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ETI Update

Keeping members informed of our latest developments and events. To provide feedback or to make a contribution, contact Julia Hawkins: julia@eti.org.uk



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Bulletin board

Risk Assessment

Methodology launch 26 May

10am–1pm: Presentation to members at Roundtable
2–5pm: Seminar for audit companies
Venue: ETI offices

Minutes of ETI Board meeting

26 February, 2004 available on the ETI website:
www.ethicaltrade.org/z/abteti/who/gov/board.shtml

Meeting dates

Child Labour Project

Core committee in UK:
6 May, all-day meeting at ETI offices.

China Project

25 May, 10.30–2pm
ETI offices

Homeworkers Project

19 May, 11am–2pm
ETI offices

Sri Lanka Garments Project

To be confirmed

Smallholders Project

12 May, 11am–2pm
ETI offices

Temporary Labour Working Group

20 May, 10.30am–1.30pm
ETI offices

Board and caucus meetings

Board: 13 May, 2–5pm
Trade union caucus: 13 May, 10.30am
NGO caucus: 12 May, 2pm
GM caucus: 13 May, 10.30am
Food caucus: 13 May, 10.30am

Projects and Working Groups

Child Labour Project

Identifying and mitigating risks in the supply chain: focus on Tamil Nadu, India

Tamil Nadu Core Committee to visit London. Three members of the Tamil Nadu Core Committee are planning to visit London in early May to present and discuss their proposed activity plan to the full UK Group. On 6 May we will hold a day's meeting to discuss the activity plan as well as recruitment, office space and funding. On 7 May, the Tamil Nadu visitors will meet with staff from the ETI Secretariat to receive a full induction to ETI and our work.

Contact Juliet Edington: juliet@eti.org.uk
Find more information on our website at:
eti.org/Z/actvts/exproj/chlab

China Project Group

Exploring tripartite collaboration to promote change

Countdown to May conference. The China Project Group is frantically busy preparing for the planned 'Introduction to ETI' conference to be held on 11 May in Guangzhou.

We expect around 150 suppliers to attend the conference. We have also invited selected Chinese organisations to help improve their awareness of the ETI approach to improving workers' access to their legal rights. Speakers include representatives of the ILO and the Bangkok-based Health, Safety and Environment Institute as well as the China Group itself.

The aim of the conference is to raise awareness of the ETI Base Code among the suppliers of ETI corporate members who currently source from China.

Contact Fiona Mabbott: fiona@eti.org.uk
Find more information on our website at:
eti.org.uk/Z/actvts/exproj/china

Homeworkers Working Group

Applying the Base Code to an invisible workforce: the Christmas cracker industry in the UK and jewellery making in India

UK cracker industry progress. A consultation with UK homeworkers supplying one Group member is to take place at the end of April.

Awareness-raising seminar in Delhi. On 5 May, various Group members and their local staff will be holding an awareness-raising seminar with agents and suppliers of Group members. We are expecting around 40 participants. From the UK Group, Traidcraft, ASDA and the Body Shop will be represented. Group members will also be recruiting a local, Delhi-based Co-ordinator for the Project during this visit.

TUC/NGH/Oxfam campaign on UK homeworkers close to launch date. The launch event of this campaign will be on 10 May in London.

The next meeting is on 19 May, 11am–2pm, at the ETI offices.

Contact Pins Brown: pins@eti.org.uk
Find more information on our website at:
eti.org.uk/Z/actvts/exproj/hmwkr

Smallholders Project

Progressing the Base Code through the supply chain: developing guidelines and testing them in the Kenyan tea and fresh produce sectors

Progress on developing guidelines for smallholders. The 'Recommendations for retailers' section of the draft Guidelines has been completed, as has an unofficial benchmarking of the ETI Code against the Utz Kapeh coffee code. Utz Kapeh is a coffee certification scheme.

Focus group discussions in Kenya underway. In Kenya, focus group discussions are now underway with smallholders and their workers to discuss interim results of the recent survey of over 500 smallholders in Kenya.

Next steps. We plan to discuss an interim report of the initial smallholder survey at the next Group meeting. We also plan to hold a feedback workshop for Kenyan stakeholders in July.

The next meeting will be on 12 May, 11am–2pm, at the ETI offices.

Contact Pins Brown: pins@eti.org.uk
Find more information on our website at: eti.org.uk/Z/actvts/exproj

Sri Lanka Garments Project

Testing different audit approaches in the ready-made garments industry.

Workers' information leaflet to be printed. The Colombo Working Group has arranged for an information leaflet for workers to be printed.

Plans underway for worker briefing and awareness raising sessions. On 17 May, the Group plans to hold an initial 'pilot' briefing for workers. A video will be made of this session. The Group will review the video on 17 May and suggest improvements for the subsequent worker briefing sessions.

Testing of audit approaches scheduled for July. ITS has been selected as the commercial audit company and work is underway on the worker interview tool for the multi-stakeholder audit.

The Colombo Group will meet again on 19 May. The UK Group will meet again when required, based on progress from Colombo.

