

Annual report 2017



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 electronics supply chain.

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,

Throughout 2017, members of the GoodElectronics Network continued to investigate labour and human rights violations associated with the electronics industry. This has been a productive year for the Network and members have advocated for workers' rights, helped empower workers to develop skills to defend their rights, worked to increase awareness among electronics customers, and communicated sustainable practices to electronics companies. To support these activities, GoodElectronics has made funding and resources available to members. In addition, GoodElectronics provides a platform for amplifying members' messages via its global communication channels. This connects members to each other and important stakeholders, helping to facilitate collaboration between members and other organisations.

In October 2017, the GoodElectronics brought together members at its Annual Meeting in Batam, Indonesia. Joining 67 people from 14 countries and 45 different organisations, including workers unions, NGOs and research institutions. The meeting gave members the opportunity to present trends in the electronics industry and reflect on the previous year's activities, but it also enabled the Network to collectively discuss strategic options for 2018 and beyond (summarised in in the 2017 Annual Conference Report). This followed a Mid-Term Review which was commissioned in 2017, as the Network is more than mid-way through its five-year EC funded programme.

One of the main aims of the Annual Meeting and Mid-Term Review was to collectively decide, as a Network, which *demands*, *strategies* and *organisational* proposals should be prioritised in order to have the greatest impact in line with the (currently) EC funded programme. The process was designed to be participatory and open, with all GoodElectronics members able to contribute their own views and proposals. Follow-up planning and discussions was arranged via ad-hoc working groups for successful proposals, allowing members to participate in designing and implementing proposals they voted for.

Successful proposals include 3 prioritised demands focusing on *Freedom of Association & Precarious Work*; *Transparency, Accountability and Disclosure within Supply Chains*; and *Chemical use and its impact on workers/the environment*. There are also 3 prioritised strategies to be furthered elaborated, focusing on *Capacity Sharing across the Network for grassroots organisations*; *Creating a Labour Rights Defenders Network*; and a *Global Public Campaign on the Olympics 2020*. Regarding the structure and organisation of the Network beyond 2018, members voted to move towards a *Secretariat model with two offices, one in the global North and one in the South*, both with at least one full time staff member dedicated solely to the Network. However, it was highlighted that the existing structure should remain until we are in a position to move to a new structure, given current funding restraints.



The protection of workers from toxic chemical exposure formed a core part of the Network's activities in 2017. In June, the Network published research conducted by members in South Korea on methanol poisoning in the supply chains of Samsung and LG. The report, 'The Blind', details the experiences of six South Korean workers who developed symptoms of poisoning while working at third-tier suppliers for Samsung and LG. This research – conducted by Solidarity for Worker's Health (SWH), Korean House for International Solidarity (KHIS) and Korean Lawyers for Public interest and Human Rights (KLPH) with support from GoodElectronics – was also distributed during the 35th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva. During the same session, a victim of methanol poisoning, who lost his vision and suffered brain damage as a result of working at a Samsung Electronics subcontractor, testified before the UN.

Investigating and exposing negative labour practices remained a vital activity for Network members in 2017, not only regarding toxic chemical use but also working conditions and unfair treatment of workers. This is especially important as legal and corporate compliance to sustainability standards remains weak in many manufacturing areas. CIVIDEP's research ('Samsung's sub-standard labour practices in India'), reveals substandard labour practices in Samsung's manufacturing facility in Sungavarchatram, in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Poor wages and long working days and deliberately blocking unionisation are some of the problems that workers face every day. This was echoed by Repórter Brasil and SOMO, who authored a report on 'Labour conditions at foreign electronics manufacturing companies in Brazil'.

To address this, GoodElectronics has been empowering electronics workers and associated organisations to develop and implement the monitoring of labour conditions at factory level. In April 2017, GoodElectronics co-hosted a workshop in Hong Kong to develop a worker-driven monitoring methodology for the electronics industry. Around 15 organizations from Hong Kong and mainland China attended the workshop to discuss challenges and methodologies on worker monitoring.

Next year promises to be both challenging and dynamic with new strategic working groups to determine the future of the Network, as well as research publications, documentaries and reports all in the pipeline. We invite you to visit our website, 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



Training of Unionists on health & safety and labour laws in Kancheepuram, by Cividep.

- CEREAL **meeting** with the Korean Transnational Companies Watch to present research on Korean companies in Mexico.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** focusing on health and safety and labour laws, organised by Cividep.

FEBRUARY



Consultative meeting on youth and migration to strengthen relationships with local CSOs, by Cividep.

