

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

Civil Society News

Update “High Tech – No Rights?” Campaign

October 10, Bread For All

Six months after the launch of the “High Tech – No Rights?” campaign in Switzerland – that has targeted the five biggest computer brands sold on the Swiss market - some positive steps have been taken: HP and Dell have engaged in a critical dialogue with Bread for All and the Swiss catholic Lenten fund, and ACER has announced that they will adopt a code of conduct that will be released in January 2008. Nevertheless, the way to real changes on the ground remains long and some brands like Fujitsu Siemens still negate the facts and pretend that no labour rights abuses occur in the factories that produce their computers. Also, in June a motion was presented in the Swiss Parliament. It asks the government to ensure that computers bought through public procurement are produced in the respect of core labour standards. See also the campaign’s [website](#).



Workers in protest at Jabil Brest, France

October 4, evertiq.com

US based EMS provider Jabil plans to cut up to 230 of 514 jobs in Brest, France. As a consequence workers at the Jabil plant are in protest. The redundancies are a results of the decision Alcatel made to transfer manufacturing from Jabil in Brest to Solectron in China. [Read more](#)

CEREAL Report: Multinationals and Labour rights

October 3, CEREAL

CEREAL (Centro de Reflexión y Acción Laboral) has presented a report on labour conditions in the Electronics Industry in Mexico. In this report the labour conditions of the workers in this sector are described and compared to the conditions that were found one year ago. The report evaluates companies and their attempts to improve the labour conditions in their factories. Unfortunately, the results of these attempts are far from satisfactory. The report is published in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Sony reinstates Thai Union leaders

October 3, Thai Labour Campaign, FNV Bondgenoten

Under pressure of a petition, Sony Technology in Thailand agreed to reinstate the union leaders who were dismissed in July 2007. The reason for the dismissal of the 18 leaders was their involvement in the organizing of the new ‘Sony Union’ in Thailand. On September 13, facilitated by GoodElectronics, Dutch trade union FNV and Thai Labour Campaign handed over a petition on behalf of the dismissed workers to Sony Holding B.V. The Netherlands, one of the biggest shareholders of Sony Technology (Thailand). [Read more](#)



Virtual strikes, virtual unions: Italian IBM workers make history

September 27, UNI Global Union

IBM employees in Italy made headlines around the world this week when they announced their intention to carry out a "virtual strike" inside "Second Life". More than 1850 - real- people protested behind their computers in over 30 countries to show solidarity with IBM Italy workers. The protest took place at 7 IBM locations, and in particular at IBM Italia and the IBM Business Centre in Second Life. [Read more](#)

Electronics companies green up their act

September 19, Greenpeace International

The latest edition of the quarterly Guide to Greener Electronics shows that major electronics firms have made large, green strides since the guide was first launched in August 2006. Nokia still leads, closely followed by Sony Ericsson, Dell and Lenovo. [Read more](#)

Social criteria not included in IT purchasing by Dutch ministry

September 19, MVO Platform

MVO Platform, a Dutch network of labour unions and organizations working on CSR, wrote a letter to the Dutch minister of Social Affairs, Piet Hein Donner, to call attention to sustainable purchasing. The immediate cause was an article in a Dutch quality newspaper heading: 'Donner puts out as the best, says Donner'. The minister stated that he had used 10 to 15 millions of euros less on ICT for six ministries and 31 other government services. The article however didn't say anything about the use of criteria for sustainability. Remarkable, since the government accepted to keep in mind sustainability as an important criteria with 100% of the central government purchases and investments. The letter (in Dutch) can be downloaded [here](#).

