



On the Horizon

A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights

Issue 4 - 4 April 2008

This bulletin is prepared by the [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://www.business-humanrights.org) for our International Advisory Network, Academic Partners, and select others working in this field. It presents contributions from a number of experts & organizations, and is designed to keep all of us informed of key developments & future initiatives.

If you would like to contribute to our next bulletin planned for early June 2008, please send your announcement (about an initiative, event or publication planned for after 5 June) by 31 May to Greg Regaignon: regaignon@business-humanrights.org. Please keep the contribution short, under 200 words.

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1. Work of UN Special Representative John Ruggie: Looking ahead

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) on business & human rights, Professor John Ruggie, will present his next report to the UN Human Rights Council in June. The report will be accompanied by a companion report discussing the concepts of “sphere of influence” and “complicity” in response to sub-para. (c) of the SRSG’s mandate. Addenda will summarize recent consultations as well as the findings from a joint study with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) mapping allegations against companies from the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC) website.

Recent work prepared for the mandate has included:

- A report on foreign direct investments and human rights, developed through a joint study with the International Finance Corporation;
- A report from the International Institute for Sustainable Development focusing on international investment agreements / business and human rights; and
- Reports from Allens Arthur Robinson on the use of corporate culture as a basis for corporate criminal liability, as well as corporate duties and human rights under Australian law.

Forthcoming submissions being prepared for the mandate include:

- A paper on the use of shareholder activism to strengthen corporate responsibility for human rights;
- A comparative report on the legal obstacles facing victims of corporate human rights abuse;
- A summary of the effect of World Trade Organization rules on business and human rights;
- A paper on the state duty to protect in the Inter-American system; and
- The results of an OHCHR survey of national human rights institutions regarding their practices with respect to business and human rights issues.

All of these publications will be made available on the [SRSG’s webpages at the BHRRC](#), which he is continually grateful to the BHRRC staff for hosting and supporting.

→ for more information, contact Vanessa Zimmerman, member of the SRSG’s team (vanessa_zimmerman@ksg.harvard.edu)

2. Watch for new Greenpeace China newsletter, alerting finance sector to environmental risks

[Greenpeace China](#) is now publishing *Green Investment*, a quarterly newsletter targeting the finance community. The [first issue](#) was published in March 2008, and the next issue will be out in June.

The newsletter shares important information about environmental risks and issues that Greenpeace China uncovers during the course of its on-the-ground experiences and investigations associated with its major campaign issues.

China’s phenomenal economic growth during the last two decades has created unprecedented environmental challenges for the country and the world as a whole. Greenpeace firmly believes that such economic development should never be achieved by sacrificing the environment.

As in many other emerging markets, corporations that wish to invest in China and the financial institutions that back them face considerable hidden material risks. Such risks include non-compliance with or violations of environmental laws, or – even worse – large-scale pollution that causes irreversible damage to local communities. When material risks of these types come to light, the parties concerned may incur considerable penalties. Their business operations might even be halted.

The likelihood of such situations coming to light in China is increasing. The authorities and regulators are now more outspoken than ever in their condemnation of environmental crimes, and they are cracking down hard on corporations with poor environmental track records. It is imperative for financial institutions to step up to the plate, assess the environmental risks relating to their investment portfolio, and ensure that they incorporate more stringent environmental standards into their lending policies and practices.

Our goal will be to help fund managers, prime brokers and analysts to strengthen the environmental elements of their due diligence and financial analysis processes, for their own benefit and for a sustainable future.

→ contributed by Man Kei Tam, Campaigner, Sustainable Finance, Business Unit, Greenpeace China; the latest issue is available [here](#); for subscription, please send an email to mktam@greenpeace.org

3. Road ahead for Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights (BLIHR)

At the start of April, [BLIHR](#) finds itself in Bangalore, India, looking forward to the final year of the programme. As well as colleagues from India, there are others from China, Latin America and Africa joining us for our discussions on how to better understand and communicate the business case for human rights in emerging economies. These business-to-business discussions are a key part of BLIHR's last year, as our consultations around our common framework on business and human rights as represented in our work on the matrix, essential standards, tools, accountability and good governance in sensitive countries.

