



On the Horizon ▪ A l'Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte
A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights
Issue 24 - Feb 2012

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 April 2012, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 9 April to Annabel Short: [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short(at)business-humanrights.org). Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 23 March.

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International

1. Launch of Shift - Independent, non-profit centre for business & human rights practice

Shift is staffed by a team that was centrally involved in shaping and writing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and chaired by the author of the Guiding Principles, Professor John Ruggie. Shift helps businesses, governments and their stakeholders put the Guiding Principles into practice and develops public guidance to build the field globally.

In February, Shift will formally launch its website (www.shiftproject.org) with information about its programmes and projects, including: working with the European Commission (jointly with the Institute for Human Rights and Business) to develop sector-specific guidance on the Guiding Principles; collaborating with the ILO and International Organization of Employers to apply the Guiding Principles to the problem of child labour in supply chains; and supporting a number of multi-stakeholder and sectoral initiatives on their own efforts to implement the Guiding Principles.

→ For more information contact Caroline Rees, SHIFT, [caroline_rees \(at\) harvard.edu](mailto:caroline_rees@harvard.edu) or Rachel Davis, SHIFT, [rachel_davis \(at\) hks.harvard.edu](mailto:rachel_davis@hks.harvard.edu)

2. OECD Watch to update guide to OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

[OECD Watch](http://www.oecdwatch.org) is preparing an updated practical guide for NGOs on how to interpret the new OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (which were themselves updated in 2011) and use the Guidelines' complaint mechanism. The guide, expected to be available online and in print in April [note the release of this guide is now expected in May], is intended to inform NGOs about the most important changes to the OECD Guidelines and provide concrete guidance on how to research, draft, submit and follow up on an OECD Guidelines complaint. OECD Watch's new guide draws on the experiences and lessons learned from over 100 cases filed by NGOs over the past 10 years and is tailored to the needs and considerations of NGOs in the global South and North. OECD Watch will test-drive a draft version of the new guide at training seminars in Senegal and India in March.

→ Contributed by Virginia Sandjojo, OECD Watch, [virginia \(at\) oecdwatch.org](mailto:virginia@oecdwatch.org)

3. Forthcoming activities by Essex Business and Human Rights Project

Nigeria: The EBHR will soon be publishing its report on Shell's activities in the Niger Delta, focusing on environmental issues as well as the possible liabilities of the parent company alongside its Nigerian subsidiary. The report explores the possibility of bringing claims against the Shell Group in fora other than Nigeria, principally the UK, Netherlands and USA, including a consideration of the impact of developments in EU law. The final report will be available on the EBHR website.

Brazil: The EBHR has formalised links with the Prosecutor's Office in Rio de Janeiro and the Federal University of Juiz de Fora, Brazil, in order to commence a training and research partnership.

Australia: The EBHR is an academic partner with the University of Melbourne on a project analysing non-judicial dispute settlement methods for business and human rights issues. It aims to provide analysis that focuses on transnational dispute settlement, providing a framework for consideration of case studies of victims' claims against multinational companies with subsidiaries in India and Indonesia.

Uganda: In January 2012 the EBHR conducted training for the Ugandan Parliament on the theme of legislative oversight of the extractive industries. The project will carry on providing elements in support of Parliament as it considers several pieces of legislation concerning the growing oil and gas industry in the country.

More information can be found on the EBHR website: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/ebhr>

→ *Contributed by Douglas Kerr, LLM student, University of Essex, dkerr (at) essex.ac.uk, and Sheldon Leader, Director, Essex Business and Human Rights Project, leader (at) essex.ac.uk*

4. Global release: Children's Rights and Business Principles, 12 Mar

UNICEF, Save the Children and the **UN Global Compact** will launch 'Children's Rights and Business Principles' on 12 March 2012 in London. The Children's Rights and Business Principles will be the first comprehensive set of principles to guide companies on the full range of actions they can take in the workplace, marketplace and community to respect and support children's rights. For further information, see the official [announcement](#).

→ *Contributed by Subajini Jayasekaran, Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist, UNICEF, sjayasekaran (at) unicef.org*

5. Forthcoming "Supplement on Gold" to OECD's due diligence guidance for minerals from conflict areas

In the forthcoming months, the **OECD** is expected to approve a new Supplement on Gold to the **OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas**. The Gold Supplement will provide for the first time a comprehensive set of government-backed due diligence recommendations for companies on how to manage gold supply chains in order to respect human rights and avoid contributing to conflict. The Supplement on Gold was developed through a multi-stakeholder working group after 12 months of in-depth collaboration and negotiation.

The OECD will also continue its efforts to [implement the OECD Due Diligence Guidance](#), and will begin an implementation phase of its new Supplement on Gold once approved. Currently over 90 companies are reporting to the OECD on the challenges faced and tools used while implementing conflict-sensitive due diligence in supply chains of tin, tantalum and tungsten.

For more information, see www.oecd.org/daf/investment/mining

→ *Contributed by Tyler Gillard, Legal Expert, OECD, tyler.gillard (at) oecd.org*

6. Forthcoming article on implications for companies of the UN Guiding Principles

In an article to be published in March in a special issue of *European Company Law*, Surya Deva critically examines the challenges and opportunities that the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (GPs) pose for companies and their executives. In addition to offering a contextual analysis of the GPs and the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework, this article highlights the steps that companies are expected to take in order to fulfil their "responsibility to respect" human rights and the challenges that they are likely to experience in doing so. It is argued that although the GPs do not offer any robust or ready-made solutions to the current situation of corporate impunity for human rights violations, they offer some guidance to companies – especially those with good intentions – on how to conduct responsible business. The article's title will be "Guiding Principles

on Business and Human Rights: Implications for Companies”.

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

7. Consultation - Oversight mechanism of Intl. Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers

Last month the draft charter for the oversight mechanism of the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (ICoC) was released for stakeholder comment. The consultation period will last until 16 March and comments may be submitted online at www.icoc-psp.org. These comments will then be considered and a revised Charter for adoption will be presented by 16 May. The adoption conference for the Charter is expected to be held in mid- to late June. The ICoC is the product of an initiative of industry, governments and civil society convened by the Swiss Government that aims to set principles and standards for the private security industry based on international human rights and humanitarian law, as well as to improve accountability of the industry by establishing an independent governance and oversight mechanism.

