

Annual report 2015



GoodElectronics is an international network of some 90 organisations, unions, activists, researchers, and academics who share an interest in improved protection and respect for human rights and the environment in the global electronics industry.

GoodElectronics calls on companies and governments to take action to improve the electronics production cycle, from the mining of minerals used in electronics products to the manufacturing process to the recycling and disposal of electronics waste.

Visit the GoodElectronics Network website [here](#) to find out more and to see a full list of current members and our [Common Demands on the electronics industry](#).

The Steering Committee is currently made up of the following members: CEREAL (Mexico) CIVIDEP (India) IndustriALL Global Union (Switzerland) International Campaign for Responsible Technology ICRT (USA) Workers Hub for Change WH4C (Malaysia) SOMO (the Netherlands) Workers Assistance Center WAC (the Philippines) SHARPS (South-Korea)



Dear Friends,

2015 has been a *very productive year* for the GoodElectronics network. We organised numerous trainings and meetings, and published an abundance of reports and other documents. We are very proud of the amount of work we did, especially in light of the obvious and increasing *obstacles faced by project partners and network members* in carrying out their work.

The problem is apparent in a number of countries. In *China* there is increasingly less space for CSOs to work: Hong Kong based NGO SACOM is one of the organisations that was forced to keep a low profile for a significant period of time, which affected the pace of their investigative work. As early as 2015, the proposed Foreign NGO Law (which passed in 2016) had cast a shadow on civil society. The crackdown on human rights defenders in Guangdong, with the arrest of five labour rights activists in December 2015, was a blow for all labour groups in mainland China and in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, the political situation in *Thailand*, with the proclaiming of martial law, also had a negative and limiting effect on human rights and labour rights activists. This context made it more challenging for workers to attend trainings organized by GoodElectronics Thailand. In India, the (fear of) tensions around the local elections, the December flooding, and the inadequate response of the government to the flooding severely affected the work of Civedep. Several activities were postponed to later dates.

In *Mexico*, especially in the northern states, organising workers is an uphill battle. As a result of societal tensions and violence, workers are extremely reluctant to have contact with labour rights organisations, let alone to organise. Nevertheless, CEREAL and Cetien patiently reached out to workers, small numbers at a time. In the *Philippines*, GoodElectronics members experienced difficulties carrying out research and gathering solid research data. CBBRC reported a huge lack of data from the government regarding the socio-legal position and the labour condition of women workers in the electronics industry.

Bringing about change by sharing critical information and analysis is GoodElectronics' key task. Distributing accessible, easy-to-read



information is therefore crucial to our work. In 2015, GoodElectronics made efforts to communicate more creatively. A number of publications stand out, including the Challenge to the Global Electronics Industry and Meeting the Challenge, which called upon the industry to adopt safer and more sustainable manufacturing practices and to proactively reduce and eliminate chemical and physical hazards through the development and adoption of safer alternatives. Both documents are the outcome of fruitful discussions that took place at GoodElectronics meetings. They serve as the reference point of our campaigning and lobby activities going forward.

Other GoodElectronics publications that have been at the centre of successful interventions include: Unable to Connect, a report by SOMO on labour disputes at NXP production locations in Thailand and the Philippines; Paying the price for flexibility: workers' experiences in the electronic industry in Mexico by CEREAL; Brazil, the new manufacturing hotspot for electronics?, co-authored by Repórter Brasil and SOMO and Rich Corporations, Poor Societies: The financialisation of Apple, a case study and animation, showing how Apple is short-changing societies by acting as a financial investor of its enormous company profits, instead of reinvesting it into the real economy. In India, network member CIVIDEP published new chapters in the GoodElectronics-supported Worker Education Series.

Next year promises to be both challenging and dynamic with many interesting round tables, research publications, a new website, documentaries and reports already in the works. We invite you to visit our website, goodelectronics.org, and join our mailing list to learn more about our work, to join the network, and reinforce our call for human rights and sustainability in the electronics sector.

In solidarity,

Pauline Overeem (outgoing Coordinator)

Alejandro Gonzalez (incoming Coordinator)

Timeline

JANUARY



3-day meeting on the use of chemicals in San Francisco

- **3-day meeting** on the use of chemicals in San Francisco, concluding with a round table with representatives of the electronic industry (including Apple, Western Digital and Seagate).
- **Urgent appeal** to stop violent assaults on labour organisations in China, organised by Globalization Monitor and HKCTU.
- **Training for workers** in Mexico on political strategy, organised by CEREAL.

