

**GoodElectronics** is a global network on human rights and sustainable production in the electronics industry. This bi-monthly newsletter is distributed amongst a broad network of human rights and environmental organisations, unions, universities and individuals that aim to improve human rights and environmental conditions based in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the U.S. If you would like to learn more about GoodElectronics, or have any news, publications or events to share, please contact [info@goodelectronics.org](mailto:info@goodelectronics.org)

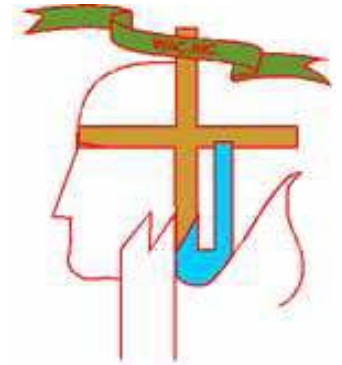
## Civil Society News

### WAC receives Justice & Peace award

February 5, Workers Assistance Center

Impressed by the organization's continuous advocacy for the rights and welfare of the labour sector, the Philippine Workers Assistance Center (WAC) was chosen by the Tji Hak-Soon Justice and Peace Foundation in South Korea as the recipient of its 2008 Justice and Peace Award. "We were very impressed by your organization that has been continuously fighting for the rights and welfare of [day] labourers, no matter what hardships your organization has undergone," said Msgr. Kim Byung-Sang, chair of the foundation, in his letter to WAC on January 28, 2008.

Read the full article [here](#).



### Educational CD: 'The journey of a computer'

January 31, WEED

This CD produced by PC global, a project of WEED in cooperation with Germanwatch, illustrates the way of a computer from the primary production to its manufacturing and use up to the computer's disposal. The CD contains manifold materials and suggestions which can be combined in many different ways.

[Read more](#).



### Cancer risks in Computer and Semiconductor Manufacture

January 25, Unite

Unite, the largest trade union in the UK, has been working to highlight potential cancer risks in computer component and semi conductor manufacture. These risks were first highlighted in a study by the Boston University School of Public Health into former IBM workers in the United States which confirmed that overall and cancer related mortality is considerably higher among workers engaged in computer component and semi conductor manufacturing when compared with the general population. [Read more](#).

### Future EU ecodesign regulation on external power supplies and set top boxes

January 24, ECOS

Within the 'Ecodesign Policy' process, the European Commission has issued proposals to regulate the environmental performance of two electronics related product groups: 'external power supplies' and 'set top boxes'. Through this Ecodesign legislation energy losses due to inefficient power supplies and battery chargers can be limited. The regulation on set top boxes (used to bring digital signals into old analogic TV sets) aims at reducing its energy consumption. ECOS and the Brussels-based environmental NGOs will draft position papers for the discussion of these proposals in the 'Ecodesign Consultation Forum' held on 22/02. More info at:

[www.ecostandard.org](http://www.ecostandard.org) and [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/eco\\_design\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/eco_design_en.htm).



## Report on Dell causes discussion, consumer boycott and union support

January 24, SACOM

On the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007, SACOM and the "Joint-U Sweatfree Movement" Student Group jointly released a report, *Dell Computers: Chinese Migrant Workers behind Dell's Zero-Inventory Business Model* (downloadable from [www.sacom.hk](http://www.sacom.hk)). The report has sparked heated discussions about CSR of Dell and its suppliers in China. News coverage in Chinese was extensive and millions of Chinese bloggers posted their comments about the deficiencies of Dell's code of conduct efforts on their web spaces, ranging from boycotting Dell computers to supporting worker unions. Under growing pressure, Mr. Tod Arbogast (Director, Sustainable Business, Dell) met with SACOM representatives on January 24, but he rejected disclosing its outsourcing suppliers on the DELL website for public scrutiny.

## Revision of the EU energy labelling

January 24, ECOS

The European 'A-G' Energy labelling on white appliances will soon be revised and probably expanded to other products. Electronics could be covered, which means the annual energy consumption and energy class will have to be visible on all of these products sold in the EU. The Brussels-based Environmental NGOs also support adding an indication of the total energy cost of the product over its lifetime. Therefore a "life-cycle thinking" would become easier for consumers. More info at: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/domestic\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/domestic_en.htm).

