



On the Horizon ▪ A l'Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte
A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights
Issue 23 - Nov 2011

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

If you would like to contribute to our next bulletin planned for early February 2012, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 6 February to Danielle McMullan: [mcmullan \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:mcmullan@business-humanrights.org). Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 25 January.

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International

1. Forthcoming report by SOMO on food speculation

Prices of agricultural commodities have been rising and falling at unprecedented rates in recent years. Currently, world food prices – which affect the poorest people most – are reaching new record highs. Next to factors affecting real supply and demand, the dramatic increase in financial speculation in agricultural commodity markets is a factor driving prices to extremes. This briefing paper discusses the role of financial speculation in setting food prices and how this relates to current policy discussions in the USA, EU and G20. The briefing paper will be published 28 November.

Contact: Rens van Tilburg, [r.van.tilburg \(at\) somo.nl](mailto:r.van.tilburg@somoni.nl)

→ *Contributed by Leontien Aarnoudse, [SOMO](#)*

2. 5th ECPAT International Assembly - Paris, 8-9 Nov

[ECPAT](#) Secretariat (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children) together with our hosts, ECPAT France and ECPAT Luxembourg, will organise the 5th ECPAT International Assembly in Paris, 8-9 November 2011. A panel with distinguished speakers will focus on strategic partnerships with the private sector to seek to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation. The UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Violence against Children, Ms. Marta Santos Pais, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Ms. Njat M'jid Maalla, will also address the Assembly.

This is the first International Assembly for ECPAT to be held in Europe and marks 21 years of the global movement against commercial sexual exploitation of children, led by local organizations. The theme of the ECPAT International Assembly is: "Global Action, Commitment and Solidarity!" The agenda will focus on strengthening governance and networking, as well as promoting relationship-building, developing capacity-building and supporting advocacy activities. The International Assembly is open to invited guests on 8-9 November and closed to all but network member organizations on 10 November. If you are interested in joining as an observer, please contact the ECPAT Secretariat at [assembly \(at\) ecpat.net](mailto:assembly@ecpat.net).

→ For more information, visit www.ecpat.net or email [assembly \(at\) ecpat.net](mailto:assembly@ecpat.net)

→ Contributed by Ms. Patchareeboon ("Mam") Sakulpitakphon, Programme Officer, ECPAT International, [patchareeboons \(at\) ecpat.net](mailto:patchareeboons@ecpat.net)

3. Forthcoming film on company-community complaints mechanisms & conflict management

The [Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative at Harvard Kennedy School](#) is producing for [BASESwiki](#) (Business and Society Exploring Solutions) a series of films on company-community complaints mechanisms and conflict management. The third film in the series, about Nigeria, will be released before the end of the year.

The second film, "[Putting Ourselves in Their Shoes](#)", has just been released. It tells of the rising resentments among community members against operations of Tintaya mine (Peru), and how these came to a head when ownership passed to BHP Billiton. It relates the process by which non-governmental organizations entered the picture, and the important roles they played. It relays the concerns of communities and their leaders, the pressures on the company at the time, and how ultimately, all parties agreed upon the creation of a "Dialogue Table" that identified key issues, principles and ground rules for an ongoing dialogue process that continues to this day. It conveys setbacks for both communities and company in the process, and the ultimate achievement of meaningful and sustainable outcomes.

The first film in the series, "[Making Monkey Business](#)", involves a hydro-electric power plant and surrounding communities in the Philippines.

→ Contributed by George Hodge, [BASESwiki](#)

4. Rights & Democracy's human rights impact assessment guide to be published in Spanish

[Rights & Democracy](#) has recently launched a revised, online version of its *Human Rights Impact Assessment* guide, in English and French. A Spanish language version is forthcoming in January 2012.

Titled "Getting it Right", the guide provides a step-by-step process for those wishing to take stock of the positive and negative human rights impacts of an investment project in their community. The guide also provides a virtual library, examples of research techniques, and a detailed, interactive process for selecting assessment indicators. The guide is adaptable for ex-ante or ex-post assessments, and can be used by civil society organizations or in company-led processes that include the participation of affected communities.

The guide revision was informed by case studies carried out in collaboration with Oxfam America and the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH).

The guide is accessible in English and French at <http://dd-rd.ca/hria/en/>

→ Contributed by Carole Samdup, Rights & Democracy, [csamdup \(at\) dd-rd.ca](mailto:csamdup@dd-rd.ca)

5. Company-Community Dialogue Facilitators Forum to convene regional meetings - early 2012

There is a growing awareness of the need for better company-community dialogue processes to avoid creating or exacerbating conflict. Yet this awareness can only lead to progress if there are sufficient independent experts in company-community dialogue facilitation available and accessible to those needing their assistance. Currently, the field of experts is limited, too little known, and too hard to access.

The newly launched Company-Community Dialogue Facilitators Forum will be both a virtual and a face-to-face venue where experienced facilitators of company-community dialogue can share insights, pose questions and challenges, and pursue joint activities. It is expected to convene regional meetings of dialogue facilitators at the start of 2012 to stimulate peer-learning and outreach activities tailored to regional needs.

Seven prominent organizations in the field of dialogue facilitation and dispute resolution have joined together with the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative at the Harvard Kennedy School to establish the Forum. They are the Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement, University of Stellenbosch Business School (South Africa); Cambio Democrático (Argentina); Conflict Resolution Group Foundation (Philippines); Consensus Building Institute (USA); Futuro Sostenible (Peru); Meta-Culture (India); and RESOLVE (USA).

For more information on joining the Forum and participating in upcoming activities, contact Thurid Bahr at [thurid_bahr \(at\) hks.harvard.edu](mailto:thurid_bahr@hks.harvard.edu).

→ *Contributed by Thurid Bahr, Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, Harvard University.*

6. Forthcoming book: “Wars of Plunder: Conflicts, Profits and the Politics of Resources”

From Angola and Liberia to Iraq and the DRC, wars have taken place in resource-rich countries full of poor people. In *Wars of Plunder: Conflicts, Profits and the Politics of Resources* (Hurst & Columbia University Press), due out in December, Philippe Le Billon explores how resources have shaped recent conflicts, and what the international community has tried to do about it. Focussing on key resources – oil, diamonds, and timber – he argues that resources and wars are linked in three main ways: through conflict resources that directly finance belligerents, resource conflicts that pit communities against local authorities and mining multinationals, and governance failures that leave countries exposed to the resource curse. Not all resources are the same, however, and effective responses are at hand. Sanctions, military interventions and wealth sharing have helped bring an end to conflicts, yet only deeper domestic and international reforms in resource governance can stop the plunder. The book “does a remarkable job of summarising a multifarious, and often complex, body of literature without oversimplifying it”, according to Ricardo Soares de Oliveira of Oxford University.

