



SESSION NOTE

Promoting Responsible Supply Chains in Asia

Wednesday 21 June 2018 - 13:15-14:15

Room CC5 - OECD Conference Centre

Background

Supply chains are at the core of OECD's work to promote responsible business conduct (RBC). Asian economies play a crucial role in global supply chains. Investment inflows have been at record levels over the past five years for many economies in the region and some have started to become important outward investors in their own right.

This session will present a new 3-year (2018-2020) partnership project between the OECD, ILO, EU to deepen engagement and promote responsible business conduct in Asia and present the views of representatives from partner countries. The project, entitled Responsible Supply Chains in Asia, with funding from the EU, provides the opportunity for enhanced cooperation with 6 countries in Asia (Japan, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines), all of them major actors in global supply chains.

Activities include:

- research on RBC policies and business practices and a new dataset on supply chain characteristics, with data on the presence of key human rights and environmental risks in various parts of supply chains;
- cooperation with governments to raise awareness on international RBC standards and the role of governments in promoting them, including through public procurement policies, embedding RBC in SOE practices, access to remedy, etc..
- cooperation with stakeholders, including business, to provide training and capacity building on RBC standards, implementation of due diligence, use of sectoral guidance on due diligence; etc.

In each country, two specific sectors will be targeted.

The OECD already has strong ties with all the countries participating in the project: Japan is a member country and adherent to all OECD instruments on RBC; there is a programme of cooperation and several MOUs on RBC with China; a country programme with Thailand that includes cooperation on RBC, was just launched, and OECD has recently worked with Vietnam and the Philippines in the context of their investment policy reviews, both of which include chapters on RBC policies.

Resources

EU, ILO, OECD (2018) Action Factsheet, Responsible Supply chains in Asia
http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/march/tradoc_156624.pdf

