

REGISTRATION OPEN!



Business and human rights in Asia – first UN regional forum, 19-20 April 2016

COMPANIES, Governments, NGOs, workers and community representatives from across Asia Pacific will meet in Doha, Qatar, from 19 to 20 April to discuss key business and human rights challenges and opportunities for this region.

The Asia Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights is being convened by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights with the support of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. It will bring together some 400 participants from across Asia Pacific.

“Asian countries represent a growing share of the global economy and have seen impressive growth over the past decades. At the same time, there is increasing attention on companies’ adverse human rights impacts across all sectors,” said Dante Pesce, who chairs the group of independent experts. “Preventing and addressing such impacts is a defining human rights issue of our time.”

The Forum will examine pressing business-related human rights issues, including the protection of migrant workers; human rights in supply chains; incidents of forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery; impacts of large-scale land acquisitions; mega sporting events; company reporting on human rights; human rights defenders; and the challenges facing victims in accessing remedy when harms occur.

“This is the first time that the UN is convening a regional Forum on this topic in Asia. It is a unique opportunity to discuss the steps needed to ensure that business operations and economic development projects do not undermine human rights,” added Pavel Sulyandziga, vice-chair of the UN Working Group.

“Asia is a vast region, spanning from Saudi Arabia in West Asia, to Indonesia in Southeast Asia, and China in East Asia. The Forum will therefore address diverse issues, sometimes with a sub-regional or sectorial lens,” Mr. Pesce said. “The main focus will be to identify how governments and companies can concretely meet their respective human rights obligations and responsibilities, for example through developing national action plans and better managing their supply chains.”

The Forum will center on implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*, which were endorsed by UN Member States in 2011 as the authoritative global standard to prevent and manage the risk of business-related human rights harm.

The event follows similar UN Regional Forums in Africa in 2014 and Latin America and the Caribbean in 2013. It will feed into the 2016 global UN Forum on Business and Human Rights to be held from 14 to 16 November in Geneva.

The Asia Regional Forum is open to the media.

To register visit:

www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/2016AsiaRegionalForum.aspx

For additional information and queries about press accreditation, please contact the Working Group's Secretariat based at OHCHR in Geneva at:
regionalforumbhr@ohchr.org / +41 22 917 9323."

Chinese translations of the Asia Forum announcement is available on the website of the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre: [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#).

About the UN Working Group

The Working Group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises was established by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011. Its current members are: Mr. Michael Addo, Ms. Margaret Jungk, Mr. Dante Pesce (current Chairperson-Rapporteur, and Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga (current vice chair). The appointment of an additional member (from the Asian region) is pending. Learn more, log on to:

www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/WGHRandtransnationalcorporationsandotherbusiness.aspx

The UN Working Groups are part of what is known as the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council's independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms. Special Procedures mandate-holders are independent human rights experts appointed by the Human Rights Council to address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. They are not UN staff and are independent from any government or organization. They serve in their individual capacity and do not receive a salary for their work. The Working Group reports to the Human Rights Council and to the UN General Assembly.

(*) Read the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** (available in the six UN languages): <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/Tools.aspx>

Learn more about the **UN Forum on Business and Human Rights**, to be held in Geneva from 14 to 16 November 2016: www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2016ForumBHR.aspx