



On the Horizon ▪ A l'Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte
A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights
Issue 18 - 8 November 2010

This bulletin is prepared by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) 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.

If you would like to contribute to our next bulletin planned for early February 2011, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 8 February to Mauricio Lazala: lazala@business-humanrights.org. Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 26 January.

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International

1. Upcoming work of UN Special Representative John Ruggie

Online consultation on Guiding Principles for the implementation of the UN Framework

In June 2011, the UN Special Representative on business & human rights will present to the UN Human Rights Council for its consideration Guiding Principles for the operationalization of the UN “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework. As he develops the Guiding Principles, he welcomes input from all stakeholders via his online forum: <http://www.srsqconsultation.org>.

The forum currently outlines elements of the UN Framework for which Guiding Principles may be desirable. A draft of the Guiding Principles will be posted on the site in late November for public comment and exchange of views until early 2011.

Key Upgrades to BASESwiki

[BASESwiki](http://baseswiki.org), an online community about the use of non-judicial dispute resolution mechanisms in business-to-society contexts, now provides the following features:

- Community Events Calendar – The Events Calendar has been launched, allowing all members of the community to publicize events, conferences, and training sessions via the calendar. Upcoming events are displayed on the home page of the wiki. Access the calendar here: <http://baseswiki.org/en/Calendar>.
- Improved Mechanism Pages - The mechanisms profiled on the wiki have been redesigned and present information in a more accessible format. Users can now drill down into specific industries or sectors to locate information more relevant to their background or line of work. See: <http://baseswiki.org/en/Category:Mechanism>.
- Enhanced User Profiles - Users who share background or experience in a common organization or area of dispute resolution can now collaborate with one another more easily.

BASESwiki's network of partnered organizations and active participants continues to grow. For more information, visit <http://baseswiki.org> or contact Kyle Stone (Kyle.Stone@hks.harvard.edu).

→ For more information, contact Vanessa Zimmerman, Legal Advisor to the Special Representative (vanessa_zimmerman@ksg.harvard.edu)

2. Series of multistakeholder events re the end of UN Special Representative's mandate in 2011

In the run-up to the end of the UN Special Representative on business & human rights' mandate, IBLF, in partnership with Clifford Chance, Amnesty International UK and the Equality and Human Rights Commission will in January 2011 launch "Countdown to 2011" – a series of multistakeholder events bringing together a range of companies, and other key stakeholders in the business and human rights field to debate the practical challenges to operationalising the Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework, discuss the Guiding Principles, and consider feasible scenarios following the end of the UN Special Representative's mandate in June 2011.

Countdown to 2011 will include three events; each event will address one of the three pillars, starting with the Corporate Responsibility to Respect pillar on 24 January 2011.

The Countdown to 2011 series will be hosted at Clifford Chance's London headquarters, and will be an invitation-only event.

→ Contributed by Désirée Abrahams, IBLF (desiree.abrahams@iblf.org)

3. Environmental Justice Foundation report: "Poor Harvest - The economics behind our cotton"

This forthcoming report by [Environmental Justice Foundation \(EJF\)](#) builds the case that the costs of conventional cotton production are too high in developing countries. The global cotton harvest stands at over 22 million tonnes, a multi-billion-dollar industry that has the power to improve livelihoods. With up to 99% of the world's cotton farmers living and working in developing countries, producing over 75% of global cotton production, the potential of cotton to support sustainable development is significant. However, diminishing economic returns to producers is contributing to environmental damage, poverty, child labour and human health problems through the use of hazardous pesticides.

EJF is planning to release the report in January 2011. It will examine the economic factors at play that lead to unsustainable and unethical cotton production, highlighting key examples of the problem and the role of the cotton supply chain. The report also details how changes in corporate and consumer behaviour will help secure changes in production to meet the needs of people and businesses without compromising the needs of the environment or ethics.

Further information and copies from info@ejfoundation.org

→ Contributed by Juliette Williams, Director, Environmental Justice Foundation (juliette.williams@ejfoundation.org)

4. Forthcoming chapter on role of NHRIs in redressing corporate human rights abuses

Dr Surya Deva outlines, in a forthcoming book chapter, changes visible in recent years in the conventional state-centric human rights framework in terms of enforcing human rights responsibilities against non-state actors such as companies. He examines how National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are not yet generally geared to respond to human rights violations by non-state actors, and why that position should be changed. Taking into account the experience of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India, it is argued that NHRIs could and should play an important role in redressing human rights violations by companies.

The chapter is entitled "Corporate Human Rights Abuses: What Role for the National Human Rights Institutions?", in Hitoshi Nasu and Ben Saul (eds), *Human Rights in the Asia Pacific Region: Towards Institution Building* (Routledge, forthcoming in March 2011).