→ *Contributed by Philippe Le Billon, Associate Professor at [Liu Institute for Global Issues](#), University of British Columbia (Canada)*

7. European Parliament, Council to review proposals on extractives revenue disclosure

In coming months, the European Parliament and Council will begin reviewing legislative proposals adopted by the European Commission on 25 October requiring EU-based companies to disclose their payments to governments for oil, gas, minerals and logging, country-by-country and project-by-project.

[Revenue Watch](#) welcomes the EU's commitment to greater openness and corporate accountability – and urges EU legislators not to allow exemptions from the disclosure requirements. With rigorous legislation, transparency advocates in Europe can look forward to a wealth of new information about how extractive companies do business around the world.

The Commission's proposal follows the US Dodd-Frank financial reform law enacted in 2010, a landmark transparency initiative that requires all companies registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission to disclose their payments to governments in exchange for natural resources. The SEC is expected to release its final regulations implementing the US law by the end of 2011.

In the EU, legislators will send a final version of the EU disclosure requirements to the 27 member states for adoption.

→ *Contributed by Kathryn Joyce, Web Editor, Revenue Watch, [kjoyce \(at\) revenuewatch.org](mailto:kjoyce@revenuewatch.org)*

8. swisspeace events: The Role of Business in Conflict Zones - Basel, 13-15 Nov

Private sector companies in countries that are or have been involved in a civil war can contribute to their economic development. However there is also the danger that, knowingly or unknowingly, they may aggravate a conflict. [swisspeace](#) is devoting two events in November to this key topic. A Joint Academic Workshop is being held at the University of Basel on 13-14 November under the title “Money Makers as Peace Makers – The Role of Business in Conflict Zones”. The same subject will be the focus of the swisspeace Annual Conference on 15 November.

The Joint Academic Workshop, which will benefit from contributions from well-known international scholars and practitioners, is being organised by swisspeace in collaboration with the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt and the Center for Security Studies of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich. The aim is to bring local perspectives on business in conflict zones to an empirical and theoretical discussion, which is usually dealt with in other forums. Up to the present academic research has been influenced by a perspective based on a theory of war economies and the role of multinational companies in the resources sector.

swisspeace invites the public to attend its Annual Conference for a discussion on the potential of Swiss and foreign companies in situations of conflict. In the keynote speech, Hugo Slim will reflect on various conflict constellations in this field. In a first panel, companies will reflect on if, when and how to engage in post-conflict settings. In two additional panels, business people from Sri Lanka, Palestine, Nepal and Cyprus will discuss the opportunities for peace initiatives by private sector companies in their countries. Finally Swiss actors will talk about various instruments that can be used to involve companies in a productive discourse.

For further information on:

- swisspeace Annual Conference, click [here](#)
- Joint Academic Workshop, click [here](#)

Or contact Andrea Iff, [Andrea.Iff \(at\) swisspeace.ch](mailto:Andrea.Iff@swisspeace.ch).

→ *Contributed by Andrea Iff, swisspeace*

9. Upcoming environmental law activities & fellowships

The [Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide](#) (ELAW) Fellowship Program provides individually tailored opportunities for grassroots defenders from around the globe to collaborate and build skills. We have hosted more than 100 ELAW Fellows at our headquarters in Eugene, Oregon. ELAW Fellows work one-on-one with ELAW Staff Attorneys and Scientists, and take advantage of a tuition scholarship at the University of Oregon’s American English Institute. Fellows gain skills that make them more effective advocates when they return home.

Many grassroots leaders are asking for ELAW Fellowships, but we do not have the funding to host them. If you are interested in learning more about the ELAW Fellowship Program and how to support an ELAW Fellow, please contact Maggie Keenan at [maggie \(at\) elaw.org](mailto:maggie@elaw.org). This year ELAW hosted fellows from Ukraine, Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia, Ghana, Liberia, Panama, Honduras, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Leading grassroots environmental defenders work with ELAW to help communities speak out for clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet. We are a global alliance of attorneys, scientists, and other advocates collaborating across borders to challenge environmental abuses and build a sustainable, just future.

In the year ahead, we will respond to hundreds of urgent calls for help from grassroots advocates working to protect the environment through law. By giving our partners the legal and scientific support they need, ELAW helps challenge environmental abuses and builds a worldwide corps of skilled, committed advocates working to protect ecosystems and communities for generations to come.

→ *Contributed by Bern Johnson, [bern \(at\) elaw.org](mailto:bern@elaw.org)*

10. As You Sow to release Framework for the Use of Nanomaterials in Food

[As You Sow](#) is releasing a framework for the food industry to use when deciding whether or not to source food products or packaging containing nanomaterials.

Nanomaterials are particles that have been manipulated at the molecular, or nano, level – so small they can pass through human membranes. The food industry is exploring the use of this technology to add nutritional benefits, flavoring, and coloring to food products and antibacterial ingredients to food packaging. As they begin to use nanomaterials, transparency is crucial as the particles' tiny size poses unknown risks to human health. Uncertainty around the safety and regulation of nanomaterials coupled with a lack of transparency add up to unnecessary risks for consumers, workers, companies, and investors.

The framework, which will be released in November, includes an introduction of key terms and issues, the current state of regulations, and recommendations on the information companies should request from suppliers offering products containing nanomaterials, based on best practices from current scientific, industry, and governmental frameworks. Learn more by visiting As You Sow's [website](#) or contacting Katherine Kassing at [katherine \(at\) asyousow.org](mailto:katherine@asyousow.org).

→ *Contributed by Katherine Kassing, As You Sow*

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: 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)*

12. Reminders: Forthcoming Corporate Legal Accountability briefing, portal on freedom of association

Corporate Legal Accountability Briefing: In early 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 2012.

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

→ *Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre*

13. Reminder: Mary Robinson Speaker Series with keynote speech by Ma Jun - New York, 7 Nov

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre's 2nd annual event in the Mary Robinson Speaker Series on business & human rights is entitled: "Business, the environment & human rights: The state of play in China". Ma Jun, the prominent Beijing-based environmental advocate whom Time Magazine named one of the 100 most influential people in the world, is keynote speaker. Mary Robinson will introduce Ma Jun. [Mayling Chan](#), the Resource Centre's East Asia Researcher, will speak about "Business & human rights: Challenges and opportunities in China, Taiwan & Singapore".

The event is open to the public but reservations are required. Full details of the event are available [here](#).