FEBRUARY



CEREAL meeting and training of workers 19 - 26 february

- **Strategy meetings** with Hivos/Stop Child Labour Coalition, SOMO, and others to discuss research and campaign plans on child labour in gold mining for electronics.
- **Joint letter** with the International Labour Rights Forum addressing the Fair Labour Association's living wage strategy.

MARCH



The Challenge to the Global Electronics Industry

- **Challenge to the Global Electronics Industry**, published by GoodElectronics and the International Campaign for Responsible Technology (ICRT) and endorsed by more than 200 organisations, researchers and activists. The groups demand meaningful action to prevent harm to workers exposed to toxic chemicals.
- **Support for CEREAL's engagement** with Foxconn and Flextronics around cases of unlawful dismissals and severance payment.

APRIL



Capacity building session on 'Creating Safe Workplaces: E-waste Recycling Industry', 14th April 2015, (by Civedep and Toxics Links)

- **Capacity building session** on occupational health and safety of e-waste workers, organised in Delhi by Civedep and Toxics Links, reaching 37 participants.
- **Participation by CEREAL in a meeting** with the leadership of CANIETI and electronics companies, local managers of IBM, HP, Jabil, Sanmina, and a delegate of the Mexican Labour Department.

Timeline

MAY



Publication
Nokia Disconnected

- [Nokia Disconnected.](#)
- [Katanga Calling.](#)



Publication
Katanga Calling

JUNE



CEREAL Workers' training June 19

- [Meeting the Challenge: Detailed Recommendations for Implementation of the Challenge to the Electronics Industry.](#) published by GoodElectronics and International Campaign for Responsible Technology (ICRT).
- [Unable to connect.](#)
- **Training of trainers** on occupational health and safety in Vietnam, organised by AMRC and ICRT.
- **Four training activities for workers** in Guadalajara, organised by CEREAL, reaching over 100 workers.
- **Training for workers** on benefits and social security schemes available to industrial workers, organised by CIVIDEP.
- **IndustriALL Global Union World Conference on ICT, Electrical and Electronics** in Malaysia, where participants affirm their strong commitment to: a) build union power to confront global capital; b) fight for trade union rights; c) fight against precarious work; and d) promote industrial policy and sustainability.



Cover of the
CIVIDEP Handbook,
released in June

Timeline

JULY



*IndustriALL:
organising Seminar
on ICT, Electrical &
Electronics Workers,
on July 25*



*CIVIDEP:
OHS Study Circle
July 19*



*Diploma on
labour rights*

- GoodElectronics **meeting** in Mexico City.
- A mediation committee established by Samsung and civil society groups **issues ground-breaking recommendations** to Samsung to compensate hundreds of workers who became ill while working at Samsung and implement innovative prevention policies.
- **Paying the price for flexibility - workers' experiences in the electronics industry in Mexico.**
- **Routledge Companion to Labor and Media published, with a chapter by GoodElectronics.**
- **TCO Certified Smartphones versus Fairphone.**
- **Unionised Philips workers made redundant in Indonesia.**
- Local GoodElectronics network **meeting** in Bangkok.
- **Meeting** of workers and other activities in Mexicali, organised by CEREAL.
- **Study circle I** in India on occupational health and safety, organised by CIVIDEP.
- **Strategic organising sessions** for ICT, electrical and electronics workers in Taiwan-ROC and in the Philippines, organised by IndustriALL.

AUGUST



*GE meeting
in Sao Paulo*



*IndustriALL:
CBA training on ICT
Electrical &
Electronics,
August 29*

- **Open letter** from ICRT, endorsed by GoodElectronics, calls on Samsung to accept the recommendations of the mediation committee regarding compensation.
- **Brazil, the new manufacturing hotspot for electronics?**
- Regional GoodElectronics **meeting** in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- **CBA training** for ICT, electrical, and electronics workers in Indonesia, organised by IndustriALL.
- **Meeting** with NXP Semiconductors.
- **Meeting** with Philips to discuss the company's new approach regarding supplier sustainability.

