



Responsible Supply Chains in Asia

Global supply chains have rapidly expanded in recent decades. They are an integral feature of international production, trade and investment, and have contributed to economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction. Asian economies play a crucial role in many global supply chains.

This growth, however, has brought its own challenges. Working conditions in supply chains have often fallen short of international standards, and there has been a significant impact on the environment. Consumers, businesses and governments around the world are increasingly conscious of the importance of sustainability and inclusivity in global supply chains.

The Responsible Supply Chains in Asia Programme aims to address decent work and environmental challenges through promoting responsible business practices in the operations of enterprises, including multinational enterprises, and their supply chains.

About the Programme

A partnership between the European Union (EU), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), with 9 million EUR funding by the European Union, the programme works with partners in Asia to promote respect for human rights, including labour rights, and responsible business standards in global supply chains.



The three-year programme (2018-2020), carried out in collaboration with Japan, China, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, has two broad objectives to:

- promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by ensuring that investors and businesses have a better understanding of corporate social responsibility;
- create policy environments conducive to promoting responsible business conduct and increased opportunities for dialogue

The Responsible Supply Chains in Asia Programme in action

The regional programme is making an impact in a number of areas, including through:

- **Fostering policy dialogue** between the private sector and government institutions on strategies to establish an enabling environment for the implementation and promotion of socially responsible business practices.
- **Train the trainer sessions** – leading representatives from employer organisations, academia and worker's organisations have been brought together and trained as 'champions' in responsible business practices.
- Establishing **forums for dialogue** between suppliers and buyers to share goals and expectations on incorporating responsible business practices into their supply chains.
- Developing **joint research** with policymakers to map existing labour and environmental practices and focus attention on areas where change will have the greatest impact.
- **Engaging business associations** in discussions to identify the challenges of implementing good labour practices in supply chains and canvas opportunities to make companies more competitive, productive and with better access new markets.

Target industries



Who benefits?

The programme aims to directly improve the welfare of people working in global supply chains. Consumers enjoying products made in a responsible and ethical manner also stand to gain, as will citizens living in communities that value environmental protection and respect for human rights. Companies will benefit from increased productivity, new competitive advantages, and sustainable growth.

A unique collaboration

The programme represents the first time that the ILO, OECD and the EU have joined forces to promote responsible supply chains on a large scale. Each organisation contributes to the programme with their expertise and tools.

European Union (EU)

This initiative is a part of the EU's long-standing commitment to promote human rights, decent work and sustainable development, a pledge underpinned by EU Treaties and reinforced in the European Commission's trade policy strategy of 2015 "Trade for All", under the Commission's commitment to identify opportunities for responsible supply chain partnerships.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The UN's oldest agency, the ILO, brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work and social justice for all women and men.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The OECD is an intergovernmental organisation with a mission to promote better policies for better lives of people around the world. Its member countries span the globe and include many of the world's advanced and emerging economies. The goal of the OECD is to build a stronger, cleaner and fairer world.



Funded by the European Union



Contact us:
Rsca@ilo.org
rbc@oecd.org



ILO



OECD



EU

Join the conversation:

@Trade_EU
@ILOA
@OECD_BizFin

Responsible Supply Chains in Asia