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Dear Madam/Sir,

I would like to introduce the **Responsible Supply Chains in Asia programme**. A joint initiative of the [European Union \(EU\)](#), the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) and the [Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development \(OECD\)](#) that aims to boost levels of responsible business conduct in Asia.

### Activities in Japan.

The programme focuses on the auto parts and electronics industry and has been present in Japan since February 2018. Here it engages with businesses and government to promote dialogue and share good practices, commissions original research and builds understanding of the programme aims.

### Why the programme is important.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe our programme is highly relevant both in restoring the national and regional economy and ensuring their greater resilience to future shocks.

Japan was selected for the programme as it plays an integral role in many global and intermediate supply chains in Asia. In Japan, there is widespread recognition of the importance of responsible business practices, and the country has a reputation as a responsible player in business operations. The RSCA Programme is looking to leverage Japan's strong position of influence to bring the benefits of responsible practices to the operations of supplier companies and countries from which it sources.

Through the sharing of best practices, research and other engagement we think Japan can be a driver of significant change and progress in the region on issues of labour rights and environmental standards.

### Of Interest.

Since commencing in 2018, the programme has, among other activities held a symposium with [Keidranren](#) examining good practices regarding supply chain interactions in Asia, conducted [research](#) (full report due to be published in coming weeks) in collaboration with Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) on best practices in global supply chains, and [looked at ways](#) Japanese businesses can support lower-tier suppliers in implementing modern Corporate Social Responsibility practices.

### About the programme. ([Click here for the country brochure](#))

- The programme uses as a basis the ILO's [MNE Declaration](#). This Declaration provides direct guidance to enterprises (multinational and national) on social policy and inclusive, responsible and sustainable workplace practices.

- The regional programme commenced in January of 2018, and funding of **EURO 9 million** is principally from the EU while implementation is equally shared between the ILO and OECD.
- In Japan, it targets multinational companies and their supply chains in the Electronics and Auto Parts sectors.
- Through original research, training, opening platforms for dialogue and policy advocacy it is supporting businesses and governments to shift policies to align with international guidelines (instruments) on best practices for corporate behaviour. In practice, it means complying with these international standards on human and labour rights, environmental protection and accountability. You can find a summary of the instruments in the brochure [“Key Messages from International Instruments”](#).
- In Japan, the programme is represented by the National Programme Coordinator, who works with the support of the ILO to implement programme activities. This NPC is supported by a regional head of programme, Fredy Guayacan. The programme also calls on the resources of the ILO and OECD when relevant.

Yours respectfully,

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