



CSR Bulletin for the ICT Sector

The ASK-Verité ICT Newsletter is a periodic platform created for discussion and sharing of world-wide initiatives, happenings, and viewpoints on the sector's social responsibilities. This issue provides information about public and private initiatives taking place in the ICT sector in India, and highlights global ICT initiatives.

Dear friends and colleagues,

ASK-Verité recognizes that the focus of stakeholders is shifting from identification of workplace problems to their remediation. Awareness and education are fundamental to creating a sustainable and responsible atmosphere in which the needs of all parties are met.

The ASK-Verité CSR Bulletin for the ICT sector is a forum for current information on manufacturing and business trends in ICT with a particular focus on India, which has embraced the rapid growth of production and consumption of technology.

This issue of our newsletter focuses on public and private (governmental and corporate) investment in CSR. We highlight government awareness and policy changes that are taking place to improve CSR in India. In this issue we also highlight our work in the corporate ICT sector and explore the positive return on investment when businesses engage and educate their workforce. As always, we seek to encourage the development of internal social responsibility among Indian institutions.

We hope that this newsletter will be a useful forum for conversation. We welcome your feedback.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Viederman'.

Dan Viederman
Executive Director, Verité
www.verite.org

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aqueel Khan'.

Dr. Aqueel Khan
Director, ASK India
www.askindia.org

PROGRESS REPORT FROM INDIA: NEWS SUMMARY

Update on Investing in CSR: An HP and ASK Partnership

The following is an ASK case study on capability building in the ICT sector in India. In the case study, we examine two HP suppliers who experienced positive impacts after their investment in CSR efforts.

In today's era of globalisation and extended supply chains, it has become increasingly important to invest in supply chain capability building to ensure that employees and management effectively understand and facilitate essential social and environmental responsibilities (SER) standards.

The Association for Stimulating Know-How (ASK) is a national nonprofit organisation established in 1992, which works to build the capacity of community projects, NGOs, and government and corporate sector agencies to achieve equitable development and social justice in India. Our Corporate Social Accountability division uses a cooperative, solutions-oriented approach to integrate sustainable social responsibility into the corporate sector's core business model.

The US Department of State sponsored a project that was conducted in

In This Issue

Community of Social Auditors in India
Proposed E-waste Legislation
Progress Report from India
HCL Tech: Company Highlight
Human Rights and Policy
Global Bytes - Verité

Progress Report

India's Reverse Diaspora: Indian immigrants in the West increasingly view Bangalore as a frontier for opportunity

December 5, 2008 By Steven L. Raymer, YaleGlobal
Indians still move abroad to work or study, but increasing numbers of restless immigrants are now turning to their ancestral land for opportunity. "By several estimates, between 50,000 and 60,000

partnership with ASK and Hewlett-Packard (HP) called "Building Social Compliance Institutions." The project brought systemic improvement for employees in the ICT sector. The two-year project promoted SER practices in the HP supply chain in India by adapting a policy of open dialogue with suppliers and engaging them to gain understanding about the unique advantages and challenges they face in the Indian context.

Two Bangalore-based suppliers that partook in "Building Social Compliance Institutions" are highlighted here because our successful partnership led to positive impact in the workplace:

1. **E-Parisaraa** E-Parisaraa provides an end-to-end solution for e-waste disposal. The facility is ISO 14001:2004 certified and is authorized to handle 1,800 tonnes of e-waste per year. E-Parisaraa currently employs approximately 100 workers, most of whom commute from the adjacent rural areas (For details visit www.ewasteindia.in).
2. **Eka Engineering Technics** uses complicated processes to manufacture mechanical parts and assemblies such as clinches and fasteners. They make parts for the oil and gas industry, environmental management systems (EMS) companies, IT Electronics Companies and the Indian space effort. Eka is also ISO 9000:2001 certified (For details visit www.ekatechnics.com).

ASK's work with these two suppliers began in late 2007 with an initial assessment of the facilities in order to gain an understanding of the systems and practices that each supplier had implemented to comply with the Electronic Industry Code of Conduct (EICC). One of the challenges expressed by management was a low level of awareness amongst the employees of expected CSR standards, and a lack of a sense of responsibility for fulfilling them. ASK assessed the supplier standards and challenges each faced and engaged with management to implement improvements in specific areas. These suggestions were all well received by the management.

