línea. El I Foro Latinoamericano "Cuidado y Defensa del Territorio frente a las transnacionales y políticas depredadoras", tendrá un cupo limitado a 150 personas, quienes deberán [inscribirse hasta el 30 de septiembre](#) de 2014.

→ *Contribución de Otros Mundos, A.C. Para información: [martinezmaqueosocorro \(arroba\) gmail.com](mailto:martinezmaqueosocorro@gmail.com)*

38. Foro-Taller: "Agro-combustibles, Palma Africana y sus Efectos en la Seguridad Alimentaria" - Honduras

El 9 y 10 de septiembre se llevará a cabo el Foro-Taller: "Agro-combustibles, Palma Africana y sus Efectos en la Seguridad Alimentaria", en la Ceiba, Honduras, convocada por la [Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña \(OFRANEH\)](#), Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe, la Red Latinoamericana contra los Monocultivos de Árboles (RECOMA), la Plataforma de los Movimientos Sociales y Populares de Honduras, el Movimiento Mundial por los Bosques Tropicales (WRM) y la Alianza Biodiversidad. En este taller se analizarán los efectos del avance de las plantaciones de las grandes corporaciones en el derecho humano al agua de los pueblos, a la salud, al territorio, a la alimentación, entre otros.

→ *Contribución de OFRANEH. Para mayor información: <http://www.ofraneh.org>*

39. Taller nacional sobre responsabilidad social empresarial y contenido local de las industrias extractivas en Bolivia

[Fundación Jubileo](#) cuenta desde hace 5 años con un área de análisis en industrias extractivas a través de la cual realiza el monitoreo y seguimiento a las actividades del sector. Durante los últimos meses, ha realizado un análisis sobre las prácticas de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial que se desarrollan tanto en el sector petrolero como en el sector minero de Bolivia. Asimismo, en un estudio en el que ha tratado de establecer cuáles han sido los impactos económicos locales que estas industrias generan en las áreas de influencia donde operan. Uno de los principales aspectos observados durante la realización de este estudio fue la permanente ausencia del Estado en aquellas comunidades alejadas de los centros urbanos donde se desarrollan actividades petroleras y mineras, lo que ha generado cierta confusión entre el rol estatal y el rol de las empresas extractivas ya que en muchos casos las comunidades exigen a estas empresas asumir la responsabilidad de proveer servicios básicos de educación, salud y vivienda a su población (con el riesgo que ello implica al momento del cierre de las operaciones extractivas), siendo que los mismos deberían ser provistos por el Estado, como una obligación establecida en la Constitución Política del Estado. El estudio realizado y todos estos temas serán socializados y analizados en un taller nacional previsto para mediados de octubre en la ciudad de La Paz.

→ *Contribución de Patricia Miranda, Fundación Jubileo: [patmiranda \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:patmiranda@gmail.com)*

Français

40. Symposium sur le secteur minier au Sénégal, novembre

Dans le cadre du XVe sommet de la Francophonie prévu à Dakar en Novembre 2014, le Comité Sénégalais des Droits de l'Homme (CSDH) et ses partenaires organisent un symposium sur le secteur minier du Sénégal à Tambacounda (ou Thiès) au début du mois de novembre. Cette rencontre sera organisée en partenariat avec tous les acteurs du domaine minier, mais aussi avec les populations locales pour un partage inclusif sur les enjeux de droits humains, de paix et de développement dans les régions minières du pays. L'objectif général du symposium est de contribuer à l'instauration d'une culture de la redevabilité dans le domaine de l'exploitation minière par la mise en œuvre des Principes directeurs des Nations Unies relatifs aux entreprises et aux droits de l'homme. Il permettra aussi de susciter un débat interactif entre les différents acteurs impliqués dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et pour le respect des droits humains et de partager les bonnes pratiques dans le secteur minier. Les résultats attendus sont, entre autres, pour les populations – une meilleure connaissance des normes et des meilleures pratiques en cours dans le secteur et notamment les voies de recours en cas de violation de leurs droits ; une meilleure compréhension du rôle des entreprises minières en matière de droits humains ; la définition d'un plan d'action pour le CSDH pour une mise en œuvre effective des Principes directeurs des NU relatifs aux entreprises et aux droits de l'Homme.

→ *Contribution d'Abdoulaye Mar, CSDH, [layemar2 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:layemar2@gmail.com)*

41. Affectio Mutandi crée la médiation d'influence pour booster la RSE

Les organisations de la société civile mobilisent de plus en plus les normes de RSE dans leurs interpellations et recourent aux voies extra-judiciaires voire judiciaires (notre étude : [lien](#)).

L'aléa sur leur efficacité est grand, particulièrement si les litiges sont localisés dans des pays à gouvernance perfectible. Si les mécanismes de plainte sont plébiscités, aucun à ce jour ne rassemble l'ensemble des enjeux environnementaux, sociaux et de gouvernance (ESG), délais raisonnables, sécurité juridique et réputationnelle.

À partir de quand les mesures de diligence d'une entreprise répondent-elles aux standards et attentes ? Où fixer les limites de la sphère d'influence d'une organisation ? Comment communiquer avant, pendant et à l'issue d'une médiation ?

[Affectio Mutandi](#), forte de son expertise et de sa position à la confluence des parties prenantes, lancera, le 17 septembre, la médiation d'influence combinant ingénierie sociétale, normative et réputationnelle.

Les mesures de diligences adaptées, fondées sur une analyse d'image et un socle normatif maîtrisé, sont validées en amont et constituent une feuille de route liant les parties et médiateurs. Un collège international de médiateurs est mobilisable (juristes, représentants d'ONG, décideurs publics, partenaires sociaux, investisseurs, associations de consommateurs, etc).

L'ambition : optimiser l'impact des standards de RSE en mettant chaque organisation, entreprise, ONG et collectivité publique, devant ses responsabilités, pour des sorties de crises par le haut.

Pour plus d'information contacter Yann Queinnec, [y.queinnec \(at\) affectiomutandi.com](mailto:y.queinnec@affectiomutandi.com)

→ *Contribution de Yann Queinnec, Affectio Mutandi, [y.queinnec \(at\) affectiomutandi.com](mailto:y.queinnec@affectiomutandi.com)*

Português

42. Repórter Brasil e UFRJ realizam encontro científico sobre escravidão

Acontecerá de de 12 a 14 de novembro, em São Paulo (SP), a VII Reunião Científica Trabalho Escravo Contemporâneo e Questões Correlatas. Aqueles que quiserem participar podem enviar o texto até 10 de setembro.

O encontro, organizado pela Repórter Brasil e pelo Grupo de Pesquisa Trabalho Escravo Contemporâneo (GPTEC) do Núcleo de Estudos de Políticas Públicas em Direitos Humanos Suely Souza de Almeida (NEPP-DH) da Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), terá como sede o campus de Perdizes da Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo.

“Comprometidos que somos com a importância e a atualidade do tema [trabalho escravo], entendemos que a Universidade não pode se furtar ao desafio de produzir conhecimentos voltados para a melhor compreensão da realidade do mundo atual, dos diferentes tipos de relações que nela se estabelecem dado que, a partir dela, muitas vezes são desenhados cenários impactantes de desrespeito aos direitos fundamentais da pessoa humana”, diz o texto de apresentação no site do encontro.

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Local: PUC-SP: rua Ministro de Godoy, 969, Perdizes, São Paulo-SP. Sala 239.

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