

GoodElectronics is an international network on human rights and sustainability in electronics. GoodElectronics' objective is to contribute to the stringent implementation of labour and environmental standards throughout the overall production cycle of electronics, from extractives to e-waste and recycling. The member organisations of GoodElectronics - trade unions, human rights and environmental organisations, academics and other civil society stakeholders - have formulated a set of Common Demands, calling upon the electronics industry to improve its record. To learn more about GoodElectronics, visit www.godelectronics.org, or contact us at info@godelectronics.org. The digital GoodElectronics newsletter is distributed regularly amongst a wide range of interested stakeholders. You are invited to share you news, publications or events with us.

GoodElectronics News

GoodElectronics Urgent Appeal on Hoya Glass Disk (Thailand) yields results

November 13. Electronics and Electrical Appliance Labour Union (EEALU)

After months of conflict, negotiations between labour union EEALU and memory glass disk producer Hoya Glass Disk (Thailand) resulted in an agreement arranging for the reinstatement of dismissed workers, among other things.

GoodElectronics had called upon buyers of Hoya Glass Disk to use their good offices to resolve the ongoing conflict. A number of buyers, such as Packard Bell, ShowaDenko, IBM and Sony, did not respond at all; others denied responsibility or having leverage with Hoya by saying they were mere second tier buyers. On the other hand, HP met its hard disk drive suppliers that directly manage contracts with Hoya, including Seagate, Fujitsu, Western Digital and Hitachi, asking them to get in contact with Hoya and to investigate the issue. This has yielded result. Upon the

reaching the agreement, GoodElectronics has discontinued its public campaign. GoodElectronics will now, together with the local organisations involved, monitor the implementation of the agreement. If need be, GoodElectronics will step up its campaign.



Successful GoodElectronics Round Table in Jakarta, Indonesia

November 2-6. GoodElectronics

The GoodElectronics annual Round Table meeting took place this year in Jakarta, Indonesia. With over 50 participants from all over the world, the Round Table was a successful event, examining developments that currently affect the electronics sector all over the world. The need to protect labour rights was at the core of all the discussions. Environmental issues were also discussed. Read [more](#).

Concerns about effects global crisis for workers and environment

November 2-6. GoodElectronics

In a strong worded joint [statement](#) the participants of the GoodElectronics round table in Jakarta expressed their concern for the negative effects of the global financial and economic crisis for the electronics sector. Feared is that in particular precarious workers will be hit hardest by the crisis. GoodElectronics calls upon the industry, brand name companies as well as manufacturers, to take responsibility for such workers. Moreover, GoodElectronics calls upon the industry to seize this moment to create more sustainable economic relations, including stable supplier relations and more fair pricing policies. The statement is also available in Spanish.



Civil Society News

Chinese workplace union wins partial victory against Danish company

December 2. Globalisation Monitor / Ole Wolff Yantai Workplace Union

After 2 years of effort the Ole Wolff Yantai Workplace Union won a partial victory against its employer, the Ole Wolff Electronics Yantai, a subsidiary of the Ole Wolff Electronics A/S, Denmark. Early November 2008, the company finally agreed to compensate the six unlawfully dismissed workers' representatives with the equivalent of two months wages. This was followed by a compensation package for the unlawfully dismissed acting chairperson of the union. However, many of the demands of the workplace union have not yet been met. The company has practically refused to recognize the workplace union by plainly ignoring it. Meanwhile, the company continues to dismiss workers. The employment files of one of the dismissed workers are being withheld by the company, which makes it extremely difficult for her to find a new job. The Hong Kong based NGO Globalization Monitor is following up on the case.



