



On the Horizon ▪ A l'Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte
A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights
Issue 21 - June 2011

This bulletin is prepared by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) 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 September 2011, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 7 September to Annabel Short: short@business-humanrights.org. Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 25 August.

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International

1. UN Human Rights Council to consider the Guiding Principles and follow-up mandate

On 30 May 2011 the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on business & human rights (SRSG) [formally presented](#) to the UN Human Rights Council the **Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework**. The Guiding Principles, contained in UN report A/HRC/17/31, are also available [here](#).

Accompanying the Guiding Principles were three official addenda: (1) Piloting principles for effective company-stakeholder grievance mechanisms: a report of lessons learned; (2) Human rights and corporate law: trends and observations from a cross-national study conducted by the SRSG; and (3) Principles for responsible contracts: integrating the management of human rights risks into state-investor contract negotiation – guidance for negotiators. These documents are available on the [UN Special Representative portal on the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre website](#).

In mid-June, the Council will consider formal endorsement of the Guiding Principles. It will also decide as to follow up to the SRSG's mandate, given that his term ends at the end of June 2011. The SRSG has circulated [a paper](#) providing his views as to potential follow-up options .

The SRSG would like to acknowledge the extraordinary contributions by hundreds of individuals, groups and institutions around the world, representing different segments of society and sectors of industry, who gave freely of their time, openly shared their experiences, debated options vigorously, and who came to constitute a global movement of sorts in support of a successful mandate.

→ *Contributed by Vanessa Zimmerman, Legal Advisor to the SRSG, [vanessa_zimmerman \(at\) hks.harvard.edu](mailto:vanessa_zimmerman@hks.harvard.edu)*

2. Multinationals & indigenous communities dilemmas draft - open for comment until 20 Jun

The [UN Global Compact](#) and [Maplecroft](#) have released a draft for consultation of a new in-depth examination of the dilemmas that can arise for multinational companies (MNCs) when they interact with

indigenous communities. Stakeholders are invited and encouraged to provide commentary, good practice examples, case studies and feedback on the [Human Rights and Business Dilemmas Forum](#) until 20 June.

There are many sectors in which businesses interact with indigenous communities. Economic activities in the mining, oil and gas, infrastructure development, agro-commodities production, tourism, logging and pharmaceuticals sectors can negatively impact the integrity of these communities. Responsible business needs to proactively address risks of complicity in human rights violations such as forced resettlement and expropriation of land; discriminatory treatment; loss of livelihoods; obstructed avenues of political participation and lack of access to justice.

The dilemma study provides suggestions for responsible business practices which companies can employ to help them to comply with the UN's "Protect, Respect and Remedy" framework as well as case studies detailing policies or initiatives undertaken by businesses.

The Forum aims to enhance the collective understanding of human rights themes and to stimulate discussion about the dilemmas responsible MNCs may face in their efforts to respect and support human rights when operating in emerging economies. The Forum is jointly implemented by the United Nations Global Compact and Maplecroft, and is funded by the GE Foundation.

→ To visit the Human Rights and Business Forum go to <http://human-rights.unglobalcompact.org>

→ To participate in the interactive Forum go to <http://human-rights-forum.maplecroft.com>

→ For more information contact Katharina Hermann, [katharina.hermann \(at\) maplecroft.com](mailto:katharina.hermann@maplecroft.com)

3. Children's Rights & Business Principles Initiative - consultation until 30 Jun

[UNICEF](#), the [UN Global Compact](#) and [Save the Children](#) invite interested parties to participate in the [public online consultation](#) to comment on the draft Children's Rights & Business Principles. The principles aspire to provide comprehensive guidance on what companies can do to maximise positive impacts and minimise negative impacts on children. Hosted by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, the consultation period runs until 30 June 2011, and comments are appreciated within that timeframe. In addition to the online consultation, there are a number of in-country consultations taking place.

The Principles will be launched near the anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in November 2011. Further initiative information may be accessed via the above URL. In addition to giving input on the draft Principles, the following are ways in which you can contribute to the Initiative:

1. Disseminate consultation details within your organization and networks;
2. Establish communication channels to feature the consultations (e.g., website); and
3. Share good practice examples of business and multi-stakeholder initiatives that respect and support child rights.

→ Contact Elisabeth Abeson, Coordinator, Children's Rights & Business Principles Initiative at [eabeson \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:eabeson@unicef.org), with good practice examples and queries

4. "Children's Rights & Business" side event - Geneva, 14 Jun

A side event on "Children's Rights & Business" will be held 14 June – during the United Nations Human Rights Council session – in room XXVII of Palais des Nations (UN Geneva). Panellists will include representatives of [UNICEF](#), [Save the Children Sweden](#), [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#), [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#), and possibly a company representative.

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will launch its online "Business & Children Portal" at the side event.

For further details, please see [this webpage](#). All who have security access to Palais des Nations are invited to attend.

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

5. OECD Watch forthcoming briefing paper on update of OECD Guidelines

On 25 May, on its 50th anniversary, the OECD formally adopted a revised text of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, ten years after its last major review. [OECD Watch](#) has issued a statement

outlining the key improvements and shortcomings. The revisions include valuable additions to the content and scope of the Guidelines; yet OECD governments failed to agree on more stringent measures to ensure company compliance.

OECD Watch will publish a more detailed analysis of the update of the OECD Guidelines at the occasion of the OECD Annual Meeting of National Contact Points, 27-28 June, and its related CSR Roundtable on 29 June in Paris.

