

No 19 September 2004

ETI Update



ethical
trading
initiative

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

Second Photo Appeal

We urgently need good quality photos for the next ETI Annual Report. Please send any pictures you think might be suitable to adil@eti.org.uk

Corporate annual reports members' forum

6 September
1.30 – 5 pm
The Hatton

Meeting dates

Sri Lanka Garment Project
September Meeting Cancelled
Next meeting tbc

China Project Group
Sub-Group: 5 October, 10.30 am, ETI Offices
Full Group: 4 November

Homeworkers Group
3 September
10.30 – 1 pm: retailers and trade unions
1.30 – 4 pm: Full Group
Nottingham

Smallholders Group
8 September
11 am – 4 pm
ETI Offices

Gangmasters Group
9 September
10 am – 1 pm: Sub-Group meeting
1 pm – 2 pm: Lunch
2 pm – 5 pm: TLWG
ETI Offices

Projects and Working Groups

Child Labour Project

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

Work in India cancelled. Over the last year, the Group has had a number of ongoing concerns and progress has been very limited. Given our failure to recruit a co-ordinator and in light of outstanding issues the Group explored a number of different options to move the work forward. However, in its latest meeting on 27 August the unanimous decision was made that the best course of action is for the project to close.

Discussions planned to take forward work on child labour. Ending this experimental project will not mean we stop seeking other ways of approaching child labour. The Group has already agreed on a process for continuing discussions on the issue.

In the meantime, the Group will communicate its decision to our partners in Tamil Nadu. Within the next four months we will produce a report of the project which includes the lessons we learnt.

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

China Project Group

Exploring tripartite collaboration to promote change

New China material now available on ETI Website:

- *Report on Chinese Labour Law.* A legal review of Chinese Law, comparing it to the ETI Base Code.
- *Companion to ETI Base Code Implementation in China.* This captures the various approaches corporate members have taken in trying to address issues related to Code implementation in China. The *Companion* will be updated in October.

Go to:

http://www.ethicaltrade.info/Z/lib/2003/10/china-bcicompn/ETI-china_BCIcompn.pdf

Please visit the relevant 'thread' on the members' Message Board and tell us about your experiences.

Identifying local partners. In July, the Group was presented with a proposal for mapping local organisations as a first step towards identifying who we could work with in China. We will review the proposal at our next Full Group meeting on 4 November. We also expect to approve the OHS proposal during this meeting.

Next meetings:

Sub-Group: 5 October, 10.30 am, ETI Offices
Full Group: 4 November

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

Homeworkers Project

Applying the Base Code to an invisible workforce: jewellery making in India

India project co-ordinator gets started. Our coordinator in India has started preparing for our work to research the applicability of the Base Code to homeworkers in India. She has already met with members' suppliers of embellished garments, as well as their sub-contractors.

Draft UK Christmas cracker case study report completed. After the closure of the case study earlier this summer, this report sets out the background to the project and provides a chronology of events. It draws out some of the hard lessons we learnt and which we will use to inform our work in India.

The **next meeting** is on Friday 3 September at **Boots in Nottingham:**

10 – 11.30 am
Retailers and trade unions meet to discuss draft recommendations
1.30 – 4.30 pm
Full Homeworkers Group

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

Sri Lanka Garments Project

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

Testing of audit approaches moves to end of the year: Adjustments continue to be made to the multi-stakeholder audit methodology. This has involved more work than the Colombo group initially anticipated. The trial audits have therefore been delayed and are now likely to take place towards the end of the year.

In light of this, the UK group meeting in early September has been cancelled. A new meeting date will be arranged when required. The Colombo Group will meet again on 14 September.

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

Temporary Labour (Gangmaster) Working Group

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

As you know, the Gangmaster (Licensing) Bill became law on 8 July. The Temporary Labour Working Group's new programme of work will include raising awareness among temporary labour providers and training auditors to use the methodology we developed.

In the meantime...

The draft report **A License to Operate** has now been revised to incorporate the rapid changes that have taken place over the last few months. Group members have been invited to comment on this new version prior to its planned launch in September.

Next meetings:
9 September, ETI Offices.
10 am – 1 pm: Sub-Group meeting
1 pm – 2 pm: Lunch
2 pm – 5 pm: TLWG

Contact Dan Rees: dan@eti.org.uk

Find more information on our website at:
www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/actvts/exproj/ukagr

Research

ETI Impact Assessment

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

South Africa case study completed. A workshop was held on 19 August in Cape Town, at which preliminary findings were shared with key players involved in the industry and/or labour rights. It provided a useful cross-check of the preliminary findings and generated fruitful discussion on how the impact of codes could be improved.

