



On the Horizon ▪ A l'Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte
A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights
Issue 20 - 6 April 2011

This bulletin is prepared by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://business-humanrights.org) for our International Advisory Network, Academic Partners, and thousands of others working in this field in all regions. It presents contributions from a number of experts & organizations, and is designed to keep all of us informed of future initiatives. This issue was edited by Annabel Short, the Resource Centre's Program Director.

If you would like to contribute to our next bulletin planned for early June 2011, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 8 June to Greg Regaignon: regaignon@business-humanrights.org. Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 27 May.

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International

1. Guiding Principles issued and to be considered by UN Human Rights Council

On 24 March 2011 the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on business & human rights (SRSG) released 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 at: <http://www.business-humanrights.org/media/documents/ruggie/ruggie-guiding-principles-21-mar-2011.pdf>.

The Guiding Principles seek to provide for the first time an authoritative global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse human rights impacts linked to business activity. The UN Human Rights Council will consider formal endorsement of the text at its June 2011 session.

The Guiding Principles outline how States and businesses should implement the UN “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework in order to better manage business and human rights challenges. That Framework, which the SRSG proposed in 2008, was unanimously welcomed by the Human Rights Council at the time, and has since enjoyed extensive uptake by international and national governmental organizations, businesses, NGOs and other stakeholders.

The Guiding Principles **highlight what steps States should take** to foster business respect for human rights; **provide a blueprint for companies** to know and show that they respect human rights, and reduce the risk of causing or contributing to human rights harm; and constitute a set of **benchmarks for stakeholders** to assess business respect for human rights.

All feedback received during consultation on the Guiding Principles is available at: <http://www.business-humanrights.org/SpecialRepPortal/Home/Protect-Respect-Remedy-Framework/GuidingPrinciples>.

→ For more information, please contact Vanessa Zimmerman, Legal Advisor to the SRSG, [vanessa_zimmerman \(at\) hks.harvard.edu](mailto:vanessa_zimmerman@hks.harvard.edu)

2. Report on business & the right to water open for consultation

To mark World Water Day 2011, the [Institute for Human Rights and Business](http://www.institutehrb.org) released the consultation draft of its [new position paper on the right to water](#) and its implications for business.

The Institute thanks all who have contributed thus far to this process and welcomes comments on the consultation draft until 6 May 2011. Feedback can be directed to [kelly.scott \(at\) institutehrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@institutehrb.org). The final paper will be presented in Stockholm during World Water Week in August 2011.

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

3. Forthcoming report to help companies address human rights challenges in high risk countries

The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](http://www.institutehrb.org) will launch its new report: “Green Flags: Embedding Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights in High Risk Countries” on 3 May in Bern, Switzerland. The report, developed with support from the Swiss Government, analyses the multiple challenges facing businesses operating in fragile contexts. It provides a framework to assist companies in ensuring they abide by the corporate responsibility to respect human rights including guidance in avoiding actions that may exacerbate conflict and in

positive steps to contribute to human rights protection, peace-building, and development. The report will be available for download prior to the launch on the Institute's website: www.institutehrb.org.

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

4. Forthcoming research missions by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

In late April, the Resource Centre's Eastern Europe / Central Asia Researcher Ella Skybenko and Deputy Director Mauricio Lazala will conduct a research mission to Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. They will meet with representatives of local NGOs and business-led organizations.

Other missions by Resource Centre staff this year are likely to include: Bangladesh; China (Beijing); Democratic Republic of Congo; Malawi; and Uganda.

→ *For more information on these missions, contact Gregory Regaignon, Research Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre [regaignon \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:regaignon@business-humanrights.org)*

5. Coverage of UN actions on business & human rights post-June 2011

As readers of the Resource Centre's website and Weekly Updates know, we have hosted an information portal on the work of the UN Special Representative on business & human rights John Ruggie since he was appointed in 2005. The portal, made possible by a grant from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, includes all material produced by John Ruggie and his team, as well as external commentaries on the mandate.

John Ruggie's mandate comes to an end in June, when the UN Human Rights Council will consider the Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights and the recommendations on follow-up of the mandate. The Resource Centre will continue to provide up-to-date and impartial coverage of how the UN takes forward its work on business & human rights, and will help ensure that a wide range of stakeholders are able to provide input. Funding permitting, we hope to continue with the same level of coverage and outreach as we have done since 2005.