→ *Contributed by Thomas Haueter, Research/Project Assistant, Privatisation of Security Programme, [DCAF, t.haueter \(at\) dcaf.ch](mailto:t.haueter@dcaf.ch)*

8. Upcoming argument in Human Rights USA lawsuit against Netfirms.com, Inc.

On 6 February, [Human Rights USA](http://www.humanrightsusa.org) will argue before a federal judge that the lawsuit brought on behalf of Anthony Chai should not be dismissed based on statute of limitations grounds due to the extraordinary circumstances Mr. Chai faced in bringing the lawsuit.

Mr. Chai is a naturalised American citizen from Thailand who blogged from his California home about Thailand's *lèse majesté* laws that criminalise criticism of the royal family. Despite taking care to maintain his anonymity online, Mr. Chai was detained and repeatedly interrogated by Thai government officials about his online activities. Mr. Chai was subsequently charged with violating *lèse majesté*, which carries a punishment of imprisonment up to fifteen years.

This case involves several important issues, including electronic privacy, freedom of expression, and the business practices of internet services providers. Human Rights USA and Snell & Wilmer, LLP filed a lawsuit on behalf of Mr. Chai against Netfirms.com, Inc., the company that hosted the website where Mr. Chai's comments were published. Netfirms was approached by the Royal Thai Embassy to provide identifying information about the website's users. Mr. Chai's lawsuit claims that Netfirms turned over Mr. Chai's information to the Thai Government, thereby assisting with Thailand's enforcement of its *lèse majesté* laws.

For more information, visit <http://humanrightsusa.org>

→ *Contributed by Meredith Owen, Legal Fellow, Human Rights USA, [mowen \(at\) humanrightsusa.org](mailto:mowen@humanrightsusa.org)*

9. US regulations on conflict minerals reporting expected to be released before June 2012

The long-anticipated release of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule on conflict minerals, originally intended for April of last year, is now expected to be released before June 2012. Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act will define the reporting requirements for how companies disclose to the SEC where the minerals tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold originate and whether they are contributing to the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Although the reporting will only require transparency, there is great hope it will motivate a broad range of companies to implement value chain solutions that will drive the flow of mineral revenues away from the armed groups in the DRC. There are many efforts interested parties can join to encourage audited and certified “conflict-free” minerals from the DRC. These initiatives include the Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA), the Conflict Free Smelter Program, and the monthly Multi-Stakeholder Group calls hosted by the Responsible Sourcing Network. For more information, visit: www.resolve.org/site-ppa/, www.conflictreesmelter.org, or email [karen \(at\) sourcingnetwork.org](mailto:karen@sourcingnetwork.org) (with “Join the MSG call” in the subject line).

→ *Contributed by Patricia Jurewicz, Director, Responsible Sourcing Network, [patricia \(at\) sourcingnetwork.org](mailto:patricia@ sourcingnetwork.org)*

10. Reminders: Corporate legal accountability briefing, freedom of association portal

Corporate Legal Accountability Briefing: In the first half of 2012, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will produce its first annual briefing on corporate legal accountability. This briefing will be launched via our free Weekly Updates; if you are not signed up for the Updates and would like to do so, [you may sign up here](#).

Contact: Sif Thorgeirsson, Manager, Corporate Legal Accountability Project, [thorgeirsson \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:thorgeirsson@business-humanrights.org)

Business & Freedom of Association Portal: Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will launch this portal in the first half of 2012.

Contact: Danielle McMullan, Researcher, [mcmullan \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:mcmullan@business-humanrights.org)

→ *Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre*

11. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre - Missions planned for 2012

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is planning research missions to the following countries in 2012: Argentina, China (Guangzhou/Shenzhen region), Democratic Republic of Congo, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Uganda. The purpose of these missions is to meet NGOs, companies and others in order to hear from local NGOs how we can help draw attention to their concerns, and learn from companies what steps they are taking to address human rights issues.

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

Africa

12. Forthcoming workshops on human rights & the mineral sector - Dem. Rep. of Congo, 7 & 10 Feb

The [International Peace Information Service](#) (IPIS) and [Pact International](#) will be holding two workshops in the Democratic Republic of Congo in February. The sessions will provide practical guidance to enable businesses and civil society to increase their ability to eliminate involvement in conflicts and avoid contributing to human rights violations.

The OECD has developed a Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. This guide is intended to prevent what would be an unfortunate outcome: the boycott of mining in the DRC and other countries with similar resources. The guide concedes that the trade cannot be conflict-free within days, but rather requires responsible and practical supply-chain management and sustainable progress.

The workshops will consist of presentation of the OECD guide, training and discussion, and are on the following dates:

- 7 February, Hotel Ihusi, Goma
- 10 February, Hotel Mont Kahuzi, Bukavu

→ *For further information, please contact Evie Francq, [evie.francq \(at\) ipisresearch.be](mailto:evie.francq@ipisresearch.be), or Anna Bulzomi, [anna.bulzomi \(at\) ipisresearch.be](mailto:anna.bulzomi@ipisresearch.be)*

13. OECD Watch seminar on OECD Guidelines - Dakar, 21-22 Mar¹

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

Lumière Synergie pour le Développement has partnered with the international [OECD Watch](#) network to organise a regional capacity-building seminar for civil society organizations, 21-22 March in Dakar. About 20 participants from Benin, Liberia, Senegal and Tunisia, as well as experts from France, Netherlands and UK are expected. The workshop's focus will be a presentation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, a multilateral instrument that is unique in the CSR field. The seminar will provide an occasion to review past experience with

¹ Note that the dates of this event have now changed to 24-25 May

the OECD Guidelines and the situation of corporate responsibility in Senegal and the sub-region. Participating organizations will be trained on the complaints mechanism for OECD Guidelines violations, which can be used against multinationals based in and/or operating in an OECD member country.

