

OECD Watch and Equitable Cambodia are pleased to invite you to a
public seminar on

Promoting Responsible Corporate Conduct in the Greater Mekong region

Using the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises as a tool for corporate accountability

8 May 2015

9:00 – 17:30

Khmer Surin, House #9, Street 57
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Responsible corporate conduct is essential for all aspects of sustainable development and establishing a fair and equitable economy. Yet irresponsible business practices continue to be widespread, and business activity frequently has adverse social and environmental impacts. Those affected by such practices often struggle to hold corporate actors accountable for their impacts.

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are a unique, government-backed international corporate accountability mechanism aimed at encouraging responsible business behaviour around the world. The OECD Guidelines are equipped with a non-judicial complaint mechanism, which makes them one of the few state-based, internationally-applicable mechanisms available for resolving disputes between corporations and the individuals, workers, or communities affected by corporate misconduct.

The seminar will provide participants with an introduction to the standards outlined in the OECD Guidelines and the associated complaint mechanism. Focus will be placed on providing practical information for a wide-range of stakeholders – including civil society, government, and business – on how the OECD Guidelines can be used to promote responsible business conduct and improve corporate accountability. The seminar will specifically look at how the OECD Guidelines can be applied within Cambodia and the Greater Mekong region and will include thematic issues important to the regions such as land tenure/governance and hydropower. Participants will include experts in both the thematic areas as well as the procedural elements of applying the OECD Guidelines, and plenty of time will be provided for questions and discussion among all participants.

Preliminary Programme

- 9:00 Registration of participants
 - 9:30 Welcome and aims of the seminar
 - 10:30 Coffee/tea break
 - 10:45 Introduction to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the complaint mechanism; Q&A
 - 12:00 Application of the OECD Guidelines to the issue of land tenure & land grabbing (and the financing thereof): The case of Cambodian sugar plantations (presented by Equitable Cambodia); Q&A
 - 13:00 Lunch
 - 14:30 Panel discussion on the application of the OECD Guidelines to hydropower development on the Mekong (panel participants include Oxfam America and EarthRights International); Q&A from the audience
 - 16:30 Coffee/tea break
 - 16:45 Plenary discussion
 - 17:30 Conclusions and end of seminar
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Target audience: Civil society organisations, including NGOs, labour unions and grassroots organisations; community representatives; business representatives; government officials; legal professionals; and academics

Information / registration: Participation in the seminar is free of charge. For more information about the seminar and to register, please send an email to OECD Watch at info@oecdwatch.org

OECD Watch is an international network of civil society organisations promoting corporate accountability. The purpose of OECD Watch is to inform the wider NGO community about policies and activities of the OECD's Investment Committee and to test the effectiveness of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. For more information visit www.oecdwatch.org

Equitable Cambodia is an NGO that advocates for inclusive development, social justice and human rights in Cambodia. As a leading advocate on land and housing rights, Equitable Cambodia uses media, legal advocacy, coalition building, policy research and lobbying at the national and international level to transform national development into one that respects, protects and progressively fulfills the rights of Cambodian people. For more information visit www.equitablecambodia.org