→ For more information, visit: www.oecdwatch.org or email [info \(at\) oecdwatch.org](mailto:info@oecdwatch.org)

→ Contributed by Joris Oldenzien, Senior Researcher, SOMO, [J.Oldenzien \(at\) somo.nl](mailto:J.Oldenzien@somoni.nl)

6. GRI's next sustainability reporting guidelines - open for comment until 31 Jul

[Global Reporting Initiative \(GRI\)](#) is pleased to announce that the next generation of its Sustainability Reporting Guidelines is now under development. GRI is asking its network and the public to provide input in this first phase of development, to help shape the world's most comprehensive sustainability reporting framework.

A public [Call for Sustainability Reporting Topics](#) has been launched to collect input on what new issues should be covered in G4. The GRI Guidelines' development is influenced by changes in the reporting field, such as the introduction of new concepts, trends and tools, and requests by new players. The landscape of sustainability reporting is evolving; this should influence the development of G4. The closing date for sustainability reporting topic submissions is 30 June 2011.

At the same time, GRI is asking individuals and organizations to [register](#) their interest in taking part in the first G4 Public Comment Period, planned for 90 days starting in August 2011. Registration will indicate the regional balance and diversity of potential participants, enabling GRI to undertake additional promotion in under-represented areas. This will ensure the views of a regionally balanced and diverse group of stakeholders are taken into account during the consultation. The first registration period will close on 31 July.

→ For more information about [G4](#) or to learn about the [development process](#), visit GRI's website or email [G4 \(at\) globalreporting.org](mailto:G4@globalreporting.org)

→ Contributed by Mike Wallace, Director of Sustainability Reporting Framework, GRI, [wallace \(at\) globalreporting.org](mailto:wallace@globalreporting.org)

7. UN Global Compact: 2 forthcoming webinars, on workplace disability, impact assessment

[ILO & UN Global Compact webinar on disability in the workplace, 29 June](#): This one-hour webinar, convened by the [ILO](#) and [UN Global Compact](#), will discuss the inclusion of workers with disabilities in the workplace. Participants will be introduced to the ILO Global Business and Disability Network, a voluntary group of businesses, employers' organizations and other networks formed to address the issue of disability inclusion from a business perspective. In addition, the webinar will discuss both the business and the human rights cases for disability inclusion. Companies will also learn how the ILO Code of Practice for Managing Disability in the Workplace can serve as a guide in their disability inclusion policies and efforts.

The webinar will begin at 9:30 AM (New York time) / 3:30 PM (Geneva time).

→ To register and for more information, email Venu Keesari at [webinar \(at\) unglobalcompact.org](mailto:webinar@unglobalcompact.org)

[UN Global Compact & Intl. Business Leaders Forum webinar - tool for assessing & managing human rights impacts, 30 June](#): This webinar will present a practical tool to help business assess and manage human rights impacts. Drawing on best practice across a range of industries, the Guide to Human Rights Impact Assessment and Management provides a systematic and comprehensive methodology on how to conduct a human rights impact assessment and integrate the findings into the company's management system. The Guide to HRIAM was launched as an online tool at the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit in June 2010. The webinar will begin at 9:30 am (New York time) and last for 1.5 hours.

→ To register interest in participating and receive the dial-in details, contact Kathleen Kelliher: [kelliher \(at\) unglobalcompact.net](mailto:kelliher@unglobalcompact.net)

8. Essex Business and Human Rights Project - country-specific projects

The Essex Business and Human Rights Project (EBHR), University of Essex, has begun carrying out a range of projects, which are reported in the regional coverage in this and future editions of *On the Horizon* (see below in "Asia/Pacific" section, "Forthcoming report: Afghanistan - Chinese mining consortium contract"). These projects will aim to apply university resources in law, business, and social sciences to concrete problems faced by civil society advocates, governments, businesses and trade unions. They promote research, advice on technical issues, assistance with litigation/advocacy, and training. The Director of the EBHR is Prof. Sheldon Leader, School of Law, and the Deputy-Director is Dr. Steffen Boehm, Business School. EBHR welcomes proposals for new projects.

→ For more information, see <http://www.essex.ac.uk/ebhr/> or email [ebhr \(at\) essex.ac.uk](mailto:ebhr@essex.ac.uk)

→ Contributed by Sheldon Leader, Director, Essex Business and Human Rights Project, [leader \(at\) essex.ac.uk](mailto:leader@essex.ac.uk)

9. Survey on online communication of CSR and sustainability - until mid-June

Lundquist, a consultancy in Milan, is reaching out to corporate responsibility and sustainability professionals to learn how they use the internet to find information about companies' environmental and social performance and to share opinions and knowledge. The fourth CSR Online Awards survey, which runs until mid-June, seeks input from stakeholders including journalists, NGOs, academics, SRI professionals and sustainability analysts. The answers will help improve the criteria Lundquist uses to assess the quality of websites in its [CSR Online Awards](#).

The questionnaire this year is as relevant as ever. As stakeholders' expectations rise, so communicating a distinctive and credible message, supported by concrete evidence, is critical. Lundquist is also keen to understand what users make of social media and other trends in online communications.

Lundquist undertakes the research as part of its role as an Organizational Stakeholder of the Global Reporting Initiative. The results are published in the media with the aim of encouraging transparency and better engagement online. A summary of the survey results is sent to respondents who leave an email address in the last question.

To access the survey, click [here](#). Further information is available on the [Lundquist blog](#) and [Facebook fan page](#).

→ For more information, contact James Osborne, [jabosborne \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:jabosborne@gmail.com)

Africa

10. Bench Marks Foundation meeting on "CSR: The Truth!?" - So. Africa, 14 Jun

The Annual General Meeting of the [Bench Marks Foundation](#) takes place on 14 June 2011, under the theme "CSR: the Truth!?" Zwelinzima Vavi, General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, will present a keynote address. Other speakers include Bishop Jo Seoka, chairperson of the Bench Marks Foundation and President of the South African Council of Churches. Various community leaders will speak on the impacts of mining on their communities.

