



Event Factsheet

Responsible Business, Human Rights, and Decent Work in Asia

Harnessing Synergies between Human Rights and Inclusive Growth

Monday, 18 September 2023 | Jakarta, Indonesia
Hybrid Event (Combining Virtual and In-Person Participation)

On 18 September 2023, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan jointly organised a dialogue event in Jakarta, Indonesia, to advance responsible business conduct in Asia. The event, attracted more than 220 participants, both in-person and online, from various partners, including governments and workers' and employers' organizations from Asian countries as well as government representatives of G7 members. The dialogue event facilitated robust discussions on the topic of business and human rights, decent work and the importance of harnessing the synergies between respect for human rights and inclusive growth among governments, employers' and workers' organizations, enterprises and other supply chain actors, promoting shared values based on relevant international standards, including international labour standards.



► Event Objectives

The primary objective of this event was to promote recognition among partner countries that resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth, on the one hand, and respect for human rights and decent work for all, on the other, are interrelated elements that create synergies. The event also aimed at sharing country-specific experiences and approaches to boost efforts to respect for human rights, including decent work for all, focusing on national ownership while recognizing each country's the context.

► Showcasing Initiatives

The event showcased various initiatives aimed at promoting responsible business conduct and decent work in supply chain in line with the principles and frameworks established by the UN, OECD, and ILO, at the corporate, industry, and national levels.

► Strengthening Discussion

It facilitated discussions among governments, workers' and employers' organizations, and other supply chain actors to encourage further cooperation. The focus was on promoting shared values based on international standards, including international labour standards.

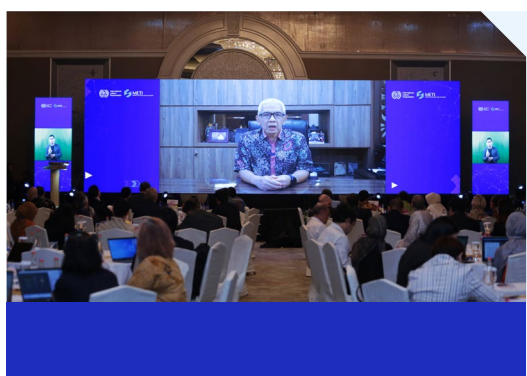
► Skills Development

The event explored the role of skills development and human capital investments in supporting responsible business, decent work, and sustainable economic growth in the Asian context.

► Opening remarks and keynote speeches



At the outset, Mr Shin Hosaka, Vice-Minister for International Affairs of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan opened the event, sharing expectations for dialogue to achieve a shared vision and explore synergies to deepen the understanding of responsible business conduct in the context of economic growth.



Mr Rudy Salahuddin, Deputy Minister for Digital Economy, Manpower, and SMEs, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs of Indonesia, emphasized that decent work is the main aspect in efforts to alleviate poverty and one of the keys to the success of sustainable development. He also shared his expectation for discussions and cooperation aimed at strengthening the respect for human rights and international labour standards in business activities in Asia and beyond.



Ms Pichamon Yeophantong, a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and Mr Dan Rees, Director, Supply Chain Action Programme, ILO, delivered keynote speeches, emphasizing a rights-based approach to generating inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, as well as the necessity and benefit of placing human rights at the centre of strategies to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development.



Session 1

Unlocking Sustainable Growth through Responsible Business and Labour Practices G7 and Asian Approaches

- ▶ The session showcased a diverse range of initiatives and approaches from Asian countries and G7 members aimed at implementing relevant international standards on business and human rights and illustrated the ownership of each country, taking into account specific contexts.
- ▶ The discussion also explored opportunities and challenges associated with making better use of the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration) in Asian countries in order to advance decent work in supply chains.



Session 2

Skills Development as a Contribution to the Synergies between Human Rights, Decent Work and Inclusive Growth

- ▶ The session highlighted the importance of skills development in helping countries harness socioeconomic transformation as a driving force for a sustainable and inclusive future. It emphasized the critical role skills development can play in bolstering responsible business practices, promoting decent work and fostering inclusive growth in Asia.
- ▶ Governments, employers' and workers' organizations shared various and innovative initiatives, responding to the skills challenges and needs.



Session 3

Responsible Business Conduct: Initiatives at the Enterprise Level

- ▶ The session focused on the responsibility of businesses to respect human rights and how different stakeholders, including governments, workers' and employers' organizations, can promote the responsible business conduct at the enterprise-level through respective roles. In this regard, the session shared leading corporate-level initiatives and supportive measures.
- ▶ The discussion also acknowledged the need for additional support for SMEs in fostering progressive improvements in supply chain due diligence processes.



► Closed sessions and the plenary discussion

The tripartite constituents had discussions in respective groups, Government, Workers and Employers, sharing their experiences and initiatives, and reflecting on how we can foster synergies between human rights and inclusive growth. The key points shared included;

► Government

Governments shared their commitment to safeguarding human rights within the business sector throughout the entire supply chain through various national measures. The continued international collaboration is essential, taking into account international standards to ensure a level playing field, while also recognizing the diverse levels of development in each country.

► Workers

Workers highlighted that workers' rights are human rights. The group also emphasized the need for recognition of workers' organizations as one of the critical stakeholders in business and human rights discussions by other stakeholders. It further highlighted the importance of capacity building and collaboration among stakeholders, as well as collaboration among workers' organizations.

► Employers

Employers emphasised the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as an authoritative framework, and the importance of national processes and mechanisms to best reflect national needs and priorities. Employers highlighted the critical role of governments in establishing a conducive environment for both inclusive growth and respect for human rights, including through good governance. It also called for clear and consistent requirements for companies in policies in the context of increasing human rights due diligence requirements.



Overall, the discussion underscored the **importance of stakeholder engagement**, including in peer learning and awareness-raising, in enhancing the protection of human and labour rights in business operations. It also highlighted **the importance of international collaboration and the critical role of social dialogue** in promoting good social practices and advancing economic progress.



Please access co-organizers' summary [here](#).