

Regional website: [www.ilo.org/rsca](http://www.ilo.org/rsca).

National: [RSCA Programme in Myanmar](#)

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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 Myanmar.

### Why is it important?

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe our programme is highly relevant both in restoring the national and regional economy and ensuring its greater resilience to future shocks. In recent years, civil society, multinational enterprises, workers and increasingly consumers' organisations around the world have become more vigilant about the ways goods and services are produced. The G20, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and regional meetings have called for action in implementing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Responsible Business Conduct (RBC). Most trade agreements now include chapters on responsible business behaviour.

### Activities in Myanmar.

The programme has been present in Myanmar since February 2018. In that time, it has: Worked to educate trade unions, government institutions, businesses and factory workers on international labour standard guidelines. It has also implemented joint training with the Training and Human Resource Development Department of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and regional chambers of commerce in order to increase understanding and support for responsible businesses conduct among their members. Recently, it collaborated with EuroCham Myanmar to consider [the impact of COVID 19](#) on supply chains, trade and the economy.

### Of Interest.

The programme has been [working to educate](#) future leaders to make them more aware of the importance of responsible business conduct in Myanmar. It is also compiling research into labour practices in the aquaculture sector. Early findings are that informal work, bureaucratic and financial barriers to fishing fleets, lack of access to credit, knowledge and inputs have constrained productivity and kept downward pressure on working conditions. There are also important gaps in worker's knowledge on issues of labour standards.

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

- 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 Myanmar, it targets national and multinational companies and their supply chains in the seafood and agricultural 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,

even in environments where the laws or their enforcement currently fall short. You can find a summary of the instruments in the brochure [“Key Messages from International Instruments”](#).

- In Myanmar, the programme is represented by the National Programme Coordinator, who works with the support of the ILO to implement its activities. This NPC is supported by a regional head of programme, Fredy Guayacan. The programme also calls on the resources of the I OECD when relevant.