"We hope to learn the lessons from our various Policy Gap Studies, which aimed at challenging the "tick-box compliance" that is still evident in many Corporate Social Responsibility Programmes and to replace it with corporate moral responsibility and accountability, which we insist must be a relationship that goes beyond shareholders to include communities, civil society, trade unions – the wider community out there, as well as the environment," says John Capel, Executive Director of the Foundation.

The Foundation believes genuine corporate responsibility can only work when we disrupt the asymmetries of power that exist where resources and profits are taken out of the country by corporations to the detriment of communities. One way to overcome this, the Foundation believes, is through building independent organizations of affected communities that are well-organised, resourced with knowledge, skills and power to participate effectively and democratically. The Bench Marks Foundation is a research based, human rights civil society organization working in SADC region and in the continent.

→ For more information, contact Hassen Lorgat, [hassenlorgat \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:hassenlorgat@yahoo.com)

11. First Kédougou forum on extractive industries - Senegal, 8-9 Jun

[unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from the French original]

The NGO [La Lumière](#) is organising a forum on extractive industries in Kédougou, Senegal, 8-9 June 2011. The overall purpose of the forum is to create a framework for exchanges to restore social dialogue between actors in the extractive industry sector (the state, mining companies, elected officials, communities, civil society) in the Kédougou region through a shared Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) approach. The forum particularly aims to:

- Strengthen permanent social dialogue in order to prevent and manage conflicts in the mining region;
- Inform participants and national public opinion about the actions of mining companies on CSR issues;
- Incite mining companies to harmonise their CSR approach with the framework for implementation of the national Senegalese Social Mining Programme (Programme Social Minier – PSM);
- Establish a national coalition of civil society organizations, capable of working with the government and mining companies in a process of transparent, participatory and effective management of the extractive industries, drawing on good practices such as those of the EITI, UN Global Compact, Publish What You Pay, etc.

Among the numerous participants in this forum will be NGOs, mining companies, local elected officials, regional technical services, the Ministry of Mines, etc.

→ For more information, contact: *Ibrahima Sory Diallo, Executive Secretary of La Lumière, Tambacounda, Senegal, [sabodala2004 \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:sabodala2004@yahoo.fr)*

12. So. Africa: Legal centre planned to protect rights of San Bushmen

The San Bushmen, widely acknowledged as the "First People of Africa", have now been recognised as having "knowledge holders" rights (i.e. measurable assets) in a number of plants from which substantial commercial markets have been created over the last decade. With the assistance of able lawyers, it is possible that the San could utilise the assets secured in their ancient medicinal knowledge to provide them with, to some degree, the compensation for all that they have lost in recent history. The Biodiversity Act in South Africa is the statutory basis for this assertion.

[Protimos](#) and the [South African San Institute \(SASI\)](#) are planning the establishment of an effective legal centre from which San intellectual property may be appropriately valued and reflected in proportionate benefits across the San community. The centre will be established in Kimberley as a pivotal focus for research and the negotiation of a range of natural resource benefit-sharing agreements, as well as ensuring the sustainable commercial harvest of those benefits. This initiative will encompass other intellectual property benefits, such as an appropriate share of the market that is based upon their works of art. The centre provides a major opportunity to invest in the sustainable future of the San Bushmen.

→ For more information, please contact *Fiona Darroch, Director, Protimos, [fiona.darroch \(at\) protimos.org](mailto:fiona.darroch@protimos.org)*

13. Forthcoming report: Mitigating social & environmental impacts of uranium mining in Africa

The intensification of nuclear activities worldwide as well as a recent uranium price rise have resulted in increased uranium mining activities in Africa. However, weak governance structures, a limited understanding of the hazards specific to uranium mining, and a power imbalance can easily lead to mismanagement and may result in significant negative environmental and social impacts. Do industry and governments address these problems, and how do they minimise the negative consequences? The [World Information Service on Energy \(WISE\)](#) and the [Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations \(SOMO\)](#) have collaborated in an extensive research project to answer these questions. The findings will be presented in a report to be published in June 2011.

→ For more information, contact *Fleur Scheele (WISE) [wis uranium \(at\) antenna.nl](mailto:wis uranium@antenna.nl) or Joseph Wilde-Ramsing (SOMO) [j.wilde \(at\) somo.nl](mailto:j.wilde@som o.nl)*

14. Seminar on human rights & sustainable finance - Johannesburg, 18-19 Jul

The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) in association with the [School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand](#) and [DLA Cliffe Decker](#) will be holding a seminar on "Financial Institutions, Human Rights and International Best Practices" on 18-19 July in Johannesburg, South Africa. The aim is to bring together

experts and representatives of three broad sectors (financial institutions, private sector banks and government and regulators) to discuss their role in enhancing human rights in Africa in a sustainable and profitable manner.

→ Contributed by Kelly Scott, Institute for Human Rights & Business, [kelly.scott \(at\) institutehrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@institutehrb.org)

15. Regional workshop on CSR, business & human rights in Francophone Africa - Benin, 14-16 Jun

[unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from the French original]

Civil Society Organizations for Francophone Africa (Organisations de la Société Civile d'Afrique Francophone – OSCAF) is organising a regional capacity-building workshop for Francophone African civil society organizations on issues of CSR and business & human rights, from 14-16 June 2011 in Cotonou, Benin. The participants, coming from about 20 countries, will address the following themes:

- Definition of concepts and survey of steps and initiatives in the areas of CSR and business & human rights at the international level
- Relationships between CSR and human rights; analysis of concepts and assessment of current state of negotiation of international principles
- The right to development, economic, social & cultural rights, and CSR: methodological approaches and strategic issues
- CSR and trade union rights

The adoption and implementation of national and regional action plans, to be elaborated at the Cotonou workshop, will enable problem-solving and responses to challenges identified.

