

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 bi-monthly amongst a wide range

Civil Society News

Philips - Sense and Simplicity, or simply nonsense?

June 10, Greenpeace International



“Sense and Simplicity” became the slogan of the Dutch electronics giant, Koninklijke Philips Electronics NV – better known as Philips – in 2004. But when it comes to taking responsibility for the electronic waste (e-waste) generated by their products, Greenpeace does not think they’ve been showing much of either. So, Greenpeace paid them a visit – at their head offices in Denmark, India, Russia and the Netherlands, demanding they adopt a sensible policy and simply stop dumping e-waste.

Greenpeace activists delivered 500 Philips television sets and 100 pieces of Philips electronic equipment to the company’s headquarters in Amsterdam. The e-waste was obtained from an e-waste trader; this very same e-waste would most probably have ended up on a scrap yard in China, India or in Africa. [Read more](#)

PC Global brings out new brochures and documentary

July 7, UNITE

Unite, the largest union in the UK, has just launched [How Green is My Workplace?](#), exploring the environmental impact of the Electronics, Electrical Engineering and IT industries. Unite has published a [document](#) that gives guidance on how union representatives can raise awareness of environmental issues to make workplaces greener and provides recommendations for a greener workplace. Unite is calling for statutory rights for union representatives to gain access to environmental impact information on companies, and is also calling for company executives to have their pay and bonuses linked to meeting environmental targets.

New brochures and a documentary

June, WEED, PC Global

In the context of it PC Global project, WEED has released a documentary and two brochures. ‘Digital handwork’ is a 28 minutes film by Alexandra Wertz that puts the spot lights on the working and living conditions of migrant workers in Southern China. The illegal transport of computer waste from Germany to development countries is also highlighted. The two brochures, ‘Way out of the dumping pitfall’ and ‘System error’ (both in German) deal with the shadow side of the globalised computer production. Click [here](#) to order film and/or brochures.



Industry's reactions to 'High Tech – No Rights?' disappoint so far

June, Bread for All, SACOM

The one year follow up report on working conditions in China's electronic hardware sector by SACOM and Bread for All has not yet yielded substantial responses from the industry. The Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) has submitted a response, which however fails to deal with the main question, that is the gap between paper policies and implementation on the ground. The Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) has not yet given a reaction. Dell has promised to undertake a study on the three surveyed Lite-On Facilities in China, to be released within 90 days after the publication of the report, which means by August 2008. Other companies whose suppliers were surveyed have not given any feedback, despite being asked to do so. This drives Bread for All and SACOM to increase campaign pressure. Bread for All and SACOM have identified 32 brands, namely, Acer, AOpen, Apple, Brother, Canon, Cisco, Compaq, Dell, Epson, Ericsson, Flextronics, Foxconn, Fujitsu, Gateway, Hitachi, HP, IBM, Intel, Lenovo, LG, Logitech, Microsoft, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Nortel, Philips, Pioneer, Samsung, Siemens, Sony and Toshiba.

makeITfair campaigning leads to commitment electronics companies

July 7, makeITfair

One year into its campaign, makeITfair, a coalition of environmental and human rights organisations, receives commitments from the electronics industry, some of which promising. At the same time, makeITfair is concerned about the lack of commitment to concrete actions from many companies.", says Esther de Haan from SOMO, the coordinator of makeITfair. makeITfair also expresses its concern about a number of companies that did not respond to its request at all, and those whose responses indicate a lack of ambition and true commitment to adopt a full supply chain responsibility approach. The campaign urges companies to translate these commitments into concrete actions. makeITfair has issued an overview of responses from electronics companies regarding their approach to improve sustainability in their supply of metals. The overview identifies a considerable shift of positions. Little over a year ago, these same companies refused to take responsibility for the labour, environmental and human rights violations in this phase of their supply chain. Now, Hewlett-Packard stands out from the companies by having initiated its own study on metals supply and by addressing the makeITfair List of Principles. Following the pressure from the makeITfair campaign the industry's sustainability initiatives Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) and Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) commit to improving conditions by collaborating with existing mining initiatives. [Read more.](#)

Intel keeps bad company

June 17 June, www.demanresponsibileintel.info

The American trade union UNITE HERE is protesting the mistreatment of workers at Prudential Overall Supply (POS) in Milpitas, California, an Intel supplier. UNITE HERE is calling upon Intel to ensure workers' rights and the environment are respected in their supply chain. Intel says to monitor their global supply chain and demand that all subcontractors have safe working conditions, respect workers' rights and are environmentally responsible. They claim to require suppliers to follow the standard outlines in the Electronic Industries Code of Conduct. UNITE HERE however, points out that Intel's supplier POS is violating both the Intel Code of conduct as well as the EICC. UNITE HERE claims POS did not pay workers the wage required by the living wage ordinances in multiple cities. A worker who formed a union at POS was first suspended from his job and then laid off. [Take action, sign the petition.](#)

US Electronics retailer Best Buy offers free take back

June 2, As you Sow

As You Sow scored a major victory in its campaign to stop toxics from entering the environment. After dialogue and the filing of a shareholder proposal, Best Buy, the largest electronics retailer in the US, agreed to conduct a pilot program offering free electronics recycling at 117 stores in the San Francisco, Minneapolis and Baltimore/Washington, DC. metropolitan areas. "We congratulate Best Buy for taking the initiative to offer free electronics take back at a number of its stores," said Conrad MacKerron, director of As You Sow's CSR program. "Making electronics recycling almost as easy as purchasing these goods has the potential to simplify recycling for millions of consumers who may be confused about where to return end-of-life goods in their area." [Read more.](#)



Chinese translations of reports on Acer

June, Taiwan Labor Information & Education Association TLIEA

The ACER Company Profile and the ACER CSR Profile prepared by SOMO in 2006 have been translated into Chinese by TLIEA. The translated documents can be found at: <http://www.cooloud.org.tw/>.



