Corporate leaders: Your supply chain is your responsibility

Roel Nieuwenkamp, Chair, OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

On 24 April 2013 the Rana Plaza, a commercial building and garment factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh, collapsed, claiming some 1,130 lives and injuring thousands more. The shock was felt globally. How could this happen? Who was to blame? If the building was not fit for purpose, why was it being used? How could such a disaster be prevented from happening again?
Ready-made garments in Bangladesh: No longer a forgotten sector
Khadija Farhana, Freelance Journalist, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The collapse of Rana Plaza in Dhaka, killing over a thousand workers, was not just a human tragedy. The ready-made garments (RMG) sector is hugely important in Bangladesh, both economically and socially. This gives dealing with the Rana Plaza aftermath even greater importance.

The RMG sector contributes around three quarters of total export earnings. An estimated 4.2 million people are employed in the sector; most are women, half of whom come in from rural areas and remote villages. By 2013 there were approximately 5,000 factories, part of Bangladesh's US$19 billion a year export-oriented RMG industry.

Full article  http://oe.cd/Bj

Corporate Social Responsibility: Emerging good practice for a new era
Jane Nelson, Director, CSR Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School

Are global companies improving their environmental, social and governance performance? There is good reason to be optimistic, though there is much work to be done.

Some 93% of the world's largest 250 companies now publish annual corporate responsibility reports, almost 60% of which are independently audited. That means companies from sectors as diverse as financial services, information technology and consumer goods to oil, gas and mining are making billions of dollars of public commitments to help solve societal challenges.

Full article  http://oe.cd/Bi

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**Government**

The Netherlands: Acting decisively
Lilianne Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, the Netherlands

In the aftermath of the Rana Plaza tragedy in Bangladesh it became clear that action was needed to improve working conditions worldwide.

FRANCE: TOWARDS A GLOBAL APPROACH

Marine de Carné de Trécesson de Coëtlogon, Ambassador for Corporate Social Responsibility, France

Corporate social responsibility is a concept to which France is deeply committed.

**Labour**

Rebuilding Bangladesh and the global supply chain
Philip Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union

On the morning of 24 April 2013, 1,138 workers, mainly young women, lost their lives in the rubble of the Rana Plaza factory disaster. Effectively the victims of corporate global manslaughter.

**Civil society**

Safeguarding humanity’s future
Janos Pasztor, Acting Executive Director, Conservation, WWF International

As a leading global conservation organisation, central to WWF’s mission is building a world where people live in harmony with nature.

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**OECD OBSERVER CROSSWORD**

**Across**
1 Protection from danger and risk in the workplace
4 Rain in
8 Where the rich hide their earnings e.g. (2 words)
9 Weight measurement
10 Grafty unethical appetites
11 French girlfriend
15 Personal codes of conduct
17 Negative vote
19 Country where a textile factory collapsed in 2013
22 Direct, like some committees
24 Fight against
25 Hindi title

**Down**
1 Deceptive scheme (2 words)
2 Influencing illegally
3 Find the source of, illegal funds transfers, e.g.
5 Increases
6 An OECD Convention criminalised this in relation to foreign officials
7 Part of FDIC, abbr.
9 Roman 51
12 Embezzles, in the case of funds perhaps
13 Makes a person obligated, by contract
14 Type of evidence used in criminal cases
16 National deliberations
18 Responsibility
19 Prevent
20 Much loved alien, in film
21 That lady
23 Common Korean name and abbreviation for a US state

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