Timeline

SEPTEMBER



*CEREAL Diploma
on labour rights*



- **Project meeting** in the Philippines on organising ICT, electrical, and electronics workers, organised by IndustriALL.
- **Operational seminar** in Thailand on organising ICT, electrical, and electronics workers, organised by IndustriALL.
- **CBA training** for ICT, electrical, and electronics workers in Indonesia, organised by IndustriALL.
- **Awareness-raising and training** for women workers on women welfare laws (Magna Carta) in the Philippines, organised by CBBRC.
- **Presentation** by ICRT on the Chemical Challenge at the UNIDO- SAICM meeting.
- **Meeting** with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs about NXP.

OKTOBER



*Contract Study
Circle*

- **Rich corporations, poor societies.**
- **Servants of servers.**
- Trade union strengthening and membership involvement by GoodElectronics Thailand and MWAP in Bangkok.
- **Study circle II** in India on law regulating contract labour, organised by CIVIDEP.



*Publication
Rich corporations,
poor societies*



*Publication
Servants of servers*

Timeline

NOVEMBER



Presentation on living wage NCP Conference



Statement by GE and CEREAL about mass dismissal of Foxconn workers in Juarez, Mexico, November 3

- **Statement** by GoodElectronics and CEREAL about mass dismissal of Foxconn workers in Juarez, Mexico.
- **Training** for workers in Guadalajara, organised by CEREAL.
- **Organising seminar** for ICT, electrical and electronics workers in Malaysia, organised by IndustriALL.
- **Participation in expert consultation** on identifying human rights implications arising from the life-cycle of hazardous substances and wastes.
- **Meeting** with the Dutch National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines (NXP).
- **Presentation about a living wage** in the electronics industry at NCP Conference on 'Achieving a living wage in the agriculture/food and electronics/technological manufacturing supply chain'.

DECEMBER



Magna Carta



CIVIDEP : Samsung Study Circle December 13



CEREAL: workers' training, December 3

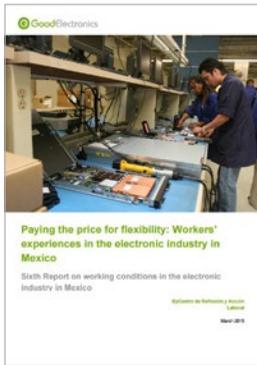
- **Network meeting and strategising session** on freedom of association in the electronics industry in China and beyond (Hong Kong).
- **Intervention** at the closing conference of the electronics programme in China of the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) in Shenzhen.
- **Support for a letter** by IndustriALL Global Union to the Korean government.
- **Rapid Assessment of the Magna Carta of Women and Other Laws for Women in the Electronics Industry in Export Processing Zones in the Philippines.**
- **Training** for workers in Mexicali, organised by CEREAL.
- **Study circle III** on working conditions, including wages, leave, work stress and possibility of organising a union at Samsung, organised by CIVIDEP.
- **Workshop** in the Philippines on organising electronics workers in the SEZ, organised by IndustriALL.
- **Meeting** with Dutch embassy in Beijing to discuss the increasingly repressive climate for CSOs in mainland China.

2015 Highlights

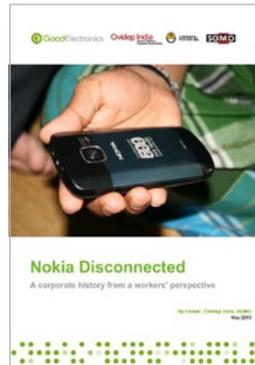


- Activities have been carried out in the following countries: the Netherlands, USA, Mexico, Philippines, India, Brazil, China, Hong Kong, Israel, Palestine, Poland, Thailand, Switzerland, Malaysia, Indonesia, UK .
- CEREAL (Mexico) achieved concrete results from its interventions with Foxconn and Flextronics. After exposing cases of unlawful dismissals, Flextronics and Foxconn provided workers with full severance pay.
- As a result of IndustriALL's organising efforts, a number of CBAs have been negotiated in Indonesia and in Malaysia.
- Several CSOs received targeted training by GoodElectronics members. For example:
 - In Delhi, around 15 CSOs participated in a capacity building session on OHS of e-waste workers.
 - In Vietnam, four CSOs were trained by AMRC and ICRT.
 - Repórter Brasil received training in conducting field research.
 - In Thailand, the NXP Manufacturing Workers' Union Thailand received targeted training to strengthen the union and increase member involvement.
- The International Campaign for Responsible Technology (ICRT), the GoodElectronics Network, and allies submitted the [Challenge](#) to electronics brands, manufacturers, and suppliers to proactively reduce and eliminate chemical and physical hazards through the development and adoption of safer alternatives.
- In total, more than 50 separate instances of dialogue, consultation and engagement around particular topics took place with industry bodies, multi-stakeholder initiatives, supply chain actors and individual companies, including: NXP, Samsung, Philips, Apple, Dell, HP, Microsoft/Nokia, Fairphone, Foxconn Mexico, Flextronics Mexico, Jabil, IBM, Sony, PCH, Nvidia, Western Digital, Seagate, Lipu, Metalor, Valcambi, SGE, Azanza, EICC, GeSI.
- 1,223 workers were reached directly by the GoodElectronics Network and its members.
- 186 CSOs (including 50 GoodElectronics members) received information about developments in the global electronics industry, including mining, manufacturing, e-waste disposal, market analysis and trends in corporate accountability.
- The GoodElectronics website had 44,120 unique visitors.
- GoodElectronics welcomed 21 new members.