For more information, please visit: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415602549>

→ Contributed by Dr Surya Deva, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong (suryad@cityu.edu.hk)

5. Forthcoming critique of John Ruggie's "Protect, Respect, Remedy" framework

In a chapter to be published in early 2011, Dr Surya Deva critically evaluates the "conceptual and policy framework to anchor the business and human rights debate" outlined by Professor John Ruggie, the UN Special Representative on business & human rights. Dr Deva tries to demonstrate that although the Framework contains

several useful suggestions, it still falls short of what is required to anchor an effective regulatory framework to make corporations accountable for human rights abuses.

The chapter is entitled “‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’: A Critique of the SRSG’s Framework for Business and Human Rights”, in Karin Buhmann, Lynn Roseberry & Mette Morsing (eds.), *Corporate Social and Human Rights Responsibilities: Global Legal and Management Perspectives* (Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming in January 2011).

For more information, please visit: <http://us.macmillan.com/corporatesocialandhumanrightsresponsibilities>

→ *Contributed by Dr Surya Deva, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong (suryad@cityu.edu.hk)*

6. Project on eradicating slavery in specific commodities

[Humanity United](#) and [Verité](#) are partnering in a new project to identify and prioritize opportunities to eradicate slavery from production and supply chains at the commodity level. The project will be informed by significant consultation with a wide variety of experts; results will be available in early 2011.

Humanity United is a California-based philanthropic organization committed to building peace and advancing human freedom. Our work to advance human freedom seeks to reduce the prevalence of modern-day slavery globally, with an emphasis on: 1. Strengthening the anti-slavery advocacy movement 2. Engaging companies to become part of the solution 3. Encouraging sustained U.S. government leadership at home and abroad 4. Working on the ground in the places where the problem is most acute.

This project fits within the second area of focus, which aims to increase corporate engagement and accountability. Humanity United believes that consumers and companies are a critical lever for eradicating slavery throughout supply chains, down to the commodity, or raw material, level.

Verité is a global organization that promotes labor rights and sustainability via improved supply chain business practices. Verité’s team is led by Shawn MacDonald and includes Charita Castro (Washington University) and Aqueel Kahn (ASK India), as well as Phillip Hunter and Bettina Brunner.

→ *Contributed by Lori Bishop, Humanity United (lbishop@humanityunited.org); and Shawn MacDonald, Verité (smacdonald@verite.org)*

7. Update from Institute for Human Rights and Business

Special convening on land acquisition, business and human rights – Johannesburg, 17-19 Nov

[Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) and [South African Human Rights Commission](#) will be hosting a consultation in Johannesburg, South Africa from 17-19 November 2010, to discuss the subject of land acquisition, business and human rights. This is the third convening as part of the Institute’s work on issues relating to land (the first consultation took place in India in June 2009 and the second in Colombia in May 2010).

Joint IHRB/ WaterAid advocacy paper on business, human rights and water

Institute for Human Rights and Business and [WaterAid](#) are developing a joint briefing note on the right to water and what respecting this right means for companies. The statement, to be presented at the CEO Water Mandate meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in November 2010, will highlight actions necessary to tackle shared risk and to prioritise people’s access to water and sanitation. The paper will be launched on International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2010.

Universal Periodic Review submissions

The Institute for Human Rights and Business submitted two civil society contributions - on Liberia and the USA - to the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review process which will be considered during the November session in Geneva. The IHRB submissions are available on the Institute website and summary reports of civil society submissions on these two countries can be accessed on the [website of Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#).

→ *Contributed by Kelly Davina Scott, Institute for Human Rights and Business (kelly.scott@institutehrb.org)*

8. Forthcoming book on companies and their role in conflict and post-conflict situations

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

The [School of Peace Culture](#) of the University of Barcelona and ESADE's [Institute of Social Innovation](#) announce the forthcoming publication of a new book “*La responsabilidad social de la empresa en contextos de conflicto y postconflicto: de la gestión del riesgo a la creación de valor*” (“The social responsibility of companies in conflict and post-conflict situations: from risk management to wealth creation”). Publication is expected at the end of November 2010.

The question of the role of the private company as an actor in armed conflict has been the object of intense study and controversy in recent decades. There is a more recent trend to identify and describe the potential role of the private company in peace-building, arguing that the private company, especially at the local level, is indispensable for the creation of employment and of business opportunities in the long-term.

