

ETI Update



ethical
trading
initiative

Produced by the Secretariat to keep members informed of our activities. To provide feedback or to make a contribution, contact Julia Hawkins: julia@eti.org.uk

Contents

p2 Projects and Working Groups

- Child Labour Project
- China Project Group
- Homeworkers Project
- Smallholders Project
- Sri Lanka Garments Project
- Temporary Labour (Gangmaster) Working Group
- Purchasing Practices Working Group

p3 Research

- ETI Impact Assessment

p4 Membership support and development

- Corporate annual reports 2004
- Annual reporting guidelines for 2005
- Alleged code violation procedure review

p4 Publications and events

- ETI biennial conference 2005
- Report of ETI seminar on MFA phase-out

p5 Other ETI activities

- Training development

p5 ETI and beyond

- Multistakeholder initiatives project
- Flower industry
- Recent contacts
- Verité conference on overseas workers

p6 Secretariat news

- ETI office space available
- Project manager maternity cover

Bulletin board

ETI AGM

24 November
1 – 5 pm
The Hatton

Roundtable on Freedom of Association

26 January 2005
1 – 5 pm
Details to follow shortly

ETI meeting space available

Contact carol@eti.org.uk

Meeting dates

China Project Group

Sub-Group: 13 or 14
December, date and time tbc.
Full Group: 18 January, time tbc.

Purchasing Practices Project

2 December
1pm – 3 pm
ETI offices

Homeworkers Group

8 December
11 am – 2pm
ETI offices

ETI Biennial Conference

12 – 13 May 2005

Sri Lanka Garments Project

24 November, 10 am –
12.30 pm
ETI offices

Projects and Working Groups

Child Labour Project

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

The report on the project is currently being written and will be available by the end of the year. We then plan to meet to discuss how ETI will approach future work on child labour.

Contact Juliet Edington: juliet@eti.org.uk
www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/actvts/exproj/chlab

China Project Group

Exploring tripartite collaboration for change

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Proposal to be finalised in December. The China Project Sub-Group has been working on simplifying and slimming down the Group's OHS to make it suitable for circulation by corporate Group members to potential supplier participants in the Project. We expect to finalise the proposal in mid December.

Options for structuring work in China. The Group needs to understand how to structure itself to work in China. We have already received advice from several organisations and have approached a consulting firm with offices in China to find out what the options are. Our Group is also discussing its future relationship with the Hong Kong NGOs and trade unions who will work on the project.

Next meetings

Sub-Group: 13 or 14 December, date and time tbc.
Full Group: 18 January, time tbc.

Contact Fiona Mabbott: fiona@eti.org.uk
www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/actvts/exproj/china

Homeworkers Project

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

Workshops highlight situation of homeworkers in India. Results of the research on homeworkers was shared with Delhi stakeholders at two workshops in mid-October. Reports from the workshops have now

been circulated and the research report has been shared with the UK and Delhi Groups.

News from the Delhi Group. The Group has expanded to include two union members. Delhi stakeholders and UK members will discuss next steps for the project in November in the light of the research results.

Finalisation of retailer recommendations. A sub-group is meeting this month to finalise the retailer recommendations in the guidelines for homeworkers.

Personnel changeover. Congratulations to our local co-ordinator Vinita, who has given birth to a baby girl! Ms Anubha Sood will cover her maternity leave until early February 2005.

Final crackers report circulated. The report of the Homeworkers Project's Christmas crackers case study has been circulated to members and is publicly available on our website. The National Group on Homeworking launched their 'Bang out of order' campaign on homeworkers at the end of November.

The **next meeting** is on Wednesday 8 December at ETI's offices, 11am – 2pm.

Contact Pins Brown: pins@eti.org.uk
www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/actvts/exproj/hmwkr

Smallholders Project

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

Visit to Nairobi. Some of the Smallholder Group travelled to Nairobi in the second week of November to conduct a seminar giving feedback on the smallholders survey and to consult on the revised version of the Guidelines. Over 40 people came to the seminar, which went very well. A final consultation process is now defined and the draft Guidelines are open for comment until the end of November.

Next meeting

Thursday 25 November, 2 – 5pm, ETI offices.

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

Sri Lanka Garments Project

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

Final preparations for the trial audits. The tool for interviewing workers is being piloted at the end of this month and the multi-stakeholder audit team is due to be trained in early December. The trial audits will take place in January 2005.

Next meetings

UK Group: 24 November, 10am – 12.30 pm, ETI offices
Colombo Group: 29 November.