'Merciless cheap. The consequences of the booming mobile phone industry'

December. Kigali Films

'Merciless cheap - The consequences of the booming mobile phone industry' is a documentary in the making, by Mirjam Leuze and Ralph Weihermann on labour and environmental issues that occur during the life cycle of mobile phones. The documentary will have its first showing on German television (WDR), beginning 2009. Also, the film will be screened for interested audiences - check the GoodElectronics website for dates. For this documentary, the film makers have been shooting footage in India, Belgium and Germany. In India, local NGOs arranged for interviews with production and e-waste workers. Companies, however, were far less cooperative than the civil society organisations. The film makers were denied permission to access Nokia and Motorola plants in South India, despite timely requests.

Electronics industry takes next step towards sustainable metals

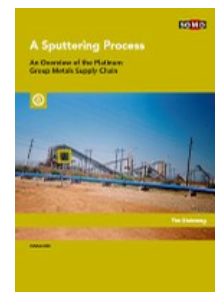
November 19. makeITfair

The electronics industry shows its commitment to address issues with the mining of their metals, and takes principles formulated by makeITfair a step forward. The electronics industry has organised a 'Stakeholder Engagement Session' in Washington D.C. makeITfair has stressed the need for concrete measures to address worker's rights, community impacts and environmental damage. Dutch Youth organisation Time to Turn handed over collected signatures from concerned young people, demanding more sustainable electronic products. American and international environmental and human rights organisations were also present.

'A sputtering process'. SOMO report on platinum group metals

November 17. SOMO

The latest SOMO report draws a picture of the supply chain of Platinum Group Metals - from the mining phase to the use in end user sectors such as the electronics and automotive sector. The report gives an overview of the most important mining companies and end uses, as well as an in-depth analysis of some of the refining and fabricating companies. The paper concludes with a discussion on the possibilities and difficulties to use the characteristics of the supply chain to push for a more sustainable use of this precious metal.



The Electronic Waste Global Footprint: from U.S. to India

November 15. Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition and Chintan



In the context of its ongoing campaign on the electronics waste global footprint, Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition recently premiered a documentary titled “[Citizens At Risk](#)”, made by Chintan, SVTC and IMAK on electronic waste being shipped, dismantled, and recycled in India. The film raises questions about what the American public can do and what measures are being taken to address the problems, both here and abroad, regarding electronic waste and human rights.

The digital deadline

November 12. New York Times / Electronics Take Back Coalition

‘Finding ways to dispose of America’s increasingly large stream of e-waste is difficult: an estimated 133,000 computers are discarded by homes and businesses every day. In a 2006 report, the International Association of Electronics Recyclers estimated that about 400 million pieces of e-waste are scrapped each year. And while some prominent manufacturers, like Dell and Hewlett-Packard, have agreed to recycle their own equipment, such programs have so far made only a modest difference’, writes John Hanc in a [New York Times article](#). “It’s a huge problem, and it’s growing,” said Barbara Kyle, national coordinator of the Electronics Take Back Coalition, a group that promotes recycling of consumer electronics. ETC estimates that there are roughly 1,100 businesses in the United States and Canada that dispose of used electronic equipment, but that only a small percentage tries to do it in an environmentally friendly way. ETC is warning for the upcoming switch to digital TV which will send 10’s of millions of old TVs to an early grave. The digital deadline is upon us: February 17, 2009. The [clock](#) is ticking.



Lack of sustainability in European IT procurement

November 11. procureITfair

Social and environmental considerations in public procurement need to be vamped up. This is the conclusion of the latest [procureITfair publication](#) ‘Sustainable Procurement in a European Context: practices of IT procurement in five EU countries’. The NGO coalition is calling on European governments to give sustainability a prominent place in their procurement mechanisms.



Tackling Climate Change in the IT Sector

October 22. As You Sow

Outsourced production of electronics is a major contributor to climate change, and the allocation of resources to address the supply chain will have a significant impact on reducing emissions. While some major IT companies have taken proactive steps to minimize their carbon footprint, several technology leaders have not even released the most basic information about their greenhouse gas emissions. As You Sow intends to use its long-standing relationships with computer manufacturers, for a new climate change initiative targeting companies including Apple, Broadcom, Novell and Sandisk. As You Sow will encourage companies to report on their carbon footprint and emission reduction plans through the Carbon Disclosure Project. A majority of shareholders who are concerned about climate change are focused on the auto, oil, homebuilding, and electric power industries. The As You Sow initiative on the IT sector complements and expands these efforts.