NB: This regional workshop was originally planned for May, and was announced in the preceding issue of "On the Horizon", but was postponed and will now be held on the dates indicated above.

→ Contributed by Aurélien C. Atidegla, President of the Research & Action Group for the Promotion of Agriculture & Development (Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement – GRAPAD) and Coordinator of OSCAF, [acaurelien \(at\) hotmail.com](mailto:acaurelien@hotmail.com) or [grapad_adm \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:grapad_adm@yahoo.fr)

Americas

16. Research: Business & human rights in the jurisprudence of Colombia's Constitutional Court

[unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from the Spanish original]

Research groups in human rights and business, led by Antonio Varon Mejía and Carlos Arévalo from Rosario and Sabana Universities (Colombia), are currently conducting qualitative/quantitative research on the "intuitive" application of the "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework of UN Special Representative John Ruggie in the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court of Colombia (looking at cases from 1991 until 2010).

With this research we seek to clarify the tendency of this high court in relation to business and human rights issues. At present the partial results of the investigation indicate that financial companies, followed by service providers, educational institutions and communications companies, are the sectors that have been most frequently sued over alleged abuses of privacy rights, freedom of expression, right to a fair trial and equality and non-discrimination, among others. The final results of the investigation will be presented in late August 2011, and the final product (a book) is hoped to be published and launched in October 2011.

→ Contributed by Antonio Varon Mejia, Rosario University, [antoniovaron396 \(at\) hotmail.com](mailto:antoniovaron396@hotmail.com)

17. Research: Environmental Impact Assessments of large-scale mining projects in Ecuador

[unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from the Spanish original]

In the context of follow-up to the report "Large-Scale Mining in Ecuador and Infringement of Human Rights: The case of Corriente Resources", in the coming months the [Ecumenical Commission for Human Rights \(CEDHU\)](#) will analyse Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for ongoing projects of large scale mining in the Ecuadorian provinces of Imbabura and Zamora Chinchipe. The study aims to find out whether EIAs

of these projects are detailed enough to inform Ecuadorian communities about their actual environmental and social impacts.

The proposed analysis arises from the flawed information found in various EIAs, such as that conducted by Ecuacorriente for its Mirador project, supported by the Ecuadorian Government. Both the technical team that reviewed the study for the Mirador project's exploratory phase in 2009, and the one that assessed the EIA for the operational phase in 2010, found a lack of detailed and precise information. This puts at risk the right of the population to access information to make decisions.

→ *Contributed by Alicia Granda, [aliciagranda \(at\) yahoo.es](mailto:aliciagranda@yahoo.es)*

18. Study to estimate the economic cost of tobacco-related diseases - Brazil

The [Alliance for the Control of Tobacco Use \(Aliança de Controle do Tabagismo\)](#), in partnership with [Oswaldo Cruz Foundation](#), is carrying out a study to estimate the economic cost of smoking by considering three major categories of tobacco-related diseases: respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases and neoplasms. This approach measures the value of resources used (direct costs) or lost (indirect costs) from tobacco-related diseases and deaths. A method to measure the aggregate economic impact on society attributable to smoking will be applied.

In order to avoid tobacco control measures, the tobacco industry has argued that it is one of the largest taxpayers in Brazil, which should be enough to cover health costs caused by tobacco use. The cost analysis is expected to bring up that smoking is a major social and economic problem, bringing together all the different areas affected by tobacco use. Also, cost studies on tobacco can help decision-makers to enhance tobacco control policies in Brazil and challenge tobacco industry arguments about the sufficiency of its tax payments.

→ *Contributed by Márcia Pinto, Health Economist, Ministry of Health/Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, [mpinto \(at\) iff.fiocruz.br](mailto:mpinto@fiocruz.br)*

19. Conflict minerals workshop - Washington, DC, 20-21 Jun

To coordinate industry involvement on value chain responsibility regarding conflict minerals, the industry associations [EICC](#) & [GeSI](#) have been hosting Extractives Supply Chain Workshops. For their sixth workshop, being held in Washington, DC, 20-21 June, they are inviting a larger audience from the NGO and investment communities. The [agenda](#) is posted and [Responsible Sourcing Network](#) (RSN), along with investors, is encouraging a broad range of companies and NGOs to attend. To inquire about attending, please contact Grant Feichtinger ([grantf \(at\) eicc.info](mailto:grantf@eicc.info)) at EICC.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) plans to release final rules regarding "conflict minerals" from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) between August and December 2011, delayed from an originally planned April release. These rules will implement Provision 1502 of the 2010 US Dodd-Frank Act. Many anticipate that the rules will come out in the early months of that time period.

NGOs, companies and trade associations all contributed recommendations to the SEC in March on how the [draft rules](#) to implement the law should be amended. RSN contributed a [consensus statement](#) by 7 corporations, 8 NGOs, and 9 investors to the SEC.

→ *Contributed by Patricia Jurewicz, Responsible Sourcing Network*

20. International Senior Lawyers Project anniversary event - New York, 1 Dec

The [International Senior Lawyers Project](#) is pleased to announce the celebration of its 10th Anniversary of global pro bono service. Over the past decade ISLP has provided more than \$60 million worth of high-level legal expertise to help governments and citizens of poor countries and repressive societies implement legal reforms, build local economies, and advance human rights. The gala luncheon event will take place in New York City on 1 December 2011 and will be an exciting opportunity to showcase ISLP's significant work in advancing equitable economic development and the rule of law and to recognise the many volunteers and supporters that have enabled these achievements. ISLP is honoured that global philanthropist George Soros will be the keynote speaker and guest of honour at the event and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will also participate as an honoured guest.