→ *Contributed by Aly Sagne, President of Lumière, Synergie pour le Développement, [syndevel \(at\) orange.sn](mailto:syndevel@orange.sn) / [lasagne \(at\) aim.com](mailto:lasagne@aim.com)*

14. Conference on natural resource governance in post-conflict zones - Dem. Rep. of Congo, 6-8 Feb

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

The NGOs [ADISCO](#) (Burundi) and [DIOBASS](#) (Dem. Rep. of Congo) and their partners are organising an international conference on the theme of "International governance of shared natural resources in post-conflict zones in the Great Lakes region of Africa", in Bukavu, DRC, 6-8 February. The conference will provide a site for meetings and exchanges between researchers from the Great Lakes region and other regions of the world. It will also allow scientists, local communities and policymakers to discuss concrete themes relating to the reduction of rural poverty in connection with natural resource conservation.

René Ngongo (recipient of Right Livelihood prize, or "alternative Nobel", 2009), regional project managers and other specialists on issues of environmental governance from all continents will participate in the conference.

In addition to an introductory session, a workshop for small farmers, and a policy roundtable, the following three sessions are planned:

Session 1: Community participation and natural resource governance (will also address aspects of inter-institutional collaboration, between researchers, NGOs, academia and the private sector)

Session 2: Technological innovations and economic incentives for natural resource governance

Session 3: Conservation and sustainable natural resource management

For further details, contact Prof. Dr. Pascal Isumbisho Mwapu, [isumbisho \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:isumbisho@yahoo.fr), with a copy to Innocent Balagizi Karhagomba, [balkarh62 \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:balkarh62@yahoo.fr), and Libère Bukobero, [bukolibere \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:bukolibere@yahoo.fr).

→ *Contributed by René Ngongo, [renengongo2002 \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:renengongo2002@yahoo.fr)*

15. 4th Dakar International Forum on CSR - 29-31 May

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

The Committee for Guidance & Implementation of the Accelerated Growth Strategy (Govt. of Senegal), the Canadian Embassy in Senegal and [RSE Sénégal](#) report that the fourth Dakar International Forum on CSR will be held 29-31 May on the theme of "CSR Governance: Carbon issues in corporate energy strategies in West Africa". Policymakers from Senegal, West Africa, Canada and Europe, as well as people from companies, national government, international organizations, civil society, labour unions, academia, etc., will participate.

The Forum's objective is to serve as a setting for exchanges and reflection around issues in the renewable energy sector (solar, hydroelectric, biofuels) and mining sector (where issues include environment, mine closure and sustainability in West Africa, workplace health & safety, etc.).

Also planned are: a business-to-business networking day in connection with the themes in question; a roundtable of experts on the dissemination of CSR in Senegal; a gathering of CSR networks in West Africa; and an exhibit as well as seminars with practical training on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

→ *Contributed by Philippe Barry, President, RSE Sénégal, [rsesenegal \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:rsesenegal@gmail.com)*

16. Reminder: Business & Human Rights Resource Centre regional briefings on Africa

In early 2012, we will produce our first regional briefing on Francophone Africa. We will publish our second annual Anglophone Africa briefing later in 2012. Our previous regional briefing on Anglophone Africa [is available here](#).

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

Americas

17. USA: NGOs and investors to campaign for passage of bill tackling slavery in supply chains

Anti-trafficking organizations including the 12-member [Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking](#) (ATEST), of which [Free the Slaves](#) is a member, are teaming up with responsible investors such as the [Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility](#) and the Forum for Social and Responsible Investment to campaign for bipartisan passage in Congress this year of a bill to tackle modern-day slavery in supply chains. [Eighty investors have just sent a letter to the House Republican leadership in support of H.R. 2759, the Business Transparency on Slavery and Trafficking Act.](#) This legislation builds on California's groundbreaking Transparency in Supply Chains law.

Modern-day slaves are used to mine, harvest and manufacture products that Americans consume every day. Electronics, agriculture (think cocoa and cotton) and apparel have been highlighted in the media. But the problem is even more widespread. US laws that would prevent slave-tainted products being sold in the United States – and limit the profitability of trafficking and slavery – are riddled with loopholes, lack of real accountability and lax enforcement. Businesses can operate without reporting on whether they're taking steps to address the problem. A federal law to require companies to tell regulators, consumers and investors what actions they're taking would increase accountability.

→ *Contributed by David Schilling, Director of Human Rights, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, [dschilling \(at\) iccr.org](mailto:dschilling@iccr.org), and Karen Stauss, Director of Programs, Free the Slaves, [karen.stauss \(at\) freetheslaves.net](mailto:karen.stauss@freetheslaves.net)*

18. International Trade Union Confederation: Human rights campaign for Guatemalan workers

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

The Human Rights and Trade Union Rights Committee of the [International Trade Union Confederation](#) (ITUC) has selected Guatemala as a priority country for a human rights campaign. The campaign will be launched in March in partnership with ITUC's Americas branch, [CSA](#). The aim of the campaign will be to put an end to exploitation and impunity in the production of coffee, which is one of the country's most important exports. The campaign will focus on improving the conditions of those working on coffee plantations by ensuring that national and multinational companies comply with the ILO conventions that Guatemala has ratified.

The campaign will publicly condemn all human rights abuses and the slave-like conditions in which thousands of workers on coffee farms live. The aim is to apply pressure to all companies involved in the different stages of coffee production in order to force them to respect the fundamental rights of their workers. "The objective is to ensure that the 100,000 women and men working in these plantations receive an employment contract and a decent salary, and that they are free to unionise in order to obtain better working conditions and respect for their rights," said Laerte Texeira, Director of the Social Policies Secretariat at CSA with responsibility for the Americas Human Rights Network.

→ *Contributed by Manuela Chavez, International Trade Union Confederation, [manuela.chavez \(at\) ituc-csi.org](mailto:manuela.chavez@ituc-csi.org)*

19. UL Responsible Sourcing's Seventh Annual Responsible Sourcing Summit, Los Angeles, 9 Feb

UL Responsible Sourcing is proud to host its [Seventh Annual Responsible Sourcing Summit: Refocusing the Lens on Human Rights](#) in Los Angeles on 9 February. The conference has attracted a wide assemblage of organizations from both the public and private sector, which will shed light on today's most provocative issues facing the global supply chain arena. Target Corporation, Coca-Cola, Yahoo! and Hewlett-Packard are just some of the companies that will be on hand presenting. The topics being examined at the conference are highly diverse, ranging from the effectiveness of certification programmes to the role that migrant workers play in today's global supply chain arena.