- GoodElectronics and SOMO attend **World Social Congress** in Barcelona.
- Cividep consultative **meeting** on youth and migration with 10 local and community based CSOs, focused on strengthening synergies with local NGOs to facilitate work on-the-ground in the future.
- **Training for workers** across 2 training dates in February on social security rights, organised by CEREAL, reaching 37 workers.
- **Investigation** of working conditions at the Oh-Sung plant in Mexicali. Organised by CEREAL.



Distribution of flyers on workers' rights in Mexicali, by CEREAL.

Timeline

MARCH



CEREAL publish the 12th issue in its 'Labour Awakening' series.

- 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.
- **Workshops** across 7 training dates in March, organised by CEREAL, reaching 110 workers.
- **'Samsung's sub-standard labour practices in India'**, authored by CIVIDEP, is published by GoodElectronics.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** focusing on achievements of the last 20 years, as well as current challenges, organised by CEREAL.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** in Malaysia, as well as Indonesia, organised by IndustriALL.
- CEREAL publish **'Labour Awakening'**, the 12th in the series, with articles on payroll, discrimination, failure to pay overtime and ill-treatment in some Mexican companies.



Training of workers social security and medical care, by CEREAL.



Evaluation and planning meeting on ICT, Electrical and Electronics organising in Malaysia, by IndustriALL.

APRIL



Training of workers on managing savings for retirement, by CEREAL

- GoodElectronics hosts **workshop** on **worker-driven monitoring** in Hong Kong. 40 participants explored current models of worker-driven monitoring and learned skills including worker surveys, interview techniques, field notes and analysis of evidence.
- **Workshops** across 3 training dates in April on social security and retirement, organised by CEREAL, reaching 48 workers.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** focusing on forming a real union of workers, organised by CETIEN.



Training of Unionists focusing on consolidating CETIEN as a union, by CETIEN.

Timeline

MAY



IndustriALL steering committee meeting in Indonesia, bringing together 14 unions



Training of workers on organising in ICT, Electrical and Electronics, by IndustriALL.



Training of workers on trade union rights and benefits, by Civedep.

- SHARPS agree **policy framework** with the Minjoo Party, the leading political party in South Korea, focusing on the issue of Samsung worker's occupational diseases.
- **Training for workers** for a Diploma in labour rights, organised annually by CEREAL across 8 training dates, reaching 82 workers.
- **Training for workers** across 2 training dates on trade unions and workplace harassments, organised by Civedep, reaching 43 workers.
- **Training for workers** in Indonesia organised by IndustriALL, reaching 129 workers across 5 training dates from May-October.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** focusing on sexual harassment and research, organised by CETIEN.
- IndustriAll Global Union **steering committee meeting** on ICT, Electrical & Electronics in Bogor, Indonesia. Representatives from 14 unions met to discuss global trends.

JUNE



COMPLICIT launch petition in follow up to its film on workplace toxins in South Korea.

- GoodElectronics endorse the COMPLICIT **petition** demanding that electronics companies protect workers from chemical poisoning.
- **'The Blind'** – a report on methanol poisoning in supply chains for Samsung and LG – is authored and published by KHIS, KLPH and SWH and poisoning victim **testifies** at UN Human Rights Council.
- CEREAL publish 20th anniversary **publication** and **video**, highlighting the organisation's history and experiences in protecting human rights in Mexico.
- **Training for workers** in Thailand organised by IndustriALL, reaching 60 workers.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** focusing on regional issues and events, organised by CETIEN.



CEREAL release anniversary publication documenting its 20-year history.



Timeline

JULY



Evaluation and planning meeting on ICT, Electrical and Electronics organising in the Philippines, by IndustriALL.

- **Workshops** across 4 training dates in July covering workplace risks and accountability administrative process, organised by CEREAL, reaching 39 workers.
- **Meeting/Training of Unionists** in the Philippines, organised by IndustriALL.

AUGUST



Study Circle on ILO core labour standards, by Civedep.

- **Workshops** across 2 training dates in August on sexual harassment and discrimination, organised by CEREAL, reaching 16 workers.
- **Study circle** on the ILO core labour standards, organised by Civedep.
- **Training for workers** in Vietnam organised by IndustriALL, reaching 43 workers.

SEPTEMBER



IndustriALL launch its 'STOP Precarious Work' campaign to highlight importance of fair pay and working conditions.

- **Workshops** across 2 training dates in September on the electronics industry code of conduct and improving working conditions, organised by CEREAL, reaching 39 workers.
- GoodElectronics members participate in IndustriALL's **campaign** to 'Stop Precarious Work'.
- **'Transparency now: Legal briefing on the disclosure of EU customs data'**, is authored and published by Finnwatch with support from GoodElectronics.
- IndustriALL participation in the STMicroelectronics Trade Union Network **meeting** in Grenoble, France. The meeting focused on setting up working groups for core issues like precarious or unsafe working conditions, low wages, and discrimination.
- **Study circle** on the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and discussion on provident fund, organised by Civedep.