Contact Juliet Edington: juliet@eti.org.uk
Find more information on our website at: eti.org.uk/Z/actvts/exproj/

Temporary Labour (Gangmaster) Working Group

Towards a license to operate: designing a code of practice and inspection process for providers of temporary labour in UK agriculture

Group's report available soon. The Group has written and agreed the text of their final report. This summarises its thinking and makes recommendations on a code of practice and audit regime and a credible licensing and registration scheme for labour providers.

The TUC is co-ordinating the public communication strategy around the report, which will be launched in late May to coincide with lobby work on the passage of the Gangmaster (Licensing) Bill.

The way forward. A total of 20 Group representatives met with Alun Michael MP (Defra Minister) on 7 April to discuss ideas on the architecture of the proposed licensing scheme. Group members continue to lobby for more assurances on issues such as tougher enforcement measures and more resources. The great majority of these have been agreed and on 28 April the Bill passed the Committee stage in the House of Commons.

If the Bill becomes an Act (as now looks likely), the Group will have achieved all it set out to do in September 2002. It is expected that Group members will then join a 'Shadow Licensing Board' convened by Defra, to agree the details of implementing the legislation including the statutory instruments that will be required (for example, the conditions of a licence).

Next Sub-group meeting 20 May, 10.30am–1.30pm, ETI Secretariat

Contact Dan Rees: dan@eti.org.uk
Find more information on our website at: eti.org.uk/Z/actvts/exproj/ukagr

Research

ETI impact assessment

Assessing and improving the impact of corporate members' implementation of the ETI Base Code.

Completion of Phase 1 Report further delayed. The report was approved by the Steering

Group on 3 February. However, final approval and publication of the report has been delayed due to concerns raised by trade union representatives at the Board meeting on 26 February. Written comments from the trade union representatives have now been received, and IDS are working on incorporating them. No decision has yet been reached on whether the report will be made available beyond the membership.

South Africa fruit case study: This first case study is now underway. Due to the late harvest (4–5 weeks later than normal), the fieldwork will not be completed until June/July. The in-country workshop, which will share and cross-check preliminary findings with local stakeholders, is now planned for August.

Vietnam garments case study: It has now been confirmed that the second garment case study will take place in Vietnam. Fieldwork will start in June, and will be completed in October/November.

India garments case study: Fieldwork will start in July, to be completed in October/November.

Contact Man-Kwun Chan: man-kwun@eti.org.uk
Find more information on our website at:
eti.org.uk/Z/actvts/rsproj/impact

Membership support and development

Annual Reporting Working Group *Reviewing and improving the corporate member reporting process*

Performance indicators under development.
The consultancy firm Acona has been appointed to devise a series of indicators that will enable the measurement of corporate members' progress towards implementing the ETI Base Code and our membership principles. Acona's work should be finished by 21 May.

Members of the Annual Reporting working group will inform their respective caucuses

about progress made thus far in the caucus group meetings on 12 and 13 May.

Contact Santiago Porto: santiago@eti.org.uk

Company Codes and ETI Base Code gap analysis

We are still working towards full alignment of companies' codes with the ETI Base Code, as decided by the Board in 2003. To this end we will be contacting relevant companies individually during the next couple of months.

Corporate Annual Reports 2003

A full report based on the analysis of the 2003 Corporate Annual Reports will be presented to the Board for approval on 13 May. Once this document has been approved, we will be sending individual feedback letters together with the anonymised analysis report to all members by early June 04.

Contact Santiago Porto: santiago@eti.org.uk

Membership applications

We are pleased to announce that **Gap Inc** has joined ETI. We are currently discussing with Gap how they will be involved in our various projects and working groups.

As indicated in the last *Update*, **William Lamb Footwear Ltd's** application for membership will be presented to the ETI Board on 13 May.

We are still in discussions with **B&Q** and expect a resolution in the near future.

We have started discussions with **Boden**, a clothing mail order company. This privately-owned business was founded in 1991. It has a staff of around 300 and despatches over 2,000 orders a day.

Contact Santiago Porto: santiago@eti.org.uk

ETI Training Development

ETI is looking for a partner organisation with whom to develop and deliver training courses

based on our learning. We have clear criteria on the values, commitment and technical competence we require from a partner. Members will be sent a short communiqué in the first week of May inviting them to suggest partner organisations and volunteer to help shape this group. Please respond.

Contact Dan Rees: dan@eti.org.uk

ETI members' Message Board

We are pleased to announce that following the launch of our revamped website, you will soon have access to a members-only online discussion forum – the ETI Message Board.

What is it for?

Developed in response to members' demand, it's an informal 'safe space' for you to share experiences and discuss issues without having to use the Secretariat as an intermediary.

Who will have access to it?

Only members will have access. Each ETI caucus group will have their own username and password to protect confidentiality.

How will it work?

You will all receive a launch letter in early May. As well as giving you a username and password, the letter will also explain in more detail what the message board is for – and what is *not* for. It will provide comprehensive guidelines on using the Message Board, including some useful tips and tricks.

When will it go live?

The official launch date is 10 May 2004.