In response to popular demand, The Responsible Sourcing Summit will take a look at the next chapter in the California Transparency in Supply Chains regulatory saga. Denise Webster, Senior Trading Law Manager, Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market; Cheryl Queen, Vice President Corporate Communication, Compass Group North America; and Luna Lee, Human Rights Associate, Eileen Fisher, Inc. examine how their respective companies are going beyond compliance.

→ *Contributed by Gina Gelber, External Training Manager, UL Responsible Sourcing [gina.gelber \(at\) ul.com](mailto:gina.gelber@ul.com)*

20. Red Puentes to produce an ISO 26000 human rights assessment tool for business

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

[Red Puentes](#) is producing a Self-Assessment Tool, based on the recommendations established by the ISO 26000 standards, which is due to be launched in the first quarter of 2012. Red Puentes previously collaborated with NGOs, consumer organizations and other experts specialising in social responsibility to develop the ISO 26000 standards. One of the objectives of Red Puentes is to promote corporate respect for human rights through promotion of the ISO 26000 standards. The goal of the Tool is to identify potential impacts by business on each of the fundamental areas of the standards.

We aim to provide examples of best practices when using the ISO 26000 standards to create and review company social responsibility policies. The outcomes of this assessment exercise will allow the company (or any other organization) to fully understand and visualise the scope of its social responsibility practices and to identify opportunity and risk areas.

For more information, visit [CICE](#).

→ *Contributed by Jorge Molina, Red Puentes, [jmolina999 \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:jmolina999@yahoo.com)*

21. Invitation to comment on guide on human rights in dialogue between communities & corporations

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

The [Human Rights Centre of Diego Portales University](#) in Santiago, Chile, through its "Business and Human Rights" area, intends to develop further research and provide training on international human rights standards in this field and access to justice for communities negatively impacted by business operations.

We would like to invite you to use the first edition of our guide: "[Human Rights in Social Dialogue between Communities and Corporations](#)" (in Spanish). We would be grateful if users of the guide provide feedback on the guide through the [feedback form](#) by 31 December. We are planning to produce a second, revised edition of the guide (and possibly further future editions) tailored for use in other Latin American countries. The Human Rights Centre also offers training and workshops based on the guide, and talks on related topics. Finally, the Centre provides regular updates on business and human rights issues arising in Chile.

→ *Contributed by Judith Schonsteiner, Human Rights Centre, Diego Portales University, [judith.schonsteiner \(at\) udp.cl](mailto:judith.schonsteiner@udp.cl)*

22. Forthcoming Business & Human Rights Resource Centre mission to Argentina

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will carry out its first mission focusing on corporate legal accountability, to Argentina in the second quarter of 2012. Sif Thorgeirsson, Corporate Legal Accountability Project Manager, and Amanda Romero, Latin America Researcher and Representative, will meet with advocates and NGOs working on labour rights, environmental health, land rights, and complicity in abuses by Argentina's military government. Sif and Amanda will also meet with business organizations and/or bar associations to discuss how to ensure that companies are aware of legal risks of failing to respect human rights. The purpose of the mission is to better understand under-the-radar lawsuits, discuss with local lawyers and NGOs how the Resource Centre can help bring their cases to international attention, and help them connect to the growing global network of lawyers working on corporate accountability for human rights.

→ *Contributed by Sif Thorgeirsson, Corporate Legal Accountability Project Manager, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [thorgeirsson \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:thorgeirsson@business-humanrights.org)*

Asia/Pacific

23. Shwe Gas Movement - Global Day of Action against Burma pipeline project, 1 Mar

[Shwe Gas Movement](#) (SGM) has been supporting the activities of 24-Electricity Campaign and its demand that natural gas from the Shwe Gas Project (SGP) be used to produce electricity for the Arakan region of Burma, launched last year.

On 1 March, SGM is holding its Global Day of Action against the Trans-Burma China oil and gas pipeline project. Participants will include our allies in the region and across the world, who will highlight the plight of the

communities in Burma being affected by the Chinese, Indian and Korean companies leading the project with the Burma junta.

SGM is working on a Divestment Campaign to work with shareholders to promote divestment from companies in the Shwe project consortium, due to concerns about the project's role in conflict and human rights abuses.

In the coming months, SGM will continue to intensify activities inside of Burma to mobilise and empower local community members. Internationally, SGM will work with shareholders to demand responsible investment in Burma. SGM's work will include financial monitoring and strengthening advocacy for accountability and transparency in Burma with international partners.

For more information, visit www.shwe.org

→ For further information, please contact Wong Aung, Shwe Gas Movement, [global \(at\) shwe.org](mailto:global@shwe.org)

24. Global Compact Network India's CEO Forum on Business & Human Rights - New Delhi, 13 Feb

Global Compact Network India (GCNI) will be holding a CEO Forum on Business and Human Rights dedicated to the theme of "Risks, Responsibilities and Opportunities for Businesses" at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi on 13 February. The Forum is expected to be attended by 50 CEOs from leading companies in India to discuss the human rights impact on businesses and a two-year agenda on ways forward. The forum will be chaired by Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy, Chairman Emeritus, Infosys Limited.

The Forum has two objectives: First, to have a dialogue regarding human rights risks, responsibilities and opportunities for businesses, and second, to build commitment towards a two-year India CEO Forum on Business and Human Rights. The Forum assumes a special significance in the aftermath of the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by the United Nations in June 2011. The adoption of the Guiding Principles has been a marker to this agenda globally and requires a deep understanding of how human rights impact businesses across sectors.

→ For further information, please contact Global Compact Network India Secretariat, [gcindia \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:gcindia@gmail.com)

25. Roundtable on recruitment of migrant workers - Delhi, 13-14 Mar

The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) and [Verité](#) are convening a multi-stakeholder roundtable in Delhi on 13-14 March to explore the challenges, risks and human rights responsibilities around recruiting Indian, Bangladeshi and Nepali migrant workers for overseas employment. The meeting will bring together leading brands, recruitment agencies and labour broker associations with civil society and government representatives to raise awareness of the need for human rights due diligence, verification standards and effective regulation in the recruitment of migrant labour.

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

26. Roundtable on land acquisition, business & human rights - Delhi, 15 Mar

The Institute for Human Rights and Business is holding a half-day roundtable discussion in Delhi, India, on 15 March, on the topic of land, business, and human rights. The roundtable in Delhi will bring together a group of participants from civil society and academic experts, to provide feedback on the draft guidance from a regional perspective with a view to finalising the draft and a report to be launched in September.