We would like to inform people working in this field about some of the events we are participating in over the weeks and months ahead where we hope to engage in discussion about our work:

28 April 2008 – Meeting of UN Global Compact USA Network in Boston

7 May 2008 – Human rights session at the Global Reporting Initiative conference in Amsterdam

8 May 2008 – Meeting of the UN Global Compact Nordic Network in Iceland

18 June 2008 – Seminar in Stockholm, in collaboration with the Swedish Foreign Ministry, on the role of government in business and human rights

Please note that all is progressing well for the international conference on business and human rights in Paris on 4 and 5 December 2008 to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We hope that we might see some of you at the events above. Please note that the consultation process for the Institute on Business and Human Rights is also progressing, and the next consultation will be in Nairobi, Kenya, during the week of 19 May 2008.

→ *contributed by John Morrison, Programme Director, Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights*
(john.morrison@blihr.org)

4. Next steps for the Colombia Guidelines on Security and Human Rights

The Colombia Guidelines code and process draw from the 2000 Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs) and extend the principles to non-extractive industries. By the end of the 2-year pilot phase (later in 2008) there should be a finished code, a governance structure and procedures to monitor company compliance with the code. The initiative will then be opened to multinational and domestic business operating in Colombia and should serve as a model to be implemented in weak governance zones across the globe.

The Colombia Guidelines have started out with a small group (see below). The Guidelines take security and human rights as key issues, and are based on multi-stakeholder participation.

Features:

- Global initiatives usually face buy-in and implementation obstacles when they reach cultural, political and security realities on the ground, whereas local initiatives risk being too local, disconnected from international standards and democratic norms. Therefore, the Colombia Guidelines have a local-global design:

	Local	Global
Businesses	Indupalma	The Coca-Cola Company
	Isa	Nestle
	Isagen	ABB
	Palmares S.A.	
	Tipiel	
	Argos	
NGOs	Cinep	International Alert
	Codhes	
	Indepaz	
Unions	CUT	IUF
Facilitators	Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP)	International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF)
Governments	Colombia	Canada
		Switzerland

- The text clarified some of the original wording of the VPs and added three chapters: extortion by illegal armed groups and mafia organizations, security and protection of union members and employees, and compliance along the supply chain. It also has an explicit commitment by NGOs and unions to reject any form of illegal violence.
- The initiative aims to have governance and procedures, including a monitoring mechanism, right from the beginning. We are looking into quantitative and qualitative indicators and probably an investigation and recommendation model similar to the Ethical Trading Initiative.

Jonas Moberg, former IBLF and now at Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and Alexandra Guáqueta from FIP have been key figures in setting up the process. Participants are also grateful to John Ruggie (UN Special Representative on business and human rights) and Gérald Pachoud (Special Advisor to John Ruggie on his mandate as UN Special Representative, currently on leave from the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

→ contributed by Alexandra Guáqueta (aguaqueta@ideaspaz.org) and Catalina Niño (cnino@ideaspaz.org), Fundación Ideas para la Paz

5. Forthcoming study on global security industry

International Peace Institute is undertaking a *Feasibility Study on Standards Implementation and Enforcement Mechanisms for the Global Security Industry*.

International Peace Institute, with the assistance of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, is undertaking a *Feasibility Study on Standards Implementation and Enforcement Mechanisms for the Global Security Industry*. The Study aims to catalyze thinking on the practical and policy issues involved in regulating the global private security industry, through a structured dialogue between the study authors, led by James Cockayne of IPI, and three groups of stakeholders: governments, industry actors, and civil society.

