

ROUNDTABLE FOR ASEAN BUSINESS LEADERS

Implementing Corporate Respect for Human Rights

9AM TO 6PM, NOVEMBER 10TH 2011, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA



OVERVIEW

This one-day roundtable will be an exchange among senior business leaders in relation to a rapidly developing area of corporate responsibility – human rights in a business context. The session will bring together experiences of global businesses plus key experts, to explore the relevance, challenges and ways forward for human rights and business in the ASEAN context. Participation in the event is by invitation only with the majority of attendees from business.

CONTEXT

Since the 1990s, corporations have been faced with an increasingly rigorous and intense imperative to earn their license to operate from a range of stakeholders. Business leaders around the world now realize that responsible and sustainable business is far beyond legal compliance and philanthropy.

Issues finding their way into boardrooms across the ASEAN region include opposition to **land** use and acquisition by industry; competition over scarce **natural resources**, operating in **conflict** affected areas, creating diverse and **dynamic workforces**, entering **new markets** around the world, **access to capital** from investors expecting higher social performance, achieving sustainable **labour relations** in complex **supply chains**, including respecting **migrant worker rights**, and more.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS

In June 2011, the United Nations endorsed Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights developed by the United Nations Special Representative, Professor John Ruggie (SRSR). We can expect a lot of attention on implementing these principles over the months and years ahead from investors, governments and civil society.

In this context, companies in all industries are seeing that **international human rights standards offer a highly practical and socially legitimate framework for corporate responsibility.** This approach can enable us to align ourselves with international policy norms, multinational and national regulatory frameworks, the aspirations of employees and workers, and the creation of a socially sustainable business environment. **Many major corporations now see the clear, long-term business case for respecting human rights** including improved risk management, improved compliance, efficiency gains, reduced operational disruption, sustained license to operate, new business models, reduced reputational risk and access to capital and markets.

The SRSR's work has sparked a global convergence and the newly agreed iterations of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and IFC Performance Standards give an indication of this, as does the content of ISO 26,000. And of course, human rights and labour rights are prominent within the Global Compact Principles.

In the ASEAN region, relevant developments include the ASEAN socio-economic blue-print which calls for ASEAN member states to develop policies on corporate social responsibility, the creation of an ASEAN CSR network to help support ASEAN business leaders in this space and the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, which this year is conducting a study on corporate social responsibility and human rights.



ROUNDTABLE OBJECTIVES

- **Demystifying the agenda** - to clarify the link between human rights and business
- **Building the business case** - to discuss the business case for using human rights as a way to understand and implement corporate responsibilities
- **Exchanging experiences** - to exchange good practices, dilemmas and challenges for corporations (in ASEAN and around the world) in implementing the corporate responsibility to respect human rights in their operations
- **Identifying value-addition** - to identify the possible contribution of the ASEAN business community to the human rights and business agenda, and vice-versa
- **Developing ways forward** - to brainstorm a road-map for exploring human rights and business in ASEAN

AGENDA

0830	ARRIVALS, REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS
0900	WELCOME FROM EVENT PARTNERS
0930	SESSION ONE: SENIOR LEADERS PANEL The event will open with a panel of senior leaders reacting to the latest international policy developments and related expectations on business.
1115	SESSION TWO: CONTEXT - LINKING HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS The second session will address the following questions: What is distinct about human rights in a business context? What are the business cases for respecting human rights? Is the language of human rights a help or a hindrance when engaging with stakeholders? How can human rights inform sustainability challenges facing business such as climate change, water scarcity, conflict and migration?
1245	SESSION THREE: COMMON THEMES IN THE ASEAN CONTEXT The session will provide an overview of key human rights challenges faced by ASEAN business leaders from the perspective of academics and human rights organizations
1330	LUNCH
1415	SESSION FOUR: BUSINESS CHALLENGES AND GOOD PRACTICES Participants will have an opportunity to select from a range of thematic sessions for a focused discussion with fellow business representatives: respecting and realizing core labour standards; community consultation and land acquisition; respecting and realizing the right to health; operating in sensitive operating areas; basic services and human rights (water, energy and telecommunications)
1600	SESSION FIVE: IMPLEMENTING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS The focus of this session will be to hear some examples from companies who have approached the issue of integrating respect for human rights through corporate policies and processes and the challenges and opportunities they faced in practice. International Business and Human Rights experts will moderate each session
1760	SESSION SIX: INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT A number of existing and new initiatives and research projects will be presented, including resources available to business and engagement opportunities
1845	CLOSE

REGISTRATION

For more information and to register, please
email bhr.event@global-business-initiative.org