The draft guidelines can be found at:

http://www.ihrb.org/pdf/Guidelines_on_Business_Land_Acquisition_and_Land_Use-Draft_for_Consultation.pdf.

In the meantime, we are accepting comments and feedback until 29 February. Comments should be sent to: [land \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:land@ihrb.org).

→ For more information, please contact Kelly Davina Scott, Institute for Human Rights and Business, [kelly.scott \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@ihrb.org)

27. Forthcoming report by Green Watershed on green credit in China

[Green Watershed](#)'s next annual report recording the green footprint of Chinese listed banks will be launched in April.

With the rapid growth and ambitious expansion of China's economy, Chinese banks play increasingly crucial roles both domestically and internationally. However, Chinese banks' investment has not only contributed to the economy, but also given rise to alarming environmental and social problems. For example, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) loaned approximately US\$420 million to the Gibe III Dam (Ethiopia) project consortium in 2010. The dam has been widely criticised for placing indigenous peoples in the Lower Omo Valley at great risk because it may lead to the elimination of the river's natural flood cycle and pose serious hydrological risks to Lake Turkana.

In July 2007, the China Banking Regulatory Commission, the People's Bank of China and State Environmental Protection Administration (now the Ministry of Environmental Protection or MEP) jointly launched a Green Credit Policy instructing banks to stop making loans to high-energy-consuming and polluting industries. According to the policy, not only companies causing heavy pollution and wasting energy are disqualified from getting loans; companies that already have loans, but are later discovered to have violated environmental protection regulations will also have their loans called in. With this tool, Chinese banks have given priority to environmental and social crisis management and have made strides in the development of their environmental policies, but various matters remain open to challenge.

Green Watershed has published annual reports on green credit in China since 2009.

For more information, contact Zhu Yanling, [zyling_831225 \(at\) yahoo.com.cn](mailto:zyling_831225@yahoo.com.cn) and Chen Yu, [yuchen_gwatershed \(at\) 163.com](mailto:yuchen_gwatershed@163.com).

→ *Contributed by Yu Xiaogang, Green Watershed*

[For a statement by ICBC in response to criticism of the environmental impacts of the Gibe III dam, click [here](#).]

28. India: Call for apparel & garment manufacturers to register for training on social performance

[Social Accountability International](#) (SAI) invites manufacturers to apply for and receive low-cost, subsidised training and technical assistance on improving management systems for social performance. The training is scheduled to run from July 2012 to Jan 2013 and will provide an opportunity to learn and interact with other leading suppliers, multi-national brands and SAI master trainers. For more information, visit www.sa-intl.org/indiarags or contact SAI India Project Director Rishi Sher Singh at [RSingh \(at\) sa-intl.org](mailto:RSingh@sa-intl.org).

SAI's "[Responsible and Accountable Garment Sector \(RAGS\): Improving Social Standards in the Indian Ready Made Garment Sector](#)" is an innovative two-year project in India focused on home worker engagement in the supply chain and gender discrimination. Launched in late 2010, the project aims to improve the working conditions in factories, with trainings that focus on gender discrimination and worker-supervisor communication.

With support from the UK Department for International Development, the project also includes participation from global retailers, including Gap Inc. and Timberland. In cooperation with [Ethical Trading Initiative](#), along with its grassroots partner the National Home Workers Group in New Delhi, and with SAI's collaboration in a large-scale [public-private partnership](#), this project aims to improve the lives of thousands of primarily female garment sector workers.

→ *Contributed by Joleen Ong, Communications Manager, SAI, [Jong \(at\) sa-intl.org](mailto:Jong@sa-intl.org)*

29. Seminar on human rights in the information & communications technologies sector - Seoul, 27-29 Jun

Since 1997, the Informal [Asia-Europe Meeting](#) (ASEM) Seminar on Human Rights has brought together government officials and civil society members from across Asia and Europe to discuss important themes in relation to human rights. The 12th Seminar in the series, taking place 27-29 June in Seoul, will address "Human Rights and Information and Communication Technology". This seminar will be of particular interest to those working in the fields of data protection and privacy, as well as the digital divide and access issues. More information is available at <http://www.asef.org/index.php/projects/themes/human-rights/2443-12th-human-rights>.

The 11th Seminar in the series took place in Prague, Czech Republic, in November 2011, and addressed the topic of "National and International Human Rights Mechanisms". The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) is proud to

announce the release of the Seminar Report, which compiles the findings of the four working group discussions on various aspects of human rights governance at national and regional levels. The report is of relevance to stakeholders from all sectors, from government, the judiciary, and human rights institutions to academics, civil society groups and business leaders. The Seminar Report, along with a supporting Background Paper and Seminar Key Messages, can be accessed through the ASEF web site:

<http://www.asef.org/index.php/projects/themes/human-rights/1989-11th-human-rights>.

→ Please direct enquiries to Chris Massey, [christopher.massey \(at\) asef.org](mailto:christopher.massey@asef.org)

Europe/Central Asia

30. FairPensions training event on shareholder activism - London, 11 Feb

Want to question the world's biggest corporations face to face in 2012? Ever thought about attending a company's annual general meeting (AGM) of shareholders? After memorable experiences at corporate AGMs in 2011, [FairPensions](#) is looking to train a new group of shareholder activists ready to stand up and be heard in 2012. If you'd like to take the UK's biggest companies to task on human rights, executive pay, their environmental record or any issue you're passionate about, then this training is for you. We'll be focusing on issues including social and environmental impacts of the oil and gas industry, excessive executive pay, tax avoidance, and low pay.

Details of event: 10am-4pm, Saturday 11 February, Amnesty international UK, The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA. The training is free but places are strictly limited. Please RSVP to [matthew.butcher \(at\) fairpensions.org.uk](mailto:matthew.butcher@fairpensions.org.uk).

We are planning further AGM and shareholder activism training in the future. You can register your interest in future opportunities through Matthew.