ASK was invited to conduct an orientation on EICC standards for the entire supplier team of management and employees. The training identified and clarified the roles and responsibilities of management and employees in accordance with EICC regulations. A second training focused on Environment, Health and Safety standards. ASK specifically highlighted worker participation as a sustainable method for empowering workers and successfully implementing EICC standards. In all, ASK trained 98 employees and 21 members of management.

One year after the capability building process began, the management at E-Parisaraa reported a number of improvements. One of the major impacts was in work culture. Where workers once had little awareness about the industry and SER, they now understood the importance of their role in e-waste recycling as part of the supply chain and were more motivated to take responsibility for their own working conditions. Female employees became more responsive and began to increasingly interact with management as a result of a more engaging employee-supervisor approach. The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) increased. Improvement in work efficiency was another significant visible impact. Employees showed improvements in punctuality, attendance, and industrial hygiene. Other marked improvements included a more relaxed work atmosphere, higher levels of teamwork, and demonstrations of leadership roles among employees. Employees in general have a more positive attitude towards the company. When employees are given additional responsibilities related to environmental health and safety (EHS) they volunteer readily for the assignment.

Feedback from management at Eka Engineering Technics on impacts of the capability building process included:

- "Huge intangible gains in the eyes of customers by voluntarily having

information-technology professionals alone have returned to India from overseas since 2003, most to the suburbs of New Delhi, Hyderabad and especially Bangalore, the nexus of what Indians call their 'brain gain.'" explains professor and former National Geographic photographer Steven Raymer. But their path of return may not be all paved with gold as the current crisis dampens IT services industry, and even Indian companies outsource work to Mexico and China and others seek less expensive locations in Vietnam and the Philippines. The Indian government extends dual citizenship, tax breaks and the right to own all but agricultural land to Indians holding foreign passports. Reverse immigration requires adjustment in many ways, yet the returnees have the invaluable opportunity to compare theories, processes and culture from east and west, and possibly move technology along a more innovative and rewarding track. [Read the whole story.](#)

Multistakeholder initiative for Indian IT sector

February 2009, ASK & Verité

On February 9, the Indian ICTE Forum for Improving Workplace Standards held its first formal meeting, in Delhi. From the civil society side ToxicLink and Civep were present. Hewlett Packard India gave its input regarding the forum over the phone. The participants to the meeting decided to first develop a concept note that will, among other things, set definitions for a multi-stakeholder approach, the ICTE sector, and for improving workplace standards. [Read the whole story.](#)

Indian IT companies looking to outsource to Egypt

February 9, 2009, Harsimran Singh, Economic Times

Earlier it was Vietnam, Poland or Philippines, and now it is Egypt which is fast scaling up the global outsourcing pyramid. Egypt has been ranked as one of the best outsourcing destinations after by many research analysts like Tholons and AT Kearney recently. Possessed with a varied language talent pool of Arabic, Spanish, French and English, cities like Giza and Cairo are acting as nearshoring locations for Europe and the Middle East. All top Indian IT companies have announced plans to open centres in Egypt. The country's apex IT association (ITIDA). [Read the whole story.](#)

Steria India CSR efforts set new industry benchmarks

February 6, 2009, Business Wire India

Steria India, a leading provider of IT-driven business services, was conferred the prestigious "Best Corporate Social Responsibility Practice" award by NASSCOM Foundation, Bombay Stock Exchange Limited and Times Foundation under the aegis of the "Social and Corporate Governance Awards - 2008". The award validates Steria India's overall focus on being a responsible corporate and giving back to the

commenced this initiative."

- "Improved understanding of international best practices and the sometimes salient reasons for their need."
- "Improved communication amongst employees, through management-worker meetings."
- "In general a better and more robust legal compliance with all areas of Indian Law as they apply."

The two cases above are clear examples of how companies directly benefit from improving their CSR practices. Progressive businesses experience better and more sustainable returns when they incorporate good environmental and social practices into their workplaces.

Community of Social Auditors in India

ASK initiated this concept during a meeting co-hosted by Verité in February 2009 in Delhi. This article explores a potential forum for social auditors in South Asia.