## Young consumers are willing to pay more for fair electronics

January 14, makeITfair

Young people are seriously concerned about the social and environmental problems surrounding the production and disposal of their consumer electronics. A majority of young European consumers state that the companies involved should take their responsibility and they would be willing to pay 10% more for their electronic devices if they can be certain they are produced responsibly. These are the results of a market research among young people in several European countries that was published today by makeITfair, a network of organisations from across Europe. [Read more.](#)



## Tin mined in Congo under poor working conditions ends up in laptops, mobile phones and MP3 players

December 18, makeITfair

Many tin mines in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are controlled by armed groups. Some of the tin they mine ends up in circuit boards in our mobile phones, laptops and MP3 players. A new study shows that working conditions for the miners who work in these tin mines are often inhuman and profits are used to fuel armed conflicts. makeITfair, a new network of organisations from across Europe, is calling on companies such as Sony, Nokia, Hewlett-Packard and Philips to start addressing the ethical and environmental issues related to the purchasing of metals for consumer electronics – often known as IT (information technology). [Read more.](#)

## GoodElectronics on YouTube

The GoodElectronics group on YouTube hosts 16 interesting videos related to the electronics industry.

Recently added videos are:

- The trailer of a PC Global film that presumably will be published by the end of January 2008
- "Congo's Bloody Coltan" about coltan's (mineral used in cell phones, pc's and laptops) role in Congo's civil war
- "Congo's tin soldiers" (Part 1 and 2) that documents the exploitation of miners of cassiterite (an iron ore used in electronic circuit boards)

For these and more videos visit: <http://www.youtube.com/group/goodelectronics>.



## General News

### Dell, Microsoft to launch Product Red computer

January 25, Reuters

Dell Inc and Microsoft Corp are teaming up to release a Product Red computer, donating up to \$80 for every one sold to fund AIDS-fighting drugs in Africa. The two companies will donate \$50 for a laptop and \$80 for a desktop to the Global Fund, which finances health programs in Africa. (Red), founded by U2 singer Bono and Bobby Shriver, works to develop co-branded products with companies such as Motorola Inc , Apple Inc and Gap Inc, which then donate a portion of the proceeds for antiretroviral drugs. [Read more.](#)

### Combatting the danger of e-waste in Nigeria

January 17, eWaste Guide

Nigeria with the tremendous growth in its level of ICT adoption in recent years is daily slowly and steadily being endangered by the increasing rising level of toxic waste in the polity. Seven years ago, the nation had only about 500,000 telephone lines in the country, but today the story is different and the lines have increased to more than 40 million. [Read more.](#)

### HP releases green supply chain guidelines

January 17, BusinessGreen

HP has published a new set of guidelines for multinational companies designed to help them promote strong CSR and environmental practices amongst small and medium-sized businesses within their supply chain. The guidelines feature in a report from the Danish Commerce and Companies Agency, co-funded by the IT giant and the European Commission, and cover a range of best practices, including frequent supply chain audits, managerial training for suppliers' staff and workshops to promote the commercial case for environmentally sustainable business practices. [Read more.](#)

### Green apple not quite ripe?

January 16, Greenpeace

The new MacBook Air - the thinnest notebook computer on the planet -is a strong entry in the race to build a green PC. As a mercury and arsenic free laptop it exceeds European Standards (RoHS directive exemptions) and raises the bar for the rest of the industry. The MacBook Air has less PVC and BFRs than other Mac computers, but it is not entirely free from those hazardous chemicals. [Read more.](#)

### Nokia to shut German plant

January 15, Herald Tribune

Nokia, the world's biggest maker of mobile phones, said that it would close a factory in Germany and cut about 2,300 jobs as it shifted production to locations with lower costs. The factory in Bochum in western Germany is scheduled to close in mid-2008, Nokia said. Production will "mostly" be moved to a new plant in Romania, said Eija-Riitta Huovinen, a Nokia spokeswoman. [Read more.](#)

### IBM may sidestep downturn in the US economy

January 15, Herald Tribune

A slowing American economy is not hurting IBM yet. But the strength of the technology giant's quarterly profit - up 24 percent - may not be as reliable an indicator of broader trends in the American economy as in the past. IBM's business lies increasingly outside the United States. The largest American corporations like Intel and Hewlett-Packard get more than half of their revenues from overseas markets. IBM, a longtime multinational, is a leader in the current globalization trend to tap overseas markets and talent. Today, two-thirds of IBM's sales and its workers are outside the United States. [Read more.](#)



## The fundamental problem with China's e-waste recycling industry

January 8, eWaste Guide

Before Xu Feng sold his old personal computer to a mobile scrap collector, he called Dell's recycling hotline. When he was told Dell could "collect his computer within a week, but wouldn't provide any recompense," Xu decided to sell it to a mobile scrap collector for RMB 200. Xu's story points to a fundamental problem with China's E-waste recycling industry. Despite the immense amount of electronic waste being generated in China, "official" recycling operations simply don't receive enough material to make recycling a profitable business. Instead, 90 percent of China's electronic waste goes to family workshops, whose manual dismantling practices create highly toxic secondary pollution. [Read more.](#)