Contact Juliet Edington: juliet@eti.org.uk
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

Launch of new Code attracts media attention. On 17 November the new Code of Practice for Gangmasters was launched at the Houses of Parliament. Several MPs and journalists came to the reception, as did representatives from each member of the TLWG, which organised the event. The meeting was opened by Lord (Larry) Whitty, Parliamentary Under Secretary at Defra. The TLWG's website, where labour providers can register, went live on the same day (www.lpcode.co.uk).

Contracts awarded for programme of activities.

The TLWG has contracted consulting company Impactt to manage the registration function for the Code of Practice. It has awarded a separate joint contract to Impactt and consulting company Ethical First to develop and deliver a training programme for auditors to audit against the Code of Conduct. The first training sessions will be held in mid December. Auditors will be approved by the TLWG once they have completed the course and carried out a witnessed audit.

The **next meeting** of the TLWG Sub-Group is on 3 December at 9am. Venue tbc.

Contact Fiona Mabbott: fiona@eti.org.uk

Purchasing Practices Working Group

Exploring the possibility of an ETI project on Purchasing Practices

Following the successful ETI seminar on purchasing practices last summer, an informal meeting of those wishing to take this work further was held in early September. We will circulate a discussion paper at the December caucus meetings. This will look at whether/how ETI might take forward work on this issue. Interested members are also invited to an open tripartite meeting to discuss the paper in more detail. This will be immediately after the corporate and trade union caucus meetings.

Next meeting

2 December, 1pm – 3 pm, ETI offices
Open to any interested ETI member

Contact: Juliet Edington: juliet@eti.org.uk

Research

ETI Impact Assessment

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

Field research in India and Vietnam nearing completion.

Workshops to share and discuss the preliminary findings with local stakeholders will take place on 23 November in Delhi and 9 December in Vietnam.

China scoping study completed.

Key issues arising from the study will be fed back to the next China Working Group meeting, and to the wider membership in March.

Company case study in Costa Rica completed.

The first of the two company case studies, which explored lessons to be learnt from specific company initiatives in the banana sector in Costa Rica, has now been successfully completed. IDS conducted this study in collaboration with a staff member from the Commission for the Verification of Codes of Conduct (Coverco), a Guatemalan NGO with substantial experience of workplace monitoring in Central America.

Members' workshop/roundtable planned for March 2005 This event will provide members with the opportunity to hear preliminary findings from all the Phase Two case studies, discuss the challenges encountered and implications for ETI, and explore how we should approach Phase Three. Further details will follow.

Contact **Man-Kwun Chan**: man-kwun@eti.org.uk
www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/actvts/rsproj/impact

Membership support and development

Corporate annual reporting on 2004

Reporting guidelines for 2004 now available
The 2004 Annual Reporting guidelines and appendices are now available to download from our website at:
www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/actvts/rprtng/index.shtml.
We will be also sending an electronic version to every company shortly.

Deadline for report submission 25 February 2005
Your reports should relate to activities in the year ending 31 December 2004. Please send your report, including appendices, in electronic as well as hard copy format. You must use the Excel templates provided for the appendices, as this will greatly speed up the time it takes for us to provide you with feedback.

Template for annual reports similar to 2003. As with last year, please note the following:

- *All appendices* must be completed in the Excel spreadsheet provided;
- *Appendix B* has two columns: number of non-compliances and number of corrective actions;
- *Appendix E Miscellaneous* includes an up-to-date turnover and profit figure and human resources data;
- Reporting on *training and capacity building* will be aggregated under one section, to cover all training activities and education programmes aimed at building capacity within your organisation, your suppliers, small-scale suppliers and workers in your supply base;
- *Appendix F* provides definitions for relevant terms (in bold in the main text);

- All corporate members will share their reports with each other as well as with TU and NGO members subject to signature of a confidentiality agreement;
- An original copy of the annual report should be signed by a board director.

The only difference from last year is in Section 8, where the question "Provide 3 key objectives relevant to your application of the Base Code for the year" has been deleted.

Contact **Santiago Porto**: santiago@eti.org.uk

Annual Reporting Guidelines for 2005

We have now road-tested and finalised the Excel-based data collection tools for the new annual reporting framework. We will be sharing the tools and guidelines by the end of December so corporate members can start gathering the 2005 data, for reporting back in 2006.

Contact **Santiago Porto**: santiago@eti.org.uk

Alleged code violation procedure review

We have now interviewed ETI members who have been involved in investigations of alleged code violations. We have also consulted other organisations who have been involved in, or researched similar processes. We plan to submit a paper outlining findings and options for improving the procedure to the Board in February 2005.

Contact **Fiona Mabbott**: fiona@eti.org.uk

Minutes and agendas on website

Don't forget all ETI meetings minutes and agendas for experimental projects, caucus meetings and so on are available to members on the ETI website. If you need any help logging on to the members' only area please contact adil@eti.org.uk.

