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Corporate Accountability-newsletter & website seeks co-publishers or co-funders!

Dear subscriber,
due to the loss of funding WEED may soon be forced to suspend the circulation of this newsletter and the regular work on our website www.corporate-accountability.org. However, we remain firmly committed to the political agenda of binding regulation of transnational corporations and the strengthening of civil society and networking on this issue. Therefore we would very much welcome any ideas or offers from our subscribers, from like-minded organisations or individuals who may step in as co-publishers and/or co-funders to keep our operation afloat! Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Peter.Fuchs@weed-online.org with whatever idea you may have!
Thank You!

Greetings from,
Peter Fuchs (WEED) Peter.Fuchs@weed-online.org
and Uwe Kerkow (webmaster) Uwe.Kerkow@web.de

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- Beyond CSR? Business, Poverty and Social Justice. By The International Research Network on Business, Development and Society.
- Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Unions Rights. ICFTU
- Guide to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises' Complaint Procedure. Lessons from Past NGO Complaints. By OECD Watch
- OECD Risk Awareness Tool for Multinational Enterprises in Weak Governance Zones
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- Human Rights, Trade and Investment Matters. Articles compiled by Amnesty International.

****New Links****

- European Coalition for Corporate Justice
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****New Papers****

- Beyond CSR? Business, Poverty and Social Justice. By The International Research Network on Business, Development and Society.

Does CSR have the potential to redefine the meaning of good business practice as meeting the needs of poor and marginalised groups? Or is there a danger that by basing development policies around a business case, the inequalities that haunt international development will widen rather than diminish? This is the Briefing No.1.

Download the briefing (PDF; 72 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/beyond_csr.pdf

-- Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Unions Rights. ICFTU

2006 is an historic year for the international trade union movement. A new trade union international will be created in November, bringing together some 200 million workers from around the world. This is the last year that the Survey will be published in the name of the ICFTU.

There still is an appalling level of brutal violence meted out to workers who have merely tried to stand up for the right to decent work, including the right to fair pay, acceptable working hours and safe conditions. Workers were killed for their trade union activities in every single continent. The right of workers to freely establish and join organisations of their own choosing was regularly violated.

Download the survey (PDF; 1,89 MB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/annual_survey_of_violations_of_trade_unions_rights.pdf

-- Guide to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises' Complaint Procedure. Lessons from Past NGO Complaints. By OECD Watch

After five years and nearly 50 NGO complaints, OECD Watch members understand how to construct a complaint, issues NGOs should consider before submitting a complaint, how the complaint process has been typically handled by National Contact Points and what roadblocks NGOs could encounter. This guide was designed with these experiences and lessons in mind. This guide is meant to supplement the existing NGO resources.

Download the guide (PDF; 668 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/guide_to_complaint_procedure.pdf

-- OECD Risk Awareness Tool for Multinational Enterprises in Weak Governance Zones

The OECD Risk Awareness Tool aims to help companies that invest in countries where governments are unwilling or unable to assume their responsibilities. It addresses risks and ethical dilemmas that companies are likely to face in such weak governance zones, including obeying the law and observing international instruments, heightened care in managing investments, knowing business partners and clients and dealing with public sector officials, and speaking out about wrongdoing.

Download the tool (PDF; 888 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/oecd_risk_awareness_tool.pdf

-- A Guide for Integrating Human Rights into Business Management. BLIHR

This publication, a joint product of the Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights (BLIHR), the United Nations Global Compact Office, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), offers practical guidance to companies that want to take a proactive approach to human rights within their business operations. It is principally for business leaders and managers in large and medium-sized enterprises, private and state-owned, who would like to develop their understanding of human rights in business practice.

Download the report (PDF; 5,78 MB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/integrating_human_rights_into_business.pdf

-- Human Rights, Trade and Investment Matters. Articles compiled by Amnesty International.

This collection of articles on trade, investment and human rights is intended partly to advance the debate on economic globalization and human rights, and partly to contextualize concerns that Amnesty International has raised in recent reports on the human rights implications of investment agreements between states and companies.

Download the collection (PDF; 700 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/hr_trade_and_investment_articles.pdf

New Links

-- The International Research Network for Business, Development and Society

The International Research Network for Business, Development, and Society is driven by a concern for social and environmental justice. It engages in independent research that poses critical questions about the role of business in development. It aims to open spaces for dialogues, debates and action, that contribute to better policy making and practice, and that reflect diverse and under-represented voices.

Visit the website:

<http://bdsnetwork.cbs.dk/>

-- European Coalition for Corporate Justice

The European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ) is an initiative from 16 European organisations. ECCJ is led by a steering group composed of Friends of the Earth Europe, SOMO, IRENE, Hivos, CORE UK, Forum Citoyen pour la RSE, Manitese, Germanwatch, GARDE (Environmental Law Service), Observatorio de RSC.

Our vision is of a sustainable world in which corporations' drive for profit is balanced by the interest of society at large and respects human, social and environmental rights. To ensure such a vision, we are convinced that legally enforceable mechanisms based on internationally agreed standards and principles in the areas of human, social and environmental rights are necessary to reverse the unsustainable impacts of business activities.

Visit the website:

<http://www.corporatejustice.org/>

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>