Since 2006, ISLP has advised the Government of Liberia in the negotiation of eleven major concession agreements and has helped the nation begin to establish a guiding framework for the management of mineral resources. For additional information, visit www.islp.org.

→ *Contributed by Andra Moss, Director, Communications and Volunteer Development, International Senior Lawyers Project, [amos \(at\) islp.org](mailto:amos@islp.org)*

Asia/Pacific

21. “Human Rights Advocacy and Business” training - Jakarta, 13-18 Jun

[Business Watch Indonesia](#) and [Diplomacy Training Program – University of New South Wales \(UNSW\)](#) will continue their regional training programme for civil society organizations (CSOs). A regional training programme on “Human Rights Advocacy and Business” will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 13-18 June 2011. This 6-day training programme brings together 30 participants from different countries in the Asia Pacific region to discuss issues around the international human rights framework, the role of business in relation to human rights, and new developments in corporate social responsibility. The programme will focus on public campaigns and engagement with corporations. Furthermore, the programme is intended to develop CSOs’ capacity on advocacy, lobbying and diplomacy on business and human rights issues related to indigenous people rights, government & business roles.

→ *Contributed by Nanang Christianto, Business Watch Indonesia. For more information, contact [bwi \(at\) watchbusiness.org](mailto:bwi@watchbusiness.org)*

22. Roundtable: Overseas Bangladeshi garment workers - Dhaka, 28-29 Jun

The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) and the [Migratory Movements Research Unit \(RMMRU\)](#), Dhaka University, are convening a multi-stakeholder roundtable in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 28-29 June, to explore the challenges, risks and human rights responsibilities around recruiting Bangladeshi migrant workers for overseas employment in the apparel sector, and ensuring their safe return. The aim of the roundtable is to enhance collective understanding of the importance of responsible recruitment practices, including issues of recruitment fees and pre-departure orientation, and identify areas for possible collective action to raise standards.

→ *Contributed by Kelly Scott, Institute for Human Rights & Business, [kelly.scott \(at\) institutehrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@institutehrb.org)*

23. Forthcoming book and initiative to focus on corporate legal accountability in India

[Human Rights Law Network](#) will soon release a book on the subject of human rights abuse by corporations in India, which will include theory, description, and analysis of the country’s business and human rights situation. Our Delhi office also plans to establish a new Corporate Accountability and Outreach Initiative in September to encourage public debate and create transparency around the role of corporations in India.

This work is a result of the success of a consultation in Goa in February 2011, sponsored by HRLN in partnership with Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, All India Drug Action Network, PEACE, Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India, SEZ Virodhi Manch (forum against special economic zones) and Initiative for Health and Equity in Society. Bringing together some of the most prominent lawyers, activists and academics in the field, the consultation addressed topics ranging from litigating against corporations to the role of corporate social responsibility policies. The report from the February consultation is available [here](#).

→ *For more information, contact Gabriella Wass, Corporate Accountability Researcher, Human Rights Law Network, [gabriella.wass \(at\) blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gabriella.wass@blueyonder.co.uk)*

24. “Community Guide to the ADB Involuntary Resettlement Safeguards” - to be launched mid-June

In mid-June [Bridges Across Borders Cambodia \(BABC\)](#) will launch a new popular education resource for communities facing displacement as a result of projects funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The ADB updated its Involuntary Resettlement Safeguard Policy in 2009. The key aims of this policy are to avoid and minimise displacement and to ensure that no one is made worse off as a result of a project funded by the ADB. “A Community Guide to the ADB Involuntary Resettlement Safeguards” seeks to make this policy understandable and accessible to affected communities and to impart the skills necessary for people to monitor the projects that affect them. The guide explains local grievance processes, the ADB Accountability Mechanism and other forms of advocacy that local communities can use to defend their rights and hold the ADB accountable if the policy is violated. An accompanying Facilitators’ Edition includes interactive activities and instructions for facilitators to run training sessions on each topic. Both will be accessible from [BABC’s home page](#) in mid-June.

While the Guide is written for Cambodian communities, the information and activities it contains are also useful for communities affected by ADB projects throughout the region. BABC encourages interested groups to adapt and translate the Guide for use in other Asian countries.

→ For more information, contact David Pred, Executive Director, Bridges Across Borders Cambodia, [david \(at\) babcbombodia.org](mailto:david@babcbombodia.org)

25. CARAM Asia migrant worker abuse documentation project, HIV & migrant worker symposium

[CARAM Asia](#) (Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility) is a dynamic network of 38 migrant organizations and migrant support organizations from 17 countries across Asia working for the protection of migrant workers' rights through high-level advocacy, participatory action research, and services for target groups.

Documentation of Migrant Workers Cases: CARAM Asia has begun to document migrant workers' cases related to violence, abuse, exploitation and overall violations of rights including health rights at the country and regional levels. CARAM member organizations in sending and destination countries will enter data in an online database system. The objective of the database is to fill the gap of available documentation for evidence-based advocacy for the protection of migrant workers' rights and their right to redress.

Symposium during ICCAP 10 in South Korea: On 27 or 28 August, CARAM Asia together with [JUNIMA](#) (Joint United Nations Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS in South East Asia) will organise a symposium on HIV travel restrictions and their implications for migrant workers' access to work and health care services. During the event, advocacy will be done for the removal of mandatory HIV testing, especially by the corporate sector, to protect migrant worker employment and health rights. It is very important that the corporate sector must fulfil corporate social responsibilities and protect workers' health rights.