IndustriALL participate in the STMicroelectronics Trade Union Network Meeting.

Timeline

OCTOBER



GoodElectronics Network Annual Meeting in Batam. Bringing together 45 Network members and other organisations.



Training for workers on grievance mechanisms, by Cividep.

- **GoodElectronics Network Annual Meeting** in Batam, Indonesia, bringing together 45 organisations to collectively discuss and decide on strategic options for the future of the Network.
- Workers' organising **seminar** in Taiwan organised by IndustriALL, reaching 52 workers.
- **Workshop** on internal working regulations and their requirements for legal validity, organised by CEREAL, reaching 6 workers.
- **Training for workers** on laws governing grievance mechanisms, working conditions and sexual harassment, organised by Cividep, reaching 46 workers.

NOVEMBER



CEREAL annual meeting, focusing on the worker organisation and defending labour rights.

- **Workshop** on occupational illness, organised by CEREAL.
- **Training for workers** on labour law reforms, organised by Cividep, reaching 27 workers.
- CEREAL **annual meeting** of workers from the electronics industry. 43 workers attended, focusing on sharing important issues and the role of organising workers.

DECEMBER



Electronics Watch annual conference, focusing on ending precarious labour.



Training for workers on Organizing in the Electronics sector in Malaysia, by IndustriALL

- **Study circle** introducing proposed labour law reforms, organised by Cividep.
- **Training for workers** in Malaysia organised by IndustriALL, reaching 187 workers across 2 training dates.
- Electronics Watch **annual conference, co-sponsored by GoodElectronics**, brings together 90 participants from 18 countries, including several GoodElectronics Members.
- **'Labour conditions at foreign electronics manufacturing companies in Brazil'** is authored by Repórter Brasil and SOMO, published by GoodElectronics.

2017 Highlights



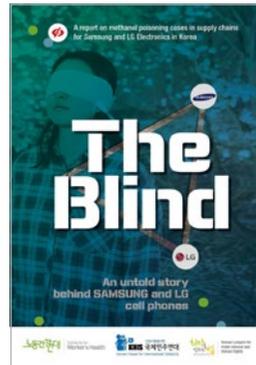
- New Members: BaliFokus Foundation; Environmental Rights Foundation; eReuse.org; Heather White (individual); Max Impact asbl; Sedane Labour Resource Centre (LIPS); Thailand Confederation Trade Union (TCTU); and UNISON
- 1007 workers (50% women) were trained about workers' rights by the GoodElectronics Network and its members
- 184 unionists (51% 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, among other topics.
- During 2017: 121 CSOs were informed; 32 CSOs were directly capacitated; 20 CSOs received tailor-made support, for instance by answering requests to attend training or events, provide information upon request, and give feedback on research.
- 5 substantive collective bargaining agreements (CBA) were achieved and many more negotiated in 2017. One global framework agreement (GFA) has been negotiated this year.
- CEREAL met with around 50 representatives from Mexican NGOs and social movements to discuss human rights, labour rights, legal protection, the promotion and defence of indigenous rights, as well as the protection and defence of those who support victims of forced disappearance and kidnapping.
- The GoodElectronics Annual Meeting in Batam brought together 45 organisations to discuss and decide on key strategic options for the Network's future. This resulted in:
 - 3 prioritised demands focusing on *Freedom of Association & Precarious Work; Transparency, Accountability and Disclosure within Supply Chains; and Chemical use and its impact on workers/the environment.*
 - 3 prioritised strategies being taken forward, focusing on *Capacity Sharing across the Network for grass-roots organisations; Creating a Labour Rights Defenders Network; and a Global Public Campaign on the Olympics 2020.*
 - Members also voted to move towards a *Secretariat model*, when funding permits. One office is to be in the global North and one in the South, both with at least one full time staff member dedicated solely to the Network.

Publications



'Samsung's sub-standard labour practices in India'

authored by CIVIDEP
and published by GoodElectronics, 1 April 2017



'The Blind: A report on methanol poisoning in supply chains for Samsung and LG Electronics in Korea'

authored and published by KHIS, KLPH and SWH with support of GoodElectronics, 1 June 2017



'Transparency now: Legal briefing on the disclosure of EU customs data'

authored and published by Finnwatch with support from GoodElectronics, 1 September 2017



'Labour conditions at foreign electronics manufacturing companies in Brazil'

authored by Repórter Brasil and SOMO, published by GoodElectronics, 31 December 2017



'GoodElectronics 2017 Annual Conference Report'

authored by GoodElectronics, 26 November 2017



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This publication has been produced with funding of the European Union. The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of GoodElectronics Network and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