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

Africa

14. Campaign for an African Platform on Access to Information - upcoming activities

As part of the Celebration of the Windhoek + 20, civil society organizations from around Africa launched a [Campaign for an African Platform on Access to Information \(APAI\)](#) and adopted the [APAI Declaration](#) in September 2011. The APAI Declaration includes principles on access to environmental information, natural resources and transparency. Within its Call to Action, it calls on companies to “promote transparency and accountability” and “proactively disclose information of public interest including on pollution releases”.

Recent and upcoming events in connection with the Campaign for APAI include:

- 26 October: side event during the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) session – Banjul, Gambia
- 29 October: intervention calling on the ACHPR to authorise its Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information to expand Article IV of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa (2002) to incorporate the principles of the APAI Declaration – ACHPR Session, Banjul
- 2 November: workshop to raise awareness in the private sector of proposed law on access to information in Senegal – Dakar
- 9-10 November: promotion of APAI at the African Media Leaders Forum – Tunis
- 23-26 November: promotion of APAI at the International Festival for Freedom of Expression and of the Press – Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

The Campaign for APAI has also requested that the African Union Commission take forward the APAI Declaration by proposing the adoption of 28 September as African Right to Information Day at the next AU Summit (January 2012). The Campaign for APAI also advocates passage and implementation of effective freedom of information laws in the 44 African countries that do not yet have such laws.

Members of the campaign include [Africa Freedom of Information Centre](#), [African Editors’ Forum](#), Article 19 [East Africa](#) and [West Africa](#), [Highway Africa](#), [Media Foundation of West Africa](#), [Media Institute of Southern Africa](#), [Media Rights Agenda](#), and [Open Democracy Advise Centre](#). Partners that have endorsed the Campaign for APAI include the Nation Media Group, the African Union Commission, UNESCO, UN and ACHPR special mechanisms on freedom of expression, and Google.

For more information please contact: Fatou Jagne Senghore, Chair APAI working group: fatouj (at) article19.org.

→ *Contributed by Fatou Jagne Senghore, Article 19*

15. New reports on e-waste in Ghana, on Buchanan Renewables in Liberia

“What a waste” – [report on e-waste](#): Each year a vast amount of discarded electronics from Europe and the United States are exported to developing countries. One of the world’s largest e-waste hotspots is Ghana, where the lack of a formal e-waste sector and effective legislation leave much to be desired. The [makeITfair](#) report “What a waste”, prepared by DanWatch, provides insight into the flow of e-waste into Ghana, the demographics of the people working in the informal e-waste industry, and the degree to which they are physically affected by the work. The report will be launched on 23 November.

Contact person: Sarah Dieckmann, DanWatch, sarah (at) danwatch.dk

[Reminder: “Burning Rubber”: biomass company BR and its activities in Liberia](#): On 10 November, [SOMO](#) will launch a report and a short movie together, both on Buchanan Renewables’ impacts on sustainable development in Liberia. The movie will contain interviews with farmers and researchers. The movie and the report focus on the effects of the company’s activities on smallholder rubber farmers and the local charcoal market, as well as the company’s tax planning and corporate structure. SOMO conducted research with Green Advocates Liberia.

Contact person: Tim Steinweg, t.steinweg (at) somo.nl

→ *Contributed by Leontien Aarnoudse, SOMO*

16. Interactive forum on UN Global Compact in Sierra Leone - December

[Campaign for Human Rights and Development Sierra Leone](#) (CHRDSL) and [Advocacy Initiative for Development](#) (AID) are organising an interactive forum on the UN Global Compact during the first week of December 2011. They will also be launching radio and television programmes and national/regional consultative meetings to raise awareness about the new Global Compact Network to be launched in Sierra Leone. The target audience is civil society organizations, business institutions, government institutions, companies and other stakeholders.

For more information contact: Abdul M Fatoma, CHRDSL, [chrdsi \(at\) chrdsi.org](mailto:chrdsi(at)chrdsi.org)

→ *Contributed by Abdul Fatoma, CHRDSL*

17. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre: East Africa Researcher, regional briefings

East Africa Researcher recruitment: Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is currently recruiting a half-time East Africa Researcher & Representative, based in Nairobi. The closing date is 21 November. Further information is [here](#). Please consider forwarding the job announcement to contacts who may be interested.

Regional briefings: In late 2011 or early 2012, we will produce our first regional briefing on Francophone Africa. We will publish our second annual Anglophone Africa briefing in the first half of 2012. Our past regional briefings, on South Asia and Anglophone Africa, [are available here](#).

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

Americas

18. National Human Rights Institutions of the Americas - business & human rights event - 9-10 Nov

The Network of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of the American Continent will hold an event on "Business and Human Rights", 9-10 November, in Antigua, Guatemala.

More information is available at: <http://www.rindhca.org.ve/> or email Francisco Bonilla Soria, Secretariat of the Network of NHRIs of the American Continent, at [secretariared \(at\) dpe.gob.ec](mailto:secretariared(at)dpe.gob.ec).

→ *Contributed by Dylan Tromp, Danish Institute for Human Rights*

19. Progress in participative process on free, prior & informed consent for ethnic groups in Colombia

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

The [Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia](#) (OHCHR-Colombia), with the support of the Dutch Embassy, is carrying out a project titled "Participatory process on the right to prior consultation and free, prior and informed consent for ethnic groups in Colombia". The project seeks to understand how ethnic groups view their fundamental rights to consultation and free, prior and informed consent, and what they seek to attain through exercise of these rights.

In the context of this process – which has been endorsed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya – a series of regional dialogues, and interviews with indigenous communities and Afro descendant populations will take place in the Amazon, Andean and Pacific and Caribbean Coast Regions, in November and December 2011. These dialogues aim to allow these ethnic groups to express their opinions and thinking on a fair process about consultations that include their expectations and effectively protect their rights. For further information about these dialogues, contact Paola Barsanti ([pbarsanti \(at\) hchr.org.co](mailto:pbarsanti(at)hchr.org.co)) and Catherinne Pedreros ([cpedreros \(at\) hchr.org.co](mailto:cpedreros(at)hchr.org.co)) or visit the website: <http://www.hchr.org.co/> and http://www.hchr.org.co/publico/brochure_indigeneas_afros.pdf

→ *Contributed by Catherinne Pedreros, OHCHR-Colombia, [cpedreros \(at\) hchr.org.co](mailto:cpedreros(at)hchr.org.co)*

20. Conference on implementation of Guiding Principles, Washington DC, 8-9 Dec

To mark International Human Rights Day 2011, [George Washington University](#), the [Global Compact Network – United States](#), and the [US Institute of Peace](#) will host a 1.5-day conference on practical approaches to implementing the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (the GPs). The conference will be held 8-9 December at George Washington University and the US Institute of Peace – both located in Foggy Bottom, Washington, DC.