ASK recognizes that much progress has been made in the field of social auditing in South Asia. There are several practitioners/experts in the region, using a wide variety of approaches and techniques for improving social auditing methods. However, there is limited research and cooperation among social auditors and an unrecognized potential in standardizing social auditing on a national or international basis. Examining international trends has shown us that South Asia is behind in fostering exchange groups, platforms, and communities for social auditing.

The corporate social responsibility (CSR) community shares a common goal to improve workplace standards; yet the many and diverse stakeholders of CSR lack a forum for sharing the techniques and skills of social auditing as it evolves. The development of such a forum would provide the opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to capacity building in order to achieve better and more accurate results from social audits.

ASK is facilitating an initiative to create a Community of Auditors in India with potential to expand throughout South Asia. This community will be an active platform for exchange and interaction among social auditors for knowledge building significantly contributing to the field of social monitoring and auditing. ASK is currently sharing this concept with stakeholders across South East Asia. A positive response will result in a pilot program involving representatives from NGOs, brands, universities, and government.

While ASK would serve to coordinate the formation and communication of such a community, the strength of this initiative would lie in the input of its members. The initial formative meeting for the Community of Social Auditors was held on March 27, 2009 in New Delhi. For more information about the outcomes of the meeting, please contact akhan@askindia.org.

Proposed E-waste Legislation Overview of Toxics Link's Initiative

Toxics Link organized a stakeholder consultation on February 16, 2009 to present and discuss their proposed e-waste legislation. The objective of the consultation was to share and obtain feedback on the draft proposal that GTZ, MAIT, Greenpeace and Toxics Link authored. The Guiding Principles are:

- Extended Producer Responsibility

'Community' which it recognizes as a very important stakeholder in its business. [Read the whole story.](#)

Nokia wants your used Handsets

January 2, 2009, Pluggd In

Nokia has announced 'Take Back' program and is encouraging mobile phone users to dispose their used handsets (any brand) and accessories such as chargers and handsets, regardless of the brand, at any of the recycling bins set up across Nokia Priority Dealers and Nokia Care Centers. Nokia conducted a survey (across 13 countries) on awareness of recycled handsets and found out that only 17% of Indian users are aware of the fact that handsets can be recycled. [Read the whole story.](#)

Durable cos see volumes soar in 2009

February 13, 2009, The Economic Times

Robust consumer spends on durables in urban and rural markets since early January 2009 seem to defy conventional logic about recessionary trends impacting discretionary purchases. Leading industry majors and retailers are reporting an upbeat 20%-plus growth in volumes for LCDs, laptops, ACs, refrigerators, washing machines and audio systems after cutting down production in the last three months of 2008. [Read the whole story.](#)

HCL Tech

Company Highlight

HCL believes that employees are the real value creators who can make a difference not only to the organization but their collective effort can change the society itself. The Community Service Council at HCL Technologies (CSR) is an initiative driven entirely by employees and completely supported by the management. As the Chinese proverb says 'Buy him a fish and you will feed him for a day, teach him to fish and you will feed him for life'. The following are some of CSC's initiatives:

- **HCL School Intervention Program:** Right to good education is the basic right of every child and SIP is an effort to give life to this belief. Holistic in its scope, over 100 volunteers reach out to 800 students from different schools to conduct classes in basic subjects like English, Mathematics and computers, and carry out health & hygiene and environment awareness programs.
- **Teach @ Office:** Through this initiative basic awareness, knowledge and skills were imparted to over 250 guards posted at the various HCL facilities with the aim of improving their quality of life, increase their awareness levels and empower them to work better.
- **Child Rescue and Rehabilitation program:** The program is designed to provide voluntary help to rescue and rehabilitate children who are affected by various forms of abuse and are in need of rehabilitative support.
- **Fund Raising Events and collection drive:**

- Polluter Pays
- Life Cycle Management

If accepted into legislation, every manufacturer, importer, dealer, collection agency, centre, re-furbisher, dismantler, assembler, recycler, auctioneer, consumer, or bulk consumer involved in the manufacturing, processing, sale or purchase of used electronics and electronic equipment (except fluorescent and sodium lamp manufacturers) will be responsible for adhering to the new regulations.