Change of plan for final case studies. At the last Steering Group meeting on 4 August, it was agreed that the planned UK horticulture case study will be replaced by 2 smaller case studies in the food sector: one in Central America and the other in Asia or Africa. The Group agreed that this would yield more valuable learning for ETI members.

Members' workshop/roundtable planned for December 2004/January 2005. This event will provide members with the opportunity to hear preliminary findings from the Phase 2 case studies, discuss the challenges encountered and implications for ETI, and explore how to approach Phase 3. Further details will follow.

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

Publications and events

Reminder: 2003 Corporate annual reports all-members' forum

*****BOOK NOW*****

Date: 6 September
Time: 1.30 – 5 pm
Venue:
The Hatton

51-53 Hatton Garden
London EC1

Following last year's format, we will:

- **jointly review issues and trends** including trade unions and NGO caucuses' feedback. We will also share examples of practice emerging from the 2003 corporate annual reports. Quantum will talk about their experience of multi-stakeholder auditing in Cambodia and Levi Strauss will explain the process they went through when a local NGO identified serious code breaches at one of its suppliers' factories
- **present and explain the new corporate annual reporting guidelines** for 2005 onwards. The presentation will be led by Michael Short, chair of the Annual Reporting Working Group

Contact Santiago Porto: santiago@eti.org.uk

Members' roundtable MFA Phase-out: Who gains? Who loses?

BOOK NOW

Date: 27 October
Time: 1 pm – 5 pm
Venue: tbc

The purpose of the session is to deepen members' understanding of the forthcoming phase-out of the Multi Fibre Agreement. Participants will have the chance to learn about the findings of research conducted by the international project group on the impact of phase-out. Topics for discussion will include:

- impact on the world economy as a whole;
- impact for companies and workers of the likely major shift in location of garment production and resulting industry and job losses;
- What companies can do to protect the thousands of workers at risk.

Contact Adil Rehman: adil@eti.org.uk

ETI Annual General Meeting 2004

BOOK NOW

Date: 24 November
Time: 1.30 – 5 pm
Venue:
The Hatton
51-53 Hatton Garden
London EC1

Contact Adil Rehman: adil@eti.org.uk

Urgent appeal for photos

The Secretariat would be extremely grateful if members could send in photographs or images relating to ethical trade for our forthcoming annual report. All pictures provided will be returned.

Photo specifications

- colour or black and white;
- indicate name for photo credit;
- try and think about pictures that help us tell our story and have people/faces in the foreground;
- we will need access to originals of photos and slide transparencies for printing/scanning;
- if you're supplying photos that exist only as digital versions, please ensure that they are high resolution.

Thank you for your help! Please send all images to adil@eti.org.uk.

Other ETI activities

ETI Training Development

Unanimous agreement reached on training partner. On 10 August we held an assessment day for three bidders shortlisted to partner us in developing and delivering training for members' suppliers and other stakeholders based on our learning. At the end of the day we all decided that our preferred candidate is **Co-op College** and **Just Solutions**. The College is an independent, educational charity providing accredited training services to a wide number of business and trusts

internationally. Just Solutions is a network of consultants, all of whom have worked in the international trade union movement and exist to bring trade union perspectives to CSR work. We will be meeting with the team on 1 September to discuss the terms of a partnership, and hope to reach agreement with them very soon.

Thanks to Steve Grinter (ITGLWF), Fiona Wheatley (Sainsbury's) and Maggie Burns (WWW) who sat on the assessment panel on 10 August to review the three shortlisted candidates.

Contact Fiona Mabbot: fiona@eti.org.uk

ETI and beyond

Multistakeholder initiatives project

FLA hosts MSI meeting. The Steering Committee met in Washington on 5 August. Progress is being made towards agreeing:

- *which areas of code implementation will be tested* during the project.
- *how companies will be engaged.* In September, each of the six organisations involved in this initiative will start discussions with company members about participating in the project.
- *drafting the common code for the project.* Several drafts of the common code have been developed and discussed. It is hoped the Code will be agreed by late September.

Consultations to take place in Turkey on 3 and 4 November. We will hold meetings with local trade unions, NGOs, government, trade associations, companies and the ILO. Our aim will be to present the project and to explore possibilities for engaging these local groups.

The **next meeting** of the Steering Committee will take place in Turkey on Friday 5 November.

Find more information on our website at: www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/actvts/capbld

HEBI news

We are pleased to hear that the Horticultural Ethical Business Initiative (HEBI) has recruited a

consultant to finalise HEBI methodology documents and move the process of getting HEBI up and running.

ETI Update is published every four to six weeks.

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