Participants will hear from leading corporate executives who will describe their efforts to implement the GPs, discuss how it relates to the UN Global Compact and other voluntary initiatives, and then examine how the company monitors its efforts, trains staff, and revises its policies. Each panel will also include an NGO representative to provide further feedback and to facilitate a broad-based discussion about the new Guiding Principles. We will also invite US Government officials who will describe US expectations of the GPs and how these policies will relate to other international policies.

The 3 sponsors aim to facilitate a concrete discussion of real-world examples of how companies implement the Guiding Principles and other human rights norms. We also hope to provide attendees with further understanding of international expectations for these Guiding Principles. We hope executives, policymakers, activists, and other interested parties will attend this free conference.

→ *Contributed by Susan Ariel Aaronson, Associate Research Professor, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, [saaronso \(at\) gwu.edu](mailto:saaronso@gwu.edu), tel. +1 202 994-7974*

21. Seminar on business & human rights opportunities & responsibilities - Recife, Brazil, 7 Nov

[Ethos Institute](#), in partnership with Embassy of the Netherlands in Brazil, will hold a seminar in the city of Recife, on 7 November, in order to promote debate about the responsibilities and opportunities of business enterprises with respect to human rights. The seminar will be attended by a representative of the Secretariat for Human Rights of the Office of the President of Brazil, and will include a debate about human rights and decent work with representatives of companies in the sugar cane, energy and bank sectors, and from DIEESE, a research organization linked with the trade union sector. Moreover, workshops will be held about eradication of slave and child labour, promotion of diversity in the workplace, and inclusion of people with disabilities.

The publication *Business and Human Rights from the Perspective of Decent Work – Frame of Reference*, produced by Ethos Institute with the support and partnership of Inter-American Foundation (IAF), will also be launched at the seminar. The publication includes a management tool for companies to implement the framework proposed by John Ruggie, UN Special Representative on business & human rights, and research about progress in business practices to value diversity in workplace. The publication will be available on the [website](#) of Ethos Institute.

→ *Contributed by Mariana dos Santos Parra, Public Policies, Ethos Institute, [mariana \(at\) ethos.org.br](mailto:mariana@ethos.org.br)*

22. Workshop on social, economic, cultural, environmental rights: using ejido & community rights to defend land

The [Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Centre](#) (Prodh Centre) invites the public to this workshop at its offices in Mexico City. It will start on Friday 11 November at 9:45am and end on Saturday 12 November, by 3pm. Its purpose is to share information, tools, practical elements and experiences on the defence of the right to land and territory through the conservation and strengthening of *ejidos* (community land) and community goods. It is aimed at: *ejido* holders and community members involved in the defence of the right to land and territory and civil society organizations, groups, movements and social collectives that are engaged in or accompany these processes.

The course will address: the *ejido* or common goods in which people live; the presence and impacts of certification programmes on *ejido* and community rights; the presence of governmental support programmes; the presence of other development and/or mega-scheme programmes (e.g., mining, dams, roads, monoculture, etc.). At least one week before the event, please send your completed registration form; the form is available at the website of the Prodh Centre. Or you can write to ask for the form to: [educacion \(at\) centroprodh.org.mx](mailto:educacion@centroprodh.org.mx)

→ *Contributed by Centro Prodh, [educacion \(at\) centroprodh.org.mx](mailto:educacion@centroprodh.org.mx)*

23. US farmworkers to increase pressure on European-owned supermarket chain

The [Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#) (CIW), a partner of the [National Economic and Social Rights Initiative](#) (NESRI), is increasing pressure over the holiday season in its public campaign against Trader Joe's, a US supermarket chain owned by the German owners of Aldi Nord. Between now and the end of the year, the Campaign for Fair Food is seeking participation in an online action that will let Trader Joe's and its European owners know that their actions in the US are condemned by supporters of farmworkers' human rights worldwide. With this support, we will continue to press Trader Joe's to join the Fair Food Program in the new year.

The CIW's Campaign for Fair Food takes as its starting point the fact that major retail food purchasers play an active role in farmworker exploitation by leveraging their purchasing power, and therefore that they can play an important role in improving the poverty wages and degraded conditions facing agricultural labourers in the US. The CIW's Fair Food Program has successfully partnered with major corporations, including large fast-food companies like McDonald's and Burger King, to improve the wages and working conditions of US farmworkers. The focus of the Campaign now falls squarely on the \$550 billion US supermarket industry, including Trader Joe's, which has so far refused to participate in the Fair Food Program. Please join the Campaign for Fair Food in requesting that Trader Joe's become part of the solution to farmworker exploitation: http://action.ciw-online.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=4368

→ *Contributed by Kate Caldwell, NESRI, [kate \(at\) nesri.org](mailto:kate@nesri.org)*

For Trader Joe's statement on calls for it to join the Campaign for Fair Food, see "[An Update about Florida Tomatoes](#)".

Asia/Pacific

24. "One Person, One Photo" project seeks to fight HIV discrimination in China - deadline 1 Dec

The "One Person, One Photo" project seeks to support people with AIDS in their struggle for equal employment, with a smile. One such activity to support legislation in China against HIV discrimination in employment has been initiated by Yu Fangqiang and Common World, an anti-discrimination NGO. They are seeking to collect 10,000 pictures taken by handheld devices, with the caption "HIV-positive people can be..." before 1 December. They will send these photos to the Chinese Government and seek to amend the civil service recruitment examination standards to allow HIV-positive people as civil servants. This activity is supported by UNAIDS, and will help support equal treatment of HIV-positive people, including by business. If you wish to support anti-HIV discrimination activities in China, please visit <http://weibo.com/2399833700> or contact [aidsday2011 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:aidsday2011@gmail.com).

→ *Contributed by Yu Fangqiang, Anti-Discrimination Hotline, [yutake2007 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:yutake2007@gmail.com)*

25. Forthcoming makeITfair report on digital camera production in Vietnam

This report, to be launched 15 November, describes Vietnam as a country where human rights violations occur and where increasingly international electronics companies invest in production facilities. In this report, [makeITfair](#) judges the corporate social responsibility policies of seven digital camera companies and working conditions at four digital camera factories. The ultimate question answered in this report is what appropriate due diligence processes should multinational electronics companies have in place to ensure they respect human rights in Vietnam in line with the recent revision of the OECD Guidelines and the recently adopted UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Contact person: Irene Schipper, SOMO, [i.schipper \(at\) somo.nl](mailto:i.schipper@somo.nl).

