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Von: <corporate-accountability-news@lists.trilos.net>
An: "corporate accountability mailinglist" <corporate-accountability-news@corporate-accountability.org>
Gesendet: Donnerstag, 7. Juni 2007 14:54
Betreff: corporate-accountability-news : 2007, No. 35

Corporate Accountability Newsletter: 2007 No. 35; 07/06/2007

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****In the News****

- State Responsibilities to Regulate and Adjudicate Corporate Activities under the United Nations' core Human Rights Treaties.

The report is part of a series examining States' obligations in relation to corporate activity under the United Nations' core human rights treaties. It describes the states' duty to protect their citizens' economic, social and cultural rights. In this respect, states have the duty to take measures to prevent third parties from interfering with rights, including business enterprises.

Download the report (PDF/688 KB)

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

- Letter of the ECCJ to the European Commission

The recently approved report "Corporate Social Responsibility: a new partnership" of the European Parliament gives renewed momentum to the CSR debate at the EU level. We invite the European Commission to take the EP's demands seriously. As recommended in the EP resolution, the Commission must take a leading role in carrying out research and imposing concrete measures aimed at establishing a level playing field on CSR, compelling corporations to behave responsibly.

Read the whole letter (PDF/44 KB):

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

-- Corporate Social Responsibility: A New Partnership. An EP-Resolution

The European Parliament is convinced that increasing social and environmental responsibility by business, linked to the principle of corporate accountability, represents an essential element of the European social model, Europe's strategy for sustainable development, and for the purposes of meeting the social challenges of economic globalisation.

Download the whole resolution (PDF/76 KB):

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

-- OECD Watch Roundtable: Upward Harmonisation of OECD Guidelines Procedures

On Friday, June 15th 2007 the OECD Watch Roundtable will meet to seek possibilities to harmonise the (complaint)procedures attached with the OECD-Guidelines. The exact title is: "A Model for Change: Upward Harmonisation of OECD Guidelines Procedures". The Roundtable will confere from 8:30 to 17:00 hours in the The International Auditorium, Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5; 1210 Brussels, Belgium

For more information contact info@oecdwatch.org

Download the draft program (PDF/184 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/706015oecdwatch_roundtable.pdf

-- RARE conference: Rhetoric and Realities. Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe

The acid test of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts is whether or not genuine impacts on society and the environment become reality. The conference will take place on June 27 th and tackles this question by presenting results from a three year European research project and discussing them with acknowledged experts and practitioners. Conference venue: Fondation Universitaire / Universitaire Stichting (FU / US); Rue d'Egmont 11; 1000 Bruxelles.

Please contact Ms. Heike Unruh, Email: h.unruh@oeko.de; Phone: +49 (0) 6151 8191-31 | Fax: +49 (0) 6151 8191-33

Download the programme and registration foorm (PDF/300 KB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2007/070627rare_conference.pdf

New Papers

-- Equality at work: Tackling the challenges. By the ILO.

The second Global Report on discrimination examines emerging issues in patterns of workplace discrimination and inequalities and recent policy

responses, and outlines the ILO's experience and achievements to date and the challenges it faces.

Download the report (PDF/1,7 MB)

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

-- Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets. By the IFC

The International Finance Corporations' (IFC) experiences in working with clients in emerging markets has altered its thinking about the centrality of stakeholder engagement to aspects of environmental and social performance. Companies that have grasped the importance of actively developing and sustaining relationships with affected communities and other stakeholders throughout the life of their project, and not simply during the initial feasibility and assessment phase, are reaping the benefits of improved risk management and better outcomes on the ground.

Download the handbook (PDF/2,6 MB)

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

-- Beyond Pragmatism. Appraising UN-Business Partnerships. By Peter Utting and Ann Zammit

In recent years, the United Nations (UN) has emerged as one of the principal proponents of public-private partnerships (PPPs), considered by many to be a key instrument of development and an ideal to be emulated. The authors of this paper argue that idealizing the concept and its normative content, risk diverting attention away from various tensions and contradictions that characterize UN-business partnerships (UN-BPs) and that raise questions about their contribution to equitable development and democratic governance.

Download the analysis (PDF/1,2 MB):

http://www.corporate-accountability.org/eng/documents/2006/beyond_pragmatism_un_bp_utting.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>