Nowadays, there are many companies with human rights policies, but there are still few whose corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies specifically take into account the difficulties of operating in complex environments. This book sets out the elements which make up a CSR policy which is sensitive to conflict and post-conflict situations, and offers guidance to companies who seek to adopt a strategic vision in this area. More information can be found at: <http://escolapau.uab.cat/castellano/index.php>

→ *Contributed by María Prandi, Business and Human Rights Program Coordinator, Escola de Cultura de Pau, University of Barcelona (maria.prandi@uab.cat)*

9. SOMO research project on pharmaceutical industry outsourcing & CSR

In December or January, [SOMO](#) will publish a research report on outsourcing and off-shoring of clinical trials in the pharmaceutical industry. Like in many industries, outsourcing and off-shoring are popular trends in the pharmaceutical industry, although this industry was quite late to embrace it. In the pharmaceutical sector, outsourcing of Research & Development (R&D) and especially of clinical trial activities offers the greatest advantages. The companies to which most of the R&D activities are outsourced are called Contract Research Organisations (CROs). Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts of the pharmaceutical industry should cover the entire supply chain, including the outsourced activities. As pharmaceutical companies were relatively late compared to other sectors with the outsourcing and off-shoring of activities, it is still unclear how they take on their CSR in relation to CROs.

→ *For more information, contact Mariëtte van Huijstee, SOMO (m.vanhuijstee@somo.nl)*

10. “Business & Children” portal

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is in the process of developing a portal on “Business & Children”. We are planning to launch the portal in early 2011. The purpose of the portal is to highlight companies’ impacts on children and to make information on positive initiatives and abuses more accessible. Users will be able to search materials by issue and the portal will include sections highlighting key positive initiatives, alleged abuses, lawsuits and guidance materials for business. The “Business & Children” portal will feature a special section on the joint initiative by UNICEF, Save the Children and UN Global Compact to develop “Children’s Principles for Business”. We also aim to include a directory of organizations working on children’s rights.

→ *For more information, contact Malena Bengtsson (bengtsson@business-humanrights.org) or Mauricio Lazala (lazala@business-humanrights.org)*

11. Video Speaker Series events, including Mary Robinson & John Ruggie

[Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) has just posted a video of the recent Mary Robinson Speaker Series event, and will be releasing videos of two other major speaker events.

On 26 October, the Resource Centre launched the annual Mary Robinson Speaker Series in New York, with Mary Robinson keynoting. Mary was introduced by John Ruggie, UN Special Representative on business & human rights; Lucas Benitez, Co-Director of Coalition of Immokalee Workers; and Alexandra Guáqueta, responsible for human rights at Cerrejón Coal (Colombia). Mary reflected on her work for human rights and the importance of the private sector respecting human rights. This was followed by an interview of Mary by Ray Suarez, PBS

NewsHour Senior Correspondent, and questions from the audience. Speakers from the Resource Centre opened and closed the event.

The entire Mary Robinson event can be viewed now on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#) – it is in 15 parts on YouTube, each 10 minutes or less; on Vimeo it is one long video of the complete event.

On 16 November, as part of its Sir Geoffrey Chandler Speaker Series in London, the Resource Centre will host a special event: “Business & human rights – The next 5 years”. Leading figures from business, NGOs and the UN will speak about what they see as key business & human rights challenges & opportunities over the next 5 years, followed by questions and comments from the audience.

In January 2011 in London, the Resource Centre will host a presentation by John Ruggie, where he will discuss his draft Guiding Principles for the implementation of the UN “Protect, Respect and Remedy” framework. This event was originally scheduled for November, but was delayed because Professor Ruggie was unable to travel in November for medical reasons.

Videos of the latter two events will be available on the Resource Centre’s [YouTube channel](#), as well as on our website and in our free Weekly Update newsletter ([sign up here](#)).

→ *Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (contact@business-humanrights.org)*

12. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre section on job postings

[Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) will soon be launching a “Job postings” box on our homepage, featuring news of current job vacancies worldwide related to business & human rights. Job postings are also often included in our [Weekly Update](#) newsletter. Please forward details of any relevant job postings to Joe Westby (westby@business-humanrights.org).

→ *Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (contact@business-humanrights.org)*

Africa

13. Report on impacts of cobalt & copper extraction on communities in Katanga, Dem. Rep. of Congo

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

[Action Contre l’Impunité pour les Droits de l’Homme](#) (Action Against Impunity for Human Rights - ACIDH) will publish by the end of November 2010 a report on “The impacts of extraction of cobalt and copper on local communities in Katanga, Democratic Republic of Congo”.

The report will evaluate the participation of local communities living around the periphery of mining projects in Katanga in the context of the principle of “free, prior and informed consent”. It will relate to the following five mining companies: Tenke Fungurume Mining, Boss Mining, Ruashi Mining, Chemaf and Compagnie Minière du Sud Katanga (South Katanga Mining Company- CMSK). ACIDH regrets, however, that these companies have not agreed to collaborate with the authors during the preparation of this study, despite efforts that have been made to persuade them to participate.