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

Africa

6. Workshop on extractive industries and conflict prevention – Niger, 15 April

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

The Group for Reflection on Extractive Industries in Niger (Groupe de Réflexion sur les Industries Extractives au Niger, or GREN) is organising a training workshop. The workshop aims to build capacity and competency for members of GREN, officials of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, local officials, and traditional and customary leaders on issues of conflict prevention and conflict management related to extractive industries. It will take place on 15 April in Agadez.

The specific aims of this workshop are to:

- understand the notion of "conflict" and its multiple dimensions, and outline the issues arising in conflicts linked to extractive industries in Niger;
- become familiar with concepts, principles and concrete steps for non-violent management of conflicts;
- learn tools for non-violent prevention and management of conflicts, and how to use tools that are appropriate for the level of conflict;
- improve the responses and attitudes of workshop participants when they face conflicts;
- become able to analyse a conflict specifically linked to extractive industries in Niger, in order to contribute to managing the conflict and/or to preventing its escalation;
- become able to conduct consensual prevention and management of conflicts related to extractive industries, involving the full range of actors in a "win-win" approach.

→ *Contributed by Oubandoma Salissou, National Coordinator for GREN, [greninitiative \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:greninitiative@yahoo.fr) or [osalissou \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:osalissou@yahoo.fr)*

7. Francophone Africa workshop on CSR and business & human rights – Benin, 20-26 May

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

As part of its “Trade, Investments, CSR and Aid Effectiveness” programme, Civil Society Organization for Francophone Africa (La Dynamique – Organisation 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 20-26 May in Cotonou, Benin.

The goals of the workshop will be to:

- report on progress on the electronic CSR forum launched at the beginning of the year;
- offer to national delegations the chance to present the results of their assessments of the current state of CSR in their countries;
- develop a regional agenda and national action plans on CSR issues, based on an analysis of the state of CSR and the national assessments;
- develop a strategy to mobilise resources in order to implement the regional and national agendas;
- give the national delegations information-based tools and resources that are appropriate to face specific CSR problems in each country.

→ *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 La Dynamique OSCAF, [acaurelien \(at\) hotmail.com](mailto:acaurelien@hotmail.com) or [grapad_adm \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:grapad_adm@yahoo.fr)*

Americas

8. Forthcoming report on human rights impacts of mining & steel industries in Açailândia, Brazil

[FIDH \(the International Federation for Human Rights\)](#), its member organisation in Brazil [Justiça Global](#) and the network [Justiça nos Trilhos](#) will release, in May, the report of a case study evaluating the human rights impacts of the mining and steel industries in Açailândia, in the State of Maranhão, Brazil.

The report focuses on the activities of Vale, the second largest mining company in the world and leader of a large mining programme called Grand Carajás, and its commercial partners in the iron and steel industry operating in the communities of Piquiá de Baixo and the California settlement in Açailândia. Findings of the report highlight serious health problems caused by water, soil and air contamination, injuries and fatal accidents caused by industrial waste, lack of access to healthcare services as well as obstacles for victims in accessing justice and obtaining reparation.

In light of the report’s findings, as well as the foreseen extension of the Carajás railway and amplification of industrial activity in the region, the authors urge the federal, state and municipal authorities, as well as concerned private actors, to take all necessary measures to provide reparations for affected communities and to prevent any future violations.

→ *For more information visit www.fidh.org or email Geneviève Paul, Globalisation and Human Rights Desk, [gpaul \(at\) fidh.org](mailto:gpaul@fidh.org)*

9. Roundtable on how EU-Chile trade agreement affects decent work – Chile, 11 April

Ergon Associates and the University of Chile are holding a second roundtable meeting to consider the effects of the EU-Chile trade deal on a range of decent work issues. The meeting will take place on 11 April in Santiago, Chile. It is part of a project which Ergon is carrying out on behalf the European Commission to develop impact assessment and monitoring methodologies related to trade and labour issues. Focus sectors are salmon, wine, forestry and fruit.

→ *For more information contact Steve Gibbons, Ergon, [steve.gibbons \(at\) ergonassociates.net](mailto:steve.gibbons@ergonassociates.net)*

10. Upcoming workshop on impact assessments of mining projects – Colombia, August

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

A workshop in Colombia during the first week of August will examine impact assessments of mining projects, and the right to free, prior and informed consent.

