

Promoting and Enabling Responsible Business Conduct in Southeast Asia

2022

Building on its ongoing collaboration and engagement with Southeast Asian countries to promote more sustainable and resilient global supply chains, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will be enhancing its [work programme](#) to support policy makers, businesses and stakeholders in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The project will be implemented in 2022 with the aim of promoting and enabling responsible business conduct (RBC), with funding from the Government of Japan.

This document outlines the project overview.

Responsible business conduct at the OECD

The [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) (Guidelines) are one of the main international standards for RBC. The related due diligence guidance helps businesses operationalise RBC and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Guidelines, the International Labour Organization (ILO) [Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy](#) and the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) are aligned and reinforce each other.¹

In this project, the OECD will be focusing on assisting policy makers, businesses and civil society with implementation of RBC principles and standards, facilitating peer exchanges and learning and providing policy advice on key themes such as resilient supply chains, sustainable finance and access to remedy.

Southeast Asia's relative importance and key role in global supply chains

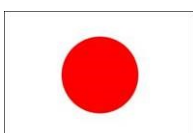
Southeast Asia remains one of the most dynamic and fastest growing economies and plays a vital role in global markets. Southeast Asia's relative importance and key role in global supply chains has only increased with the onset of the pandemic.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown that implementing RBC principles and standards can help businesses build resilience and stability of global supply chains while ensuring they positively contribute to decent work, sustainable development and inclusive growth.²

¹ ILO, OECD, OHCHR, EU (2019), Responsible business: Key messages from international instruments <https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/Brochure-responsible-business-key-messages-from-international-instruments.pdf>

² OECD (2020), OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus: COVID-19 and responsible business conduct, <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/covid-19-and-responsible-business-conduct-02150b06/>

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At a glance

Geographic focus: Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam

Objective: Operationalising responsible business conduct principles and standards

Approaches:

- **Policy:** Assisting policy makers in embedding RBC in key strategies and policies
- **Business:** Boosting business capacity to operationalise RBC and carry out due diligence in operations and supply chains

Implemented by the OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

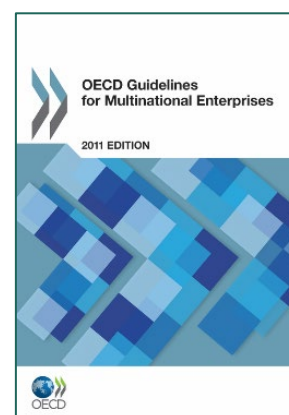
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Operationalising responsible business conduct

The OECD will carry out activities in two tracks – policy and business.

Policy: Assisting policy makers in embedding and operationalising RBC in key strategies and policies where governments can leverage RBC at the national and regional levels.

- A regional policy maker roundtable on RBC
- A peer-learning session on salient supply chain issues of interest in the region
- Tailored technical advice to support development and/or implementation of key policies and strategies



Business: Boosting business capacity to implement and operationalise due diligence for RBC to avoid and address adverse impacts on people, the environment and society in their operations and supply chains.

- Mapping of industry/multi-stakeholder initiatives for selected commodities that hold higher risks associated with human rights and labour rights
- Localisation of awareness-raising and training, including in collaboration with key industry organisations



Key instruments

OECD (2011), OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, OECD Publishing.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264115415-en>

OECD (2018), OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct, <https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/OECD-Due-Diligence-Guidance-for-Responsible-Business-Conduct.pdf>

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More information

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