



committee
on workers'
capital

press release

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
October 07, 2012
[World Day for Decent Work]

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Global Trade Union Network for Responsible Investment Pushes for 3-D Approach to Corporate Activity and Human Rights in Burma

Can new investment support decent work in a country long known for gross human rights abuses and the use of forced labour?

The Global Unions Committee on Workers' Capital is marking World Day for Decent Work (<http://2012.wddw.org/>) with the release of a new Investor Brief on Burma. As the political and economic situation changes rapidly in this once pariah state, trade unions and responsible investors are watching closely to see how business investment proceeds in Burma.

The CWC investor brief concludes that partial reform, political uncertainty and ongoing forced labour and human rights abuses means Burma is still a very risky place to do business. Institutional investors concerned about the long-term stability of their funds must carefully assess these risks and take responsibility for ensuring the companies they own respect core labour standards and universal human rights principles.

Ken Georgetti, Chair of the CWC and President of the Canadian Labour Congress said: "An investment rush into Burma is inevitable, but further gross violations of fundamental human rights are not. Investors must make sure companies respect global standards for human rights and decent work, so that future investment does not spell ruin for the people of Burma."

The CWC calls on investors to support due diligence, disclosure, and dispute resolution (3-D) on human rights by companies doing business in Burma. Companies should:

1. Formally commit to undertaking human rights due diligence;
2. Publicly disclose company policies, practices and actions to protect and promote human rights on a regular basis;
3. Support the creation of effective complaints and dispute-settlement instruments. These requirements should draw on globally-recognized instruments such as ILO Core Labour Standards, the UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

To access the CWC's Trade and Human Rights in Burma page and link to the Investor Brief please visit : www.workerscapital.org/priorities/shareholder-activism/campaigns/burma/.

about the CWC

The CWC is an international trade union network for the responsible investment of workers' capital. It is a joint initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD and Global Unions Federation.

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