Governments and large companies often see impact assessments and ethnic minority / indigenous rights as a burdensome requirement in the implementation of their projects, rather than an opportunity and a means to harmonise the interests of capital with the right to development and to have a dignified life. They accept that the environmental component is important, but social issues (cultural, ethnic and human rights) are regarded as obstacles to projects.

Impact assessments, integrally conceived, could be a powerful participation tool, ensure the recognition of cultural and ethnic diversity, and develop consensus or understanding about the inappropriateness of a project. They are also fundamental to the information component of a consultation process, and the free, prior and informed consent that any extractive project affecting ethnic populations requires. Impact assessments must be environmental, social, cultural and spiritual, and must address human rights.

These issues will be addressed in a workshop in Colombia during the first week of August organized by the [North-South Institute of Canada](#) in association with the [Black Communities Process \(PCN\)](#) and the indigenous reserve of Cañamomo Lomapieta (RICLP). The precise date will be decided and announced soon.

→ *Contributed by Gladys Jimeno, National Project Coordinator INS / PCN / RICLP Canada-Colombia, [Gladysjimeno \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:Gladysjimeno@gmail.com)*

11. Yahoo! Business & Human Rights Summit – Washington DC, 5 May

Yahoo! will host the third annual Business & Human Rights Summit on 5 May in Washington, DC. The Summit brings together individuals from around the world to raise awareness about freedom of expression online and the enduring challenges to this fundamental right. This year's agenda is being developed jointly by Yahoo! and [Business for Social Responsibility \(BSR\)](#). The Summit will be hosted by Ahmed Nasser, Managing Director, Yahoo! Middle East and will be moderated by Aron Cramer, President and CEO of BSR. It will address topics such as the balance between liberty and security on the internet, the role of technology in the uprisings in the Middle East, and technology innovations to address human rights challenges.

→ *Space is limited; please RSVP to [BHRP \(at\) yahoo-inc.com](mailto:BHRP@yahoo-inc.com) by 16 April. To learn more about last year's Summit, see [here](#)*

→ *Contributed by Faris Natour, BSR [fnatour \(at\) bsr.org](mailto:fnatour@bsr.org)*

12. Effects of climate change and "deglaciation" on Andean indigenous peoples

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

This year the [Andean Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations \(CAOI\)](#) will develop a mapping of the rights of Mother Earth from the perspective of the Andean indigenous peoples. It will be based on research whose results will be validated by the member organizations and shared with all social movements.

Andean indigenous peoples suffer the impacts of the climate crisis: droughts, floods, disease, crop displacement, loss of crops and animals by frost, etc. But there is an impact, occurring in their territories, which affects everyone: deglaciation. The Andes account for 95% of the world's tropical glaciers. Peru has 71%, Bolivia 22%, Ecuador 4% and Colombia 3%. These glaciers, which feed water sources, are being rapidly and irreversibly lost. In addition to a critical shortage of fresh water this causes an increase in sea level, which will lead to the disappearance of many islands.

Glaciers are melting because of global warming caused by the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) by large industries: from 1960 to date, the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere has increased by 28%, and the hole in the ozone layer has expanded to 10 thousand square kilometers. Glaciers are also affected by mining activities on them or in their area of influence.

The Andean Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations (CAOI) has conducted studies on the impacts of climate change on Andean indigenous peoples and their proposals to international negotiations. The CAOI is part of the Abya Yala Indigenous Forum on Climate Change, which meets on an ongoing basis.

→ *Contributed by Andean Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations (Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas, CAOI), [coordinadorandinacaoi \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:coordinadorandinacaoi@gmail.com)*

13. Instituto Ethos will encourage firms to make human rights commitments – Brazil

Instituto Ethos in Brazil has developed a “[Platform for an Inclusive, Green and Responsible Economy](#)”, to guide its work over the coming years. Taking that platform as a starting point, and also bearing in mind the National Decent Work Agenda, Ethos will be encouraging companies to make human rights commitments, specifically in the following areas: eradication of forced labor from the value chains; promotion of gender and racial equity in the workplace; inclusion of people with disabilities in the labor market; strengthening of actions to ensure the rights of the child, the adolescent and the youth; as well as a commitment to freedom of association and assembly, in view of enhanced social dialogue.

