

ETI Update



ethical
trading
initiative

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

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Bulletin board

Roundtable on ETI Impact assessment

14 April, ETI offices

Booking deadline 8 April

ETI Biennial Conference –

Booking deadline 22 April

Conference promotion assistance needed!

See page 5 for details

Meeting dates

Homeworkers Group

16 May, 2.30 – 5.30 pm

ETI offices

Impact Assessment Group

To be advised

Smallholders Project

16 May, 10.30 am – 1.30 pm

ETI offices

Sri Lanka Garments Project

18 April, 11 am – 1.30 pm

ETI offices

Training QA Panel

20 April, 11.30 am

Purchasing practices

New date:

19 April, 11 am – 2 pm

ETI offices

ETI BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 12-13 MAY 2005: BOOKING DEADLINE 22 APRIL. CONTACT adil@eti.org.uk to secure your free places.

Projects and Working Groups

Child Labour Project

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

The report on this project will be available in the first week of April. Some time after our conference we will be discussing with members how ETI can best 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

Plans continue for Hong Kong NGO/trade union visit to London around the May conference. The current idea is that each corporate member which has put forward a factory for the OHS project will host the Hong Kong NGO and trade union representatives in the week before the conference. This will allow them to demonstrate how they manage ethical issues within their business, particularly with respect to goods sourced from China.

The next planned meeting for the China Project Group is the afternoon of Friday 13 May.

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 fabric embellishment in India

Consultation with UK Homeworkers completed. The results of discussions and interviews with UK homeworkers were fed back to our Group at its recent meeting. There is evidence of significant overlap in the issues affecting homeworkers in both the UK and India research cases. Recommendations arising from the UK-based work are now being integrated into the Guidelines.

'Retailer recommendations' section of the Guidelines close to completion, with agreement from members on final clauses expected by the end of March, and corresponding TU and NGO sections agreed.

Project Manager Liz Kirk in India: Liz is in India from 26 March to 6 April to attend the Local Group Meeting and meet our Local Co-ordinator and other local stakeholders.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 16 May, 2.30 – 5.30 p.m at the ETI offices. Our India Local Co-ordinator Vinita Singh will be present.

Contact Liz Kirk: liz@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

Smallholder Guidelines approved by Board. The publication process is now starting, with copy-editing for both English and Kiswahili versions underway. The Guidelines make a comprehensive and unique contribution to labour code resources and we aim to showcase their publication with launches in Kenya on 14 September and the UK in late September.

Learning Framework. Now the Guidelines have been developed, the group's focus will be how to capture the learning generated through members' application of the Guidelines with smallholders. Work is beginning on the development of a Learning Framework to enable this.

Focus group training. In response to requests from some of our group members, our local co-ordinator Maggie Opondo will be giving training on how to conduct focus group discussions in Harrogate on Tuesday 17 May.

The next meeting is on Monday 16 May, 10.30 am – 1.30 pm at the ETI offices. Local Co-ordinator Maggie Opondo will be present.

Contact Liz Kirk: liz@eti.org.uk
www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/actvts/exproj/smlhldr

Sri Lanka Garments Project

Testing different audit approaches in the ready-made garments industry

Multistakeholder audit training attracts over 30 participants. Held in Colombo on 19 February, this training workshop was attended by representatives of the organisations involved in the multistakeholder audit and the tripartite local group.

The first round of trial audits is well underway and most should have been completed by the end of March. The project is now comparing three, rather than four, audit approaches - the Apparel Exporters Association declined to participate at the last minute as they now feel their current approach lacks credibility. The bulk of the analysis of the different approaches will be carried out in April and May.

Sri Lanka participants to join ETI Conference. The Sri Lanka Co-ordinator, a trade union and a corporate member of the Colombo group will be in the UK for the ETI Conference in May.

The **next meeting** of the UK Group will be 18 April 11am -1.30pm, ETI Offices

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

GLA Chairman designate reassures TLWG on how its work will dovetail with licensing. Registrations of labour providers on the TLWG website have increased steadily to 320 since Christmas, but few labour providers have progressed to audit. Group members felt this could be partly due to a lack of clarity about whether/how the TLWG Code will be recognised by the new Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA). This issue was discussed at TLWG's March meeting, where Chairman designate of the GLA Paul Whitehouse made several statements to indicate that the TLWG project will dovetail with the GLA

system. Actions to increase awareness and audit uptake include:

- **Two-month deadline for audit set.** Labour users must book an audit within two months of registering, to avoid being de-listed. Pre-audit consultancy advice will also be available and Defra will subsidise the consultancy and audit on a limited first-come first-serve basis.
- **A series of free briefing workshops** for labour providers and labour users will be hosted by supermarket members of the TLWG in April and May. The National Farmers Union will also run a series of events.
- **A revised TLWG leaflet** is now available on the TLWG website and Defra has arranged for its distribution via the Inland Revenue. All group members have sent out their own communications about the events and changes to the system.