→ *Contributed by Emmanuel Umpula Nkumba, Executive Director of ACIDH (emmanuelumpula@acidhrc.net)*

14. Convening on land acquisition, business & human rights – Johannesburg, 17-19 Nov

[Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) and [South African Human Rights Commission](#) will be hosting a consultation in Johannesburg, South Africa from 17-19 November 2010, to discuss the subject of land acquisition, business and human rights. This is the third convening as part of the Institute’s work on issues relating to land (the first consultation took place in India in June 2009 and the second in Colombia in May 2010).

→ *Contributed by Kelly Davina Scott, Institute for Human Rights and Business (kelly.scott@institutehrb.org)*

15. Two trainings on extractive industries in Niger

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

The *Groupe de Réflexion sur les Industries Extractives au Niger* (Reflection Group on Extractive Industries in Niger - GREN) is organising two trainings for November:

- A training for journalists on problems relating to extractive industries in Niger and in Africa, 20-21 November 2010 at Maison de la Presse, Niamey.
- A training for traditional chiefs and religious leaders on the process and implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), 15-17 November 2010, in Diffa.

→ *Contributed by Oubandoma Salissou, National Coordinator, GREN (greninitiative@yahoo.fr)*

Americas

16. “Forum of Indigenous Peoples - Mining, Climate Change and Sustainability” – Lima, 18-20 Nov

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

The experience of indigenous communities in resisting the imposition of mining on their land continues to occupy a central part of the agendas of social movements and governments. Worsening climate change increases the profile of this process and of the search for alternative models.

In order to articulate these experiences and organise a worldwide movement for sustainable living (“*Buen Vivir*”) which is respectful to Mother Earth in the face of the increasing threat of mineral extraction and the climate crisis, the Andean Association of Indigenous Organisations (CAOI) are holding a “Forum of Indigenous Peoples - Mining, Climate Change and Sustainability” in Lima, Peru from 18 to 20 November 2010.

The forum will bring together affected communities from around the world, environmental activists, academics and high-level professionals who will examine the expansion of mining activity and its impacts, analyse the responsibility of the mining industry for climate change, and share experiences of resistance and strengthening the idea of “*Buen Vivir*” - of “living well” in harmony with nature - as an alternative model.

For more information and to register, contact coordinadorandinacaoi@gmail.com

→ *Contributed by the Andean Association of Indigenous Organisations (Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas - CAOI)*

17. As You Sow leads push for US environmental agency to rule for clean coal ash storage

In December of 2008, a retaining wall of a coal ash storage pond burst, exposing the community of Kingston, Tennessee, to 1.1 billion gallons of toxic coal ash sludge containing arsenic, mercury and lead. In response, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed two rulings: Subtitle C, which creates federally enforceable regulations for coal ash disposal and Subtitle D, which allows the status quo to continue. The ruling is open for public comment until 19 November. [As You Sow](http://www.asyousow.org) is spearheading efforts encouraging the public to comment in support of Subtitle C to protect the millions of Americans living near coal ash storage ponds.

130 million tons of toxic coal is produced annually in the US as a byproduct of burning coal to make electricity. The EPA found that the cancer risk associated with living near coal ash storage ponds is greater than smoking ten packs of cigarettes a day. [As You Sow](http://www.asyousow.org) encourages commenting at www.epacoal.org to empower the EPA and President Obama to protect the health of American communities by adopting the Subtitle C ruling on coal ash.

→ *Contributed by Katherine Kassing, As You Sow (katherine@asyousow.org)*

18. Colombia workshop on conflict negotiation and free, prior & informed consent for indigenous communities

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

The right to be consulted and to free, prior and informed consent is crucial to democracy in Colombia and the realisation of a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural nation. Indigenous people and those of African descent make up 14% of the population and the ILO Convention 169 is in force. The government has introduced various legislative

initiatives which impact these groups. The black and indigenous communities are assailed by examples of failures to undertake procedures related to consultation or to free, prior and informed consent; by deficient processes or those carried out in bad faith; by pressures exerted by internal armed conflict; and by poor or incorrect information being provided to them. Our project addresses the issue in two cases in the mining and energy sectors in Colombia and internationally.

In November a workshop will be held concerning “Conflict Negotiation” with José de Echave, an expert responsible for the Program on Collective Rights and the Extractive Sector at the Peruvian NGO, [CooperAcción](#). The papers from this event will be made publicly available.

We thus hope to continue contributing to the development of and respect for these rights. In July 2010, three workshops were held regarding consultation and free, prior and informed consent with Rodolfo Stavenhagen, the international expert and ex-UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous People. The paper can be found at www.nsi-ins.ca.

