

SAVE THE DATE

IOE-GBI-QCCI Business and Human Rights Capacity Building Workshop
in connection with the first UN Asia Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights
on Monday 18 April 9:30 – 15:00
Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Doha, Qatar

The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI), kindly hosted by the Qatar Chamber of Commerce & Industry, are jointly organising a workshop for representatives of companies and business organisations on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

The workshop is being held the day before the first UN Asia Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights. This business-only workshop will prepare business people attending the Forum with a comprehensive understanding of the latest expectations and developments regarding businesses' human rights responsibilities, including the UNGPs. Participants will hear how companies are practically implementing the UNGPs into their businesses and the benefits of doing so.

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) are the authoritative framework for business and human rights. They were unanimously endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011. The UN Guiding Principles are based on and operationalise the “protect-respect-remedy” framework, which the UN Human Rights Council had endorsed in 2008:

- The State duty to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including business, through appropriate policies, regulation and dispute resolutions.
- The corporate responsibility to respect human rights, that is, to act with due diligence to avoid infringing the rights of others.
- Access to effective remedy for victims of human rights abuse, including through court or in-house processes.

What is the workshop about?

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Inform participants on global developments regarding business and human rights;
- Introduce participants to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and
- To give practical, relevant and “step by step” guidance on implementing the UN Guiding Principles, including human rights due diligence.

Why are the UN Guiding Principles relevant for business?

Behaving as a responsible business has become a mainstream expectation of all businesses over the past few decades. Companies increasingly see the importance of being able to demonstrate respect for human rights in their day-to-day operations:

- Buyers expect suppliers to respect human rights in accordance with the UNGPs and put human rights provisions into the contractual arrangements;
- National governments committed themselves to ensure that all businesses respect human rights and implement the UNGPs;
- Governments may use provisions of the UNGPs in public procurement or as a condition for receiving financial support from the government, for example export credits or guarantees;
- Investors and banks are increasingly concerned with the responsible behaviour of their customers and investments, and more and more base their requirements and screening tools on the UNGPs
- NGOs and trade unions are increasingly addressing human rights behaviour in the public sphere, and referring to the UNGPs

In this context, understanding and implementing respect for human rights (aligned to the UNGPs) has become increasingly crucial for companies committed to operating responsibly. Companies of all sizes, in all industries and in all corners of the world are grappling with what this means. This workshop will provide a comprehensive overview and practical guidance for companies looking to do business with respect for human rights.

How to register?

Please register by 11 April 2016 with espinosa@ioe-emp.org

Practical note: travel and accommodation expenses are covered by the participants. Participation in the workshop is free of charge!

Contact details for further inquiries:

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