

Responsible Supply Chains in Asia (Japan)



International
Labour
Organization

100
1919-2019



AT A GLANCE

→ Partners

Potential partners: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW); Japanese Trade Union Confederation (RENGO); Japan Business Federation (Keidanren); Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); Japan Council of Metalworkers' Unions; Japanese Electrical Electronic & Information Union; Confederation of Japan Automobile Workers' Unions (JAW); other sectoral trade unions; Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA); Japan Auto Parts Industries Association (JAPIA); other sectoral business associations and individual enterprises; Institute of Developing Economies -Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO); Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO); Council for Better Corporate Citizenship (CBCC); Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE); Japanese Parliamentarians' League on the ILO activities (ILO-Giren); Japan Association for Advancement of ILO Activities; Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union (JCCU); Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA); UN Global Compact Network Japan; CSO Network Japan; academic institutions and universities; relevant chambers of commerce; other international organizations; and CSR Europe.

→ Donor

European Union

→ Duration

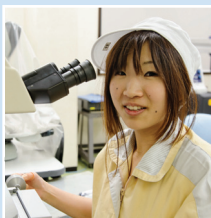
December 2017 - December 2020

→ Target beneficiaries

Government, policy makers, international and national enterprises, small and medium enterprises, multinational enterprises, workers and employers' organizations, sectoral associations, and educational institutions and CSOs.

→ Geographical focus

Tokyo (occasionally Osaka and other areas)



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

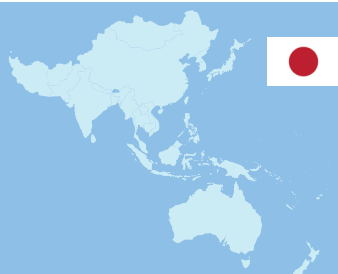
The "Responsible Supply Chains in Asia" project is a partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO), European Union (EU) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The aim of the project is to contribute to an enhanced respect for human rights, labour and environmental standards by businesses with supply chains in Asia, to work in line with internationally agreed guidelines and principles. Taking guidance from the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (ILO MNE Declaration, 2017) and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (2011), the project will promote corporate social responsibility (CSR)/responsible business conduct (RBC) in the fields of decent work, labour standards and working conditions in global supply chains.

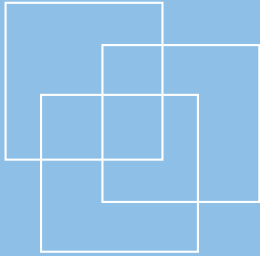
In addition to Japan, the project is present in five other countries, targeting specific sectors in each country. Focusing on specific sectors will help to maximise the impact of interventions and improve results in the areas of research, policy dialogue and the development of capacities of relevant actors in the supply chain. In Japan, the project focuses on the electronics and vehicle parts sectors, both of which are important drivers of the Japanese economy with their supply chains spread worldwide and notably in Asia. Japanese enterprises in these sectors are becoming increasingly active in the promotion of Socially Responsible Labour Practices and CSR as it relates to labour.

CSR is one of the integral ways in which enterprises give consideration to the impact of their operations on society and affirm their principles and values through methods and processes both internally and externally. CSR is voluntary, enterprise-driven initiatives that are considered to exceed simple compliance with the law. CSR is a key element of corporate management and integral to managing risk. It also promotes sustainable development at the enterprise, national and global levels, therefore contributing to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. To be effective, CSR must be systematically integrated into all long-term business management and planning, not only on occasion. CSR is not the same as philanthropy or charity.

The project aims to achieve the following immediate objectives:

- Increase understanding and knowledge of investors, businesses associations, enterprises, civil society organisations, trade unions and policymakers on CSR/RBC from the perspective of decent work.
- Create a policy environment conducive to promoting socially responsible conduct among businesses.
- Increase opportunities for businesses to have dialogue on challenges and opportunities in relation to the implementation of socially responsible labour practices.





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MAIN ACTIVITIES

The project is structured around four pillars:

- **Research** aims to generate an updated mapping of policies, practices and institutions at the sectoral level in Japan, which will lay a solid foundation for the design and implementation of policy dialogues, as well as capacity building, targeted communication and advocacy strategies.
- **Outreach activities** will give a platform for dialogue among various stakeholders to increase knowledge of socially responsible labour practices, share expertise and learn from national and international experiences.
- **Policy advocacy** will provide technical inputs and enhance policy dialogue among different actors to promote policy coherence and facilitate the implementation of good practices in terms of CSR/RBC.
- **Seminars/Workshops** on internationally agreed CSR/RBC principles and guidelines will be delivered to ILO constituents, multinational enterprises, small and medium enterprises and future business leaders both at the national and local levels, with a focus on specific sectors. The seminars and workshops will provide public and private stakeholders with updated information, ensuring the sustainability of activities, as well as demonstrating concrete examples of the implementation of CSR/RBC at the enterprise level.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Multi-level partnerships effectively and sustainably implement CSR/RBC practices and approaches in global supply chains by paying adherence to the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (ILO's MNE Declaration).
- Establishment of spaces to foster social and policy dialogue on CSR/RBC with the view to building and enabling government policy environments for CSR/RBC, as well as promoting policy coherence with international standards and instruments.
- Coordination of existing policy initiatives, activities and networks of key actors working on CSR/RBC.

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