Audit bookings are already on the increase and the first eight labour providers to be audited with no critical non-compliances have been listed.

Contact Fiona Mabbott: fiona@eti.org.uk
www.lpcode.co.uk

Purchasing Practices Project

Exploring how common purchasing practices affect suppliers' ability to meet international labour standards

Several corporate members have already provided information on which area of their supply chain they are interested in examining for this project. This will provide the basis for discussion at the next meeting and so although the 24 March deadline has passed for companies wishing to participate to submit this information, it is important for those who have not already done so to provide it as soon as possible.

Next meeting

19 April, 11am – 2.00 pm, ETI offices

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

Steering Group's immediate reaction to preliminary findings: 'useful and generally meet TOR'. The Steering Group met on 18 March to review initial findings from the first four case studies. Overall the Group felt that the findings, and how they were presented, were both useful and interesting, and did not contradict their experience in the case study locations/sectors.

The Group expressed the view that, on the whole, the research met the project's TOR. Some expressed disappointment about the limited follow up in some of the locations on impacts at the household and community level, although it was recognised that as resources were limited, priority had to be given to assessing impact on workers themselves. Group members also provided constructive suggestions for further analysis and presentation of the findings.

The **members' roundtable** to share and discuss initial findings from the case studies will be held on 14 April at the ETI offices. All members are strongly encouraged to attend - see page 5 for details.

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

Membership support and development

New external contact list

The Secretariat is setting up a spreadsheet to collect information on NGO and trade union contacts - organisations and individuals - that ETI corporate members have used or currently use around the world. The idea is to allow companies visiting a given country to find out who they can contact and what experience other ETI members have had in dealing with them. This list will be indicative and will only reflect personal

experiences. It should not be treated as a list of ETI-endorsed or recommended organisations.

Please fill out the fields outlined below and email the information to Adil (adil@eti.org.uk):

- Country
- Organisation (name, type)
- Contact (person's name, email, address and/or tel.)
- Date of last contact
- Issues dealt with
- Comments
- ETI contact

We will update the spreadsheet and post it in our members' section of our website once a month at www.ethicaltrade.info/Z/lib/pract/index.shtml
Contact Adil Rehman: adil@eti.org.uk

Corporate annual reporting on 2004

Thank you to all who reported back and met the deadline! A special thanks must go to those who trialled the new framework. The lessons will be shared with all and will help refine the new tool.

Initial statistical analysis is being carried out by Income Data Services (IDS), who will present a first draft report to the Secretariat in April. IDS will present a final report to the Board for approval on 26 May and we will send individual feedback letters to members in the following week.

All members review planned for 26 May. As in the past couple of years, we will have an all-members session to jointly review issues and trends and share examples of good/interesting practice emerging from the 2004 corporate annual reports, and to hear NGO and trade union feedback. This year the session will take place in the morning of 26 May after the Food and GM caucus meetings.

Contact Santiago Porto: santiago@eti.org.uk

Alleged code violation procedure review

Review findings and options for improving the procedure will be circulated to all members in early April. The document will be tabled for discussion at the May caucus meetings and you will be invited to provide feedback either directly or via your caucus.

Contact Juliet Edington: juliet@eti.org.uk

ETI website accessibility

We are pleased to say that our work making sure our website is compliant with good practice and the new Disability Discrimination Act is near completion. Like any code compliance exercise, the work has been challenging, at times tedious and frustrating, and yet ultimately beneficial for users. Do contact Adil if you would like any practical tips on how to make sure your website is compliant.

Contact Adil Rehman: adil@eti.org.uk

New appointment at Sainsbury's

Sainsbury's has recently appointed David Meller as Socially Responsible Sourcing Manager. He'll be working alongside his predecessor Fiona Wheatley, who is now Environment Manager.

