



DIPLOMACY
TRAINING
PROGRAM



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Corporate Accountability: Tools to Promote Responsible Business Conduct

A Capacity Building Program for NGOs and Trade Unions

A partnership between OECD Watch and the Diplomacy Training Program
4-6 November, 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

OECD Watch and The Diplomacy Training Program are calling for applications for the forthcoming regional capacity building program on **Corporate Accountability: Tools to Promote Responsible Business Conduct**. The program has been developed to assist civil society, human rights and community advocates to respond practically to the human rights, social and environmental challenges posed by the influence of corporations, particularly multi-national enterprises in the region.

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and other internationally agreed standards, principles and guidelines (such as the ILO Conventions and Declarations, The International Bill of Human Rights and the Global Compact) provide a comprehensive framework for addressing the role and responsibility of the private sector in sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) including trade unions play a key role in addressing societal concerns about the behaviour of corporations throughout their global supply and production chains. To be effective it is important to understand the tools available to promote responsible business conduct and strategies to engage with key decision makers in both business and government.

Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) play an increasingly important role in today's globalised world. MNEs have the capacity to have direct impact on communities, workers, Indigenous peoples and the environment. They can facilitate sustainable development and contribute to poverty eradication. However, this impact is not always positive, particularly in emerging economies and conflict zones

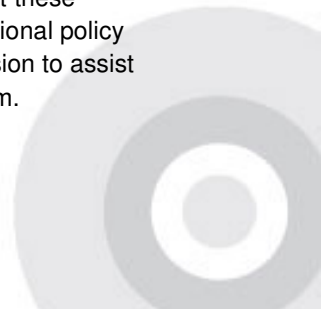
Governance and regulatory gaps exist, and must be addressed by home and host governments, multinational enterprises and multilateral organisations. This requires applying and strengthening existing standards, principles and guidelines for multinational enterprises, developing new regulatory measures, facilitating multi-stakeholder initiatives and conflict resolution and redress mechanisms.

The overall objective of the programme is to enhance the capacity of civil society organisations to influence corporate behaviour and business regulations in accordance with human rights standards, sustainable development and poverty eradication.

The seminar will be held as a side event to the OECD and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) "Regional Conference on Corporate Responsibility: Why Responsible Business Conduct Matters" (2-3 November) and the Trade and Investment Week (2-6 November) at the UN in Bangkok. A small number of participants will be able to attend select sessions at these regional events, providing an opportunity to ensure a regional CSO perspective in international policy debate on corporate accountability. The final day will be a technical capacity building session to assist selected participants with specific cases using the OECD Guidelines complaint mechanism.

www.oecdwatch.org

www.dtp.unsw.edu.au





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WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR THE TRAINING?

The program is for advocates from Asia/Pacific countries who work for, and with, non-government, labour and community organisations. It is particularly relevant to OECD Watch members from the region, NGOs and trade unions working on specific cases and considering using the OECD Guidelines, and other NGOs and groups interested in the work of OECD Watch, and corporate accountability, business and human rights. Applications from women and Indigenous peoples' are encouraged. The training is conducted in English. The training suits both experienced and less experienced corporate responsibility practitioners.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS LEARN?

- ◆ Awareness of the broader context of trade, investment, and corporate accountability
- ◆ Awareness and knowledge of existing and emerging corporate responsibility standards and tools (OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, ILO mechanisms, Global Compact etc)
- ◆ Practical skills and exercises for holding business accountable to its human rights responsibilities, including research skills, lobbying, advocacy, mediation and engagement with business.
- ◆ Lessons from different strategies used by NGOs and the experiences of other advocates in the region with an emphasis on migrant workers, indigenous peoples and supply chains

WHO IS OECD WATCH AND THE DIPLOMACY TRAINING PROGRAM?

OECD Watch is an international network of 86 civil society organisations from across the world promoting corporate accountability and responsibility. The Netherlands-based Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) hosts the secretariat of OECD Watch¹.

The Diplomatic Training Program (DTP) is an independent non-governmental organisation (NGO) providing practical training in human rights and peoples' diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region. The DTP was founded in 1989 by Jose Ramos-Horta, the 1996 Nobel Peace Laureate and President of Timor-Leste. It is affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney, Australia.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A limited number of spaces are available on the program. Applicants will be selected by OECD Watch and DTP to ensure a spread of knowledge, expertise, interest, gender and regional representation. Travel and accommodation costs can be covered for participants from the region. The application form and program is available on the OECD Watch and DTP website. Applications close **9 October 2009**. For further information contact Virginia Sandjojo on virginia@oecdwatch.org

¹ This seminar is organised with the financial assistance of: The Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Dutch Ministries for Foreign and Economic Affairs, Oxfam Novib, Dutch Trade Union Federation FNV, and Human Rights at Work Foundation.