The project “Developing standards and mechanisms for the protection of ethnic peoples facing mining and energy projects: Applying consultation and free, prior and informed consent” is developed between The North-South Institute/L’Institut Nord-Sud (Canada), Proceso de Comunidades Negras-ASOM (Cauca, Colombia) and Resguardo Indígena Cañamomo Lomapieta (Caldas, Colombia). It is supported by the Ford Foundation, USAID, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Development Research Centre (Canada), and Rights & Democracy (Canada).

→ *Contributed by Gladys Jimeno Santoyo, Independent consultant (gladysjimeno@gmail.com)*

Asia/Pacific

19. Fourth phase of I.T. industry heavy metals pollution investigation, China

The I.T. Industry Heavy Metals Pollution Investigation led by the [Friends of Nature](#), [Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs](#) and Green Beagle on behalf of a Coalition of 34 Chinese NGOs, is now preparing the fourth phase of their report.

Just as the three previous reports, this report will give an account of all recent communications made with I.T. brand companies, whether negative, positive and otherwise. This is in order to inform the public of the willingness of these companies to respond to environmental issues. Some companies, most notably Apple, continue to refuse to publicly disclose whether or not they use supplier companies who hold records of environmental violations. Meanwhile companies such as Sony are making positive strides towards enhancing their environmental management while creating a more open and transparent business environment that protects both people and the natural environment. This report will also give details on how some of the I.T. brands such as Hewlett-Packard have begun carrying out third-party audits with their supplier companies in collaboration with local NGOs.

If you would like to request a PDF file of the final “I.T. Industry Heavy Metals Pollution Investigation Phase IV” report or to receive notification of the publication, please e-mail karl.mcalinden@ipe.org.cn to be put on our mailing list.

For more information about the previous three reports please see the related Business & Human Rights Resource Centre webpage: <http://www.business-humanrights.org/Documents/ITfirmsChinapollution>

Alternatively, you can visit our website reports section: <http://en.ipe.org.cn/about/report.aspx>

→ *Contributed by Karl McAlinden, Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (karl.mcalinden@ipe.org.cn)*

20. Judicial colloquium on equality and non-discrimination – India, Jan 2011

In collaboration with the [Equal Rights Trust](#) and other UK-based human rights organizations, the [Human Rights Law Network \(HRLN\)](#) is organising a judicial colloquium of judges of the superior courts in India on equality and non-discrimination in both the private and public sectors.

The colloquium will be held in January 2011 in New Delhi, covering areas such as gender discrimination, disability, sexual orientation, age, and race including indigenous people, minorities, caste. The colloquium will also focus on the controversial issues relating to discrimination in these areas and suggest how the law can be used to overcome such discrimination.

About Human Rights Law Network (HRLN): HRLN is a national network of lawyers and paralegals providing legal aid for the poor and working people in India. HRLN is the country's most prominent not-for-profit organization working in the field of human rights & dignity. HRLN works via legal intervention, judicial activism, information dissemination and other civil platforms to bring about changes. Apart from pro-bono litigation, HRLN also does training and the publication of know-your-rights material.

To know more about HRLN, please visit our websites: www.hrln.org, www.combatlaw.org, www.iptindia.org

→ *Contributed by Neha Bhatnagar, Human Rights Law Network (nehabhatnagar07@gmail.com)*

21. Global Compact Network India training programme on community-development

[Global Compact Network India](#) is organizing a capacity-building programme for companies and NGOs which are involved in community-development activities. The training programme is being organized in collaboration with [Institute of Rural Research and Development \(IRRAD\)](#). The training will take place on 24-26 November 2010 at the IRRAD campus in Gurgaon, Haryana.

Community development is a process of building up capacities of communities to enable empowerment, self-reliance and better command over their environment. It aims to foster productive communities to implement development programmes and access government service delivery. The overall objective of community development is sustainable growth and empowered communities.

The training will give companies the opportunity to build capacities to effectively manage their programmes and learn from the experience of each other as well as learn from civil society organizations which specialise in undertaking such programmes.

For registration or sponsorship contact Krittika Bhatt (krittika.gcn@gmail.com)

→ *Contributed by Global Compact Network India gcnindia@gmail.com*

22. Conference on indigenous people and climate change – Baguio City, Philippines, 6-9 Nov

The [Cordillera Peoples Alliance](#), [Asia Pacific Indigenous Youth Network](#), [IBON International](#), [Land is Life](#) and [People's Movement on Climate Change](#) will organize and host the International Conference on Indigenous Peoples Rights, Alternatives and Solutions to the Climate Crisis, from 6-9 November 2010 in Baguio City, Philippines.

