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Von: <corporate-accountability-news@lists.trilos.net>
An: "corporate acccountability mailingslist" <corporate-accountability-news@corporate-accountability.org>
Gesendet: Samstag, 28. April 2007 13:31
Betreff: corporate-accountability-news : 2007, No. 34

Corporate Accountability Newsletter: 2007 No. 34; 28/04/2007

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****New Links****

-- CHINA CSR MAP Project

China CSR Map is a initiative which aims to promote CSR in China through the sharing and open exchange of information. The initiative was spurred by the realization that although there is considerable discussion and activities around CSR in China, it is often difficult to find concrete information on which organizations are undertaking what activities.

China CSR Map is a collaboration between Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), SynTao, and China Credit Information Service (CCIS), with CSR Asia acting as media partner.

Visit the Website:

http://www.chinacsmap.org/E_index.asp

New Papers

-- Oral NGO-Intervention on behalf of the Report of the Special Representative to the Secretary General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

We (Amnesty International, ESCR-Net, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights) are concerned that many such initiatives lack credibility because they fail to ensure that the principles which they advocate are upheld in practice. (...) If his mandate is extended how does the Special Representative intend to analyse the patterns of corporate abuses, and their impacts on individuals and communities, and to integrate the perspective of victims into his programme of work as a basis from which to develop recommendations to the Human Rights Council which address their concerns?

Read the intervention (PDF/264 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/oral_ngo_intervention_on_ruggie.pdf

-- United Nations and Transnational Corporations: a deadly association. By Alejandro Teitelbaum

The United Nations is failing in its duty to control the abuses of transnational economic power, argues Alejandro Teitelbaum. The recent report by John Ruggie, special representative of the UN Secretary-General on business and human rights, represents a setback in attempts to establish international control over the activities of transnational corporations.

Download the comment (PDF/152 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/untnc_deadly_association.pdf

-- Towards Corporate Accountability for Human and Environmental Rights Abuses. ECCJ Discussion Paper No.1

This paper is a first contribution to a broader debate within ECCJ on what legal instruments at EU or international level should be strengthened or developed in order to ensure corporate accountability. The European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ) believes that regulatory measures are necessary to ensure all corporations abide by national and internationally agreed standards for human rights, labour rights and environmental rights. This paper is intended as an invitation to a debate on the steps that could be taken in this regard.

Download the discussion paper (PDF/228 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/eccj_discussion_paper_no1.pdf

-- Who Pays?: how British supermarkets are keeping women workers in poverty. By Actionaid

The report exposes how British supermarket buying practices contribute to

poverty wages, dangerous conditions, long hours and insecure jobs for women working on farms and in factories across the developing world. Our research concentrated on Costa Rica (bananas), Bangladesh (clothes) and India (cashew nuts). ActionAid is calling on the UK Government to introduce an independent supermarket watchdog that would prevent British supermarkets from abusing their concentrated buying power.

Download the report (PDF/5,93 MB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/who_pays.pdf

-- The Dark side of Healthcare

This report was filed by SwedWatch, Fair Trade Center and Clean Clothes Campaign-Sweden. It reveals that simple surgical instruments, as well as patient wear, are produced for Swedish county councils in unacceptable working conditions in India and Pakistan. It shows that Swedish tax money is funding production that violates the human rights of the workers involved. Although private companies have been demanding decent working conditions for the last ten years, Swedish county councils have not made any such ethical demands.

Download the report (PDF/492 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/the_dark_side.pdf

-- Annual report on social responsibility of China textile and apparel industry. By RSCA

This report by the Responsible Supply Chain Association (RSCA) documents the development of the corporate social responsibility in China's textile and apparel industry. It specifically discusses the development of the National Textile and Apparel Council's (NTAC) CSR code of conduct - "CSC9000T".

Download the report (PDF/1,41 MB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/csr_of_china_textile_and_apparel_industry.pdf

-- Corporate social and environmental responsibility in India: assessing the UN Global Compact's role. Produced by GDI

This report produced by the German Development Institute (GDI) assesses the impact of the current the United Nations Global Compact and corporate social responsibility (CSR) on industry in India. The paper discusses the history of CSR and India and the more recent experience with multi-stakeholder initiatives. The study finds the progress on the implementation of the UNGC has proceeded slowly at the local level and that business self-regulation is still dominant.

Download the analysis (PDF/608 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/csr_in_india_the_global_compacts_role.pdf

-- The effectiveness of multi-stakeholder initiatives in the oil and gas sector: summary report. By 2050

This report explores the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder initiatives in governing the oil and gas sector. Initiatives included in the analysis are the UN Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, the EITI, and TIs International's Business Principles on Countering Bribery. The report concludes that there are two challenges where the initiatives need to show progress:

- clearly demonstrating that the initiatives make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities where oil and gas companies operate
- integrating Chinese, Indian, Russian and Latin American oil and gas companies, and their corresponding governments, into the process.

Download the report (PDF/72 KB)

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/effect_of_multi_stakeholder_inis_in_oil_and_gas.pdf

-- Recommendations on Mining, Oil and Gas Companies Released: Civil Society and Industry Representatives Agree on Good Overseas Practices

Canada could become a world leader on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) if the federal government and other stakeholders accept and act on the recommendations of a report released at the end of March. The report comes out of a ten month government-led roundtable process and lays out recommendations for a CSR framework of good conduct for Canadian mining, oil and gas companies operating abroad.

Download the report (PDF/2,2 MB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/halifax_ini.pdf

-- Human Rights, Alternative Dispute Resolution and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. By the OECD Secretariat

This briefing note for the Workshop on Accountability and Dispute Resolution aims to inform the Workshop's participants as to how one such dispute resolution mechanism - the "specific instances" facility available under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises - has been used to look at various concrete questions regarding business and human rights in particular investment situations.

Download the briefing (PDF/340 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/alternative_dispute_resolution_and_the_oecd_guidelines.pdf

www.corporate-accountability.org aims to facilitate the flow of information among NGOs and social movements who believe their governments, private sector and civil society need to make greater efforts to ensure the accountability of business and industry, especially Transnational Corporations, to society. It contains information about ongoing civil society campaigns on corporate accountability and about NGOs and trade

unions who are active in this field. It provides comprehensive material on codes of conduct, multi-stakeholder initiatives and intergovernmental processes.

Finally, this site makes available documents and publications on corporate accountability and links to relevant research institutes and databases.

Feedback and suggestions are highly appreciated!

Corporate-Accountability-News mailing list

Corporate-Accountability-News@lists.trilos.net

<http://lists.trilos.net/mailman/listinfo/corporate-accountability-news>