Instituto Ethos welcomes comments and suggestions on the platform, to plataforma@ethos.org.br

→ *Contributed by Ana Letícia Silva, Instituto Ethos, [analeticia \(at\) ethos.org.br](mailto:analeticia@ethos.org.br)*

14. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to appoint Latin America Researcher

On 8, 11, and 12 April, the Resource Centre will interview 8 strong candidates in Bogotá and Lima for the position of Latin America Researcher. We will announce the appointment on our website and in our Weekly Updates. The Latin America Researcher, who will be based in Bogotá or Lima, will build a strong network of contacts among NGO, media and business communities to strengthen our coverage and impact in the region.

→ *Contributed by Mauricio Lazala, Deputy Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre [lazala \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:lazala@business-humanrights.org)*

Asia/Pacific

15. Forthcoming baseline study on business & human rights in the context of ASEAN

During 2011 the [Human Rights Resource Centre](#) for ASEAN (HRRCA) will conduct a regional baseline study on business and human rights. The study will provide an assessment of the issue and bring it into the framework of ASEAN. This is pursuant to ASEAN leaders' commitment in dealing with this issue as it is seen as a complex one, especially if dealt by national governments acting alone. As such, a regional-based approach is needed, as most of the companies operate in more than one ASEAN country.

The expected end result would be to identify the best approaches to ensure business entities' compliance with human rights in ASEAN and how the governments in ASEAN countries can best deal with the issue. As most countries in Southeast Asia are getting more familiar with the issues of business and human rights, this study will serve as the baseline in assisting them to establish a policy ensuring business entities' compliance with human rights.

The HRRCA was designed by a group of human rights experts in the ASEAN region. It operates under the oversight of a [Governing Board](#) which includes prominent scholars, jurists, and human rights experts from the region. It was established to complement the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) by focusing on research and capacity building on issues of human rights in the ASEAN region, in particular the rule of law, judicial independence, women and children's issues, indigenous peoples, migrant labour rights, business and human rights, and other thematic issues commonly found in Southeast Asia.

→ *For more information contact Fitria Chairani of HRRCA, [fitria.c \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:fitria.c@gmail.com)*

16. Forthcoming report: “Natl. Consultation on Litigating Against Corporations for Human Rights” – India

A national consultation on “Litigating Against Corporations For Human Rights” was organised in Goa, India, on 5-6 February by [Human Rights Law Network](#) in collaboration with Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, All India Drug Action Network, PEACE, Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India, Special Economic Zone Virodhi Manch, and Initiative for Health and Equity In Society. A full report documenting the highlights is expected to be ready by end of April.

Apart from ongoing litigation against corporations, case studies of movements against corporations were also presented. Prominent case studies pertaining to the Bhopal gas leak disaster, POSCO steel plant, Bellary iron-ore mines, Jaitapur nuclear plant, 2G Spectrum Scam, Radia Tapes Controversy, Special Economic Zone cases in Goa, Mangalore and Himachal Pradesh, and struggles against Coca-Cola were presented and discussed at length by the participants. The possibility of using the law courts was explored as a number of lawyers and activists participated in the consultation.

→ Contributed by Sanjai Sharma, Human Rights Law Network, [sanjai.sharma \(at\) hrln.org](mailto:sanjai.sharma@hrln.org)

17. Upcoming publication on the Sumangali Scheme in India's garment industry

In April 2011, the [Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations \(SOMO\)](#) and the [India Committee of the Netherlands \(ICN\)](#) will publish a report on exploitative employment in India's garment industry.

In the Indian southern state of Tamil Nadu, young women are being recruited to work in the garment industry under the so called "Sumangali Scheme". The promise: a decent wage, comfortable accommodation, and, the biggest lure: a considerable sum of money upon completion of their three-year contract. This lump sum can be useful to pay for a dowry. Although legally prohibited, the payment of a dowry is still general practice in rural India for which families often incur high debts. The recruitment and employment scheme that is the subject of the report is closely linked to the payment of a dowry. The Tamil word Sumangali literally refers to a married woman who leads a happy and contented life with her husband with all fortunes and material benefits.