The main focus of the proposed legislation is to minimize and control the handling of hazardous processes. The draft legislation does not aim to eliminate the informal sector from handling e-waste, but rather aims to make the informal sector more accountable and traceable by detailing the responsibilities of each stakeholder and formally distinguishing e-waste collecting, dismantling and recycling processes.

According to the proposal, all collectors and dismantlers will have to be authorized by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) to handle e-waste. The recyclers, who handle the most hazardous part of the entire process, will have to be formally registered with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The proposal also describes the procedures for proper registration.

The proposed legislation defines clear responsibilities for the following stakeholders: dismantlers, recyclers, consumers or bulk consumers, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), the Ministry of Information Technology (MIT), national authorities and designated regional authorities. It also includes procedures for the import and export of e-waste as well as Restrictions on Hazardous Substances Directive (RoHS).

The proposal mandates that authorized centers collect all consumer and bulk consumer e-waste from the Electronics and Electrical Engineering (EEE) industry. The waste is to then be handled by authorized dismantling facilities and, lastly, recycled at registered recycling facilities.

The proposal holds industry accountable for meeting targets for e-waste collection that increase every year. The target for the first year will be 20 percent of products sold and will increase to 70 percent by the fourth year after the legislation is incorporated into law.

There were a number of questions raised at the consultative meeting. For example, the proposed legislation claimed that there are no harmful processes in the dismantling of e-waste and that harmful processes are only involved in the recycling of e-waste. One attendee disputed this and studies have revealed that improper dismantling can produce health hazards. Toxics Link and the partnering organizations argued that although the proposal aims to remove hazardous processes through registration and regulation, it does not aim to control the non-hazardous processes of dismantlers, and that if too much control is imposed, implementation may not be feasible.

ASK raised a question of why the proposed legislation did not address responsibility for the health and safety of the collectors, dismantlers and the recyclers of e-waste. Although Toxics Link argued that such legislation already exists, it was eventually determined that working conditions should be regulated under the new legislation.

There was some discussion surrounding the monitoring mechanism, but it was determined that another set of stakeholders will address that aspect of the proposed legislation.

HCL works with more than 10 NGOs and Self Help Groups to promote causes we strongly believe in, and help these organizations raise funds by organizing bazaars and collection drives at various HCL facilities.

- **Encouraging the specially-abled:** The initiative is aimed at helping the specially-abled individuals to earn their livelihood and lead a normal life.

Learn more about HCL [here](#).

Resources, Reports and Events

Disposal Resources

Responsible Recycler: www.e-Stewards.org
Global e-waste dumping: www.ban.org
US export ban: www.electronicstakeback.com

Accountability

Working to Hold Electronics Companies

Accountable: The Good Electronics Project

January 2, 2009, Global Corporations Forum
 The Good Electronics Project is a coalition of NGOs committed to human rights and sustainability in the electronics industry. It utilizes audits to evaluate the conditions of workers in factories which produce electronics and their component parts as well as the environmental sustainability of electronics corporations. The process of audits, usually conducted by SACOM are conducted in an ongoing fashion in order to evaluate progress (or lack thereof) made in the working conditions of electronics suppliers. While often difficult to determine, SACOM relies on identifying the multinational companies whose brands are well-known but whose suppliers are obscure. Read the full story here.
<http://www.globalcorpforum.org/en/node/68>

Asia Reports

High Tech Misery in China - The Dehumanization of Young Workers Producing Our Computer Keyboards

February 2009, National Labor Committee
 The American National Labor Committee (NLC) has released a 60-page report, 'High Tech Misery in China', documenting the gruelling hours, low wages and draconian disciplinary measures at the Meitai factory in southern China. The 2,000 mostly-young women workers produce keyboards and other equipment for Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Lenovo, Microsoft and IBM. Along with worker interviews, photographs of primitive factory and dorm conditions and extensive internal company documents were smuggled out of the factory. According to the NLC the report gives 'an unprecedented view inside the prison-like conditions at high-tech sweatshop in China producing for HP, Dell, Lenovo, Microsoft and IBM.' The Business & Human Rights Resource

Ultimately there was consensus on the need for legislation and stakeholder feedback is to be incorporated in the final draft. For more details visit Toxics Link at www.toxicslink.org.