→ *Contributed by Leontien Aarnoudse, SOMO*

26. European Union-Bangladesh civil society seminar on human rights & decent work, 23-24 Nov

The EU Delegation in Bangladesh plans to hold a "Civil society seminar on human rights and decent work" in Dhaka on 23-24 November 2011. The seminar focusses on the theme of human rights and social standards in the workplace. It will place special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups of Bangladesh society, including reference to relevant aspects of the International Labour Organization's decent work agenda. This seminar aims to promote dialogue among relevant stakeholders with a view to developing practical proposals on how to address

the challenges faced by Bangladesh in the implementation of the decent work agenda and other relevant considerations. These proposals should then be used to feed into EU-Bangladesh policy dialogue. The first part of the seminar will be structured along five categories of employees recognised as having more difficulties in finding employment or exercising their rights as workers. The second part will concentrate on five economic sectors of great significance in the Bangladesh economy, especially in its trade relations with the EU.

→ *Contributed by Pierre Buyschaert, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, [pierre.buyschaert \(at\) eeas.europa.eu](mailto:pierre.buyschaert@eeas.europa.eu)*

27. Workshop on land disputes in East Asia - Hong Kong, 26 Nov

A workshop entitled "Resolving Land Disputes in East Asia" will be jointly hosted by the Centre for Comparative and Public Law, University of Hong Kong, and the Asia Pacific Business Regulation Group at Monash University, on 26 November, 9am-5pm. It will be held in the Convocation Room, 2/F Main Building, University of Hong Kong.

This workshop will investigate the role and limits of law in resolving land disputes in greater China and Vietnam. Speakers will examine how courts and other dispute resolution fora use law and/or other regulatory sources to resolve disputes about ownership and access to land, including residents' disputes with companies. Cases will be investigated from the perspective of conflicting understandings about land ownership and tenure rights.

Speakers:

- Professor John Gillespie, Monash University
- Professor Say Goo and Ms Alice Lee, University of Hong Kong
- Dr He Xin, Associate Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong
- Professor Lin Duan, Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University
- Dr Cheng Jie, Associate Professor, School of Law, Tsinghua University
- Eva Pils, Associate Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Haochen Sun, Assistant Professor, University of Hong Kong

To register, please contact Flora Leung: [fkleung \(at\) hku.hk](mailto:fkleung@hku.hk)

→ *Contributed by Flora Leung, University of Hong Kong*

28. Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committees for Decent Work - upcoming meetings in India, China

[Social Accountability International](#)'s (SAI) Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committees for Decent Work (MAC) has meetings planned for Tirupur, India (16 November), Delhi (23 November) and China (16 December). SAI is co-convening the meeting in China with the China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC).

MAC is a forum for dialogue that facilitates companies' stakeholder engagement. By participating in the MAC, industry stakeholders – factory owners and managers, buying companies, trade unions, government representatives and others:

- learn from each other best practices to ensure labour standards compliance,
- identify obstacles to compliance that are beyond the sphere of influence of a single company,
- develop strategies to overcome such obstacles and make improvements throughout the industry, and
- obtain specific guidance on how to address the most challenging labour issues.

The MAC applies SAI's experience in facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue to drive improvements in labour conditions in specific areas and on specific issues. We have observed that solutions are sustainable when developed through dialogue among the key stakeholders and grounded in local context. These meetings have evolved from the consultative multi-stakeholder workshops that SAI has been convening since 1998. For more information and project contact, see: http://www.sa-intl.org/data/n_0001/resources/live/MAC.1.pdf

→ *Contributed by Matthew Fischer-Daly, Senior Manager, SAI, MFischer-Daly@sa-intl.org*

29. Brief of future action by Safety and Rights - Bangladesh

Safety and Rights, a worker rights organization based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, will shortly be publishing the first-ever practical guide for the country on occupational safety in the construction sector for use by building developers, contractors, engineers and architects as well as for workers, setting out their obligations under the Bangladesh National Building Code 2006 and Bangladesh Labour Act 2006.

Construction deaths form the highest number of reported deaths of workers in Bangladesh. So far this year (Jan-Aug) out of 248 workers to have died reported in newspapers, over half of them – 137 – involved construction workers, so a guide on this subject is particularly significant.

In addition, we will be launching our new website in the next few months, at <http://www.safetyandrights.org>

For further information please contact Sekender Ali Mina at [msa_mina \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:msa_mina@yahoo.com)

→ *Contributed by Sekender Ali Mina, Safety and Rights*

30. Reminder: ASEAN Roundtable - Implementing corporate respect for human rights - Kuala Lumpur

This one-day roundtable on 10 November will be an exchange among senior business leaders in the ASEAN region on business and human rights. The session will bring together experiences of global businesses and relevant experts to explore the relevance, challenges and ways forward for human rights and business in the region. The event is held by the [Global Business Initiative on Human Rights](#) in co-operation with the ASEAN Foundation, Business Council for Sustainable Development in Malaysia and the UN Global Compact. Discussions will be informed by inputs from a range of experts including from the United Nations.

→ *Contributed by Jo Clark, Global Business Initiative, [jo.clark \(at\) global-business-initiative.org](mailto:jo.clark@global-business-initiative.org)*

31. Forthcoming briefing on business & human rights in China, Singapore & Taiwan

In late 2011 or early 2012, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will produce a briefing paper on “Business & human rights in East Asia: A round-up of recent developments in China, Singapore & Taiwan”. This briefing will be launched via our Weekly Update; if you have not yet signed up for our free Weekly Updates and would like to do so, [the sign-up page is here](#).

Our past regional briefings, on South Asia and Anglophone Africa, [are available here](#).

→ *Contributed by Mayling Chan, East Asia Researcher & Representative (based in Hong Kong), Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, [chan \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:chan@business-humanrights.org)*

Europe/Central Asia

32. Event on vulnerable workers, trafficking & pornography: “London 2012 & beyond” - 17 Nov

The global economic downturn has led to increased exploitation of vulnerable workers, including those working in the UK. The coming London Olympic year brings these issues into sharp focus. The [Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility](#) (ECCR) 2011 open debate will be on “Vulnerable Workers, Trafficking, Pornography and the Economics of Exploitation: London 2012 and beyond”. It will be held on 17 November 2011, 4.30-6.15pm, at Friends House, Euston Road, London.

What are the threats and opportunities presented by London 2012 regarding vulnerable workers, living wage, trafficking, sexual exploitation and human rights and labour? What can be done to prevent exploitation in key sectors: tourism, hospitality, and construction?