## US agency to encourage recycling of cell phones

January 8, Herald Tribune

Tuesday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with a slew of retailers, manufacturers and service providers, was set to introduce a public education campaign aimed at getting consumers to recycle cell phones. The \$175,000 campaign - "Recycle Your Cell Phone. It's An Easy Call" - will rely heavily on public service announcements, particularly in lifestyle and technology magazines read by the 18- to 34-year-olds who trade up to new cell phones most often. The ads will stress environmental and social reasons for recycling. [Read more.](#)

## Toxic waste suit filed against IBM

January 3, NewsBlog

Lawyers for about 90 current and former residents of New York state filed suit against IBM on Thursday alleging that chemicals from an IBM plant have caused congenital heart defects in infants and kidney cancers in adults, and continue to cause problems. The tort lawsuit claims that the plant released hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic and hazardous chemicals, including trichloroethylene (TCE), into the air, soil, and groundwater of Endicott, the birthplace of IBM, and the nearby town of Union over several decades. [Read more.](#)

## Unesco and HP sign Strategic Partnership Agreement

December 19, UNESCO

UNESCO and Hewlett-Packard (HP) have signed a strategic partnership agreement on 19 December to strengthen their collaboration around existing education projects. The signing ceremony will be held at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris and attended by Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General and Gabriele Zedlmayer, vice president, Global Citizenship HP Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA). [Read more.](#)

## Nokia's battle to cut waste dumping

December 17, eWaste Guide

Nairobi, Kenya. Leading mobile phone handset maker, Nokia, has announced it will set up waste dumping centres across East Africa to reprocess old mobile phone waste, including batteries. Nokia Eastern Africa chief customer care officer, Mr. Nicholas Maina, told reporters last week the firm was at an advanced stage of setting up phone collection centres in rural areas to facilitate faster and more efficient collection of mobile phone waste for recycling. Nokia will collect mobile phone waste for recycling and repairs as part of its environmental policy of reducing emissions of electronic waste, the fastest growing source of urban pollution. [Read more.](#)

## Police brutality against striking Dongguan workers

December 2, Chinaworker

Several thousand workers at Alco Holdings Limited, a Hong Kong-owned electronics factory in Dongguan, in Guangdong province, went on strike and protested outside the factory on Tuesday 27 November. The workers were protesting against the bosses' decision to deduct between 250 and 300 yuan from employees' wages for the provision of meals. [Read more.](#)



## Online articles

National geographic: [High tech trash – Will your discarded TV end up in a ditch in Ghana?](#)

New York Times: [The afterlife of Cellphones](#)

## E-Calendar

Month	Event	Organized by	Web link	Location
<b>February</b>				
12-13	The climate change summit 2008	Ethical corporation	<a href="http://www.ethicalcorp.com/climate/">http://www.ethicalcorp.com/climate/</a>	London, United Kingdom
22-23	California-EU Regulatory Cooperation Project	Center on Institutions and Governance	<a href="http://iqov.berkeley.edu/">http://iqov.berkeley.edu/</a>	Berkeley, California, USA
22	Ecodesign Consultation Forum	European Commission (DG TREN);		Brussels, Belgium
<b>March</b>				
3-4	The Global CR Reporting Summit 2008	Ethical Corporation	<a href="http://www.ethicalcorp.com/globalreporting/?t=crra">http://www.ethicalcorp.com/globalreporting/?t=crra</a>	Berlin, Germany
12-14	Globe 2008	Globe foundation	<a href="http://www.globe2008.ca/">http://www.globe2008.ca/</a>	Vancouver, Canada
13-14	Ethical Sourcing Forum	GSCC & China Center for Labour and Environment	<a href="http://www.intertek.com/esf/events/usa1/">http://www.intertek.com/esf/events/usa1/</a>	New York, USA
13-14	Corporate Responsibility 2008 - Sustaining Momentum and Responsible Growth	Chatham House, FTSE Group	<a href="http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/111/">http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/conferences/view/-/id/111/</a>	Chatham House, London, UK
26-27	Global Forum VII on International Investment	OECD	<a href="http://www.oecd.org/document/10/0,3343,en_21571361_39598752_39598858_1_1_1_1,00.html">http://www.oecd.org/document/10/0,3343,en_21571361_39598752_39598858_1_1_1_1,00.html</a>	Paris, France
<b>April</b>				
1-2	2008 Business Ethics Conference	European Business Ethics Network UK	<a href="http://www.ebenuk.org/conference.html">http://www.ebenuk.org/conference.html</a>	Cambridge, United Kingdom
15-16	Intellectual Property Symposium	Semiconductor Insights, Eetimes, Portelligent	<a href="http://www.eetimes.semiconductor.com/">http://www.eetimes.semiconductor.com/</a>	San Jose, California, USA
16-17	The Global Anti-corruption, Compliance and Ethics Conference	Ethical Corporation	<a href="http://www.ethicalcorp.com/globalethics/">http://www.ethicalcorp.com/globalethics/</a>	Chicago, USA