'Looming e-waste tsunami'

June 2, Electronics Take Back Coalition

Before an audience of Grantmakers in Film and Electronic Media, Ted Smith of the Electronics Take Back Coalition is warning for "the looming e-waste tsunami" that will occur next year when millions of TVs in the United States will become obsolete, due to an FCC rule requiring all TV signals to switch to digital on February 17, 2009.

General News

Fujitsu Siemens Computers publishes list of suppliers

June, FSC

The German computer manufacturer Fujitsu Siemens has made public a list of its Supply Chain Contributors. Unfortunately, FSC has not published any further information besides the names of the suppliers. Location, type of company, product, specification of the relation with FSC etc., are not provided. GoodElectronics welcomes the step taken by FSC, but is calling upon FSC to work towards genuine transparency by providing more meaningful information

Company commissioned study into use of raw materials released

June 20, EEIC, GeSI

GeSI and EICC have commissioned a study into the use of several metals by the electronics industry, the supply chain and the conditions under which the metals are mined. One of the conclusions of the report is that "there are opportunities for the EICC and GeSI members to influence social and environmental performance in mining and metals production. However, this will depend on a clearer understanding of specific metals used in components and electronic products." The study concludes with several recommendations, including that the electronic industry should "engage with appropriate existing Social and Environmental Responsibility initiatives and stakeholders, as identified in this study, possibly in partnership with other end-use sectors, to both strengthen efforts and reduce proliferation of overlapping initiatives". Also, the electronic industry should "continue to emphasize activities in management of end-of life electronic products, including efforts to enhance materials efficiency after product use, and attention to recycling of metals. Individual electronic companies need to further characterize specific metal content and use in electronic products. This supports the tracking of metals used in electronics, helps in tracing sources of materials, and facilitates recycling."

Dutch ministry reports on illegal transports of e-waste

June 26, Ministry of Transport, Spatial Planning and the Environment

The Dutch Ministry of Transport, Spatial Planning and the Environment VROM has carried out extensive research among 25 European countries into the illegal transport of waste. After analysis of 74 cases of illegal shipments, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) comes out as the most important waste stream (21 cases). The most frequent violations are waste shipped as product, and contamination.



Hong Kong researchers point out dangers of unsafe recycling, especially for children

June, Hong Kong Baptist University

Researchers of the Hong Kong Baptist University did extensive research into the recycling of printed circuit board in Guiyu, China, a village intensely involved in e-waste processing. The researchers point out that unsafe recycling may present a significant environmental and human health risk. To evaluate the extent of heavy metals contamination from printed circuit board recycling, surface and dust samples were collected from recycling workshop, adjacent roads, a school yard, and an outdoor food market. Levels at the school yard and the food market showed that public places were adversely affected. Risk assessment indicated that recycling workers could be exposed to 50 times the safe oral lead dose and predicted that lead and copper originating from circuit board recycling have the potential to pose serious health risks to workers and local residents of Guiyu, especially children.

Chinese research finds elevated levels of toxics in e-waste handlers

February 13, Huazhong University of Science and Technology and others

A diverse group of researchers of university institutes in China has looked into the hazards of toxic waste handling. In this study, a group of 49 people from one village close to an electronic waste site was compared to another group located 50 km away. Levels of PBDEs, thyroid stimulating hormone and frequencies of micro-nucleated bi-nucleated cells were significantly higher in the exposed group than in the control group.

Industry lobby against European plans to further ban chemicals from electronics

June 2, ECOS

The Brominated Flame Retardant Industry is bringing into play former US ambassador to the EU Mr Stuart Eizenstat in its lobby against European plans to ban further chemicals from electronics. Mr. Eizenstat has warned that European Commission moves to ban further chemicals could damage the European reputation on trade and substance policy. Studies into possible restrictions on certain flame retardants are sending "a chilling signal" to the market according to Mr Eizenstat in a letter to the European Voice newspaper. Environmental organisations are concerned that the process to restrict hazardous substances (RoHS) could be hampered by this type of lobbying.

ICT Newsletter

May, ASK-Vérité

The ASK-Vérité ICT Newsletter is a periodic platform created for discussion and sharing of world-wide initiative, happenings and view points on the social responsibilities of the ICT sector. The Association for Stimulating Know-How (ASK) is a non-profit organisation in India working in the field of corporate social responsibility. ASK functions as the South Asia regional program office for Verité, a US non-profit social auditing, research, and training organisation.

GoodElectronics News

GoodElectronics has a new network coordinator, Pauline Overeem. The coordination point is hosted by SOMO, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The coordinator can be reached at info@godelectronics.org or at p.overeem@godelectronics.org.

GoodElectronics will hold its fourth Round Table meeting from 1-6 November 2008, in Indonesia. For further information, please contact GoodElectronics at the above mentioned email addresses.



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