The conference will gather representatives of indigenous peoples organizations, NGOs and advocates worldwide to discuss experiences, alternatives and solutions to the climate crisis; agree on a common framework and basis of unity; and plan strategies for effective policy advocacy and participation in official processes and parallel activities of civil society and social movements on the conference theme. The conference, which will address the contribution of big businesses worldwide to the climate crisis and its particular impact on indigenous peoples and our ancestral lands, aims to strengthen solidarity and advocacy among indigenous peoples for self-determination and liberation in keeping with the 1976 Algiers Universal Declaration on the Rights of Peoples, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and other international instruments.

The programme consists of community visits and solidarity events, presentations, workshop-discussions on Indigenous Peoples Rights, Alternatives and Solutions to the Climate Crisis; Imperialism and the Climate Crisis; Critique on UNFCCC negotiations, REDD+, CDM; Repression and War on Terror; and Self-determination and Liberation. The conference shall also serve for the launching of the Indigenous Peoples' Movement for Self-determination and Liberation.

→ *Contributed by Windel B. Bolinget, Cordillera Peoples Alliance (windel@cpaphils.org)*

23. Call for papers for business & human rights seminar – New Delhi, 9 Dec 2010

The Centre for Promotion of Human Rights Teaching & Research (HURITER) is organizing a National Seminar on "Corporate Responsibility in Respect of Human Rights" on 9 December 2010 at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. We invite papers or presentations on any aspect related to the thematic issue of corporate responsibility in respect of human rights.

The basic objective of the seminar is to assess the role of corporate responsibility in the promotion and protection of human rights of disadvantaged sections of society in India, and thereby suggest certain remedial measures for streamlining such activities. The seminar is being held on the occasion of 62nd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Please send your paper (along with a 200-250 word abstract) to drgnkarna@gmail.com by 15 November 2010.

→ *Contributed by G. N. Karna, seminar convenor (drgnkarna@gmail.com)*

24. Debate: "Is CSR a PR exercise?" – New Delhi, 29 Nov

As the 4th roundtable of an ongoing public discourse series, [Business & Community Foundation](#) & IIC and Deakin University are organizing a "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Debate" on the topic "Is CSR a PR exercise or does it work?" The event is being held on 29 November 2010, at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

Some countries globally have gone ahead in CSR, incorporating it in their stakeholder interaction as well as in their business processes. CSR in India is yet to take a significant leap forward. There have been some recent developments, and companies have realised that it is critical to get "the social license to operate". A recent decision of the environment ministry has forced companies to rethink and reinvent their business strategy. The government has also stepped in – it released its voluntary guidelines for CSR at the end 2009, and the department of public enterprises released its guidelines for the Public Sector in 2010. Bringing more clarity about CSR is imperative for its acceptance and adoption if equitable and inclusive growth is to happen.

The event will be held amongst management institutes to motivate and enthuse future managers & students to discuss and debate this issue so that they will ultimately emerge as responsible Corporate Citizens.

→ *Contributed by Amita Joseph, Business and Community Foundation (ajoseph@bcfindia.org). Contact details: Business and Community Foundation, B-26, Soami Nagar, New Delhi-110017, 01126012485 / 01132536392.*

Europe & Central Asia

25. Report outlining proposals for reform of EU law to combat corporate abuse

In its latest publication "Rights for Whom?", to be launched in November 2010, [European Coalition for Corporate Justice \(ECCJ\)](#) reports on three compelling case studies of corporate misconduct and shows how legislative change in EU law could prevent human rights violations and breaches of environmental standards suffered by local communities and workers.

The ECCJ has developed these legal proposals as it strongly believes that through its power to implement legally binding reforms, the EU has a unique opportunity to take effective steps to enhance compliance with internationally-agreed human rights and environmental standards. This will help those impacted by violations of those standards achieve greater access to justice. Within its campaign "Rights for People, Rules for Business" the ECCJ is therefore calling on EU policy-makers to ensure laws effectively hold companies operating in the EU accountable for any harm they cause to people and the environment.

→ *For more information, contact Gustavo Hernandez, ECCJ (campaign@corporatejustice.org)*

26. East Europe Foundation awards for firms helping to get people back into work through volunteering

[East Europe Foundation](#) has launched the national stage of the [European Employee Volunteering Awards](#). The programme aims to reward organizations in Europe that have developed employee volunteering schemes which are helping people who face barriers to work increase their employability skills. The Awards scheme will recognise and celebrate the best organizations in the following four categories: large company, small company, innovation and newcomer. Co-funded by the European Commission, the programme of activities will be closely aligned to the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

The project is supported by a consortium of experts as well as sponsored by Alliance Boots and Tata Consultancy Services. The Awards will first be judged nationally through local partner organizations between late December 2010 and January 2011. The national winners will then compete for the overall European Award with judging taking place in Brussels in February 2011. The Awards results will be announced at a ceremony in March 2011 as part of Business In The Community's International Convention on the future role of business in a sustainable society, taking place at the Business Design Centre, in London.

