

Global Stakeholder Engagement Program

Overview

Date: 12th September 2018 at AP Tokyo Marunouchi Nippon Seimei Marunouchi Garden Tower

Host: Caux Round Table Japan

Introduction

Hiroshi Ishida, Executive Director of CRT Japan, first introduced the organization and the work it does in Japan and abroad. Then, he presented that since 2012, CRT Japan has held annual stakeholder program in Tokyo that Japanese businesses, NGO/NPO, social businesses and subjective experts participated in. And, in response to the increasing concern from the society on supply chain practices of Japanese companies, it has scaled up its program to hold in



Participants of the Program

Thailand in 2016, in Thailand, Malaysia, and Myanmar in 2017, and in Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia in 2018. In addition, CRT Japan conducted a dialogue with Japanese businesses and small-scale palm oil farmers in Malaysia and Indonesia. Next, Minoru Matsuzaki from CRT Japan reported on the Stakeholder Engagement Program in Japan. In the program, NGO/NPO gave the corporate participants a lecture on human rights issues in supply chains in Asia, human rights issues particular to Japan, and trends of institutional investors in Japan. Then, given the concerns raised by them, the corporate participants identified the sector specific human rights issues. Akiko Sato from CRT Japan reported on the Stakeholder Engagement Program in Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The program in Thailand focused on the theme of human trafficking. The programs in Malaysia and Indonesia focused on the theme of palm oil. She shared the identified issues through these programs. Lastly, Hiroshi Ishida from CRT Japan shared the plan for next year that CRT Japan would continue to provide workshops just like the dialogue with small-scale palm farmers in Malaysia. Then, the participants and the experts conducted the discussion to exchange their views. The following shows the main points of the discussion.

Comments from the global experts

- This program can be highly appreciated in the point that the human rights issues were discussed and identified from the perspectives of companies and stakeholders. In addition, this program should continue to be implemented. It was the future expectation that this program would provide a place to discuss directly with the rights-holders such as immigrant workers in Japan and workers in factories. Also, industry groups and western companies could be invited to this program for Japanese companies to learn business cases and strengthen their efforts to promote human rights.
- It was important to continually raise awareness about business and human rights within the company. Particularly in promoting human rights initiatives within the company, gaining understanding from top

management was indispensable. Therefore, it was important to help top management raise their awareness about human rights issues.

- Achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) was to ensure "human rights of all people". Therefore, companies should grasp the relevance of business activities and human rights, and work to achieve sustainable development goals by not only maximizing their positive impact but also minimizing their negative impact.
- Recent year, various human rights problems were raising in Vietnam and Myanmar where Japanese companies operated. It was important for Japanese companies to expand the scope of human rights impact assessment to such countries and implement the assessment.
- Although there was a tendency to discuss focusing on development of human rights policy and implementation of impact assessment with response to the UK Modern Slavery Act, discussion should be more on development and implementation of grievance mechanisms. Also, it was important to learn through other business cases of how other companies were working on this.
- Based on what the corporate participants learned through this program, Japanese companies were expected to work to identify their salient human rights issues, utilize what they learned for their human rights initiatives, engage with their stakeholders, and report outcomes to the stakeholders with transparency. These Japanese companies were expected to be leading companies, and communicate their work globally.
- Japanese companies should have a performance measurement and benchmarking method to continuously track the progress of their human rights initiatives at their companies and suppliers.
- How would Japanese companies implement stakeholder engagement programs by including stakeholders in Thailand? How would Japanese companies implement CSR projects in Thailand? It was important for them to learn, share and practice these things in Thailand.

Experts :

- **William Rook**
Regional Manager, Middle East, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)
- **Tulika Bansal**
Senior Adviser, Human Rights and Development, The Danish Institute for Human Rights
- **Livio Sarandrea**
Manager and Chief Adviser of Regional Program on Business and Rights
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangkok Regional Hub
- **Dr. James Allan**
Head of Consulting, EMEA & APAC, Verisk Maplecroft
- **Sompong Strakaew**
Founder/Executive Director, Labour Rights Promotion Network

Participants :

- **Toshihiko Hoshino**
Senior Expert, CSR Group, Corporate Planning Div., FUJIFILM Holdings Corporation

- **Mari Kojima**
Manager, CSR Group, Corporate Planning Div., FUJIFILM Holdings Corporation
- **Junji Kokubo**
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- **Mihoko Yamamoto**
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- **Ayako Yawata**
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Secretariat :

- **Hiroshi Ishida**, Executive Director, Caux Round Table Japan
- **Minoru Matsuzaki**, Nippon CSR Consortium, Caux Round Table Japan
- **Hiroki Wada**, Nippon CSR Consortium, Caux Round Table Japan
- **Akiko Sato**, Coordinator, Caux Round Table Japan