Publications and events

Seminar: Freedom of association and collective bargaining

Reporting back

"It never rains but it pours". In the opening speech of the members' roundtable on freedom of association and collective bargaining on 9 March, Neil Kearney said that labour abuses such as child labour, forced labour, discrimination and poor health and safety conditions rarely happen in isolation and are usually clustered. A write-up of the roundtable, which was attended by 46 members, will be available in mid April.

Contact Adil Rehman: adil@eti.org.uk

ETI conference promotion

*****URGENT: your help needed*****

Many of you have been telling us you would like to see ETI's media profile increase. The conference provides ETI with a golden opportunity to increase our profile and most importantly, to disseminate key messages to target audiences.

So now's your chance to help us help you... For the past few weeks we have started on a range of promotion activities for the conference. We can do a lot of this on our own, but we also need your help to make sure the conference gets the coverage it deserves. Please send details of any relevant:

- upcoming **CSR/ethical trade-related events** that your organisation is going to either organise/be involved in before the conference;
- **CSR/ethical trade reports/figures/case studies** you're planning to publish before the conference (for example, your annual CSR report, a research report etc; and/or
- **press releases** you have released recently or are planning to release: e.g. a statement from your CEO on an ethical trade-related issue.

The information we receive on your activities - whether you're a company, trade union organisation or NGO - will help us build up a body of material we can potentially use for our conference promotion activities - so creating a win-win situation for all!

Contact Julia Hawkins: julia@eti.org.uk

Members' roundtable: Initial findings on ETI Impact Assessment

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

Date: Thursday 14 April 2005

Venue: ETI offices

Time: 11am - 5pm (tbc)

Attend this event to hear initial findings from the ETI Impact Assessment, the most comprehensive, worker-focused impact assessment of labour codes to date. The main session will provide an overview of impact across the four case studies completed so far, and a chance to feed back on the findings and influence how learning will be shared within the membership and beyond. The

main session will be followed by special sessions providing more in-depth information on impact and recommendations in each of the case study locations: India (Delhi) - garments, South Africa - horticulture, Vietnam - garments and footwear, and Costa Rica - bananas.

To book a place email adil@eti.org.uk by 8 April 2005

Other ETI activities

ETI Training Development

Module One to be piloted. Module One of the training programme: "Introduction to ethical trade and ETI" has now been drafted and will be piloted with a group of ETI members on 6 April at the ETI offices. Parts of this Module will also be presented in a workshop at the ETI conference in May, acting both as a taster of the training and as an introduction to the basic building blocks of implementing an ethical trade strategy.

Modules Two to Five are under development and will be piloted in the same way as Module One. Please contact fiona@eti.org.uk if you are interested in participating in the piloting of future modules.

Future QAP meetings:

20 April, 11.30am – 3.30pm

10 June, (a double meeting) 11.30am – 4.30pm

4 August, 11.20am – 3.30pm

Contact Fiona Mabbott: fiona@eti.org.uk

ETI and beyond

Coming up...

Dan Rees will speak at a conference organised by **Vodafone** on 8 April that will examine the responsibility of the telecommunications industry for promoting labour standards. Other ETI members will also be sharing their experiences... On 28/29 April, Dan will present the Temporary Labour Working Group's experience of developing

solutions in the UK at a meeting hosted by the **Institute of Labour Studies** on migrant labour.

Recruitment of new ETI Chair

Alan Roberts announced his intention to stand down as Chair of ETI from the end of May and we have employed the services of Capita Resourcing to assist in this important process.

The post has been publicly advertised and members have been sent a copy of the advertisement. If you would like Capita Resourcing to approach any individuals that you would recommend for this role, please contact Jo Travers either by telephone, 01256 383678 or 07717 577010, or by email at Joanne.Travers@capita.co.uk.

Interviews of shortlisted candidates will take place on 25 April and the ETI Board hopes to make the appointment prior to the ETI conference.

Recent contacts

DCC corporate clothing, a major supplier of corporate uniforms and clothing at work, will have its application for membership presented to the Board on 26 May. **Rohan's** application will also be presented to the May Board. **Rombouts** coffee has expressed a renewed interest in membership and we plan to meet its major shareholder soon.

Secretariat news

It's a girl!

We are delighted to announce that ETI Project Manager Pins Brown gave birth to a baby girl, Esther, on 23 March. Mother and baby are doing well.

ETI Update is published every six weeks.
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