Workers score second victory over Fujikura's greed

September 17, Comité Fronterizo de Obrer@s (CFO)

After a summer-long clash with their employer, 725 Fujikura workers accepted \$400,000 in additional compensation after the company offered an unfair buyout agreement in exchange for voiding the contract and rehiring the same workers under new and less attractive terms. The agreement was the best possible outcome of a battle marred by management maneuver and harassment used by Fujikura to pressure its workers into accepting a bad bargain. [Read more](#)

OECD Guidelines complaint against Philips

August, CUT

A new complaint is reported against a multinational company in Brazil. This case was presented for PNC in Brazil and Netherlands in August. It was prepared by CUT (the largest federation of trade unions in Brazil). [Read more](#)

JPEPA as a Step in Japan's Greater Plan to Liberalize Hazardous Waste

August 29, Basel Action Network

On September 9, the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) was signed. It has since been revealed that this bilateral free trade and investments agreement (FTA) includes a list of wastes, including hazardous wastes, for which tariffs are to be eliminated. [Read article](#)

Electronics Recycling

August, As You Sow

Electronic waste is the fastest growing component of our waste stream, growing nearly three times faster than municipal waste. Although computers and televisions contain significant levels of toxic compounds including lead, mercury, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium, most computers are currently not recycled or even disposed of properly. This is creating a growing hazard as toxic elements can seep into groundwater or expose workers. As You Sow is leading or participating in concurrent dialogues with the four major U.S. computer manufacturers: Apple, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, and IBM. [Read more](#)



Dialogue Defuses War of Nerves in the Maquiladoras

August 22, Comité Fronterizo de Obrer@s (CFO)

Tensions provoked by a smear campaign against the CFO were defused after members of CFOmaquiladoras met with the mayors of Piedras Negras and Ciudad Acuña. After industry advocates accused the CFO of giving "poor advice" to the Fujikura workers and "frightening away" the investors, CFO's Julia Quiñonez publicly responded to the charges: "It makes no sense to accuse us of destabilization when our focus is on solving problems through dialogue and negotiation." [Read more](#)

Make producers responsible for India's e-waste crisis

August 20, New Delhi

With a solution-oriented approach, Greenpeace presented India's Ministry of Information Technology a report titled 'Extended Producer Responsibility in a non-OECD context'. An Electronic Association of India projection says that the amount of e-waste generated in India would increase 11 fold from the current 1,46,000 tons per annum to 16,00,000 tons per annum by 2012. Due to the presence of harmful chemicals in computers and electronic products, this growth is confronting India with an environmental and public health nightmare. [Read more](#)

GoodElectronics on YouTube

See the GoodElectronics site on Youtube, where members can upload their short films.

The site already features (under favorites)

- 1) Item made by Hitachi workers, Cereal (Mexico)
- 2) Item about greener electronics with AsYouSow (US)
- 3) Item from Greenpeace Thailand
- 4) Good Magazine: E-Waste

See [YouTube - GoodElectronics](#)

General News

Dell aims to go Carbon neutral

September 26, Businessweek

Dell is embarking on a broad environmental initiative under which it plans to consume less energy and use more power from renewable sources in a bid to make its operations carbon neutral by the end of 2008. For starters, employees' computers will be turned off at night and during long periods of inactivity. The company estimates these efforts will save \$1.8 million per year in power costs and cut annual carbon dioxide emissions by 8,500 tons—about the same amount of CO2 spewed by 1,400 American cars in a year. [Read more](#)

IBM's SME Toolkit

September, Boston College Center for Corporate Citizenship

Small businesses are vital to the world's economy. Unfortunately, however, nearly half of small businesses fail within four years because they lack business management knowledge and resources. All over the world, small and medium enterprises (SME) find that access to best practice and business management tools is a significant barrier to their growth and sustainability. IBM and World Bank partner IFC introduced their new version of a free small business toolkit specifically for small business owners in emerging markets. The SME toolkit offers highly developed business information, tools, and training services usually reserved for Fortune 1000 companies. [Read more](#)

UNESCO prepares guides on computer recycling

September 24, Paris

UNESCO gathered a group of partners to produce two guides to encourage the development of sustainable computer recycling plants. The development of the Information Society and the efforts to reduce the digital divide have significantly increased the importation of computer equipment (new and second hand) in developing



countries. Considering the need to develop local capacities in managing these materials and the lack of training tools, UNESCO gathered a group of partners around the idea of developing a series of training modules in this area. [Read more](#)

Is Toshiba greener than Apple?