The reality of working under the Sumangali Scheme stands in sharp contrast to the attractive picture that is presented to women during the recruitment process. Excessive overwork, low wages, and restricted freedom of movement are part and parcel of the employment conditions under the Sumangali Scheme. The promised sum is not a bonus at all, but part of the regular wage that is withheld by the employer. Often women workers do not even receive the promised lump sum. Without exaggeration, the Sumangali Scheme has become synonymous with unacceptable employment and labour conditions, even with bonded labour.

→ For more information contact Martje Theuws, [m.theuws \(at\) somo.nl](mailto:m.theuws@somo.nl)

Europe & Central Asia

18. Final "Countdown to 2011" event on UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework

The [International Business Leaders Forum \(IBLF\)](#), in partnership with Clifford Chance, the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission, and Amnesty International UK, will be hosting the final event in the "Countdown to 2011" business and human rights event series on 11 April 2011. This event will explore the implications of the Access to Remedy Pillar in the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework.

This invitation-only event will take place at Clifford Chance's London headquarters. The opportunities and challenges to successfully implementing State-based judicial mechanisms, State-based non-judicial grievance mechanisms, and non-State-based grievance mechanisms will be discussed.

→ For more information on the Countdown to 2011 event series email: [Countdownto2011 \(at\) iblf.org](mailto:Countdownto2011@iblf.org) or visit www.iblf.org

19. Ergon to recruit International Labour Standards and Development Researcher

Ergon Associates is looking for a highly-motivated, flexible and experienced researcher to contribute to its research and policy programme. The successful applicant will carry out a combination of desk research and stakeholder engagement, and will work on a range of assignments from major research projects analysing international policy developments to studying corporate ethical trade activities, or drafting of country labour law profiles.

→ For more information contact [jobs \(at\) ergonassociates.net](mailto:jobs@ergonassociates.net)

20. Conference on ESG & impact investing – London, 10-11 Nov

[TBLI Conference](#) is the world's largest annual international education and networking event on ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and impact investing. Conference participants are afforded plenty of opportunities to network, which is one of the conference's main raisons d'être. Topics of sessions include subjects such as: Corporate Governance, Carbon Finance, Sustainable Private Equity, Alternative Energy Finance, TBLI Research, Green Real Estate, Transparency, Human Rights, ESG Integration into Portfolios, Fund Performance and Strategy, Public Private Partnerships and many more. The London conference will be held at Grange St. Paul's Hotel.

→ Contributed by Frank Stevens, TBLI Conference, [frank \(at\) tbli.org](mailto:frank@tbli.org)

Español

21. Próximo taller sobre estudios de impacto en proyectos extractivos, Colombia

Los estudios de impacto y los derechos étnicos son mirados por las grandes empresas y por los estados como un requisito engorroso en la ejecución de sus proyectos y no como oportunidad y medio para armonizar los intereses del capital con los derechos al desarrollo y a una vida digna. Aceptan que el componente ambiental es importante, pero los temas social, cultural, étnico y de los derechos humanos son considerados como obstáculos para los proyectos. Los estudios de impacto, concebidos integralmente, podrían ser un poderoso instrumento de participación, reconocimiento de la diversidad cultural y étnica, de concertación o de comprensión sobre la inoportunidad de un proyecto, y además hacen parte fundamental del componente de información de un proceso de consulta y consentimiento libres, previos e informados que requiere cualquier proyecto extractivista que afecte a poblaciones étnicas. Los estudios de impacto deben ser ambientales, sociales, culturales, espirituales y de derechos humanos.

Estos temas serán tratados en un taller que realizará en Colombia, en la primera semana de agosto, el Instituto Norte-Sur de Canadá en convenio con Proceso de Comunidades Negras y el resguardo indígena de Cañamomo Lomapieta, dentro de las actividades del proyecto que desarrollan.

→ *Contribuido por Gladys Jimeno, Coordinadora Nacional Proyecto INS/PCN/RICLP Canadá-Colombia, [gladysjimeno \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:gladysjimeno(at)gmail.com)*

22. Informe sobre los derechos humanos y el caso de la Vale y la industria siderúrgica en Açailândia

La FIDH (Federación Internacional de los Derechos Humanos), su organización miembro en Brasil y la red Justiça nos Trilhos publicarán, en Mayo, el informe de un estudio de caso evaluando los impactos sobre los derechos humanos de la industria minera y siderúrgica en Açailândia, en el Estado de Maranhão en Brasil.