The study will produce a report detailing stakeholder attitudes to 20 to 25 different types of international standards implementation and enforcement mechanisms including: industry associations (e.g. IPOA, BAPSC), multistakeholder reporting and certification processes (e.g. Voluntary Principles, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Kimberley Process, Social Accountability International), peer-led mechanisms (e.g. Financial Action Task Force, Wolfsberg Group), and third-party monitoring arrangements (e.g. Geneva Call, Fair Labor Association, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline).

Research and consultations over the spring and summer of 2008 will generate a draft report available for comment in the Fall/Autumn of 2008. A final report will be available by end 2008/early 2009.

→ for further information, to work on this project or to contribute your views please contact James Cockayne, Associate, International Peace Institute (cockayne@ipinst.org), +1-212-225-9623

6. Watch for this South African study on how mining affects health of off-mine populations

Using human milk teeth as an index of the accumulation of radioactivity and heavy metals in children, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research is carrying out a study to determine the health impact of chronic exposure to heavy metals and radionuclide contamination on off-mine human populations in areas closely associated with gold mining. [The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will post the results of this study on our website and in a future issue of "On the Horizon"].

Past scientific studies reveal that there is a heavy metal and radionuclide contamination problem associated with gold mining, particularly in the Wonderfontein Spruit Catchment in South Africa. In this regard, all of the rivers that drain into the Vaal basin (the source of drinking water for Johannesburg) are contaminated, thus making it an issue of great national significance and a potential driver of conflict if left unmanaged.

The majority of the inhabitants live in informal settlements, using contaminated ground and stream water for personal hygiene and drinking. With above-average infection rates of HIV/AIDS and chronic and acute malnutrition, this subpopulation is particularly vulnerable to additional stress on the immune system by contaminants such as uranium.

Current policies on mining waste and mine water management pay little attention to impacts of mining activities on human health, focusing instead on occupational health and safety of mine workers while ignoring off-mine populations.

→ for further information contact Mariette Liefferink, CEO, [Federation for a Sustainable Environment](http://www.federationforasustainableenvironment.org) (mariettel@iburst.co.za)

7. Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative - upcoming activities

Mary Robinson will be a keynote speaker at the first meeting of the US Network of the UN Global Compact on business and human rights. This meeting will take place on 28 April at Harvard Business School. The agenda is available at: www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/upcoming/US_agendaApril08.pdf

Mary Robinson and Realizing Rights colleagues helped to initiate the Global Compact's Human Rights Working Group. The next meeting takes place in Boston on 29 April. More information on the working group is available at: www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/index.html

On the same day Realizing Rights is cooperating with Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing) to organize a public event on the issue of human rights and decent work. More information on WIEGO is available at www.wiego.org, and on Realizing Rights and its Decent Work program at www.realizingrights.org/pdf/ILO_Decent_Work_meeting_Lisbon_Nov_07_FINAL.pdf

→ for more information contact Scott Jerbi scott.jerbi@eginitiative.org (Senior Advisor, based in Geneva) or Heather Grady heather.grady@eginitiative.org (Director, Policy and Partnerships, based in New York), [Realizing Rights](http://www.realizingrights.org)

8. Investigating business and human rights developments in China's Olympic year

For use in the run-up to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, [Human Rights in China](http://www.hrichina.org) has compiled a unique collection of resources and in-depth information that will help businesses, governments and individuals maximize their respective roles to encourage Beijing to meet its complex human rights challenges and show the world it is a responsible international actor, worthy of hosting the Games.

"Human Rights: Everyone's Business," the latest issue of the organization's journal *China Rights Forum*, explores the crucial role of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in China as the country grapples with internal and international pressure to improve its human rights record in anticipation of the August 8 Olympics opening.

While the corporate world and the Chinese government appear to be increasingly aware of the concept of CSR, it is not clear to what extent Chinese or foreign companies understand how it works and how it might affect business practice and policies in China. Additional challenges are presented when the government itself lacks transparency and accountability and struggles with widespread corruption. Under such circumstances, how can companies be transparent, accountable, and responsible? In China, where many "private" companies are in fact controlled or owned by economic or political elites, and public companies are at an early stage of their evolution, can companies do well and do good? Can they make a profit and make a difference? What is the role and relationship of different stakeholders, including civil society actors, in a system that does not tolerate or allow independent critical voices?