→ For more information, contact Mohammad Harun Al Rashid, Regional Coordinator, CARAM Asia, [harun \(at\) caramasia.org](mailto:harun@caramasia.org)

26. ASEAN roundtable: Implementing corporate respect for human rights - Kuala Lumpur, Nov 2011

This one-day roundtable will be an exchange among senior business leaders in the ASEAN region in relation to a rapidly developing agenda on business and human rights. The session will bring together experiences of global businesses and relevant experts to explore the relevance, challenges and ways forward for human rights and business in the region. The event is held by [the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights](#) in co-operation with local partners and the UN Global Compact.

→ For further information, contact [bhr.event \(at\) global-business-initiative.org](mailto:bhr.event@global-business-initiative.org)

27. Forthcoming report: Afghanistan - mining concession contract

The [Essex Business and Human Rights Project](#) (EBHR - for details see the "International" section above) is working with [Global Witness](#) on the potential social impacts of an investment contract. Analysis of the contract covers, inter alia:

- Provisions for security
- Gender equality in access to work and social benefits offered by the Consortium
- Risks associated with pressures to meet construction deadlines
- The parent company/subsidiary relationship and future liabilities
- Potentially disproportionate allocations of project budget weakening social obligations undertaken
- Compensation for local population affected and resettlement undertakings
- Cultural heritage
- Employment policy
- Water / power supply and local community interests

The EBHR will publish extracts of this report on [its website](#) in September, and further work in this area is ongoing.

→ Contributed by Sheldon Leader, Director, Essex Business and Human Rights Project, [leader \(at\) essex.ac.uk](mailto:leader@essex.ac.uk)

28. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre Bangladesh mission

At the end of June, the Resource Centre's South Asia Researcher Harpreet Kaur and trustee Mila Rosenthal will spend a week in Dhaka, Bangladesh. They will meet with local labour rights activists in the apparel and ship-breaking industries, environmentalists monitoring industrial pollution, and business organizations. The purpose of this mission is to strengthen the Resource Centre's coverage of Bangladesh: by bringing under-reported cases of abuses to international attention, seeking company responses to them, and highlighting positive steps that firms are taking there.

→ Contributed by Harpreet Kaur, South Asia Researcher & Representative, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [kaur \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:kaur@business-humanrights.org)

29. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre recruitment of East Asia Researcher

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will soon be recruiting an East Asia Researcher & Representative, based in Hong Kong, to cover China (including Hong Kong), Singapore and Taiwan. The Resource Centre's current East Asia Researcher, Mayling Chan, will be departing 30 November to take up a full-time post as CEO of Friends of the Earth-Hong Kong. The new East Asia Researcher will have the benefit of working alongside Mayling for two or three months before her departure.

The East Asia Researcher position will be part-time (21 hours per week). Applicants must have very strong English and Mandarin language skills – it would be a plus to also have Cantonese skills. Applicants must also have NGO experience, and the right to work in Hong Kong. The job announcement and all other materials (including application form) will soon be available via a link on the [Resource Centre's homepage](#).

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

Europe

30. UK draft bill to establish Groceries Code Adjudicator - open for comment until 19 Jul

Terms of trade between companies can either enable or disable the achievement of human rights. That is why an Adjudicator between supermarkets and suppliers is welcome – to help *enable* human rights in supply chains.

The UK grocery sector currently operates under a voluntary code of practice. The proposed Groceries Adjudicator will monitor and enforce that code. This will substantially reduce many of the problematic purchasing practices that result in suppliers requiring forced overtime from their workers, keeping workers on "roll-over" temporary contracts, evading benefits, and paying wages below the cost of living. An Adjudicator is long overdue.

Submit written evidence by 15 June for Business, Innovation and Skills Select Committee's pre-legislative scrutiny, or submit any comments to the UK Government ([gcabillteam \(at\) bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gcabillteam@bis.gsi.gov.uk)) on the draft Bill by 19 July 2011.

The [Ethical Trading Initiative \(ETI\)](#), which promotes labour rights good practice, found in its 2006 impact study that the purchasing practices of some ETI members actually disabled their suppliers' ability to implement minimum ILO core conventions for their workers. The UK Competition Commission's 2008 Groceries Market report – produced after a two-year investigation into the sourcing activities of UK supermarkets – found that the most frequent problematic practice (at 46%) was the 'transfer of risks or unexpected costs' by supermarkets onto their suppliers. Such practices restrict suppliers from planning workloads, employing workers on permanent contracts, paying for training, or investing in safer facilities.

→ Contributed by Fiona Gooch, Private Sector Policy Advisor, Traidcraft, [fionag \(at\) traidcraft.org](mailto:fionag@traidcraft.org)

31. Amnesty Intl. Czech Rep. campaign seeks govt. support for EU corporate accountability reform

On 8 June, [Amnesty International Czech Republic](#) will hand over 7500 signatures of people asking the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade to support corporate accountability reform at the EU level. In July, the European Commission is expected to present a new policy document, Communication on CSR.

Czech society, companies, as well as authorities have been reluctant to agree with the consensus that European companies should be responsible for their negative impacts on the environment, public health and the rights of workers in developing countries. The impacts of business on both labour and non-labour human rights have long been a neglected issue in Central Europe.

The campaign, called "At all costs!" and organised with two other local NGOs, thus has been the first appeal to both the public at large and the government on this issue. Launched in June 2010, the campaign raised awareness about the systemic and political dimension of the problem, in addition to the consumer dimension that had previously been familiar to the public. The campaign established positive relations with all relevant ministries, even inspiring the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to create "Business and Human Rights" as a specific agenda.

→ For more information, contact Lenka Pitronová, [campaigns \(at\) amnesty.cz](mailto:campaigns(at)amnesty.cz)

32. Implications of the UN Guiding Principles for UK companies event - London, 20 Jun

The [All Party Parliamentary Group on International Corporate Responsibility](#) and the [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) are hosting a reception to discuss implications of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for UK companies, in particular when operating in conflict and other high-risk zones on 20 June 2011, at the House of Commons. The US Assistant Secretary of State, Mike Posner, who leads on human rights for the US Government, will speak alongside a UK Government Minister, with discussions involving representatives from business and civil society.