About ASK-Verité

Founded in 1992, the Association for Stimulating Know-How (ASK) is one of the few non-profit organizations in India working extensively in the field of corporate social responsibility. ASK functions as the South Asia Regional Program Office for Verité, undertaking social audits and research on CSR issues and facilitating factory-level remediation and trainings. ASK also supports programs as diverse as finding alternatives for child laborers in the brass industry in India, and working with indigenous communities in rural South Asia. www.askindia.org

V - 30 / 3 DLF Phase III Gurgaon
Haryana - 122002 India
(t) 0091-124-4060353
ask@askindia.org

About Verité

Verité is an independent, non-profit social auditing, research, and training organization based in Amherst, Massachusetts, USA. Founded in 1995, the organization helps to improve the lives of workers and assists the corporations that employ these workers to better balance profitability with social responsibility. Verité provides social audits, factory remediation, corporate training, labor research, and worker education in over 60 countries worldwide. www.verite.org

44 Belchertown Road
Amherst, MA USA 01002
(t) 001-413-253-9227
verite@verite.org

The ASK-Verité partnership undertakes research and capacity building programs focused on India to improve working conditions. We also collaborate to build capacity among corporations globally to assess and remediate factory-level labor problems.

Centre has solicited the companies concerned to react to the NLC report.

The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited the companies to respond. Their responses are available below:

Dell - [response \[PDF\]](#)
HP - [response \[PDF\]](#)
IBM - [response \[DOC\]](#)
Lenovo - [response \[PDF\]](#)
Mae Tay - [response \[PDF\]](#)
Microsoft - [response \[DOC\]](#)

Asian Forum on CSR 2008, Singapore

The Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR) was held in Singapore from 20th - 21st November 2008 with a call on companies to go beyond profits, compliance and form. The Conference urged the companies to address the public good, beyond that of corporate interests, and to respond positively to higher standards and principles beyond compliance with the law. It also called upon companies to take stock of their core competencies and channel these strengths towards promoting the wider social agenda. Download report [here](#).

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Fulbright-Nehru-CII Fellowships for Leadership in Management: 2009-2010

The United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) announce the Fulbright-Nehru-CII Fellowships for Leadership in Management for the academic year 2009-2010. Indian business managers, whose employers would be willing to bear 80% (USD 25,280) of the total cost (USD 31,600), may compete to attend a specially designed 10-week management program at the Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business (TSB), located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, from May 26 to August 3, 2009. Learn more [here](#).

Policy Framework and Operation for Business and Human Rights

In the midst of the global financial crisis, business has an ever more important role to play in society. There is an increasing demand for companies to perform roles outside of the realm of buying, producing and selling due to their large influence over many stakeholders and the communities in which they operate. However, identifying and defining the social responsibility of businesses is difficult. In order to clarify the role of business, the UN Secretary General appointed Professor John Ruggie in 2005 as his Special Representative (SRSG) on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. The SRSG was given the mandate to identify and clarify human rights standards in relations to corporate responsibility, and to define the role of government in effectively regulating and adjudicating the role of business.

In June 2008, after many consultations, the SRSG proposed a policy framework for business and human rights built around three core principles: the State's duty to protect against human rights abuses committed by third parties, including businesses; the corporate responsibility to respect human rights; and the need for greater access by victims to effective remedies.

This policy framework was welcomed by the United Nations Human Rights Council, major international business associations and leading international human rights organizations. The Council extended the SRSG's mandate for another three years, asking him to provide guidance and a framework for putting these principles into practice. Providing greater opportunities for voices from the Global South to be

heard is essential to ensure that the SRSG's plan is put into practice. Consulting with all stakeholders to take into account the views and experiences of people from different parts of the world will help to achieve a global impact.

These regional consultations are not country visits organized to investigate the situation of human rights at the national level. Rather, they are intended to gather stakeholder perspectives from regions North America and Europe on the overall issues raised by the SRSG's mandate, and to identify potential challenges and opportunities in putting into practice the principles identified by the SRSG.

One such regional consultation was held by the SRSG on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises in New Delhi, India on February 5-6, 2009 in collaboration with local organizing partner 'Partners In Change'. Ms. Monica Ramesh from ASK participated in the consultation. [Read the report here.](#)

ICTE Sector: Will growth be matched by greater responsibility?