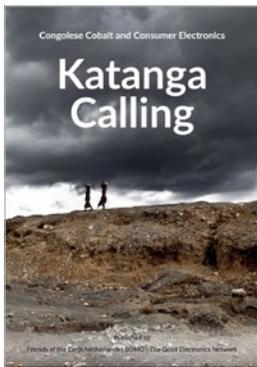
Publications



Paying the price for flexibility: workers' experiences in the electronics industry in Mexico, published by GoodElectronics, authored by CEREAL, 31 March 2015.



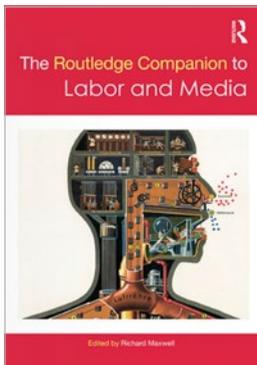
Nokia Disconnected: A corporate history from a workers' perspective, profile on the business practices of Nokia/Microsoft, published by GoodElectronics, authored by CEREAL, Cividip and SOMO, 18 pages, May 2015.



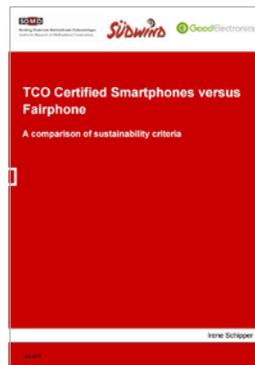
Katanga calling: Congolese cobalt and consumer electronics, report on the mining of Congolese cobalt in Katanga and consumer electronics, published by GoodElectronics, authored and co-published by Friends of the Earth Netherlands (Milieudefensie), and SOMO, 21 pages, May 2015.



Unable to connect: Research on labour disputes at NXP, report on NXP, published by GoodElectronics, authored by SOMO, 44 pages, June 2015.



Routledge Companion to Labor and Media, chapter by GoodElectronics, July 2015.



TCO Certified Smartphones versus Fairphone: A comparison of sustainability criteria, report comparing two initiatives offering a fair smartphone, published by GoodElectronics, authored by SOMO in collaboration with Südwind, 46 pages, July 2015.

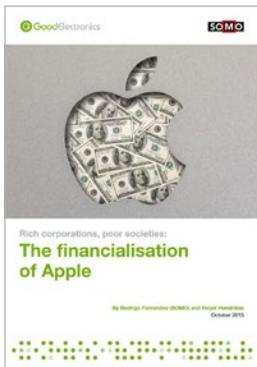
Publications



Unionised Philips workers made redundant in Indonesia, authored by Ron van Baden, published by GoodElectronics, July 2015.



Brazil, the new manufacturing hotspot for electronics?, profile on the electronics industry in Brazil, published by GoodElectronics, authored by SOMO in collaboration with Repórter Brasil, 24 pages, August 2015.



Rich corporations, poor societies: The financialisation of Apple, profile on corporate financialisation with Apple as case study, published by GoodElectronics, authored by SOMO, 22 pages, October 2015.



Servants of servers: Rights violations and forced labour in the supply chain of ICT equipment in European universities, report on labour conditions at the Wistron factory in China, published by GoodElectronics and Danwatch, 38 pages, October 2015.



Rapid Assessment of the Magna Carta of Women and Other Laws for Women in the Electronics Industry in Export Processing Zones in the Philippines, by CBBRC, December 2015.



Maternity Benefits Act, 1961, published by GoodElectronics, september 2015.



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