"Human Rights: Everyone's Business" explores these questions with pieces from numerous Chinese contributors, as well as from Christine Bader, Scott Greathead, and Michael Posner. The issue examines the international development of CSR concepts, initiatives, and trends, and begins mapping the CSR issues emerging in China. An extensive CSR resource list provides an additional window into the proliferation in China of discussion, websites, books and other resources dealing with CSR (or RBC—"responsible business conduct"—another term used in China). The issue goes on to assess the significant human costs of the "free market" in China, and the impact of Chinese companies on the environment.

→ to read "Human Rights: Everyone's Business," visit <http://www.hrichina.org/public/contents/47993>; to get involved in HRIC's 2008 Olympics Take Action Campaign, visit <http://www.ir2008.com>; for more information, contact Elisabeth Wickeri at (elisabeth.wickeri@hrichina.org)

9. New website from Ethical Consumer

In early May, Ethical Consumer will be launching a redesigned and radically restructured www.ethicalconsumer.org website. ECRA Publishing, a not-for-profit workers' co-operative, has been producing *Ethical Consumer* magazine since the late 1980s and launched the subscription websites [Ethiscore.org](http://www.ethiscore.org) (for consumers) and [Corporatecritic.org](http://www.corporatecritic.org) (for charities and companies screening corporates) more recently.

The new-look ethicalconsumer.org will significantly increase the amount of free information that ECRA has in the public domain, removing the need to subscribe in order to see rating tables giving ethical scores for consumer brands ranging from flower deliveries to children's toys, trainers to loo roll. Users will be able to access basic versions of around 170 product buyer's guides, with a full report text and basic comparative scorecard. Subscribers will be able to access more regularly updated reports which can be customised according to individual ethical priorities.

It is hoped that the relaunch of ethicalconsumer.org will make it easier for consumers to access high-quality online information on the human rights, environmental and animal welfare impacts of companies and products, allowing them to take well-informed action in the marketplace.

→ contributed by Sarah Irving, Research Manager, Ethical Consumer Research Association Features Editor, Ethical Consumer magazine (sarah@ethicalconsumer.org)

10. Watch for shareholders' vote on Darfur, Sudan

As the spring proxy season heats up, stockholders of four major financial firms will have the opportunity to vote on a new shareowner proposal on Sudan, introduced by a coalition that includes [Amnesty International USA](#), the [Genocide Intervention Network](#), and several socially responsible investment companies. The proposal calls on firms to report to shareholders the ways in which they are addressing human rights issues in their business activities, and in particular to address the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. The firms are asked to take responsibility as investors and utilize their investment relationships and public profiles to challenge companies that play a strategic role in the Sudan. The proposal, an example of which can be downloaded [here](#), will be voted on at the annual meeting of Morgan Stanley on 8 April, followed by Citigroup on 22 April, Wells Fargo on 29 April, and JP Morgan Chase on 20 May.

The proposals were prompted by shareowner concerns regarding these firms' investments in a set of oil companies that provide significant revenue and support to the government of Sudan. These companies include China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC/PetroChina), China Chemical and Petroleum Corporation (Sinopec), Petroliaam Nasional Berhad (Petronas), and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of India-Videsh (ONGC). The government of Sudan uses the revenue generated by these companies to wage its costly war and perpetuate human rights abuses against the people of Darfur.

As a result of filing the proposals, all of the firms have begun engaging with the coalition to start addressing these concerns.

→ to learn more about how individual company dialogues are progressing, see www.amnestyusa.org/progress or contact Amy O'Meara, Director of Business & Human Rights, Amnesty International USA (aomeara@aiusa.org)

11. Watch for these new reports on Sudan

In April the [Genocide Intervention Network \(GI-Net\)](#), home to the [Sudan Divestment Task Force \(SDTF\)](#), will publish two new reports: a comprehensive *Sudan Divestment Resource Guide* and a groundbreaking *Peer Performance Analysis* for companies connected to human rights abuses in Sudan.