El informe está enfocado en las actividades de la Vale, segunda empresa minera más grande del mundo y líder del importante proyecto minero Grande Carajás, y de sus socios comerciales así como de la industria siderúrgica operando cerca de las comunidades de Piquiá de Baixo y del asentamiento California. Las conclusiones del informe destacan, entre otros, graves problemas de salud generados por la contaminación del aire, del agua y del suelo, heridas y accidentes fatales causados por residuos industriales, falta de acceso a servicios de salud y obstáculos para las víctimas para acceder a la justicia y obtener reparación.

A la luz de las conclusiones del informe y ante la perspectiva de extensión de la vía ferroviaria Carajás y la amplificación de la actividad industrial en la región, los autores instan a las autoridades federales, estatales y municipales, así como a los actores privados involucrados, a tomar todas las medidas necesarias para que las víctimas obtengan reparación y para prevenir toda futura violación de derechos humanos.

→ *Para más información, véase el sitio www.fidh.org o escribir a Geneviève Paul, oficina Globalización y Derechos Humanos, [gpaul \(at\) fidh.org](mailto:gpaul(at)fidh.org)*

23. Estudios acerca de los efectos de la “desglaciación” sobre los pueblos indígenas

Los pueblos indígenas andinos sufren los impactos de la crisis climática: sequías, inundaciones, enfermedades, desplazamiento de cultivos, pérdida de sembríos y animales por las heladas, etc. Pero hay un impacto que, ocurriendo en sus territorios, afecta a todos: la desglaciación.

Los Andes concentran el 95% de los glaciares tropicales del mundo: Perú 71%, Bolivia 22%, Ecuador 4% y Colombia 3%. Estos glaciares, que alimentan las fuentes de agua, se están perdiendo rápida e irreversiblemente. Con ello, a la grave escasez de agua dulce se agrega el incremento del nivel del mar, que causará la desaparición de muchas islas.

Los glaciares se derriten como consecuencia del calentamiento global producido por la emisión de gases de efecto invernadero (GEI) por las grandes industrias: desde 1960 a la fecha, la concentración de GEI en la atmósfera ha aumentado en 28% y el agujero en la capa de ozono se ha extendido hasta 10 mil kilómetros cuadrados. Los glaciares son también afectados por la actividad minera en ellos o su zona de influencia.

La Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas (CAOI) ha elaborado estudios sobre los impactos del cambio climático en los pueblos indígenas andinos y sus propuestas frente a las negociaciones internacionales. Además, forma parte del Foro Indígena del Abya Yala sobre cambio climático, que se reúne permanentemente.

La Madre Tierra está enferma y tal como ella nos cuida y alimenta, nosotros debemos cuidarla. Para nosotros, ella es un ser vivo y como tal sujeto de derechos. Por ello, la CAOI desarrollará este año una sistematización de los derechos de la Madre Tierra desde la perspectiva de los pueblos indígenas andinos, a partir de una investigación cuyos resultados serán validados por sus organizaciones integrantes y compartidos con el conjunto de movimientos sociales.

→ Contribuido por Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas – CAOI, [coordinadorandinacaoi \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:coordinadorandinacaoi@gmail.com)

24. El CIEDH prontamente nombrará Investigador/a para Latinoamérica

El 8, 11, y 12 de abril el Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (CIEDH) entrevistará a 8 candidatos en Bogotá y Lima para el puesto de Investigador/a para Latinoamérica. Anunciaremos el nombramiento en nuestro sitio web y en nuestro correo electrónico de Actualizaciones Semanales. El/La Investigador/a para Latinoamérica, basado/a en Bogotá o Lima, estará a cargo de construir una sólida red de contactos entre ONGs, medios de comunicación, y comunidades empresariales para fortalecer nuestro cubrimiento e impactos en la región.