Underground electronics recycling industry employs China's vulnerable workers

October 22. CBC

In ‘E-waste Dumping Ground’, a [television piece](#) aired recently on Canadian television, the dangerous underground electronics recycling industry that employs China’s vulnerable migrant workers is portrayed. Film maker Patrick Brown interviewed environmental activists, Chinese locals involved in e-waste recycling in Guiyu, as well as

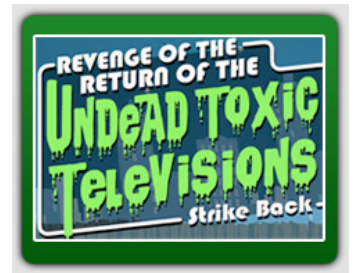


Canadian e-waste exporters in Vancouver. "Very little goes to waste, except for the health of the workers", concludes Patrick Brown.

Undead toxic televisions

October. Electronics Take Back Coalition

'[Watch](#) what happens when the undead TV zombies come back from the landfill to get their revenge! Did you ever wonder what happens to your TV when you throw it out? There are recent reports that they come back as TV Zombies – the undead TVs that we cast aside. And they are really mad.'



Asian meeting on occupational health and safety risk in the electronics sector

September 27-28. ANROAV

The Asian Network for the Rights of Occupational Accident (ANROAV) held its [annual meeting](#) in Manila, this year. The meeting was organised by the Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC) in collaboration with the Philippines Institute for Occupational Health and Safety Development (IOHSAD) The programme featured a thematic skill share workshop on Electronics and Chemicals - for which the Labour Occupational Health Program (LOHP) of the University of California gave input.

No enforcement of US law on export of used electronics

September 23. The Boston Globe

In a strong worded [article](#) titled 'Electronics Dumping Ground', Derrick Z. Jackson describes how the US Government Accountability Office found virtually no enforcement by the Environmental Protection Agency on exports of used electronics to developing countries that often dismantle them in extremely unsafe operations. The GAO had agents pose as buyers of broken cathode-ray tube television and computer monitors. It found that dozens of electronics recyclers in the United States were willing to export "broken, untested or nonworking" CRTs to developing nations like China, India, and Indonesia and regions like Western Africa. CRTs have enough lead in them to be "especially harmful to humans and the environment" if handled improperly.

'Mobile Connections'. Follow up paper to SOMO's 'High Cost of Calling' report

September 2008. SOMO

How has corporate social responsibility developed in the mobile phone industry in recent years? Are social and environmental standards improving as fast as the product applications? To answer these questions, SOMO published a follow up paper to the 'High Cost of Calling: Critical Issues in the Mobile Phone Industry' report. The paper is titled '[Mobile Connections. Supply Chain Responsibility of 5 Mobile Phone Companies](#)' and gives an overview of the responses by the mobile phone industry to the previous report Major brand companies covered by the paper are Sony Corporation, Motorola GmbH and Nokia

Organising precarious workers in Indonesia

September. 'Metal World', magazine of IMF

Behind the razor wire fences of export processing zones in Batam, two Indonesian trade unions are leading the world in successfully organising precariously employed workers. Read [full article](#) by Kristyne Peter.

Workers silenced while we talk. New makeITfair report

September 2008. makeITfair

The mobile phone industry is often presented as a clean, unproblematic industry, but makeITfair's new report '[Silenced to Deliver](#)' shows that this is not the case. Young electronics workers in China and the Philippines handle chemicals without protective gear. They work inhumane overtime hours



to cover basic needs and are punished if they make mistakes. In the export processing zones in Asia where the factories are located, protests are often brutally suppressed.

