

No 27 October 2005

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

Training Programme Launch

Monday 31 October

4 – 6 pm

House of Commons – see p. 4

New! ETI Smallholder Guidelines – see p.4

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 23 November 2005

Meeting dates

China Group

Thursday 24 November

10 am – 1 pm

ETI offices

Homeworkers Group

Tues 22 November

11 am - 1.30 pm

ETI offices

Smallholders Project

9 March: half-day learning
workshop

ETI offices

Sri Lanka Garments Project

Thursday 10th November

11am - 2pm

Venue to be confirmed

TLWG

w/c 5 December – to be
advised

Purchasing practices

12– 3 pm

Thursday 27 October

ETI offices

Projects and Working Groups

China Project Group

Exploring tripartite collaboration for change

OHS project planning trip to China. Plans for the UK Group's visit to China (10 – 17 October) are now finalised. The trip will include meetings with partners and suppliers, a factory visit and, hopefully, the appointment of a local co-ordinator: interviews will be held on 11 October and if an appointment is made on the same day, the new co-ordinator will be able to join the rest of the trip.

Guangdong journalists visit: This week we received English versions of several articles based on a fact-finding visit of Chinese journalists to the UK earlier this year. Hard copies of the articles, which mainly deal with general CSR issues in the UK, are available on request.

Future meetings:

OHS Project Members: during the visit
Full China Project Group:
10am to 1pm Thursday 24 November at ETI's offices

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

Homeworkers Project

Applying the Base Code to an invisible workforce: examining fabric embellishment in India

Delhi trip. The trip to Delhi goes ahead from 18 – 20 Oct 2005. The visit aims to increase participants' exposure to homeworking environments; encourage understanding of how buying practices can impact on homeworkers, and offer an opportunity to consult on the draft guidelines with wider stakeholders.

Next meeting:

Tues 22 November
11 am - 1.30 pm
ETI offices

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 for working with smallholders

Details of the recent launch of the Smallholders Guidelines and how to obtain a copy can be found at page 4.

The **next meeting**, which will be a half-day learning workshop, will be held on 9 March 2006 at the ETI offices. Time to be confirmed.

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

Sri Lanka trip. All UK group representatives are currently in Sri Lanka (30 September and 1 October). More information on the visit will be provided in the next *Update*.

Next meeting:

Thursday 10th November
11am - 2pm
Venue to be confirmed

Contact liz kirk: liz@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

Updates to TLWG website and reporting tools.

Following new legislation, a series of updates to the code for temporary labour providers are now listed on the TLWG website at www.lpcode.co.uk. Audit reporting tools have also been refined to help reduce the likelihood of double counting of non-

compliances. The reports are now easier to use by auditors and labour providers alike.

Registrations, audits and delisting. A total of 403 audits have now been booked and 144 have been completed. In October, a third round of de-listing will take place of labour providers who have not booked an audit or advice within the required period. De-listing will continue to take place on a regular basis.

Transition to GLA: A proposal to fund the management of the transition from the TLWG audit programme to the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA)'s licensing system has been presented to the GLA for discussion. This proposal is under review by the GLA and we hope to have a final work programme agreed in the third week of October.

ETI to host consultation meeting on licensing conditions. As part of the GLA's Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), ETI will host a GLA meeting on 21 October to consult members of the industry and the TLWG on licensing conditions for temporary labour providers. The meeting will run from 11am to 1pm at the ETI offices and TLWG members are welcome to attend. Please note there will be a short TLWG meeting immediately afterwards.

Dates and venues for further consultations will be publicised at lpcode.co.uk and sent to TLWG members and registered labour providers.

A **full TLWG** meeting is scheduled for the week commencing 5 December, exact date to be confirmed.

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

Project plans this month. Participating company members are continuing to work with their nominated NGO and/or union to finalise plans for

their individual company case study. These will be discussed among the whole group at the meeting in October.

Next meeting

27 October, 12 – 3 pm
ETI offices

Contact: Helen Turner: helen@eti.org.uk

Membership support and development

New members

We are very pleased to welcome Inditex, Rombouts, Greencell and Wibedco to ETI and look forward to working with them all:

- **Inditex** is the second largest fashion retailer group in the world. Employing nearly 50,000 people, it owns eight fashion distribution chains including Zara and Massimo Dutti. Its turnover in 2004 was €5.6bn and it has 2,244 stores in 56 countries.
- **Rombouts GB** is the UK distributor for Rombouts Belgium, a family-owned coffee company based in Belgium. RGB is part of RHM Food Services and its turnover is around £10m.
- **Greencell** is a £40m turnover fresh fruit importer whose customers include Waitrose, Lidl and Delmonte.
- **WIBEDCO- The Windward Islands Banana Development and Exporting Company Limited** is a private company set up to drive the commercial development and interests of the Windward Islands banana industry.

Publications and events

ETI Smallholder Guidelines

Guidelines available now!

Following well-attended launches in Kenya, Spain and the UK, we are pleased to announce the publication of the *ETI Smallholder Guidelines: recommendations for working with smallholders*. This resource provides detailed guidance and tools for implementing corporate labour codes with

smallholders and their workers, and is for use by retailers, purchasers, auditors, NGOs, trade unions and smallholders. Congratulations to all members of the Smallholders Project Group for an impressive publication.