Contact Adil Rehman: adil@eti.org.uk

ETI Strategy Consultation

As you know, ETI is approaching the end of its 2001–2004 strategy period. By April 2005, we will need to have a new Strategy in place to guide our overall direction for the 2005–8 period.

To ensure that our Strategy reflects your priorities and needs as accurately as possible, we are currently carrying out a Strategy Consultation with members. In May and the first part of June we will be holding interviews with individual members and external organizations to canvas their views. In July, we plan to hold a forum for all ETI members to discuss and validate the interim findings of the consultation.

Contact Julia Hawkins: julia@eti.org.uk

ETI and beyond

Multi-stakeholder Initiatives Project

Progress is as follows:

- Shortlisting for the International Project Manager has been completed and a selection/assessment day will be held in London on 10 May.
- A funding proposal for €135,000 was submitted to the EU in mid-April. We expect a response by the end of May.
- A new draft of the Common Code is currently being developed.

ETI will host the next meeting in London on Tuesday, 11 May 2004. In this meeting we will discuss the issues outlined above. We will also discuss moving forward with engaging with stakeholders in Turkey and identifying the key areas of code implementation for testing during the first phase of the project.

Contact Juliet Edington: juliet@eti.org.uk

HEBI recruiting staff

We are pleased to hear that following overwhelming support from its key stakeholder groups in Kenya, HEBI is recruiting three full-time staff to help take the initiative forward.

In the Flower Group meeting on 28 April, it was also suggested that HEBI be invited to attend the Kenya Flower Day in London on Monday, 21 June to promote the initiative.

The Secretariat will contact the Kenya Flower Council to suggest that they might like to extend an invitation to HEBI to participate. ETI training activities within the Kenyan flower industry stimulated the formation of the Horticultural Ethical Business Initiative (HEBI) in 2003. The initiative is jointly sponsored by the Kenyan government, flower industry bodies and NGOs.

Contact Pins Brown: pins@eti.org.uk

Meeting on the post-MFA world

On 26 March, ETI hosted a meeting of interested organisations to discuss whether a multi-stakeholder approach could help guide the transition of the global garment sector to a post-MFA world. Participating organisations included companies and business networks (Gap, Nike, Marks & Spencer and Business for Social Responsibility), the ITGLWF, NGOs (Oxfam International, Maquila Solidarity Network), multi-stakeholder initiatives and organisations (Accountability, ETI, FLA, SAI and Global Alliance) and public bodies (DFID, World Bank).

The group is looking to undertake a short piece of work that will seek to answer the following questions:

- What's likely to happen?
- What's really going on?
- What's the appetite for collaboration?
- What are the options and their value?

ETI agreed to bring this initiative to the attention of member companies involved in retailing and/or manufacturing garments to encourage their participation in this. A presentation of the project will be made at the GM caucus on 13 May.

Contact Dan Rees: dan@eti.org.uk

Publications and events

Forthcoming members' 'roundtable' discussion:

Collective Risk Assessment Project – methodology and lessons

Date: 26 May, 2004

Time: 10am–1pm

Venue: ETI

This roundtable marks the launch of the ETI risk assessment project toolkit developed and tested by our Group to help companies identify problem areas in their supply chains before targeting deeper inspections. As well as showing you how to use the toolkit, we will explain the process we followed and the lessons we learnt in its development. Participants will leave with an understanding of:

- the different aspects of the toolkit;
- the conditions and limits under which the methodology is considered effective; and
- the main issues raised and lessons learnt by Project participants.

This event will be followed in the afternoon by a free public seminar on the same topic for social auditors and consultants. If you know anyone who you think would benefit from the seminar, please email their names and contact details to Adil.

Contact Adil Rehman: adil@eti.org.uk

Secretariat news

Congratulations, m'Lord!

Some members may have spotted that *The Guardian* leaked news that (Sir) Tony Young is soon to be made a life peer and take the labour whip in the House of Lords. Tony is known to most of you as the ETI Trade Union Liaison Officer, but he's soon to be known to the rest of the world as Lord Young of Norwood Green. Congratulations on the honour from all in the ETI Secretariat.

DFID funding 2005/06

DFID has now agreed to extend the current funding arrangement a further year until March 2006. It has offered ETI a further £300,000 for the year March 2005–April 06. This is very good news and it gives us ample time to develop our strategy well in advance of making any funding application to the UK Government or indeed any other funder. DFID has made every effort to be flexible and responsive to ETI's needs while undergoing a major restructuring of its own priorities and funding mechanisms. We are grateful to Hilary Benn, Secretariat of State for International Development and his colleagues who have worked hard to achieve this result.

Use of the ETI logo

Please help us ensure that the ETI logo is not misused. It has come to our attention that a number of organisations (both member and non-member) have been using the ETI logo on materials such as presentation slides and websites, in ways which contravene agreed policy.

No organisation, either member or non-member, should use the ETI logo without prior written agreement from the ETI Secretariat.

Please note in particular that membership of ETI does *not* entitle an organisation to use the ETI logo on their website or any other corporate materials.

If you are aware of other organisations who are misusing the logo, we would be grateful if you could inform the Secretariat.

ETI Update is published every four to six weeks.

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