

# Annual report 2016



The GoodElectronics network includes more than 100 organisations and individuals worldwide, including trade unions, labour and human rights organisations, environmental groups, academics and researchers.

Through research, skills and knowledge sharing, capacity building, advocacy, and campaigning, GoodElectronics is building a global movement with the power to fundamentally change the industry.

The GoodElectronics network aims to ensure that labour rights and environmental norms are protected and respected throughout the entire production cycle of electronics supply chains.

**The Steering Committee** is composed of the following members: CEREAL (Mexico); CIVIDEP (India); IndustriALL Global Union (Switzerland); ICRT – International Campaign for Responsible Technology (USA); Workers Hub for Change (Malaysia); SOMO (the Netherlands); Workers Assistance Center (the Philippines); SHARPS (South Korea).



# Dear Friends,

In 2016, network members continued their important work of revealing and investigating human rights abuses in the electronics sector, advocating for workers' rights, helping workers to develop skills to defend their rights, informing electronics customers, and presenting good practice alternatives to the main electronics supply chain players. GoodElectronics supported its members' activities with funding and knowledge, connected them with each other and with other important stakeholders, and did its best to amplify their messages, by sharing them through the GoodElectronics communication channels.

In April, GoodElectronics joined with *SOMO*, *Stop Child Labour Coalition and Friends of the Earth/Milieudefensie* to host a Roundtable Meeting on Responsible Mining for Electronics. GoodElectronics took care of the organisation, including program and logistics. The first day of the meeting was for CSOs only, to discuss initiatives and strategies. On the second day a round table was organised. The roundtable was held at and attended by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as civil society organisations (CSOs) from production countries and representatives of major electronics companies – and manufacturers – including *Apple*, *Philips*, *Samsung* and the industry association *Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition* (EICC).

The roundtable provided an important platform for CSOs from the *Democratic Republic of Congo*, *Indonesia* and *Mali* among others to raise awareness and advocate directly toward companies and policymakers for sustainable sourcing policies and practices. To coincide with the roundtable, GoodElectronics released four concise fact sheets focused on the electronics sector and responsible mining of tin, gold, cobalt and conflict minerals.

In the evening, a panel discussion and public screening of the award-winning short documentary 'Whose Wealth? Cobalt from Congo' brought the issue to a wider audience. In addition to researchers from *SOMO* and *Afrewatch*, the panel included *Dirk-Jan Koch*, the *Special Envoy Natural Resources at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs* and a representative from *Philips Lighting*. GoodElectronics and its members have succeeded in putting the issue of responsible mining firmly on the agenda of companies and policymakers alike.



The protection of workers and their involvement in decision-making around management of chemicals and waste remained a top priority for GoodElectronics in 2016. The network published the results of extensive research into chemical poisoning of workers in *China's Pearl River Delta-region*, a global hub for the production of consumer electronics. The report, 'The Poisonous Pearl', revealed that workers are poorly informed about the health risks posed by chemical exposure and lack sufficient information, training and adequate personal protective equipment. When they fall ill, employers actively counter and even obstruct workers' efforts to get a proper diagnosis or claim compensation for medical expenses.

The report, which was authored by network members *Labour Action China (LAC)*, *Labour Education and Service Network* (in Hong Kong) and *SOMO*, confirmed the need for safer and more sustainable manufacturing practices. Along with the report, GoodElectronics reiterated its 'Challenge to the electronics industry' – presented jointly with the *International Campaign for Responsible Technology (ICRT)* in 2015 – to respect workers' and community rights, ensure safe working conditions, and proactively reduce and eliminate chemical and physical hazards in the sector.

Publication of the report coincided with a panel discussion – organised by *LAC* and *Supporters for the Health and Rights of People in the Semiconductor Industry (SHARPS)* – during the 33rd session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The panel included the UN Special Rapporteur on Hazardous Substances and Wastes and representatives from Northeast Asian NGOs. They discussed cases of mismanagement of hazardous substances by transnational corporations which have resulted in human rights violations, including health problems, for workers and communities. In his report to the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur highlighted the right to information and the right to access to remedy for addressing human rights issues involving toxic chemicals.

In November, *GoodElectronics* and *ICRT* launched the online 'Chemical Challenge Gap Analysis', which reveals the huge gap between the manufacturing standards of the electronics industry and expectations set by experts in occupational health and safety and civil society organisations. The Analysis was launched at the annual conference of the *Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC)*. Around 20 companies attended a presentation about the Gap Analysis,



including *Apple, HP, Sony, Phillips* and *Texas Instruments*. The EICC Chemical Management Working Group has consulted GoodElectronics and IRCT about its code of conduct and auditing protocol.