Media interest in the Smallholder guidelines was generated from press releases targeted at trade and CSR press around the launches. We received detailed enquiries from the *Fresh Produce Journal*, *The Grocer*, *Supply Management*, *Ethical Corporation* and *Corporate Citizenship Magazine* and will provide a summary of the coverage we receive in the next *Update*.

How do I get a copy? The Guidelines are available in English, Spanish or Kiswahili, and can be downloaded for free from www.ethicaltrade.org/Z/lib/2005/09/smhldrgls/index.shtml. A limited number of hard copies is also available. Please contact Adil at adil@eti.org.uk if you would like one of these (maximum of 2 hard copies per member organisation).

ETI Training Programme launch

A public launch of the training programme will be held at the Houses of Parliament on Monday 31 October. **Places are limited but if you are interested in attending, please contact Fiona Mabbott: fiona@eti.org.uk** This will be followed by a range of promotional activities for the courses which will start running from early 2006.

Interested in the training? Want to know more?

Anyone interested in attending a course or in having an in-house course for their own organisation should contact Fiona Mabbott at the Secretariat to discuss the options.

Module piloting. Modules 1 – 4 have now been piloted and Module 5: Train the Trainers will be piloted 7-11 November.

The **next meeting** of the Training Quality Assurance Panel is at 11.30 am on Friday 7 October to review amendments to the modules based upon these trials.

Contact Fiona Mabbott: fiona@eti.org.uk

ETI and beyond

Joint Initiative on Corporate Accountability and Workers Rights (JO-IN)

Personnel changes. Susan Hayter, who was seconded from the ILO to be International Project Manager for the past year, will be returning to the ILO in mid-October. Susan has played an invaluable role in the project set-up phase. She will be replaced by Sebastian van der Vegt, who also joins us from the ILO (Turkey Office). Sebastian's experience of working on ILO social auditing projects in Turkey and the Baltic states will be crucial in the implementation phase of the project.

Vic Thorpe of Just Solutions appointed chair of project Steering Committee. Vic brings a wealth of experience of ethical trade. He currently advises Social Accountability International on aspects of their work and also collaborates with ETI on our training work.

JO-IN Common Code revised. The code has been revised to take account of advice given by the standards department of the ILO. It is available at www.jo-in.org in English and Turkish.

List of factories finalised. The list of factories that will be invited to participate has been finalised and these companies are being invited to further consultations on 3 October in Turkey.

Publications. Draft papers have been prepared on possible approaches to wages and working hours in the Turkish context and these are available on the Website.

ETI in the media

ETI press work around MFA forum activities in Bangladesh earlier in the summer prompted Ethical Corporation Magazine to invite Alan Roberts to write an opinion piece on MFA phase-out and its implications for workers. The article, published in September, centred on the plan for Bangladesh to

compete with its rivals by improving workers' conditions. An electronic copy is available on request.

Contact Julia Hawkins: julia@eti.org.uk

Recent contacts

Santiago Porto recently met **Marshalls plc** which manufactures and supplies landscape, driveway and garden products from a range of materials including concrete, natural stone, iron, steel, wood, glass and polyurethane, for domestic, commercial and public sector use. He also met the **Food and Drink Federation**, which will be presenting information on ETI to their members.

Contact Santiago Porto: santiago@eti.org.uk

FEE discussion paper on assurance for a sustainable supply chain

FEE - the representative body for the accounting sector in Europe – has just released a discussion paper on sustainable supply chain management. The paper, *Assurance for a Sustainable Supply Chain*, emphasises the business case and the role and value of independent 'assurance' services.

Free copies can be downloaded from the FEE website (<http://www.fee.be>) or ordered from Sylvie Romancide (Fax: + 32 2 231 11 12, Email: Sylvie_Romancide@fee.be). Comments on the paper are welcome – send them to the FEE Secretariat (Corinne.Soubies@fee.be).

CSR Asia Conference: The Supply Chain Talks Back

A two-day conference in Shenzhen, November 21-22 2005

CSR Asia's first annual conference is 'the first that brings together representatives from the whole supply chain'. The conference will be mainly workshop based, giving attendees the opportunity to hear from migrant workers, factory employees, women's groups, trade unions, etc.

A full conference programme and brochure are available at:
www.csr-asia.com/upload/conferencebrochure.pdf

Secretariat news

Pins Brown II: The Return

After what seemed like forever, but was actually only about six months, Pins Brown is now back from maternity leave to kick-start our planned work on capacity building. Welcome back to Pins, who'll be in the office on Mondays and Thursdays and every other Wednesday.

So long, Joe

Joe Reeve, the Secretariat's administrative assistant, will be leaving ETI at the end of October to start a new career in CAD. For ignoramuses like us in the Secretariat, that means Computer Aided Design. Joe has been with us for nearly three years, and during that time has provided excellent support to the Secretariat staff team and to members. We will all miss him, but he goes with our very best wishes for his future career.

New baby!

Juliet Edington has had a beautiful baby daughter, born in London at 12.41 am on Sunday 25 September 2005, weighing 7.5lbs. All are well and Juliet and her partner Dan are over the moon.

Disclaimer: The inclusion of information about other organisations and/or their events and activities does not necessarily imply endorsement by ETI.

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