The *Sudan Divestment Resource Guide* outlines the targeted Sudan divestment model developed by SDTF and details the resources available to identify problematic companies in Sudan, tools for shareholder engagement, general engagement principles for companies operating in Sudan, evaluations of financial costs and benefits for implementing the targeted Sudan divestment model, and existing options for Sudan-free investing. The *Sudan Divestment Resource Guide* also addresses concerns regarding fiduciary duty, U.S. constitutional requirements, and the potential for Sudan divestment to set a precedent for other divestment requests.

The *Peer Performance Analysis* examines the historical performance of companies identified by SDTF as "Highest Offenders" in Sudan, as compared to the historical performance of each company's peer group. All data in this analysis come from Bloomberg LP. Preliminary results from the analysis have shown that the "Highest Offenders" in Sudan have substantially underperformed their peer group over three-year and one-year periods.

Both reports include an analysis of the financial, operational, and reputational risks facing companies operating in Sudan, as well as recommendations for mitigating those risks.

The reports will be available on the [SDTF Reports Page](#) or by [contacting the organization](#).

→ *contributed by Nina McMurry, research analyst, Genocide Intervention Network (mcmurry@genocideintervention.net)*

12. Watch for new website of European Coalition for Corporate Justice

The [European Coalition for Corporate Justice](#) (ECCJ), the leading civil society coalition in Europe working on corporate accountability, representing national platforms and over 200 civil society organisations including the FIDH and national chapters of Oxfam, Greenpeace, Amnesty International and Friends of the Earth, has launched its new website.

Please visit www.corporatejustice.org to:

- Find out more about the current situation of Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Accountability at the European level
- Learn about the thematic priorities ECCJ is working on
- Stay informed about activities and publications by ECCJ and its Members
- Find out about interesting upcoming events around the issue of corporate accountability
- Subscribe to our Newsletter or sign up to our RSS feed that will regularly inform you about updates on our website.

You also can subscribe online to our conference “Smart regulation: Legislative opportunities for the EU to improve corporate accountability” to be held in the European Parliament in Brussels on 29 May.

→ *for more information please contact Ruth Casals, Coordinator, European Coalition for Corporate Justice (info@corporatejustice.org)*

13. Human Rights & Business Project at Danish Institute for Human Rights: Looking ahead

• Country Risk Assessments: Russia and Kenya

In the next quarter, the [Human Rights & Business Project](#) will distribute [Country Risk Assessments](#) (CRA) on Russia and Kenya to its company partners.

The CRA presents comprehensive, business-focused data on human rights risk in a given country. The Russia and Kenya CRAs each draw upon more than six months of research, and include detailed descriptions of human rights issues in formal law and common practice, offering detailed recommendations for companies with operations in each country. The publication of the Russia and Kenya CRA bring the number of CRAs offered by the Human Rights & Business Project up to 13.

To read the executive summary of the Kenya or Russia Country Risk Assessments (online beginning 7 April), or to purchase the full reports, visit www.humanrightsbusiness.org.

• Human Rights & Business Project Expansion

As part of the institution-wide restructuring of The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), the Human Rights & Business Project will be expanded to include a five-member diversity team. Formerly in the national department of DIHR, the diversity team creates diversity tools and training for companies, and gives out the annual MIA Award, which recognizes Danish companies that excel in diversity management. The addition of the diversity team expands the Human Rights & Business Project to 14 staff and consultants.

→ *for more information, contact Mike Baab at the Human Rights & Business Project (mba@humanrights.dk)*

14. UN Global Compact US Network meeting (28 April, Boston) & launch of new publication

This event is primarily for US-based [Global Compact](#) participants and US-based companies considering becoming Global Compact participants. It will focus on the topic of "Business and Human Rights", in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The meeting will explore a number of critical areas, including:

- Understanding business risks regarding human rights

- Setting policy and addressing stakeholder expectations
- Monitoring and reporting progress

Attendees will also participate in an interactive case study discussion on business and human rights, facilitated by Harvard Business School.