→ Contributed by Ira Tushnytska, East Europe Foundation (itushnytska@eef.org.ua)

27. Report on EU financial reforms & sustainable development

A critical analysis on how the EU financial reforms affect developing countries and sustainable development will be published in a new [SOMO](#) report written by Myriam Vander Stichele. The report covers many financial reforms discussed at the G20 and contains recommendations on how to embed the interest of developing countries and their people into these reforms. The report also describes necessary reforms to prevent global financial crisis and to support socially equitable and environmental friendly sustainable development worldwide. The report will be available from 13 November 2010 at <http://somo.nl/dossiers-en/sectors/financial/eu-financial-reforms>

→ For more information, contact Myriam Vander Stichele, SOMO (m.vander.stichele@somo.nl)

28. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre recruitment of Finance officer

[Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) has launched recruitment for a full-time Finance Officer, based in London. The Finance Officer is a new position at the Resource Centre, created to ensure that the Centre's financial management continues to be given high priority as the organization grows. The closing date is 16 November. The job announcement and all other materials (including application form) are available here: <http://www.business-humanrights.org/Documents/FinanceOfficer>

→ Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (contact@business-humanrights.org)

Middle East & North Africa

29. International forum on human trafficking – Luxor, Egypt, 10-12 Dec

The [End Human Trafficking Now! \(EHTN!\) Campaign](#), [SMWIPM](#), in partnership with the United Nations and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), Microsoft, the World Bank, etc. will hold an international forum focusing on key issues related to human trafficking. The Luxor International Forum "End Human Trafficking Now: Enforcing the UN Protocol", will be held on 10-12 December 2010 in Luxor, Egypt.

The forum will identify best practices and positive experiences of business, and carve out a set of challenges to pursue with various partners, including business. It will represent a milestone in international efforts to combat the crime, ten years after the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. It will also announce the winner of the first-ever Business Leader's Award to Fight Human Trafficking. The trophy is designed by Chopard.

For more information see: <http://www.endhumantraffickingnow.com/luxorforum.htm>

→ Contributed by Dr. Camelia Tepelus, the Tourism Child-Protection Code of Conduct (camelia.tepelus@thecode.org)

Español

30. Próximo foro en Lima, Perú, sobre la resistencia indígena frente a la "amenaza" de la minería y la defensa de la Madre Tierra

Las experiencias de las comunidades indígenas en la resistencia a la imposición de la minería en sus territorios van ocupando un lugar central en las agendas de los movimientos sociales e incluso de los gobiernos. La agudización del cambio climático contribuye a visibilizar este proceso y el de construcción de modelos alternativos.

Para articular estas experiencias y organizar un gran frente mundial por el Buen Vivir y la defensa de la Madre Tierra frente a la creciente amenaza del extractivismo minero y la crisis climática, del 18 al 20 de noviembre se realizará en Lima, Perú, el "Foro de los Pueblos Indígenas - Minería, Cambio Climático y Buen Vivir", organizado por la Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas - CAOI.

El Foro reunirá a comunidades afectadas de todo el planeta, redes ambientales, académicos y profesionales de alto nivel que examinarán la expansión minera y sus impactos, analizando la responsabilidad de la minería en la crisis climática, además de compartir experiencias de resistencia y consolidar la propuesta del Buen Vivir, en armonía con la naturaleza, como paradigma alternativo.

Informes e inscripciones: coordinadorandinacoi@gmail.com.

→ Contribuido por la [Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas \(CAOI\)](#)

31. Pronta publicación de libro sobre empresas y su papel en contextos de conflicto y post-conflicto

La Escola de Cultura de Pau de la Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona y el Instituto de Innovación Social de ESADE presentan el libro “*La responsabilidad social de la empresa en contextos de conflicto y postconflicto: de la gestión del riesgo a la creación de valor*”. Está planeado que el libro salga a la luz a finales de noviembre, 2010.

El papel de la empresa privada como actor en los conflictos armados ha sido una cuestión objeto de intenso estudio y controversia en las últimas décadas. Otras corrientes más recientes, identifican y describen un potencial papel de la empresa en la construcción de paz. Defienden que la empresa privada, especialmente la local, es indispensable para la creación de empleo y de oportunidades de emprendimiento a largo plazo.

