

Wanted! Businesses to Fly the Rainbow Flag for Workplace Equality

Does your organisation celebrate diversity and strive to create an inclusive workplace? MCRB is working with the local LGBT community to encourage companies to join other organisations in flying the rainbow flag – physically or virtually – for LGBT equality on 17 May on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT). This year we will also provide participating companies with a bilingual note explaining the significance of the rainbow flag and a copy of MCRB's [Guide to Help Businesses Embrace LGBT+ Equality in Myanmar](#).

[Read More](#)



Please fill in our Stakeholder Survey!

Thank you to those who have already completed the MCRB Stakeholder survey. If you missed the invitation to participate, it's not too late to share your views on MCRB and the future of responsible business in Myanmar. Please do take the time to complete this short survey. The [English Survey Link](#) and [Myanmar Survey Link](#), will remain active until 30 April.

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MCRB and SMART Myanmar organise discussions between trade union federations and labour rights organisations

A preparatory discussion between nine Myanmar trade union federations (TUFs) and labour rights organisations (LROs) on current labour and human rights violations and grievances, and potential remedies was held on 17 & 18 March, and 5 April 2022, co-organized by Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) and SMART Myanmar. These discussions were held to prepare for a planned ongoing dialogue between international garment brands sourcing from Myanmar's garment industry and labour rights groups and unions, with the aim of promoting more effective heightened human rights due diligence and remedy in Myanmar's garment sector.

This follows on from a webinar on heightened due diligence in the garment sector run by MCRB and EuroCham Myanmar on 21 February in the margins of the [OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector](#), attended by over 100 participants, including many apparel brands.

[Read more](#)



Do you know about MCRB's Private Sector Engagement Principles?

As part of its mission to promote responsible business, MCRB advises private sector entities on human rights and responsible business, including through direct engagement with businesses. All engagements between MCRB and private sector entities should be conducted based on [MCRB's Private Sector Engagement Principles](#). These principles aim to ensure that MCRB remains a trusted and impartial partner for dialogue, seminars, and briefings.

[Read more](#)



Private Security Company Report now available in Myanmar and Chinese

MCRB's report on '[Private Security Companies \(PSCs\) in Myanmar: A Baseline Study, Human Rights Risk Assessment and Recommendations](#)' is the first assessment of PSCs in Myanmar. We are pleased to announce that the report is now available for download in both [Myanmar](#) and [Chinese](#) language versions. The Chinese translation was provided by Kunming South Asia & Southeast Asia International Logistics Research Institute (SSILR). Stay tuned for an online discussion in June of the report's findings and the issues facing private security companies.

[Read more](#)



Facilitating a collective approach to support businesses led by persons with disability

MCRB in collaboration with [Shwe Minn Tha Foundation](#) (Myanmar) and the [Myanmar Independent Living Initiative](#) (MILI), hosted the first bimonthly online [discussion with MSMEs led by persons with disability](#) to find collective approaches to support businesses led by persons with disability and to connect with other stakeholders and resources.

[Read more](#)



MCRB Submits Input to OHCHR on the Practical Application of the UNGPs to the Tech Sector.

MCRB [provided feedback](#) to the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights report on the practical application of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) to the activities of technology companies. The report is expected to be presented at the 50th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2022.

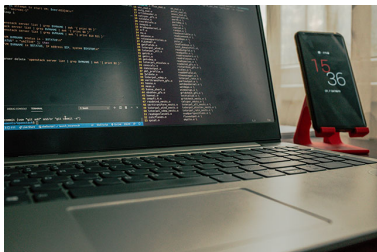
[Read more](#)



Are you looking for a way to raise awareness about business ethics and empower your staff to speak up against corruption?

MCRB's partner Yever, in cooperation with UNODC, have developed an interactive game [La Phet Yay Phoe \(Teamoney\)](#) in English and Myanmar that explores business situations which pose a challenge to integrity. Guidance is also available on the new [Business Integrity Myanmar](#) website, including [MCRB's Business Integrity: A Handbook for Myanmar Businesses](#) (2020). Businesses and in particular compliance managers who want to work with MCRB and Yever on business integrity are invited to [get in touch](#).

Play the Game



Advocacy and coordination on the Draft Cyber Security Law

MCRB, together with other stakeholders, is concerned about the latest proposed amendments to the draft [Cybersecurity Law](#). The draft recently introduced by the State Administrative Council contains provisions which raise serious concerns. The draft law stipulates the prohibition and regulation of content, prosecution of cybercrime, data retention, and the use of virtual private networks (VPNs). As well as the wider business community, the NGO sector was especially concerned as they collect and processes sensitive information for a wide range of humanitarian needs. A [summary of developments, statements, and MCRB's own views](#), and inputs from a range of business and NGO stakeholders can be found on the MCRB website.

Read more

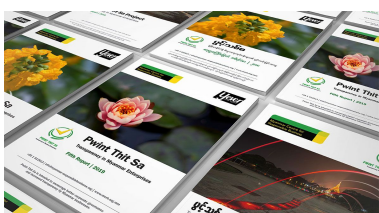


MCRB has continued to contribute to discussions on what 'heightened human rights due diligence' means in Myanmar

Vicky Bowman [presented on current topics concerning responsible business conduct](#) to

around 150 participants from 80 'locators' (investor companies) in Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on 5 April, drawing on the SEZ's Guidance Note [4/2015 on Responsible Investment](#). Other briefings on business and human rights, and heightened due diligence for Japanese companies on 31 March with the Yangon team of [MHM Japan](#) and a briefing for French companies in cooperation with [Entreprises pour les Droits de l'Homme](#) (e-dh) and the [French Chamber](#) on 11 March.

[Read more](#)



Pwint Thit Sa Final Scoring Deadline Extended

To give more time for enhancing disclosure, and to align with the timelines of those companies that have a legal requirement to publish their annual report, the deadline for undertaking the final scoring of websites has been extended to 1 August 2022. The second and final assessment of company websites of the 250 companies in Pwint Thit Sa 2022 will be undertaken during August rather than in May as planned previously.

We encourage companies that have not already done so to [get in touch](#) for a (free) discussion about where they can improve their corporate governance disclosure in the remaining three months.

[Read more](#)



As we head back to the office, it's worth remembering the environment

After over two years of remote work, there's an air of excitement about getting back into the office, face to face workshops, and the opportunity to network. However, it's worth remembering the environment and the need to save energy, reduce the use of plastic and enhance use of locally sourced material. Check-out MCRB's [Guidelines for Sustainable Workshops and Meetings](#) for tips and ideas on how to make your return to the office more sustainable. Also available here in [Myanmar](#)

[Read more](#)



Show your support for corporate governance by joining Myanmar Institute of Directors

Are you a company director or senior company executive? Have you considered becoming a Professional Member of [Myanmar Institute of Directors \(MIOD\)](#), an independent organisation promoting corporate governance standards and best practices in Myanmar? Associate Membership, targeted at early career professionals, starts at only 50,000 MMK per year. MIOD runs training and events on corporate governance, many of them free to members. Professional Members also have a chance to stand for or vote in the forthcoming elections to MIOD's Board.

[Read more](#)

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