Presenters will include senior managers of companies at the forefront of these issues, as well as thought leaders from civil society and other sectors. Keynote addresses will be delivered by Mary Robinson, President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, and John Ruggie, Harvard Professor and UN Special Representative on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations.

The new report by UN Global Compact & the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, "[Embedding Human Rights In Business Practice II](#)" will be officially launched at the event.

→ *space is very limited; persons interested in attending should contact Ursula Wynhoven (wynhoven@un.org)*

15. Beyond Monitoring meeting (29 April, Guangzhou)

As global supply chains become more complex, sourcing products in a way that respects workers and the environment remains an ongoing challenge. [Business for Social Responsibility](#)'s (BSR's) approach to sustainable supply chain management, Beyond Monitoring, aims for multinationals, workers, suppliers and governments to come to the table as true partners and help become a part of the solution.

As an example, on 29 April we are bringing together multinationals and suppliers to a one-day forum in Guangzhou, China. We will engage both sides to spark an open and honest dialogue on the root causes of endemic labor and environmental issues and help develop joint solutions.

The Beyond Monitoring framework provides an intuitively simple four-part approach:

1. Internal alignment of multinational's purchasing practices with social and environmental objectives
2. Supplier ownership of good working and environmental conditions
3. Empowerment of workers to have a voice in the system
4. Public policy that ensures wider and more even application of laws

For the past two years BSR has been focused on driving commitments throughout our membership – in Asia, the Americas or Europe – to crystallize this vision into action.

→ *if you'd like to get involved, please contact Ayesha Khan, Manager, Advisory Services, Business for Social Responsibility (akhan@bsr.org)*

16. Seminar on contemporary forms of slavery in supply chains (1 May, London)

[Anti-Slavery International](#) and the [International Labour Office](#) are holding an all-day seminar to explore the challenges in contemporary forms of slavery in the international supply chain on 1 May 2008, International Labour Day. Confirmed speakers include Shahid Malik MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Lakshmi Bhatia, Gap Inc. and David Croft, Cadbury Schweppes plc.

Anti-Slavery International has been working towards an end to slavery and related abuses since it was founded in 1839. Anti-Slavery International believes that the challenges of abolishing contemporary forms of slavery, particularly forced labour, can only be effectively achieved by working in partnership with companies as they have a unique role in the struggle to end forced labour that occurs within supply chains.

The ILO has the leading role within the UN system in combating forced labour, through its international labour standards and technical cooperation. Its unique governance structure brings employers' and workers' organisations together with governments. It is increasingly engaging with business actors through a Global Alliance against Forced Labour.

This one-day meeting intends to stimulate dialogue and draw on the experience of businesses actively engaged in eliminating forced labour in their supply chains. The event will be hosted by Clifford Chance in Canary Wharf, London. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Chris Cutter (c.cutter@antislavery.org).

→ contributed by Joanna Ewart-James, Supply Chain Project Coordinator, Anti-Slavery International (j.ewart-james@antislavery.org)

17. Seminar on how civil society can influence intl. investment arbitration (15 May, London)

[Advocates for International Development](#) (A4ID) connects lawyers with developing country governments and civil society in need of legal advice and assistance. In addition to sourcing specific legal support, A4ID delivers legal seminars for civil society working within the development field.

On 15 May in London, A4ID is hosting a seminar to discuss the issues relating to the participation of civil society groups in international investment arbitrations.

International investment arbitrations involve disputes between a State and a foreign investor. The interests of local communities, stakeholders, labour organisations, minority rights groups, or the environment can be seriously affected by the outcome of these disputes. By participating in the arbitral process as *amicus curiae* (a "friend of the court"), civil society can give voice to these public interest concerns and seek to impact the outcome.