→ Contributed by Kelly Scott, Institute for Human Rights & Business, [kelly.scott \(at\) institutehrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott(at)institutehrb.org)

33. International conference on creating sustainable companies - Oslo, 29-30 Aug

The [Sustainable Companies project](#) at the Faculty of Law, University of Oslo, is organising an international conference in Oslo on 29-30 August 2011. Taking climate change as a case study, the Conference aims to identify barriers to companies pursuing sustainable business and explore avenues to overcome these barriers. Scholars from different branches of academia, practitioners and decision-makers from business and government are invited to explore these questions.

→ For further information about the Conference, contact Dr Beate Sjøfjell [b.k.sjofjell \(at\) jus.uio.no](mailto:b.k.sjofjell(at)jus.uio.no), or visit: <http://www.jus.uio.no/ifp/english/research/projects/sustainable-companies/events/conferences/sustainable-companies-conference-2011.html>

→ Contributed by Surya Deva, Associate Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong, [suryad \(at\) cityu.edu.hk](mailto:suryad(at)cityu.edu.hk)

34. Forthcoming event & report: "Private Sector Building Peace" - Stockholm, 13 Oct

On 13 October 2011 the [International Council of Swedish Industry \(NIR\)](#) will organise a seminar on the theme of Private Sector Building Peace in Stockholm, Sweden, gathering broad Swedish and international expertise for discussions on the role of the private sector in peace-building and best practices for companies operating in high-risk markets. The forum will provide a meeting point for companies, private sector organizations, investors, academia, public sector and NGOs on the theme. Louise Arbour, President and Chief Executive Officer of International Crisis Group (ICG) will make a keynote address at the event.

At the seminar, NIR will launch the report *Private Sector in Peacebuilding*, a study performed by the Swedish Institute of International Affairs (Utrikespolitiska Institutet, UI). On a commission by NIR, UI has developed a framework for elaborating the role of the private sector in peace-building with new perspectives on assessing the impact of business-based peace-building and the significant positive contributions of companies in contexts of conflict.

→ For more information on the event and report, contact NIR Coordinator Lisa Osback, [lisa.osback \(at\) nir.se](mailto:lisa.osback(at)nir.se)

35. Forthcoming report: "Guidance on Business and Human Rights: a Review"

The report "Guidance on Business and Human Rights: a Review" prepared by [Middlesex University's law department](#) and commissioned by the [UK Equality and Human Rights Commission \(EHRC\)](#) will be released in the coming weeks. It reviews all existing law, standards and guidance on business and human rights and includes a set of guidelines for UK companies, including SMEs. It will be available on the EHRC's website and on Middlesex University's MA Human Rights and Business [website](#).

→ Contributed by Nadia Bernaz, Programme Leader, MA Human Rights and Business, Middlesex University Business School - Law Department, [n.bernaz \(at\) mdx.ac.uk](mailto:n.bernaz@mdx.ac.uk)

Middle East

36. Report: "CSR in the Israeli Food Industry" to be released Jan 2012

The Legal Clinic for Corporate Social Responsibility in the [Academic Center of Law & Business \(CLB\)](#) has been studying issues of CSR in the Israeli food industry for the last year. A report summarising this study and monitoring 17 Israeli food corporations, from food producers to supermarkets and fast-food chains, is due to be published in January 2012. The report will underline issues of labour relations, environmental policies, fair trade, genetically modified food, tax policy, animal welfare and other issues in the Israeli food industry, and will be the first to be published on these subjects in Israel.

The report and the study will be presented in a public conference, which will also mark the inauguration of a new CSR Institute at the CLB.

→ For more information, contact Ofer Sitbon, Head of the Legal Clinic for Corporate Social Responsibility, CLB, [Ofer \(at\) clb.ac.il](mailto:Ofer@clb.ac.il)

Español

37. Investigación sobre derechos humanos y empresa en la jurisprudencia de la Corte Constitucional de Colombia

Los grupos de investigación en derechos humanos y empresa, dirigidos por Antonio Varon Mejía y Carlos Arévalo de la Universidad del Rosario y la Universidad de la Sabana, se encuentran realizando una investigación cualitativa/cuantitativa sobre la aplicación "intuitiva" de los principios de proteger, respetar y reparar del Representante Especial de la ONU John Ruggie en la jurisprudencia de la Corte Constitucional de Colombia (casos considerados desde 1991 hasta 2010).

Mediante esta investigación se busca evidenciar cual ha sido la tendencia de este alto tribunal en relación con temas vinculados con derechos humanos y empresa. En la actualidad los resultados parciales de la investigación indican un porcentaje alto de empresas del sector financiero, seguidas por empresas prestadoras de servicios, entidades educativas y sector de las comunicaciones como las principalmente demandadas por violación de derechos a la intimidad, libertad de expresión, derecho a un juicio justo e igualdad y no discriminación, entre otros. Los resultados finales de la investigación se presentaran a finales del mes de agosto de 2011 y la publicación y lanzamiento del producto final, que será un libro, se espera para el mes de octubre de 2011.