→ Contribuido por Mauricio Lazala, Sub-Director, Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (CIEDH) [lazala \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:lazala@business-humanrights.org)

Français

25. Atelier de formation sur les conflits liés aux industries extractives – Niger, 15 avril

Le Group de Réflexion sur les Industries Extractives au Niger (GREN) organise le 15 avril à Agadez un atelier de formation qui vise à renforcer les capacités et compétences (en « savoir », « savoir faire » et « savoir être ») des membres du GREN, des agents de la Direction des Mines et de l'Energie, des élus locaux et des autorités traditionnelles et coutumières en matière de prévention et de gestion de conflits liés aux industries extractives.

Les objectifs spécifiques de cet atelier sont :

- Comprendre la notion de « conflit » et ses multiples contours et cerner la problématique des conflits liés aux industries extractives au Niger ;
- Se familiariser avec les concepts, les principes et la démarche de la gestion non violente des conflits ;
- Connaître les outils de prévention et de gestion non violente de conflits et savoir en recourir suivant le niveau des conflits pour y intervenir;
- Améliorer les comportements et attitudes des participants face aux conflits ;
- Pouvoir analyser un conflit ou une situation conflictuelle liés particulièrement aux industries extractives au Niger afin de contribuer à sa prise en charge et/ou contribuer à empêcher son escalade ;
- Pouvoir conduire des processus de prévention et gestion consensuelle des conflits autour des industries extractives avec l'ensemble des acteurs suivant l'approche « gagnant-gagnant ».

→ Contribution d'Oubandoma Salissou, Coordonnateur National du Groupe de Réflexion sur les Industries Extractives au Niger (GREN), Niamey, [greninitiative \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:greninitiative@yahoo.fr) ou [osalissou \(at\) yahoo.fr](mailto:osalissou@yahoo.fr)

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

Dans le cadre de son programme "Commerce, Investissements, Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises et efficacité de l'aide" (CIRSE), La Dynamique – Organisation de la Société Civile d'Afrique Francophone (OSCAF) organise du 20 au 26 mai à Cotonou au Bénin un atelier régional de renforcement des capacités des organisations de la société civile francophones en matière de responsabilité sociétale des entreprises et de droits de l'homme.

Les objectifs de l'atelier sont :

- Faire le point du forum électronique sur la responsabilité sociétale des entreprises (RSE) lancé au début de l'année
- Offrir aux délégations nationales l'occasion de présenter la situation et les résultats de l'état des lieux en matière de RSE dans les pays

- Développer un agenda régional et des plans d'action nationaux en matière de RSE sur la base de l'analyse de la situation et des résultats fournis par l'état des lieux
- Mettre au point une stratégie de mobilisation de ressources pour la mise en œuvre des agendas régionaux et nationaux
- Doter les délégations nationales d'outils et de ressources documentaires appropriés pour faire face aux problèmes spécifiques par la RSE dans les pays.

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

27. Rapport sur les droits humains et le cas de la Vale et l'industrie sidérurgique en Açailândia – Brazil

La [FIDH \(Fédération internationale des droits de l'Homme\)](#), son organisation membre au Brésil, [Justiça Global](#) et le réseau [Justiça nos Trilhos](#) publieront, en mai 2011, le rapport d'une étude de cas évaluant les impacts sur les droits humains de l'industrie minière et sidérurgique à Açailândia, dans l'Etat du Maranhão au Brésil.

Le rapport porte sur les activités de la Vale, deuxième entreprise minière au monde et leader de l'important programme minier Grand Carajas, et ses partenaires commerciaux de l'industrie sidérurgique opérant près des communautés de Piquiá de Baixo et du campement California à Açailândia. Les conclusions du rapport font notamment état de graves problèmes de santé causés par la contamination de l'air, de l'eau et du sol, des blessures et accidents mortels causés par des résidus industriels, le manque d'accès aux soins de santé ainsi que les difficultés pour les victimes d'accéder à la justice et d'obtenir réparation.

A la lumière des conclusions du rapport et dans la perspective d'extension du chemin de fer Carajás et d'accroissement de l'activité industrielle dans la région, les auteurs demandent aux autorités fédérales, étatiques et municipales, ainsi qu'aux acteurs privés concernés, de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour octroyer réparation aux communautés affectées et prévenir toute violation future.

→ Pour plus d'informations, visitez le site www.fidh.org ou écrivez à Geneviève Paul, bureau mondialisation et droits de l'Homme [gpaul \(at\) fidh.org](mailto:gpaul@fidh.org)

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