September, Apple News Editor

According to environmental agency EPEAT, Apple's products are a lot less environmentally friendly than those of other competitors such as Toshiba. Looking at the ratings in the EPEAT's database it would seem that Apple is at the bottom of the list for environmental friendliness, with Toshiba being at the top. [Read more](#)

Recent developments on Corporate Social Responsibility in ICT Hardware Manufacturing

September, ILO Paper by Gijbert van Liemt

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has gone mainstream. Today, thousands of people are involved in discussing and drawing up codes of conduct, and monitoring and auditing them. But what about CSR in practice? How do companies actually go about ensuring that workers further down in the supply chain are treated and paid fairly? What methods do they use and how successful have they been? Which problems have they encountered? What has been the involvement of the trade unions and the NGO community? These are the questions that [this paper](#) is concerned with.

Landmark report on transparency released

August, The Hankyoreh

South Korean firms score well on consumer protection but low on human rights and the economy. Yuhan-Kimberly ranked first in the transparency of its public reports on achievements in social and the environment sectors. The Hankyoreh Economic Research Institute, an affiliate of The Hankyoreh, gives in The Landmark report an analysis on the "sustainability reports" of 22 local companies to estimate how transparent they have been in disclosing their business achievements in diverse categories. [Read more](#)

Hon Hai (Foxconn) Vietnam mega-site update

August 30, Venture Outsource

Taiwanese firm Hon Hai (Foxconn) recently announced plans for a US\$5 billion five-year expansion in Vietnam. Depending on future Hon Hai customer demand, the company plans to employ approximately 300,000 employees in Vietnam over the course of the next five years. This could translate to a Vietnamese geographic footprint / scale at least equal to or, possibly larger than, Hon Hai's current industry mega-site at Longhua in Shenzhen, China.

[Read more](#)

Democratic trade union election in Reebok supply factory: Five year update

August 25, China Labor News Translations

In November 2002, Reebok instigated democratic elections for a trade union in one of its shoe suppliers – the Shun Da Sporting Good Corporation in Fuzhou, China. It has been five years since that election, and in line with trade union regulations it will soon be time for another election of union officials. In March 2007, Peter Lee went to Shun Da to see how working conditions have changed in the four and half years since the Reebok election, and to see what kind of impact the new trade union has had. [Read more](#)

IJEPA, To strengthen Japan 'colonization' in Indonesia

August 16, Institute for Global Justice (IGJ)

On 20th of August 2007, the Indonesia - Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (IJEPA) will be signed by Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan who has an official visit to Indonesia and the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Jakarta. This agreement would be the first and comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement which will be done by Indonesia. [Read more](#)



China's Massive High-Tech Waste Woes

August 9, Businessweek

A UN group wants China's low-wage workers to man "disassembly" lines to recycle e-garbage. A constant stream of high-tech exports are driving China's record trade surplus. But a reverse flow of high-tech trash, dumping obsolete electronics in the very cities that manufactures them, is plaguing the mainland. Now it turns out that China's red-hot manufacturing engine could hold the key to the mounting e-waste problem. A United Nations group, StEP - "Solving the E-waste Problem" - has a project that turns the tables on big industry. [Read more](#)

E-Calendar

Month	Event	Organised by	Location
October			
23	Stakeholder meeting	GeSI (Global e-Sustainability Initiative) and BSR (Business for Social Responsibility)	San Fransisco, USA
29-30	Ethical supply chain summit 2007	Ethical corporation	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
31	Stakeholder meeting	GeSI (Global e-Sustainability Initiative) and BSR (Business for Social Responsibility)	Hong Kong
November			
14	Stakeholder meeting	GeSI (Global e-Sustainability Initiative) and BSR (Business for Social Responsibility)	Paris, France
January			
29-30	Nokia Corporate Responsibility Stakeholders Days	Nokia	Espoo, Finland