→ Contribuido por Antonio Varon Mejía, Universidad del Rosario, [antoniovaron396 \(at\) hotmail.com](mailto:antoniovaron396@hotmail.com)

38. ONG Ecuatoriana examinará Estudios de Impacto Ambiental de empresas para resaltar posibles impactos sociales y ambientales

En el marco del seguimiento al informe "Minería a Gran Escala en Ecuador y Vulneración de Derechos Humanos, caso Corriente Resources", durante los próximos meses la [Comisión Ecuamélica de Derechos Humanos \(CEDHU\)](#) gestionará el análisis de Estudios de Impacto Ambiental (EIA) para proyectos actuales de minería a gran escala ubicados en las provincias de Imbabura y Zamora Chinchipe en Ecuador. La auscultación tiene como objeto conocer si los EIAs de estos proyectos están siendo lo suficientemente detallados como para orientar a la sociedad ecuatoriana y a las comunidades locales sobre los reales impactos ambientales y sociales.

Esta propuesta de análisis se da por la deficiente información encontrada en este tipo de estudios, tal es el caso de los elaborados por la empresa Ecuacorriente para el proyecto Mirador, uno de los proyectos privados apoyados por el Estado ecuatoriano. Tanto el equipo técnico que en 2009 analizó el estudio para la fase exploratoria del proyecto Mirador como el que analizó el EIA para la fase de explotación en 2010, coinciden en la falta de información detallada y precisa. Estas deficiencias comprometen el derecho que tiene la población a acceder a información de buena calidad para tomar sus decisiones.

→ Contribuido por Alicia Granda, [aliciagranda \(at\) yahoo.es](mailto:aliciagranda@yahoo.es)

Français

39. Premier Forum de Kédougou sur les industries extractives - Sénégal, 8-9 juin

L'ONG [La Lumière](#) organise à Kédougou (Sénégal) les 8 et 9 juin 2011 un forum sur les industries extractives. L'objectif général de ce forum est de créer un cadre d'échanges pour restaurer le dialogue social entre acteurs du secteur des industries extractives dans la région de Kédougou (état, sociétés minières, élus, communautés, société civile) à travers une approche partagée de la Responsabilité Sociale des Entreprises (RSE). Le forum vise plus particulièrement à :

- Favoriser le dialogue social permanent afin de prévenir et gérer les conflits en zone minier ;
- Informer les participants et l'opinion publique nationale sur les réalisations des entreprises minières en matière de RSE ;
- Inciter les sociétés minières à harmoniser leur approche de la RSE dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Programme Social Minier (PSM) du Sénégal ;
- Mettre en place une coalition nationale des Organisations de la Société Civile (OSC) capable d'accompagner le gouvernement et les entreprises minières dans un processus de gestion transparente, participative et efficace des industries extractives, en s'inspirant des bonnes pratiques comme celles de l'ITIE, le Pacte Mondial de l'ONU, Publiez Ce Que Vous Payez, etc.

Parmi les nombreux participants à ce forum, on notera : les ONG, les sociétés minières, les élus locaux, les services techniques régionaux, le Ministère des Mines, etc.

→ *Pour plus de détails, contactez Ibrahima Sory Diallo, Secrétaire exécutif de l'ONG La Lumière, Tambacounda (Sénégal) [sabodala2004 \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:sabodala2004@yahoo.fr)*

40. Atelier régional sur RSE, entreprises & droits de l'homme dans l'Afrique francophone - Bénin

La Dynamique des Organisations de la Société Civile d'Afrique Francophone (OSCAF) organise du 14 au 16 juin 2011 à Cotonou au Bénin un atelier régional sur le renforcement des capacités en matière de responsabilité sociétale des entreprises (RSE) et de droits de l'homme. Les participants venant d'une vingtaine de pays aborderont les thématiques suivantes :

- La définition des concepts et un aperçu sur les démarches et initiatives de RSE / REDH (responsabilité des entreprises en matière de droits de l'homme) au niveau international
- Les liens entre la RSE et les droits de l'Homme. Analyse des concepts et état des lieux de la négociation internationale
- Le droit au développement, les DESC et la RSE : approche méthodologique et enjeux stratégiques
- La RSE et le droit syndical

L'adoption et la mise en œuvre des plans d'action national et régional qui seront élaborés à Cotonou durant la rencontre permettront de résoudre les problèmes et relever les défis identifiés.

N.B. L'organisation de l'atelier régional initialement prévue pour le mois de mai et publiée dans le précédent numéro de « A l'Horizon » a été reportée et se tiendra maintenant aux dates ci-dessus mentionnées.

→ *Contribution d'Aurélien C. Atidegla, Président du Groupe de Recherche et d'Action pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture et du Développement (GRAPAD), [acaurelien \(at\) hotmail.com](mailto:acaurelien@hotmail.com) ou [grapad_adm \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:grapad_adm@yahoo.fr)*

On the Horizon is published by the team at [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#):

- Christopher Avery (Director)
- Joanne Bauer (Senior Researcher)
- Malena Bengtsson (Researcher)
- Mayling Chan (East Asia Researcher & Representative, based in Hong Kong)
- Aliou Diouf (Francophone Africa Researcher & Representative, based in Dakar)
- Mauricio Lazala (Deputy Director)
- Marta Kasztelan (Project Researcher)
- Harpreet Kaur (South Asia Researcher, based in Delhi)
- Danielle McMullan (Researcher)

- *Abiola Okpechi (Anglophone Africa Researcher, based in Cape Town)*
- *Gregory Tzeuschler Regaignon (Research Director & North America Manager)*
- *Amanda Romero Medina (Latin America/Caribbean Researcher & Representative, based in Bogotá)*
- *Annabel Short (Programme Director)*
- *Ella Skybenko (Eastern Europe/Central Asia Researcher & Representative, based in Kiev)*
- *Patricia Surak (Development Director)*
- *Sif Thorgeirsson (Manager, Corporate Legal Accountability Project)*

- *Giuliana Cascella, Research Intern*
- *Eniko Horvath, Research Intern*
- *Alsu Nasyrova, Legal Research Intern*
- *Irene Pietropaoli, Legal Research Intern*