Business and Human Rights Policy Workshop for Companies

MCRB and UNDP invite senior managers and company executives to attend a half-day workshop on business and human rights on Friday 15 July, focussed on business and human rights fundamentals, and the first step, developing or updating a Human Rights Policy that fits their company.

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Doing Good Index (DGI) 2022

The Doing Good Index 2022 which looks at the enabling environments for philanthropy and private social investment across 18 Asian countries was published by the Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS) last month. Myanmar moved up in the 2020 Index from Not Doing Enough to Doing Okay, but due to the current political situation, a survey could not be conducted for the 2022 Index. MCRB and Yever instead engaged directly with 20 experts and social delivery organisations to obtain insights into the effects of Covid-19 and the political crisis on Myanmar’s social sector.

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Promoting Social Dialogue in the Garment Sector

On 27 June, MCRB, SMART and EuroCham co-hosted a dialogue between trade union federations/labour rights organisations and brands sourcing from Myanmar, attended by over 50 participants. Preparatory discussions were held with brands in May and labour groups in March/April. The aim of the dialogue is to enhance cooperation to prevent abuses in supplier factories, promote freedom of association, and provide access to grievance mechanisms and remedy. It will take place on a quarterly basis, and be supplemented by more detailed discussions on issues of mutual interest such as grievance handling.

Identifying Work Opportunities for Persons with Disability

MCRB, Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar) and Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI) jointly hosted a third networking discussion on 24 June with small businesses led by, or involving, persons with disabilities. About seventy participants attended the discussion on Realistic and Decent Work Opportunities, including from microfinance institutions. Sign language interpretation and captioning are provided at these discussions; the next will be in late August.

Putting Myanmar on the International Digital Rights Agenda

MCRB’s Digital Rights Program Lead, Svetlana Zens, hosted a discussion on Myanmar’s draft Cybersecurity Law at a Cambodia ICT Camp in Siem Reap in June and explored parallels with the Cambodian Draft Cybercrime Law. She also contributed to discussions on the digital landscape of the Mekong Region. MCRB also made an input into a report on the right to
privacy in the digital age, which is being undertaken by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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International Security Officers Day, 24 July

International Security Officers’ Day on 24 July 2022 is an opportunity to recognise and thank the men and women who work behind the scenes 24/7 to keep us safe, whether at banks, in shopping malls, factories or hospitals. MCRB’s recently published Baseline Study and Human Rights Risk Assessment on Private Security Companies (PSCs) in Myanmar. It contains recommendations on how PSCs and companies that manage their security in-house can respect the rights of workers, customers and communities. It is available in English, Myanmar and Chinese.

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info@myanmar-responsiblebusiness.org