Publications and events

ETI Biennial Conference 2005

DIARY DATE

Dates: 12-13 May 2005

Venue: Novotel (Hammersmith, London)

Many thanks to all members who sent in ideas for the Conference – we received 50 topic suggestions overall.

Draft programme developed. At the second Conference Steering Group meeting on 3 November we reviewed all members' suggestions, prioritised topics, and put together a draft programme which will be submitted to the ETI Board on 16 December for comment and approval. The finalised conference programme will be available at the end of January.

Next Steering Group meeting: the Group will meet again on 10 or 11 January 2005, to be confirmed.

Contact Man-Kwun Chan: man-kwun@eti.org.uk

Report of ETI seminar on the MFA Phase-out

Report available from 24 November 2004.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in finalising it. Full presentations slides/notes are also available.

Contact Man-Kwun Chan: man-kwun@eti.org.uk

Other ETI activities

ETI Training Development

Training implementation plan to be presented at December Board meeting. Development of the training modules will be staggered between January and September next year and each module will be tested and refined as it is developed. The introductory course should be available next April.

'Train the trainers' module planned. ETI members with a particular interest in training will be welcome to attend this module. They will then be able to train their own organisations and/or become part of the core team of trainers who will deliver the courses on an on-going basis.

Contact Fiona Mabbott: fiona@eti.org.uk

ETI and beyond

Multistakeholder Initiatives Project

Consultations in Turkey suggest project is timely. Representatives of the MSI steering committee visited Turkey in early November and met local trade unions, NGOs, government organisations, trade associations, companies and ILO staff. Overall feedback from those consulted suggests that the project is timely and of interest and that many are keen to engage with the project. Four ETI GM members sourcing in Turkey have already expressed their interest.

Project website launched. Further information on the background to the project, as well as the meetings and consultations referred to above can now be found at www.icawr.org.

Next steps

- The steering committee will recruit a local co-ordinator in December or January.
- A meeting will be held with interested brands and retailers in Amsterdam at the end of January. Details will be sent out shortly.

The **next meeting** of the Steering Committee will be in Amsterdam on either 24 or 25 January. The other day will be used to meet any member companies (of all six organisations) participating in the project (as mentioned above).

Contact Juliet Edington: juliet@eti.org.uk
www.icawr.org

Flower industry

Reporting back from the flower forum meeting. At the last meeting on 20 October, members reported on their activities in cut flower supply chains in various countries. The Colombian flower growers'

association ASOCOLFLORES presented their social and environmental programmes with Colombian growers at the meeting. Copies of the presentation are available from Pins.

HEBI news. In Kenya, the Horticultural Ethical Business Initiative (HEBI) now has a fully equipped office, with an Office Administrator, Assistant and Project Manager now in place. Their priorities are now to revise the HEBI code and audit methodology; commission more social audit training and to produce information on HEBI in various formats.

The **next meeting** will be in April 2005.

Contact Pins Brown: pins@eti.org.uk

Recent contacts

Kraft foods have started to sell products with a Rainforest Alliance label covering environmental and labour standards... **Del Monte** Fresh Produce UK Ltd. are interested in applying for membership....The **NHS** is starting to look at suppliers and labour standards, and how ETI could help them in this... The **Business and Human Rights Resource Centre** (www.business-humanrights.org), is to start sending an update of business and human rights issues to up to 10,000 contacts, focusing on what is happening 'on the ground'.

Contact Santiago Porto: santiago@eti.org.uk

Verité conference

Protecting overseas workers: strategic perspectives on labour rights among foreign contract labourers

The conference will be held in Bangkok on 9 and 10 December 2004. It presents findings of research into the conditions faced by foreign contract workers in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, specifically:

- How well are foreign workers protected by law?
- What conditions to foreign workers face on the ground?
- What changes in law and practice are

necessary to minimise labour rights risk for workers and employers?

Contact Sara Radjenovic: sradjenovic@verite.org;
+413-253-9227

Secretariat news

ETI offices available for hire

Our first floor office space is available for hire to members for meetings. The room costs £200 per day. We will be happy to provide lunch and refreshments at cost. The maximum capacity is about 40 – 50 people.

Contact Carol Sheldon: carol@eti.org.uk

Project manager maternity cover

We have offered a position to an excellent candidate who has informally accepted to cover for Pins while she is on maternity leave. Details will be shared as soon as the formalities have been completed.

** Festive quote **

"The manner in which Father Christmas's sack is overloaded clearly contravenes all safety regulations for the carriage of goods".

- Anon.

ETI Update is published every six weeks.
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Disclaimer: The inclusion of information about other organisations and/or their events and activities does not necessarily imply endorsement by ETI.