ECCR’s 2011 open debate will explore these questions with a panel of expert speakers and an audience of faith-based and responsible investors, corporate responsibility practitioners, justice and peace advocates, church members and others.

- Chair: Victoria Heath, Head of Business Development, EIRIS.

- Panel speakers include: Catherine Howarth, CEO, FairPensions; D.I. Kevin Hyland, Metropolitan Police Trafficking & Prostitution Unit; Dr Sasha Rakoff, CEO, OBJECT; Bill Seddon, CEO, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
- Bookings: Helen Boothroyd, [helen.boothroyd \(at\) eccr.org.uk](mailto:helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk), tel. +44 (0)7503 931172, or [book online](#).

→ *Contributed by Helen Boothroyd, ECCR*

33. “Business and Human Rights: A vision for 2020” - London, 17 Nov

Sir Geoffrey Chandler always looked ahead.

Taking inspiration from Geoffrey's remarkable life and path breaking contributions to corporate responsibility around the world, the [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) (IHRB) is honoured to have been asked to organise an interactive discussion on the future of the business and human rights agenda.

Join us for this special dialogue that will take place immediately following the Geoffrey Chandler memorial event in London (see item below) on 17 November 2011, 2-4pm.

Panellists:

- Peter Frankental, Amnesty International UK
- Bennett Freeman, Calvert Investments
- Frances House, Institute for Human Rights and Business
- Mauricio Lazala, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
- Lisa Nandy MP, Chair, All Party Committee on International Corporate Responsibility

Moderator: John Morrison, Institute for Human Rights and Business

Venue: Commonwealth Club, 25 Northumberland Avenue, London, WC2N 5AP

Please confirm your attendance by emailing [kelly.scott \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@ihrb.org) by 7 November 2011.

→ *Contributed by Kelly Davina Scott, Institute for Human Rights and Business*

34. Memorial Service for Sir Geoffrey Chandler - London, 17 Nov

A memorial service for [Sir Geoffrey Chandler](#) (1922-2011), a pioneer in the field of business & human rights, will be held at the church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, to give thanks for his life, and to recognise his commitment to human rights and their importance in all human endeavours including the activities of corporations.

The service will be held at 11am on Thursday 17 November 2011. It is being organised by his family, who have asked Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to circulate this invitation to all those who knew and worked with Sir Geoffrey.

After the various tributes to Sir Geoffrey, there will be the opportunity to mingle and socialise in an adjacent meeting room. Refreshments will be provided. It will be followed by a panel discussion organised by the Institute for Human Rights and Business in honour of Sir Geoffrey (see above).

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

35. EBRD to decide on financing for EPS hydropower plants in Serbia

On 22 November the Board of Directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD) is expected to make a decision on another project by the Serbian state-owned company EPS for rehabilitation of old and construction of new hydropower plants in Serbia. (EBRD's project summary documents are [here](#).) Will they give the “thumbs up” to EPS again?

After months of strong opposition against the forced and illegal removal of the municipal cemetery and parts of the

village itself, the Vreoci community is again facing the Kolubara mine's heavy machinery digging lignite coal in the near vicinity of the settlement, thus threatening to cause a landslide in the cemetery. The community is starting legal action against EPS, which owns the mine, and the Serbian authorities for violation of their rights and requests that EPS start a proper consultation on the resettlement process.

EPS is a longstanding client of the EBRD. In July it received another loan of €80 million for "environmental improvements" at the mine. (Document summarising its decision is [here](#).) EBRD was not persuaded by calls from local communities, Serbian and international NGOs (their letter available [here](#)) that taxpayers' money should not support EPS, due to its bad track record of corporate social responsibility.

→ Contributed by Zvezdan Kalmar, [CEKOR](#) (Serbia), [vodana \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:vodana@gmail.com)

For EPS's section of its website on corporate social responsibility, click [here](#) (in Serbian only)

For EPS's section of its website on environmental protection, click [here](#)

36. Meeting on legislation for low-carbon economy in the Czech Republic - Prague, 21 Nov

On 21 November 2011 [Friends of the Earth Czech Republic](#) in co-operation with the British Embassy in Prague and [Environmental Law Service](#) will hold a meeting on: "Smart legislation for low-carbon economy: clean innovations, energy independence and new jobs – British experiences for Czech progress". The conference will revolve around the UK Climate Change Act 2008, which has set out to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the UK. The Act has also spurred investment in low-carbon technologies. While this event will be held in Czech, simultaneous translation in English will be available. The invitation to the event (only available in Czech) can be found [here](#).

→ For registration and further information please contact Karel Polanecky, Friends of the Earth Czech Republic [karel.polanecky \(at\) hnutiduha.cz](mailto:karel.polanecky@hnutiduha.cz)

→ Contributed by Jan Šrytr, *Ekologický právní servis / Environmental Law Service*, [jan.srytr \(at\) eps.cz](mailto:jan.srytr@eps.cz)

37. Course: "The development paradigm debate: Transnational Corporations and Human Rights"

There will be a free course on transnational corporations and human rights in Bilbao, Spain, from 14-17 November (in Zubiria Etxea-Hegoa from 14-16 Nov and in La Bolsa on 17 Nov). The course is organised by the [Observatory of Multinationals in Latin America \(OMAL\)](#) of the [Peace with Dignity Association](#), the [Hegoa Institute](#) and the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), in collaboration with School of Industrial Relations, the Basque Agency for Cooperation, and Kolektiba Colombia.

The course program includes:

- The crisis of capitalism: challenging the development paradigm
- The giant "translatino": Brazilian multinationals in Latin America
- Exploitation of natural resources vs. "Good Living" in Bolivia
- The struggle for land in Costa Rica and transnational projects
- The Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Colombia

To participate, it is necessary to register before 12 November.

→ Contributed by Pedro Ramiro - *Observatory of Multinationals in Latin America (OMAL) - Peace with Dignity Association*, [investigacion \(at\) omal.info](mailto:investigacion@omal.info)

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

In late 2011 or early 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". Our past regional briefings [are available here](#).

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

Español

39. Avances en el proceso participativo sobre consentimiento previo, libre e informado de grupos étnicos en Colombia

La [Oficina en Colombia del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos](#), OACNUDH con el apoyo de la Embajada de Holanda se encuentra llevando a cabo el proyecto “*Proceso participativo sobre el Derecho a la Consulta previa y el consentimiento previo, libre e informado de los grupos étnicos en Colombia*” que busca conocer la visión y propuestas de los grupos étnicos sobre su derecho fundamental a la consulta y el consentimiento previo, libre e informado.