→ Contributed by Catherine Howarth, CEO, FairPensions, [catherine.howarth \(at\) fairpensions.co.uk](mailto:catherine.howarth@fairpensions.co.uk)

31. Workshop on due diligence in mineral supply chains in conflict zones - Brussels, Mar 2012

The Belgian Network on Natural Resources, in partnership with the [International Peace Information Service](#) (IPIS), will be holding a workshop in March.

The illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Great Lakes region of Africa has fuelled conflict for over a decade. Although data is scarce, it is estimated that 80% of the ore in some of the most severely affected areas can be smuggled out to meet the needs of jewelers, automotive and aerospace industries, producers of medical devices and other manufacturers worldwide.

The OECD has developed a Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-risk Areas.

During the workshop, IPIS will use their extensive experience in both field research, and with the OECD pilot implementation project, to explain 1) how the OECD Due Diligence Guidance relates to the UN Guiding Principles and 2) how the Guidance is currently implemented in the Great Lakes region.

The exact date and location are to be announced.

→ For further information, please contact please contact Evie Francq, [evie.francq \(at\) ipisresearch.be](mailto:evie.francq@ipisresearch.be), or Frédéric Triest, [frederic.triest \(at\) justicepaix.be](mailto:frederic.triest@justicepaix.be)

32. Book launch: "Consent of the Networked: The worldwide struggle for Internet freedom" - London, 27 Feb

A worldwide struggle for control of the Internet is now underway. At stake are no less than civil liberties, privacy and even the character of democracy in the 21st century. The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) (IHRB) and [Index on Censorship](#) invite you to the UK launch of the book: "Consent of the Networked: The worldwide struggle for Internet freedom", 6.30-8.30pm on 27 February at the Free World Centre, 60 Farringdon Road, London, EC1R 3GA. Jo Glanville, Index on Censorship Editor, and Salil Tripathi, Director of Policy, IHRB, will join the author, Rebecca MacKinnon, in discussing the challenges in ensuring that technology is structured and governed to support human rights and the liberties of all the world's Internet users. This will be followed by a drinks reception and book signing.

For more details or to register attendance please contact [neill.wilkins \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:neill.wilkins@ihrb.org).

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

33. Forthcoming business & human rights events in UK and Maplecroft webinar

[Association for Sustainable and Responsible Investment in Asia](#) would like to highlight the following upcoming events:

- a) Reception to celebrate the launch of [Standard Life Business and Human Rights Report](#) (13 Feb, UK);
- b) [Shareholder Engagement in the Embedded Business Corporation: Investment Activism, Human Rights and TWAIL Discourse](#) (14 Feb, London);
- c) Maplecroft webinar on "[Human rights complicity is principal ESG investment risk in the BRICs](#)" (27 Feb, online). Register at [info \(at\) maplecroft.com](mailto:info@maplecroft.com).

→ *Contributed by David Doré, Association for Sustainable and Responsible Investment in Asia (ASRIA), [ddore \(at\) asria.org](mailto:ddore@asria.org)*

34. Reminder: Regional briefing on business & human rights in Eastern Europe & Central Asia

In the first half of 2012, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will produce a briefing on "Business & Human Rights in Eastern Europe & Central Asia: A round-up of recent developments".

→ *Contributed by Ella Skybenko, Eastern Europe & Central Asia Researcher & Representative (based in Ukraine), [skybenko \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:skybenko@business-humanrights.org)*

Middle East/North Africa

35. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to appoint Gulf Region Researcher

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will appoint a Gulf Region Researcher & Representative based in Amman or Beirut in the next few weeks. This appointment will be announced via our free Weekly Updates; if you are not signed up for the Updates and would like to do so, [you may sign up here](#).

→ *Contributed by Annabel Short, Programme Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short@business-humanrights.org)*

Español

36. Confederación Sindical Internacional: Campaña de derechos humanos en empresas de café en Guatemala

El Comité de Derechos Humanos y Sindicales de la [Confederación Sindical Internacional \(CSI\)](#) eligió a Guatemala como país prioritario para una campaña de derechos humanos, que la CSI y su organización regional para las Américas, [CSA](#), van a lanzar en marzo para dignificar el trabajo en las plantaciones de café y hacer que las empresas nacionales y multinacionales respeten los convenios de la OIT y romper así la cadena de explotación e impunidad en la producción del café, uno de los productos más importante de la economía de Guatemala.

La estrategia será de denuncia pública por violaciones de los derechos humanos y las condiciones de semiesclavitud que viven miles de trabajadores en las fincas de café y lograr que las empresas involucradas en el proceso de producción y comercialización del café respeten derechos fundamentales. "El objetivo es lograr que las más de 100,000 personas que trabajan en las plantaciones tengan un contrato de trabajo, reciban un salario decente y que puedan organizarse en sindicatos para alcanzar mejores condiciones de trabajo y el respeto de sus derechos", señaló Laerte Texeira, Director de la Secretaría de Políticas Sociales de la CSA y responsable de la Red de Derechos Humanos para las Américas.

→ *Contribución de Manuela Chavez, Confederación Sindical Internacional, [Manuela.Chavez \(at\) ituc-csi.org](mailto:Manuela.Chavez@ituc-csi.org)*

37. Red Puentes elaborará herramienta de autodiagnóstico en derechos humanos para empresas

La [Red Puentes](#) se ha dado a la tarea de elaborar una herramienta de autodiagnóstico, basada en las recomendaciones de la Guía ISO 26000, que estará disponible en el primer trimestre del 2012. La Red Puentes tuvo una intensa participación en el proceso de elaboración de la Guía ISO 26000, participando con expertos de ONGs y de organizaciones de consumidores, y con 2 expertos en calidad de organización internacional competente en el tema de Responsabilidad Social (RS). Uno de los objetivos que la Red Puentes se ha planteado para contribuir en el campo del respeto a los derechos humanos por parte de las empresas, es la promoción de la ISO 26000. La meta de la herramienta de autodiagnóstico es reconocer los posibles impactos de la empresa en cada una de las materias fundamentales incluidas.

Con esto se pretende ejemplificar el buen uso de la Norma en el establecimiento y revisión de sus políticas de RS. El resultado de este ejercicio de autodiagnóstico permitirá a la empresa (o a cualquier otra organización) visualizar de forma integral el grado de cobertura de sus prácticas de RS e identificar sus áreas de oportunidad y riesgo. Esta herramienta estará disponible en el primer trimestre de 2012.