Next year promises to be both challenging and dynamic with new a website to be launched, as well as research publications, documentaries and reports all in the pipeline. We invite you to visit our website, [goodelectronics.org](http://goodelectronics.org), and join our mailing list to receive regular updates on network activity, to join the network, and reinforce our call for human rights and sustainability in the electronics sector.

In solidarity,

*Alejandro Gonzalez (Network Coordinator)*

# Timeline

## JANUARY



*Capacity-building workshop to boost the capacity of CSO's, by CIVIDEP*

- **Capacity-building workshop** with academic institutions to boost the capacity of CSO's in the Sriperumbudur area, organised by CIVIDEP.
- CEREAL **meeting** with the Mexican Federal Government Committee for Comprehensive Management of Chemicals, Persistent Organic Pollutants and Hazardous Waste.

## FEBRUARY



*Workshop on working conditions and labour standards at Samsung by CIVIDEP*

- **Training for workers** on gender issues in Mexico across 5 training dates between Feb-May, organised by CEREAL, reaching 54 workers.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** preparations were made for CETIEN's anniversary and to commemorate the Women International Day.
- **Workshop** on working conditions and labour standards at Samsung India's unit in Sriperumbudur, organised by CIVIDEP.
- **The awakening of the workers** video produced by CEREAL to demonstrate problems of the electronics industry in Mexico.

## MARCH



*IndustriALL meeting Training of Unionists at Lomenik*



*Mexican workers protesting violation of their labour rights*

- CEREAL **meeting** with Mexican CSOs at the Red TDT General Assembly Mexico City. Over 50 participants met to address human rights issues, research and urgent appeals in Mexico.
- CEREAL **meeting** with the Mexico Committee Meeting of the garment industry to share experiences from the electronic industry on how to promote freedom of association.
- **Study circle** on working conditions and labour standards for workers at Foxconn's manufacturing plant in Sriperumbudur, organised by CIVIDEP.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** at Lomenik and FSPMI in Malaysia to review strategy and previous year's results, organised by IndustriALL.

# Timeline

## APRIL



*CEREAL and CETIEN distributing materials to workers*



*Communication workshop by GoodElectronics Thailand (GET)*



*IndustriAll Global Union steering committee meeting*

- **'Cobalt Blues'** research reveals new evidence of human rights violations and environmental negligence. An online story '[Cobalt blues](#)' with videos and photos was also produced.
- **Responsible Mining Series** produced for the Round Table on Responsible Mining for Electronics organized by GoodElectronics:
  - [Factsheet on Conflict Minerals](#)
  - [Factsheet on Tin](#)
  - [Factsheet on Gold](#)
  - [Factsheet on Cobalt](#)
- **Training for workers** on occupational health & safety issues at Ohsung plant, Mexicali. Organised by CEREAL and CETIEN
- **GoodElectronics Round Table Meeting on Responsible Mining for Electronics** in The Hague. Over 80 participants joined in talks, workshops and debates on responsible mining for electronics, this included representatives from governments, CSOs, academics and organisations.
- Premiere of **'Whose Wealth? Cobalt from Congo'** at the Round Table meeting, a documentary made by SOMO with support from GoodElectronics.
- IndustriAll Global Union **steering committee meeting** on ICT, Electrical & Electronics in Tokyo. 31 representatives from 15 unions met to discuss global trends.
- MHSSN and CEREAL **workshop** on occupational health and safety in Guadalajara, Mexico, reaching 69 workers.

## MAY



*CEREAL Diploma in Human Labour Rights training*



*IndustriAll workers' trainings in Penang, Malaysia*

- **Training for workers** in labour rights, organised annually by CEREAL reaching over 279 workers.
- **Workshops** for electronics workers organised by CIVIDEP.
- **Strategic organising sessions** for ICT, electrical and electronics workers on Organizing and CBA in Malaysia and Indonesia with EIEUNR, FSPMI and Lomenik unions, organised by IndustriALL with over 100 workers participating.

# Timeline

## JUNE



*Workshop on writing news stories and making newsletters in Bangkok, organised by GET*

- **Workshop** for workers in Bangkok, organised by Good-Electronics Thailand.
- **Study circle** on the community impact of factory closure and experience sharing, organised by CIVIDEP.
- **Worker trainings** held in Indonesia, organised by IndustriALL with 97 workers participating.
- **Training for workers** in Guadalajara, Mexico on OHS, organised by MHSSN and CEREAL with 69 workers participating.
- SOMO approached electronics brands with a **survey** on the responsible sourcing of gold published, results are published on [Stop Child Labour Campaign website](#).