En el marco de este proceso, que ha sido respaldado por el Relator Especial de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas, James Anaya, se llevarán a cabo durante noviembre y diciembre del 2011, una serie de diálogos regionales, entrevistas en la Amazonía, la región Andina y las Costas Caribe y Pacífica con comunidades indígenas y poblaciones Afrodescendientes que les permitan en tanto titulares de derechos y mediante la reflexión propia, expresar sus opiniones y pensamiento sobre un proceso justo de las consultas que recoja sus expectativas y proteja efectivamente sus derechos. Mayor información sobre los diálogos: OACNUDH Paola Barsanti [pbarsanti \(at\) hchr.org.co](mailto:pbarsanti@hchr.org.co) y Catherinne Pedreros [cpedreros \(at\) hchr.org.co](mailto:cpedreros@hchr.org.co). Se invita a consultar la página: <http://www.hchr.org.co> y http://www.hchr.org.co/publico/brochure_indigeneas_afros.pdf

→ *Contribuido por Catherinne Pedreros, OACNUDH, [cpedreros \(at\) hchr.org.co](mailto:cpedreros@hchr.org.co)*

40. Taller de derechos económicos, sociales, culturales y ambientales: El uso del ejido y bienes comunales para la defensa del territorio

El Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez invita a este taller en la oficina del Centro en la Ciudad de México. Inicia el viernes 11 de noviembre a las 9:45 de la mañana y termina el sábado 12 de noviembre alrededor de las 3 de la tarde. Su propósito es intercambiar información, herramientas, elementos prácticos y experiencias para la defensa del derecho a la tierra y el territorio a través de la conservación y fortalecimiento de ejidos y bienes comunales. Dirigido a: ejidatarios/as y comuneros/as involucrados/as en la defensa del derecho a la tierra y el territorio y a organizaciones civiles, grupos, movimientos y colectivos sociales que estén involucrados o acompañen a estos procesos.

Se compartirá sobre: el ejido o bienes comunales en el cual viven; la presencia e impactos de programas de certificación de derechos ejidales y comunales; la presencia de programas gubernamentales de apoyo; la presencia de otros programas de desarrollo y/o megaproyectos (ej. minas, represas, carreteras, monocultivo, etc.). Enviar, una semana antes de la fecha del evento, la ficha de registro disponible en la página Web del Centro Prodh. O se puede solicitar al correo electrónico: [educación \(at\) centroprodh.org.mx](mailto:educación@centroprodh.org.mx).

→ *Contribuido por Centro Prodh, [educación \(at\) centroprodh.org.mx](mailto:educación@centroprodh.org.mx)*

41. Curso: "El paradigma del desarrollo a debate: empresas transnacionales y Derechos Humanos"

En Bilbao, del 14 al 17 de noviembre de 2011 (en Zubiria Etxea-Hegoa del 14 al 16 y en La Bolsa el 17), se llevará a cabo un curso gratuito sobre empresas transnacionales y derechos humanos. El curso está organizado por el [Observatorio de Multinacionales en América Latina \(OMAL\)](#) de la [Asociación Paz con Dignidad](#), el Instituto [Hegoa](#) y la UPV/EHU, en colaboración con Escuela Universitaria de Relaciones Laborales, la Agencia Vasca de Cooperación y Kolektiba Colombia.

El programa del curso incluye:

- La crisis del capitalismo: cuestionando el paradigma del desarrollo
- El gigante translatino: multinacionales brasileñas en América Latina
- Explotación de recursos naturales vs el Buen Vivir en Bolivia
- La lucha por la tierra en Costa Rica frente a los proyectos de las transnacionales
- El Tratado de Libre Comercio de la UE con Colombia

La asistencia continuada al curso y la elaboración del trabajo final garantiza 1 crédito ECTS a los participantes (0,6 créditos en el caso de los nuevos Grados).

Para poder participar en el mismo es necesario inscribirse antes del 12 de noviembre.

→ *Contribuido por Pedro Ramiro - Observatorio de Multinacionales en América Latina (OMAL) - Asociación Paz con Dignidad, [investigacion \(at\) omal.info](mailto:investigacion@omal.info)*

42. Recordatorios: Informe sobre responsabilidad legal corporativa; Portal sobre libertad sindical

Informe sobre responsabilidad legal corporativa: A principios de 2012, el Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (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@business-humanrights.org)

Portal sobre Empresas y Libertad Sindical: El Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (CIEDH) lanzará este portal en el 2012.

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

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

43. Recordatorio: Serie de eventos "Mary Robinson" - presentación principal de Ma Jun - Nueva York, 7 de noviembre

El segundo evento anual de la serie "Mary Robinson" del Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (CIEDH) estará centrado alrededor de la presentación del destacado defensor ambiental chino Ma Jun, quién será presentado por Mary Robinson. Su charla llevará por título: "Retos Ambientales y la Opción Verde de China". Entre los otros panelistas están Mayling Chan, la representante para Oriente Asiático del CIEDH, quien hablará brevemente sobre asuntos en China, Singapur y Taiwán.

El evento está abierto al público pero se requieren reservaciones. Los detalles completos del evento están disponibles [aquí](#).

→ *Contribuido por Annabel Short, Directora de Programa, CIEDH, [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short@business-humanrights.org)*

Français

44. Campagne pour une Plateforme Africaine sur l'Accès à l'Information - manifestations prochaines

Dans le cadre de la célébration de Windhoek + 20, des organisations de la société civile à travers l'Afrique ont lancé une Campagne pour une Plateforme Africaine pour l'Accès à l'Information (APAI) et adopté la [Déclaration de l'APAI](#) en septembre 2011. La Déclaration de l'APAI comprend des principes sur l'accès à l'information relative à l'environnement, aux ressources naturelles et à la transparence. Dans son Appel à l'Action, elle appelle les entreprises à « promouvoir la transparence et l'obligation de rendre compte » et à « communiquer de manière active les informations d'intérêt public, y compris celles concernant la pollution ».

Evénements récents et à venir en relation avec la Campagne pour l'APAI:

- 26 octobre : évènement parallèle durant la session de la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (CADHP) – Banjul, Gambie
- 29 octobre : intervention appelant la CADHP à autoriser son Rapporteur spécial sur la liberté d'expression et l'accès à l'information à étendre l'article IV de la Déclaration de Principes sur la liberté d'expression en Afrique (2002) pour y inclure les Principes de la Déclaration de l'APAI – session de la CADHP, Banjul
- 2 novembre : atelier de sensibilisation du secteur privé sur un projet de loi sur l'accès à l'information au Sénégal – Dakar
- 9-10 novembre : promotion de l'APAI au Forum des Leaders de Médias Africains – Tunis

- 23-26 novembre : promotion de l'APAI au Festival international de la liberté d'expression et de la presse – Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

La Campagne pour l'APAI a également demandé à la Commission de l'Union Africaine (UA) de faire avancer la Déclaration de l'APAI en proposant de proclamer le 28 septembre comme Journée Africaine du droit à l'information lors du Sommet de l'UA de janvier 2012. La Campagne pour l'APAI milite également pour l'adoption et la mise en œuvre effective de lois sur l'accès à l'information dans les 44 pays africains qui ne disposent pas encore de telles lois.