Para más información visite [CICE](#).

→ *Contribución de Jorge Molina, Red Puentes, [jmolina999 \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:jmolina999@yahoo.com)*

38. Invitación a comentar sobre la guía "Derechos Humanos en el Diálogo Social entre Comunidades y Empresas"

El [Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Diego Portales](#), ubicado en Santiago de Chile, a través de su área de "empresas y derechos humanos", pretende desarrollar investigación y capacitaciones sobre los estándares internacionales de derechos humanos en la materia y sobre temas de acceso a la justicia para comunidades afectadas.

En esta oportunidad el Centro invita a utilizar la guía [Derechos Humanos en el Diálogo Social entre Comunidades y Empresas](#), para luego compartir las experiencias que se tengan durante su utilización, comentando a través del [formulario de retroalimentación](#), antes del 31 de diciembre, con el objeto de elaborar una segunda edición y posiblemente futuras ediciones adaptadas a las realidades en otros países latinoamericanos. El Centro de Derechos Humanos ofrece capacitaciones y talleres basadas en la guía. Finalmente, el Centro informará regularmente sobre asuntos de "empresas y derechos humanos" ocurriendo en Chile.

→ *Contribución de Judith Schonsteiner, Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Diego Portales, [judith.schonsteiner \(at\) udp.cl](mailto:judith.schonsteiner@udp.cl)*

39. Próxima misión a la Argentina del Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (CIEDH)

El Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (CIEDH) llevará a cabo en Argentina su primera misión centrada en la responsabilidad legal corporativa, en el segundo trimestre del 2012. Sif Thorgeirsson, coordinadora del proyecto sobre responsabilidad legal corporativa, y Amanda Romero, investigadora y representante para América Latina, se reunirán con activistas y ONG trabajando en derechos laborales, salud y medio ambiente, derechos sobre los territorios y sobre complicidad con abusos cometidos por el gobierno militar durante la dictadura. Sif y Amanda también se reunirán con asociaciones empresariales y/o colegios de abogados para discutir cómo asegurarse de que las empresas son conscientes de los riesgos legales si no respetan los derechos humanos. El objetivo de la misión es conocer y entender mejor las demandas contra empresas por supuestos abusos de derechos humanos que son poco conocidas, discutir con abogados y ONGs locales cómo puede el CIEDH ayudar a atraer atención internacional a los casos sobre los que trabajan, y cómo puede el CIEDH asistirlos en conectarse a una red global en crecimiento de abogados trabajando en responsabilidad legal corporativa.

→ *Contribuido por Sif Thorgeirsson, Coordinadora de Proyecto sobre Responsabilidad Legal Corporativa, [thorgeirsson \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:thorgeirsson@business-humanrights.org)*

40. Recordatorios y otras iniciativas del Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos

Informe sobre responsabilidad legal corporativa: En el primer semestre del 2012, el CIEDH producirá su primer informe anual sobre responsabilidad legal corporativa. Esta publicación se lanzará a través de nuestro boletín gratis de Actualizaciones Semanales; si usted no está suscrito a las Actualizaciones y le gustaría hacerlo, [puede registrarse aquí](#).

Contacte a Sif Thorgeirsson, Coordinadora de Proyecto sobre Responsabilidad Legal Corporativa, [thorgeirsson \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:thorgeirsson(at)business-humanrights.org)

Portal sobre empresas y libertad sindical: El CIEDH lanzará este portal en el 2012.

Contacte a Danielle McMullan, investigadora, [mcmullan \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:mcmullan(at)business-humanrights.org)

Misiones: El CIEDH planea realizar una serie de misiones de investigación durante el 2012 a los siguientes países: Argentina, China (región de Guangzhou/Shenzhen), Kazakstán, Malawi, México, República Democrática del Congo, Sri Lanka y Uganda. El objetivo de estas misiones es reunirse con ONGs, empresas, y otros. De las ONGs locales esperamos aprender cómo podemos ayudarles de la mejor manera a visibilizar y amplificar sus denuncias, y de las empresas esperamos recibir información sobre las iniciativas que estén tomando en materia de derechos humanos.

Contacte a Greg Regaignon, coordinador de investigación, [regaignon \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:regaignon(at)business-humanrights.org)

Nuevo/a investigador/a regional: El CIEDH nombrará en las próximas semanas un/a nuevo/a investigador/a regional para la región del Golfo, en Medio Oriente, con base en Amán o Beirut. El nombramiento será anunciado en nuestras Actualizaciones Semanales; si usted todavía no está suscrito y desea hacerlo, [puede registrarse aquí](#).

Contacte a Annabel Short, coordinadora de programas, [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short(at)business-humanrights.org)

→ Contribuido por el Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (CIEDH)

Français

41. Séminaire de OECD Watch sur les Principes Directeurs de l'OCDE - Dakar, 21-22 mars²

L'Association Lumière Synergie pour le Développement organise en partenariat avec le réseau international OECD Watch un séminaire régional de renforcement de capacités des organisations de la société civile (OSC) du 21 au 22 mars dans la capitale sénégalaise. Une vingtaine de participants venant du Bénin, du Libéria, de la Tunisie et du Sénégal ainsi que des experts de la France, de l'Angleterre et des Pays-Bas sont attendus à cet effet. L'atelier devrait se focaliser sur la présentation des Principes Directeurs de l'OCDE à l'intention des entreprises multinationales, un instrument juridique multilatéral unique dans le domaine de la Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises (RSE). Le séminaire sera l'occasion de revisiter les expériences et le contexte du Sénégal et de la sous-région en matière de conduite responsable des entreprises et de former les OSC sur le mécanisme de plainte en cas de violation de ces Principes par une multinationale appartenant et/ou opérant à partir d'un pays membre de l'OCDE.

→ Contribution d'Aly Sagne, président de Lumière, Synergie pour le Développement, [syndev \(at\) orange.sn](mailto:syndev(at)orange.sn) / [lasagne \(at\) aim.com](mailto:lasagne(at)aim.com)

42. Conférence sur la gouvernance des ressources naturelles en zones post-conflits - Bukavu, 6-8 fév

Les organisations non gouvernementales [ADISCO](#) (Burundi) et [DIOBASS](#) (République Démocratique du Congo) et leurs partenaires organisent à Bukavu (RDC) du 6 au 8 février une conférence internationale sur le thème « La gouvernance internationale des ressources naturelles collectives en zones post-conflits dans la Région des Grands Lacs Africains ».