## JULY



*Strategic organising session in Bangkok by IndustriALL*

- **'Beyond voluntary codes and audits: a challenge for the Electronics Industry'**, CEREAL's 7th annual report.
- **Strategic organising sessions** for ICT, electrical and electronics workers on Organizing and CBA in Thailand and Taiwan, organised by IndustriALL with over 100 workers participating.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** focusing on the planning of a route towards the legal and political recognition of the union, organised by CEREAL and CETIEN.

## AUGUST



*People & Planet's campaign, strategy and skills workshop on workers' rights, in the UK*

- **Workshops** for British students on workers' rights in the electronics industry and campaign strategy and skills, organised by People & Planet with 166 participants at 21 UK universities.
- **Worker training** on Organizing, Collective Bargaining and OHS were held in Vietnam, organised by IndustriALL with 57 workers.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** at various unions in the Philippines, organised by IndustriALL.
- CEREAL provided input to **'México: Empresas y Derechos Humanos'** a report submitted to the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights during their official visit to Mexico.



*Strategic organising session in Hanoi by IndustriALL*

# Timeline

## SEPTEMBER



*Cetien Meeting and Training*



*IndustriALL  
STMicroelectronics  
Trade Union  
Network Meeting,  
Geneva*



*Bread for All launch  
'Stopp Benzol'  
campaign*

- **'Poisonous Pearl'** Report on Occupational chemical poisoning in the electronics industry in the Pearl River Delta.
- **Strategy meeting** with CSOs organised by Good-Electronics in Amsterdam, focusing on responsible sourcing of minerals.
- **Capacity building workshop** on contractualization and precarious work in the Philippines with 70 participants and 24 from the electronics sector, organised by MWAP.
- National **workshop** on Contractualization and Precarious work in Quezon City, organized by MWAP in the Philippines, reaching out to 58 workers.
- Bread for All launch **'Stopp Benzol' campaign** on Benzene and other toxics in the IT production.
- **Panel discussion** on **'Mismanagement of Chemicals by Corporations'** during UN Human Rights Council.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** organised by Cetien.
- IndustriALL launch the **STMicroelectronics Trade Union Network** in Geneva.

## OKTOBER



*CIVIDEP Workers'  
training on social  
media in  
Sunguvachatram*



*'Whose wealth?'  
wins award at the  
European Short Film  
Festival in Berlin*

- **Study circles** in Sunguvachatram, organised by CIVIDEP.
- Short Documentary **'Whose Wealth? Cobalt from Congo'** wins award for Best Short Documentary at the European Short Film Festival held in Berlin in October 2016.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** organised by CEREAL and CETIEN.

# Timeline

## NOVEMBER



*CIVIDEP Study Circle V Contract Labour Act and Maternity Benefit Act in Tamil*

- **Chemical Challenge Gap Analysis** launched by Good-Electronics Network and IRCT at the **EICC Responsible Electronics 2016 Meeting**.
- **Study circle** on contract labour and maternity benefit laws hosted by CIVIDEP.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** in Mexicali, organised by CEREAL and CETIEN.



*EICC meeting and chemical gap analysis launch*



*Meeting and training of Unionists in Mexicali*

## DECEMBER



*Study Circle VI by CIVIDEP*

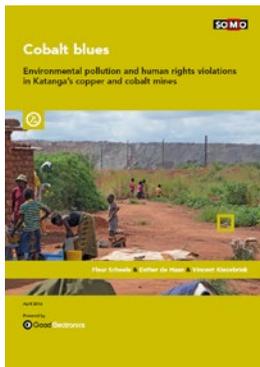
- **Meeting** with South Korean Workers of SGU in Amsterdam to discuss working conditions in South Korea, especially in Samsung.
- **Study circles** on the rights of female workers at Dell, Flextronics, Salcomp and Sanmina, organised by CIVIDEP, 21 participants reached.

# 2016 Highlights



- Alejandro replaced Pauline Overeem as International Coordinator of the GoodElectronics Network in May 2016.
- New Members: Thai Asahi Glass Labour Union; Afreewatch – Africa Resources Watch; BHRE Research Group – Business, Human Rights and the Environment Research Group; KLPH – The Korean Lawyers for Public Interest and Human Rights; Collectif Ethique sur l'étiquette; EIEUSR – Electronics Industry Employees Union Southern Region of Peninsular Malaysia; Computer Professionals' Union; Premicongo and Karoline Duchenne, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany.
- 1145 workers (565 women) were trained about workers' rights by the GoodElectronics Networks and its members
- 118 unionists (56 women) were trained by GoodElectronics and its members, focusing on topics such as mature industrial relations, labour rights, workers' representation, wage negotiations, occupational health & safety, gender, environmental issues, etc
- 7 substantive collective bargaining agreements (CBA) were achieved and many more negotiated.
- CEREAL together with around 100 Mexican NGOs and social movements documented cases of alleged corporate abuse in different sectors: mining, energy, oil & gas, agribusiness, and construction, among others.
- The GoodElectronics Round Table Meeting on Responsible Mining for Electronics in The Hague was hosted by the Dutch Government and organized by GoodElectronics, SOMO, HIVOS representing the Dutch Stop Child Labour Coalition, and Friends of the Earth Netherlands (Milieudefensie).