Actualmente, son muchas las empresas que han incorporado políticas de derechos humanos, sin embargo, son pocas aún las que tienen en cuenta la especificidad de operar en entornos complejos en sus políticas de responsabilidad social empresarial (RSE). Este libro presenta los elementos que componen una RSE sensible al conflicto y al postconflicto y ofrece orientaciones a las empresas que deseen adoptar una visión estratégica en este ámbito. Más información en: <http://escolapau.uab.cat/castellano/index.php>.

→ Contribuido por María Prandi, Responsable de Empresa y Derechos Humanos, Programa de Derechos Humanos, Escola de Cultura de Pau, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (maria.prandi@uab.cat)

32. Próximo taller en Colombia sobre negociación de conflictos y el derecho a la consulta y al consentimiento previo, libre e informado de las comunidades afrodescendientes e indígenas

El derecho a la consulta y al consentimiento previo, libre e informado es crucial para la democracia en Colombia y la realización de la nación multiétnica y pluricultural. Los afrodescendiente e indígenas son el 14% de la población y el convenio 169 de la OIT se encuentra vigente. El gobierno ha inscrito diversas iniciativas legislativas que impactan la pervivencia de éstos grupos. Las comunidades negras e indígenas se encuentran además asediadas por la no realización de procesos de consultas y de consentimientos previos, libres e informados; o por su realización deficiente o de mala fe; por las presiones debidas al conflicto armado interno; y por la precaria o mala información. Nuestro proyecto trabaja en el tema en dos casos mineros y energéticos en Colombia y también a nivel internacional.

En noviembre se realizará un taller sobre “Negociación de Conflictos” con el experto José de Echave, responsable de programa derechos colectivos e industrias extractivas de la ONG CooperAcción del Perú. Las memorias de este evento se pondrán a disposición pública.

Esperamos así seguir contribuyendo al desarrollo y respeto de estos derechos. En julio del 2010 se realizaron 3 talleres sobre la consulta y el consentimiento previo, libre e informado con el experto internacional y ex-relator de la ONU para pueblos indígenas, Rodolfo Stavenhagen. La memoria será colocada en la página www.nsi-ins.ca a disposición de las personas interesadas.

El proyecto “Desarrollo de Estándares y Mecanismos para la protección de los Pueblos Étnicos frente a Proyectos Mineros y Energéticos: Aplicación de la Consulta y el Consentimiento Previo, Libre e Informado” es desarrollado entre [The North-South Institut/L'Institut Nord-Sud](#) (Canada), *Proceso de Comunidades Negras-ASOM* (Cauca, Colombia) y *Resguardo Indígena Cañamomo Lomapieta* (Caldas, Colombia). Es apoyado por la Fundación Ford, USAID, el Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores de Noruega, el Centro Internacional de Investigaciones para el Desarrollo (Canadá) y Derechos y Democracia (Canadá).

→ Contribuido por Gladys Jimeno Santoyo, Consultora (gladysjimeno@gmail.com)

Français

33. Rapport sur l'impact de l'extraction des minerais de cobalt et de cuivre sur les communautés locales au Katanga - Rép. dém. du Congo

L'association [Action Contre l'Impunité pour les Droits de l'Homme \(ACIDH\)](#) publiera d'ici la fin du mois de novembre 2010 un rapport sur « L'Impact de l'extraction des minerais de cobalt et de cuivre sur les communautés locales au Katanga en République Démocratique du Congo ». Ce dernier évalue la participation des communautés locales vivant au tour des projets miniers au Katanga par rapport au « principe de la consultation

préalable, libre et éclairée ». Il porte sur les 5 entreprises minières suivantes : Tenke Fungurume Mining, Boss Mining, Ruashi Mining, Chemaf et la Compagnie Minière du Sud Katanga (CMSK). L'ACIDH regrette cependant que ces entreprises n'aient pas accepté de collaborer lors de la réalisation de cette étude et ce, malgré les efforts déployés pour les persuader de participer.

→ *Contribution d'Emmanuel Umpula Nkumba, Directeur d'ACIDH (emmanuelumpula@acidhrc.net)*

34. Deux formations sur les industries extractives au Niger

Le Groupe de Réflexion sur les Industries Extractives au Niger (GREN) organise deux formations en novembre :

- Une formation pour les journalistes sur la problématique des Industries Extractives au Niger et en Afrique du 20 au 21 novembre 2010 à la Maison de la Presse à Niamey.
- Une formation pour les chefs traditionnels et les leaders religieux sur le processus et la mise œuvre de l'Initiative sur la Transparence des Industries Extractives (ITIE) du 15 au 17 novembre 2010 à Diffa.

→ *Contribution d'Oubandoma Salissou, Coordonnateur National GREN (greninitiative@yahoo.fr)*

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