Les groupes membres de la Campagne sont: [Africa Freedom of Information Centre](#), [African Editors' Forum](#), Article 19 [East Africa](#) and [West Africa](#), [Highway Africa](#), [Media Foundation of West Africa](#), [Media Institute of Southern Africa](#), [Media Rights Agenda](#), et [Open Democracy Advice Centre](#). Les partenaires qui ont adopté la Campagne pour l'APAI sont: Nation Media Group, la Commission de l'Union Africaine, l'UNESCO, les mécanismes spéciaux sur la liberté d'expression de la CADHP et de Nations Unies, et Google.

Pour plus d'informations, contactez: Fatou Jagne Senghore, Présidente du Groupe de travail de la Campagne pour l'APAI: [fatouj \(at\) article19.org](mailto:fatouj@article19.org).

→ *Contribution de Fatou Jagne Senghore, Article 19*

45. Commémoration pour Sir Geoffrey Chandler - Londres, 17 novembre

Une commémoration pour [Sir Geoffrey Chandler](#) (1922-2011), un pionnier dans le domaine des entreprises et des droits de l'homme, aura lieu dans l'église de St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, Londres, pour que tous puissent exprimer leur gratitude et pour reconnaître ses contributions aux droits de l'homme et leur importance à tous domaines humains, y compris celui des entreprises.

La commémoration aura lieu à 11h, jeudi le 17 novembre 2011. Il sera organisé par sa famille, qui a demandé au Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises et les Droits de l'Homme de diffuser cette invitation à tous ceux qui ont connu et travaillé avec Sir Geoffrey.

Après de divers hommages à Sir Geoffrey, il y aura la possibilité de se rencontrer informellement dans une salle avoisinante, avec restauration légère. Une discussion en panel organisée par l'Institute for Human Rights and Business suivra, en l'honneur de Sir Geoffrey.

→ *Contribution de Malena Bengtsson, Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises et les Droits de l'Homme, [bengtsson \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:bengtsson@business-humanrights.org)*

46. Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & Droits de l'Homme: missions, nouveau chercheur, briefings en Afrique

Missions: Le Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises et les Droits de l'Homme programme actuellement deux missions en Afrique.

République démocratique du Congo: Cette mission est prévue pour le premier trimestre de 2012, à Kinshasa et à la région du Katanga. Nous nous réunirons avec des ONG locales qui travaillent sur les sujets de la complicité présumée des entreprises dans des massacres; le déplacement des populations; le travail forcé et des enfants dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement des minerais; et la santé environnementale. Nous nous réunirons également avec des entreprises pour discuter ces questions. Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter Aliou Diouf, Chercheur & représentant pour l'Afrique francophone (basé au Sénégal), [diouf \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:diouf@business-humanrights.org).

Malawi: Cette mission est programmée pour le premier semestre de 2012. Nous nous réunirons avec des ONG malawites, pour discuter comment nous pouvons attirer l'attention à leurs préoccupations aux sujet des abus contre les enfants aux plantations de tabac, y compris les abus sexuels; et des impacts sur la santé environnementale des mines d'uranium. Nous nous réunirons également avec des entreprises. Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter Abiola Okpechi, Chercheur & représentant pour l'Afrique Anglophone (basée en Afrique du Sud), [okpechi \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:okpechi@business-humanrights.org).

Recrutement d'un Chercheur pour l'Afrique de l'est: Nous recrutons actuellement un Chercheur et représentant pour l'Afrique de l'est, basé à Nairobi. La date limite est le 21 novembre. Tous les renseignements pour le poste

sont disponibles [ici](#). N'hésitez pas de réexpédier l'annonce du poste à vos contacts dans la région qui pourraient s'y intéresser.

Briefings régionaux et thématiques: D'ici la fin de 2011 ou au début de 2012, nous publierons un briefing sur les entreprises & les droits de l'homme en Afrique francophone. Disponible en anglais et en français, il sera notre premier briefing à paraître en deux langues.

Nous publierons également notre deuxième briefing annuel sur l'Afrique Anglophone dans le premier semestre de 2012. Nos briefings régionaux sur l'Asie de l'est et l'Europe de l'est/l'Asie centrale paraîtront également en fin 2011 ou au début de 2012. Les deux briefings régionaux déjà parus, sur l'Asie du sud et l'Afrique anglophone, sont disponibles [ici](#).

Notre « Corporate Legal Accountability: Annual briefing » (« Responsabilité juridique des entreprises : Briefing annuel ») paraîtra également en fin 2011 ou au début de 2012.

Ces briefings seront annoncés dans nos Actualités hebdomadaires. Si vous n'êtes pas abonné à nos Actualités hebdomadaires et désirez vous inscrire (gratuitement), [vous pouvez vous inscrire 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)*

47. Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & Droits de l'Homme: nouveau portail, discours de Ma Jun & Mary Robinson à New York (rappels)

Parution prochaine d'un portail: Le Centre de Ressources lancera en 2012 son portail, *Entreprises & liberté d'association*, qui présentera des renseignements sur les actions et les impacts (positifs et négatifs) des entreprises relatifs aux droits des travailleurs reconnus au niveau international.

Discours de Ma Jun & Mary Robinson à New York: Le Centre présentera le 7 novembre à New York la 2^e manifestation dans sa série annuelle d'orateurs au sujet des entreprises et des droits de l'homme. Cette année, l'évènement sera intitulé « Business, the environment & human rights: The state of play in China » (« Entreprises, environnement et droits de l'homme: L'état des lieux en Chine »). L'environnementaliste éminent Ma Jun, qui est basé à Beijing et que le magazine *Time* a nommé une des 100 personnes les plus influentes au monde, présentera le discours principal. Mary Robinson introduira Ma Jun. [Mayling Chan](#), qui est Chercheur pour l'Asie de l'est du Centre, présentera le sujet « Entreprises & droits de l'homme: Défis et opportunités en Chine, au Taiwan et au Singapour ».

La manifestation sera ouverte au public, mais il est nécessaire de réserver. Tous les détails sont disponibles [ici](#).

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

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