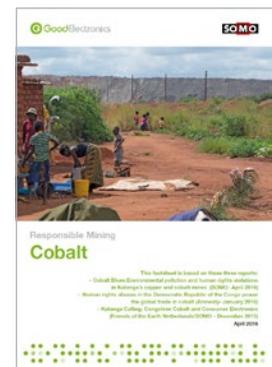
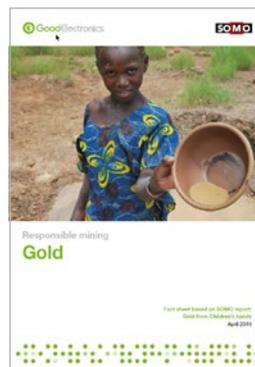
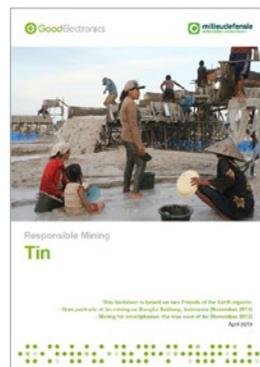
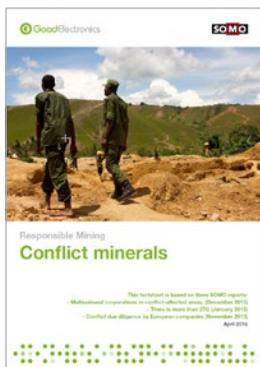
# Publications



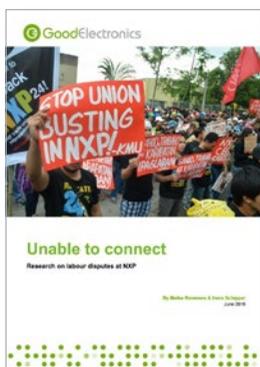
**'Cobalt Blues'** authored by SOMO in collaboration with Afrewatch, ACIDH and Premicongo with support of GoodElectronics, 1 April 2016



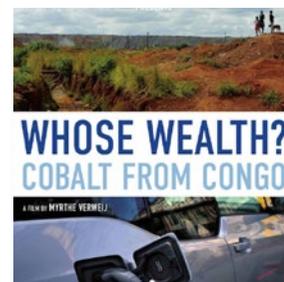
**'Beyond voluntary codes and audits: a challenge for the Electronics Industry'**, authored by CEREAL, 18 July 2016



Responsible Mining Series consisting of four factsheets (**Conflict Minerals**, **Tin**, **Gold**, and **Cobalt**) produced for the Round Table on Responsible Mining for Electronics organized by GoodElectronics, 1 April 2016



Aspect	ESG score	CEO score
<b>Transparency</b>		
1.1 Do brands publicly disclose names and addresses of all suppliers?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
1.2 Are suppliers required to state brands full suppliers disclosure of all chemicals used?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
1.3 Are suppliers able to list brands full materials disclosure of all chemicals?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
1.4 Are chemicals used in the mines chain publicly disclosed?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
1.5 Are suppliers aware of their brands and suppliers' obligations to report?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
1.6 Are suppliers aware of their brands and suppliers' obligations to report?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
1.7 Do brands have contract clauses with suppliers regarding disclosure of all substances?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
<b>Use of safer chemicals</b>		
2.1 Do brands have a corporate policy for alternative assessment of hazardous chemicals?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
2.2 Do brands have a policy to substitute with a safer? And if so, is it in place, or still to be done by the brands?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
2.3 Do brands have a corporate policy for safer substitutes of hazardous chemicals?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
2.4 Do brands encourage chemical suppliers to develop safer substitutes?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡
2.5 Do the brands have a policy for using the more high standards (RoHS and the REACH) instead of hazardous chemicals and/or restricted to suppliers as disclosed in contracts?	🟡🟡🟡🟡	🟡🟡🟡🟡



**'Poisonous Pearl'** Published by GoodElectronics, and authored by SOMO, LAC and LESN, 1 September 2016

**Chemical Challenge Gap Analysis website** published by GoodElectronics and IRCT, 1 November 2016

**'Whose Wealth? Cobalt from Congo'**, directed by Myrthe Verweij with support from the GoodElectronics Network



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