La conférence sera un lieu de rencontre et d'échange entre les chercheurs de la région des Grands Lacs africains et ceux du monde entier. Elle permettra également aux scientifiques, aux communautés locales et aux décideurs politiques d'échanger sur des thèmes concrets relatifs à la réduction de la pauvreté rurale en lien avec la conservation des ressources naturelles.

² Notez que les dates de cet événement ont changé – les nouvelles dates sont 24-25 mai

René Ngongo (lauréat du prix Nobel alternatif, 2009), des gestionnaires des projets régionaux et d'autres spécialistes sur les questions de gouvernance environnementale venant de tous les continents participeront à cette conférence.

En plus de la session introductive, de l'atelier paysan et de la table ronde politique, 3 sessions sont également prévues :

Session 1 : Participation communautaire et gouvernance des ressources naturelles (abordera aussi les aspects de la collaboration inter-institutionnelle (recherche, ONG, université et secteur privé)

Session 2 : Innovations technologiques et incitations économiques pour la gouvernance des ressources naturelles

Session 3 : Conservation et gestion durable des ressources naturelles

Pour plus de détails, contacter le Professeur Dr. Pascal Isumbiso Mwapu, [isumbiso \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:isumbiso@yahoo.fr), avec copie à Innocent Balagizi Karhagomba, [balkarh62 \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:balkarh62@yahoo.fr), et Libère Bukobero, [bukolibere \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:bukolibere@yahoo.fr).

→ *Contribution de René Ngongo, [renengongo2002 \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:renengongo2002@yahoo.fr)*

43. 4ème édition du Forum international de Dakar sur la Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises (RSE)

Le Comité d'Orientation et de Suivi de la Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée (Primature du Sénégal), l'Ambassade du Canada au Sénégal et [RSE Sénégal](#) vous informent que la 4ème édition du Forum international de Dakar sur la Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises (RSE) se tiendra du 29 au 31 mai sur le thème : « Gouvernance RSE : l'enjeu Carbone dans les stratégies énergétiques des entreprises en Afrique de l'Ouest ». Des décideurs du Sénégal, de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, du Canada et d'Europe, les milieux des affaires, les autorités nationales, les institutions internationales, la société civile, les syndicats, les milieux académiques, etc., y participeront.

Le Forum a pour objectif de servir de cadre d'échanges et de réflexions autour des problématiques liées aux secteurs des énergies renouvelables (solaire, l'hydro électrique et biomasse) et des mines (environnement, fermeture et durabilité des mines en Afrique de l'Ouest, santé et sécurité au travail, etc.).

Sont également prévus une journée de maillage (rencontre « B to B » – entre entreprises) en lien avec les thèmes abordés ; une table ronde des experts sur le déploiement de la RSE au Sénégal ; une rencontre des réseaux RSE de l'Afrique de l'Ouest ; un salon des énergies renouvelables et de l'efficacité énergétique et des séminaires de formation pratiques.

→ *Contribution de Philippe Barry, Président RSE Sénégal, [rsesenegal \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:rsesenegal@gmail.com)*

44. Rappel : Briefings régionaux sur l'Afrique

Vers le début de 2012, le Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme publiera son premier briefing régional sur l'Afrique francophone. Il publiera son deuxième briefing annuel sur l'Afrique anglophone plus tard dans l'année. Le premier briefing sur l'Afrique anglophone est disponible [ici](#).

→ *Contribution de Greg Regaignon, Directeur de la recherche; Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme, [regaignon \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:regaignon@business-humanrights.org)*

45. Nouveautés du Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises et les Droits de l'Homme : Missions, chercheur, briefing, portail

Missions : Le Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme prévoit de mener au cours de cette année des missions dans les pays suivants : Argentine, Chine (région de Guangzhou/Shenzhen), Kazakhstan, Malawi, Mexique, Ouganda, République démocratique du Congo, Sri Lanka. L'objectif de ces missions est de rencontrer des ONG pour voir comment les aider à mieux attirer l'attention internationale sur leurs inquiétudes. La mission rencontrera également d'autres parties prenantes et des entreprises afin de connaître leur approche de la problématique des droits de l'homme.

La mission en Argentine sera la première mission du Centre à se focaliser sur les questions de la responsabilité juridique des entreprises, et sera menée dans le deuxième trimestre de 2012. Sif Thorgeirsson, Chef de projet – Responsabilité juridique des entreprises, et Amanda Romero, Chercheuse pour l'Amérique Latine, rencontreront des avocats et des défenseurs des victimes d'abus impliquant des entreprises, dans les domaines du droit du travail, de l'environnement et de la santé, des droits fonciers, et de la complicité dans les abus de l'ancien régime militaire. Les objectifs de la mission seront de mieux comprendre des procédures juridiques peu connues ; de

discuter avec des avocats locaux et des ONG sur les manières dont le Centre pourrait attirer l'attention internationale sur leurs cas ; et de les aider à mieux s'intégrer dans le réseau croissant d'avocats qui œuvrent dans le domaine de la responsabilité juridique des entreprises pour les droits de l'homme.

Contact : Greg Regaignon, Directeur de la recherche, Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme, [regaignon \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:regaignon@business-humanrights.org)

Chercheur pour la région du Golfe : Le Centre annoncera la nomination d'un Chercheur et représentant pour la région du Golfe dans les semaines à venir. Le chercheur sera basé à Amman ou à Beyrouth. Nous annoncerons la nomination dans notre bulletin d'Actualité Hebdomadaire (Weekly Update) ; si vous n'êtes pas abonné au bulletin, vous pouvez vous inscrire [ici](#).

Contact : Annabel Short, Directrice des programmes, Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme, [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short@business-humanrights.org)

Briefing sur la responsabilité juridique des entreprises : Dans le premier semestre de 2012, le Centre publiera son premier briefing annuel sur la responsabilité juridique des entreprises. Ce briefing sera annoncé dans notre bulletin d'Actualité Hebdomadaire.

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Portail – Entreprises & liberté d'association : Le Centre lancera ce portail dans le premier semestre de 2012.

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→ *Contribution du Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme*

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