The China Trade toll

July 30 2008. Economic Policy Institute Briefing Paper

The growth of U.S. trade with China since China entered the World Trade Organization in 2001 has had a devastating effect on U.S. workers and the domestic economy. Between 2001 and 2007 2.3 million jobs were lost or displaced, including 366,000 in 2007 alone. Rapidly growing imports of computers and electronic parts accounted for almost half of the \$178 billion increase in the U.S. trade deficit with China between 2001 and 2007, found Robert E. Scott in an EPI [briefing paper](#).

Hazardous Changes to the Hazardous waste Rules

July 24. Toxics Link



The Indian Ministry of Environment and Forest is set to amend the Hazardous waste Rules. In an [article](#) in Toxics Dispatch, Priti Mahesh of Toxics Link argues this new revision is a major departure from the earlier amendments. 'The move is in complete violation of the Basel Convention', states Mahesh.

The Toxics Link website features a hilarious [animation](#) on the e-waste problem.

Organising for better, more secure work

July 3 2008. IMF

Increasing numbers of workers around the world are faced with job insecurity, low wages and an uncertain future. The International Metalworkers' Federation and its affiliated metalworker trade



unions are calling for an end to precarious employment. On October 7, IMF and its affiliates participated in a global day of action in conjunction with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and all other Global Union Federations (GUFs). '[Precarious work affects us all](#)' is a global union campaign to stop the rise in precarious employment and regain power and justice for working people.

Industry News

Fujitsu to acquire Siemens' Stake in Fujitsu Siemens Computers

November 2008. Fujitsu Siemens

On Nov 3 2008, shareholders of Fujitsu announced that Fujitsu is to acquire Siemens' 50% share in the joint venture Fujitsu Siemens Computers, effective from April 1, 2009. According to Fujitsu, this means that the future of Fujitsu Siemens Computers is now secured. Details on the occurring changes in the ownership structure and the management can be found in the FSC [press release](#).

HP stakeholder consultations in India

November 26. ASK Verité

HP has engaged ASK-Verité India to set up a series of stakeholder consultations India. In the context of its project 'Building social compliance institutions' ASK Verité has been focusing on the Indian IT sector since 2006. The Bangalore based NGO Cividep is one of the few civil society organisations that participated in the first session on November 26 in Bangalore. A next session will take place on December 12, in Delhi, involving more NGOs and trade unions. Engaging with HP, Cividep focuses on issues such as unionisation, freedom of association, supply chain management, transparency, code compliance, and structural stakeholder involvement. Concrete suggestions to be discussed with HP are setting up workers' training and establishing a complaints hotline for workers.



Acer Stakeholder consultation in Taiwan

December 16-17. Acer Ltd

Acer Ltd is organising a stakeholder forum titled "Global Challenges to the Sustainable Development of ICT Industry", together with the Taiwan Business Council for Sustainable Development. GoodElectronics members SOMO and the Philippines Workers Assistance Centre (WAC) as well as Greenpeace International will speak at the forum – grasping the opportunity to talk to Acer and its buyers on corporate social responsibility issues. Taiwanese civil society organisations are not involved, despite their concerns about environmental issues, including toxic pollution. They express a fear that Acer is not really interested in incorporating responsibility but is taking CSR as a tool to promote business.

EICC Code of Conduct revision process

October. EICC.

The Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) has extended the review process for its Code of conduct. Deadline is now December 31, 2008. Participants to the GoodElectronics Network have in the past years repeatedly submitted feedback and critique on the EICC code. EICC has now extended the feedback submission period from 30 September to 31 December, 2008. Note that the review process is strictly managed. Proposals should be submitted verbatim, or in other words, as exact language changes to the current version of the EICC code. All proposals must be submitted online, using a web form. Proposals submitted after December 31, 2008 will be considered during the next review cycle. For inquiries regarding the EICC code review process, contact the EICC Stakeholder Engagement Work Group at stakeholders@eicc.info.



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