The seminar will focus upon the following themes:

- What is international investment arbitration
- The role of civil society in the investment arbitration process
- Perspective of both governments and investors
- How civil society can influence arbitration decisions
- Case study of an *amicus curiae* submission by an NGO

The seminar will include both presentations and a panel discussion featuring leading legal professionals representing NGOs, investors, academic institutions and States. There will be no charge for the seminar.

Address: Herbert Smith LLP, Exchange House, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2HS

Time and Date: 15:00-17:00, 15 May 2008.

→ for further information or to reserve a place, please contact Alex Marseglia, Coordinator, Advocates for International Development at info@a4id.org

18. Increasing access to medicines: A conversation with key stakeholders (6 June, New York)

Over the past few years, the pharmaceutical industry has come under increasing pressure to change the way they do business in emerging markets (or developing countries) to increase access to medicines. On 6 June 2008, the [Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility](#) (ICCR) will host a roundtable discussion in New York City with representatives from multilateral agencies, NGOs, academia, investors and the pharmaceutical industry to provide the opportunity for all key stakeholders to discuss and share their perspective of what a sustainable business model should look like in emerging markets. The discussions will build and expand on some existing initiatives under the key areas of research & development and improving the affordability of medicines.

The panel on research and development will examine new approaches to research and development for medicines that address diseases predominantly affecting poor people in developing countries, and also look at how different research and development models affect both the types of medicines that are made and the affordability of medicines. One key question to address is to what extent these models can be mainstreamed into the industry business model. The second panel will examine how pricing and patent policies, when used flexibly, can allow for greater affordability and sustainability.

→ for more information please contact Lauren Compere, co-chair, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility Access to Health Care Working Group (lcompere@bostoncommonasset.com)

19. Watch for new book: *The China Price*

In the coming weeks and months Alexandra Harney will be speaking in the U.S., Europe and Asia about her recently-published book: *The China Price: The True Cost of Chinese Competitive Advantage*, an investigation into Chinese factories.

Based on two years of on-the-ground research in China, *The China Price* takes readers inside a "shadow" factory that produces goods for a large American retailer. It goes inside a classroom where factory managers

are being coached to falsify records to fool international buyers. *The China Price* brings the reader into the lives of young workers and shows how many want careers outside factories.

The book argues that China has paid a heavy price to provide the world with bargains and that social compliance auditing has not made a big difference in conditions in Chinese factories. It argues that too many companies still view CSR as an irritant rather than a central, valuable part of the business. The way forward lies in more cooperation between buying and social compliance teams and greater consumer awareness.

The China Price is published by Penguin Press. For more information, see <http://thechinaprice.org> and <http://thechinaprice.blogspot.com>. The latter link is to a webpage with a calendar (bottom of page) listing Alexandra's future *China Price* speaking engagements.

→ contributed by Alexandra Harney, former *Financial Times* reporter (thechinaprice@gmail.com)

20. Two new regional researchers at Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

Soon [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) will recruit a South Asia Researcher based in India, and an Eastern Europe/Central Asia Researcher based in Ukraine. These regional researchers will:

- highlight under-reported issues and cases in their region;
- build wide networks of people working in NGOs, companies, government, etc;
- seek responses from local companies to allegations of misconduct;
- draw attention to positive steps by companies; and
- help raise awareness of business & human rights issues.

Our existing regional researchers, Roddy Shaw Kwok-wah in Hong Kong and Abiola Okpechi in South Africa, have proven that there is no substitute for having someone in each region who understands the local context. In the future we plan to recruit further researchers based in Brazil, Egypt/Jordan, Mexico and Senegal.

Details of the India and Ukraine recruitments will be featured on our website and disseminated widely in those countries. If readers of "On the Horizon" have suggestions for where we should send the job announcements, please let us know.

The Resource Centre is grateful to Network for Social Change for supporting our South Asia Researcher, and to Staples Trust for supporting our Eastern Europe/Central Asia Researcher.

→ contributed by staff of Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (contact@business-humanrights.org)

On the Horizon is issued by the team at [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#):

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