

Responsible Supply Chains: Technology for Human Rights and the Environment

A webinar by BCSD Malaysia in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI) - CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Despite increased attention and awareness over the recent years regarding the importance of human rights and environmental compliance in business, exploitation and labour rights breaches continue to occur in global supply chains. The complexity of these supply chains, from recruiting workers to protecting their rights, ensuring traceability and transparency of reporting, and adopting sustainable practices throughout, make them a high-risk area for labour rights abuses, even though businesses have been urged repeatedly to make a change.

An upcoming topic in the discourse for more responsible supply chains has been the application, invention, or even the widespread adoption of technology to ensure that human rights and environmental concerns are being adhered to in these complex systems. Although there have been improvements in conditions, changes and new policies regulated for certain industries or countries, there is still ample room for the use of technology to ensure compliance with respect to human rights.

Technology in Supply Chains

There are clear advantages to begin investing in technology to reduce human rights non-compliance in supply chain; in multi-tier supply chains, visibility can be improved through the use of technology and mapping to provide a full picture of the real conditions at every tier. Blockchain, for example, can be used to trace, verify, and certify the origin of products and the conditions in which they are produced, allowing businesses to maintain a certain level of assurance when it comes to human rights compliance. With customers and stakeholders becoming more concerned about where products are being sourced from (or the environment in which they were manufactured), such technological innovations can help boost brand loyalty and provide clearer transparency on the nature of one's business or commitment to sustainable goals.

Challenges and Adoption of Technology

One of the key challenges here is that many of these technology innovations have yet to achieve the needed scale of implementation and impact in supply chains. Emerging technology solutions, such as blockchain and artificial intelligence, are a fast-growing area of opportunity as they are able to collect vast quantities of data, providing benefits to companies and their suppliers. However, such technologies can be put to better service of achieving the sustainable development goals as most are

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not focused specifically on addressing human rights or environmental challenges in supply chains. There is both a market gap and a ripe opportunity to apply these solutions for labour rights compliance and this is not an opportunity that should be missed by businesses looking to transform their supply chains for a sustainable future.

In the wake of the global pandemic, the need for increased adoption of such solutions is now vital, more than ever, as companies must step up their game to adapt from traditional methods which have been lacking in their ability to identify and protect against unsustainable practices. The Malaysia business sector in particular can greatly benefit from learning about how to better use these technologies to keep up with human rights and environmental regulations, and avoid falling behind in the global race to innovate their supply chains.

Event Organization

This event is part of a series planned for 2021 and it is the result of a collaboration between BCSD Malaysia and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI).

RWI is a Swedish academic research and development institution associated with the Lund University in Sweden (<https://rwi.lu.se/>), which focuses on contributing to discourse on the nexus between human rights and responses to contemporary environmental and climate change challenges at national and regional levels.

The webinar

Aim and Objectives

This webinar will focus on sharing knowledge on using technology to improve supply chain compliance and build responsible supply chains in the context of human rights and the environment.

The session aims to:

1. Create a greater awareness of the tools and technologies available that can be implemented in the Malaysian business context for concrete impact
2. Demonstrate how leaders in the sector as well as in Malaysia are using such technology through specific case studies and experience
3. Share knowledge on the advantages of these tools and technologies over traditional methods

Participants

The expected number of participants for this webinar is approximately 100 attendees.

Participants will be high level executives and managers, heads of sustainability or sustainability professionals in the Malaysian business community (multinational and local companies, both large

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corporations and SMEs), including BHREM Members, potential BHREM members, and selected supply chain (tier 1) partners or representatives.

Agenda

Date: 15th December 2021

Time: 3pm-4.30pm (GMT+8) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Time Frame	Activity	Speaker
03.00 – 03.05	Welcome address	Emcee, BCSD Malaysia
03.05 – 03.20	<p>Introduction and Opening Keynote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Roberto Benetello Executive Director, Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD Malaysia) <p>Roberto is the Executive Director of the Business Council for Sustainable Development Malaysia, a Global Network partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Roberto strives to assist businesses accelerate the transition to a sustainable world by offering tools, methodologies, and training to support the embedment of sustainability into corporate strategy and operations.</p> <p>With over twenty years' experience, Roberto's career includes several senior general management positions with both fortune-500 companies and start-ups, in countries such as Italy, UK, Spain. Roberto holds an MBA from SDA Bocconi in Italy and an MA in Marketing from Lincoln University, UK. Roberto is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Malaya, Asia Europe Institute Malaysia working on a research project on business sustainability.</p> <p>Topic: The Role of Digitalization and Technology in Achieving the SDGs/Driving Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Overview and Introduction 	
03.20 – 04.20	<p>Session II: Panel Discussion (Questions TBD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Kevin Franklin Chief Product Officer, ELEVATE Global Limited 	<p>Moderator: Mr. Roberto Benetello, Executive Director of BCSD Malaysia</p>

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	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELEVATE intelligence, or EiQ, a suite of supply chain analytics designed to engage investors, brands, suppliers, factories and workers to achieve business driven sustainability • Perspectives on the use of technology to foster responsible practices in SEA <p>• Dr. Puvan J Selvanathan Founder & CEO, Blunumber</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blunumber on digital ID, SDGs, and traceability; data analytics and sustainability solutions for clients in manufacturing/production who are interested in traceability and making supply chain more transparent <p>• Mr. Farid Maruf Senior Advisor, AP2HI - Indonesian Pole & Line and Handline Fisheries Association</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology for Responsible Sourcing: Lessons Learnt from the ASEAN Region • Implementation of Electronic Catch Documentation and Traceability (eCDT) 	
04.20 – 04.30	Wrap-up and Consolidation	Emcee, BCSD Malaysia