By Gopinath K. Parakuni, General Secretary, CIVIDEP

Based on research by Anibel Ferus Comelo

The Indian telecom equipment-manufacturing sector is set to become one of the largest globally, early in the decade of 2010. Mobile phone manufacturing is an important segment of this sector. According to a report by Gartner Inc, mobile phone manufacturing was the largest contributor to India's overall electronics production revenue in 2006. Manufacturing companies are actively planning to ride the wave of domestic mobile phone manufacturing in order to create a semiconductor industry in India (Boudreau, 2006).

In our research on the CSR policies and practices of mobile phone manufacturing companies, it was found that on employment, the companies had various policies publicized on their websites. However, it was clear that the policies, where they existed, were framed at the transnational level and were not specific to India. Most manufacturers in India had not yet participated in a Social Audit and did not provide much information about the implementation and monitoring process of their codes. Some of the other issues of concern are as follows:

- **Contract Labour:** Many of the mobile phone manufacturers make use of labour contractors for their labour supply. It is well known that workers employed through labour contractors are by and large unable to exercise their labour rights effectively.
- **No Freedom of Association:** There are no trade unions in the sector. Manufactures and their labour contractors make it impossible for workers to exercise their right to association. Workplace committees required to be established under law are either absent or exist only perfunctorily.
- **Weak Occupational Health and Safety measures and training:** Many units in this sector are yet to be subjected to social audits. Interviews with workers show that their awareness of safety and health issues in the factories is very inadequate considering the possibility of their exposure to toxic material. Most workers are young men and women between the ages of 18 and 25 and it is not clear whether their medical records are maintained to monitor their occupational health in the long run.

It is very crucial that the sector is transparent about its Corporate Social Responsibility practices and dialogue with civil society including trade unions on various issues of concern to workers and community. The industry must not hide behind the huge compound walls and security guards of the Special Economic Zones they are located in. As the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General Prof. John Ruggie puts it, businesses must not only obtain the formal permissions from the government, but must secure the "Social License to operate". He perhaps means that companies must not only comply with requirements of law as it stands, but convince civil society of the value that they are adding to public good without harming the long term interests of society and the environment.

Global Bytes

Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations Announced in Davos

January 28, 2009, Innovest and Corporate Knights, Inc.

Corporate Knights Inc. and Innovest Strategic Value Advisors today announced the fifth annual Global 100 list of the most sustainable large corporations in the world. The Global 100 includes companies from 15 countries encompassing all sectors of the economy that were evaluated according to how effectively they manage environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities, relative to their industry peers. [Read the whole story.](#)

'Greening' Government: IBM Launches Green Consulting Service

March 09, 2009, EFY Times

IBM has introduced the first consulting service designed to help government organizations analyze energy and water use, assess waste management, evaluate overall environmental impact and develop improvement strategies. The IBM Public Sector Energy and Environment Diagnostic can help governments better understand their overall performance on environmental issues, identify improvements that can increase energy efficiency, reduce environmental impact including greenhouse gas emissions, and help ensure public institutions meet their own rising environmental standards. [Read the whole story.](#)

LG to create 2,200 jobs in 2009

February 28, 2009, The Economic Times

Undeterred by the slowdown, LG Electronics India has decided to create 2,200 new jobs in 2009. The new jobs are planned to boost the company's R&D, sales and after-sales service infrastructure in India. While LG plans to create nearly 2,000 blue-collar jobs for its service network, the balance 200-odd recruitments will be absorbed in sales and R&D functions. LG's major thrust this year will be on GSM mobile phones, commercial ACs and LCD TVs. The company is beefing up sales & research manpower for these products. The contribution of these products to revenues will rise from 18% to 23% by 2009-end. The company intends to increase its partnership with 45 it is and to recruit 2000 people from ITIs. [Read the whole story.](#)

IMF lodges unprecedented ILO complaint

February 5, 2009, International Metalworkers' Federation

The International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) has lodged an unprecedented complaint against the Mexican Government to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Switzerland. Submitted by IMF President, Jürgen Peters, the complaint calls on the ILO to condemn Mexican laws, which prevent freedom of association and contravene ILO Convention 8, which guarantees core labour standards to all workers. [Read the whole story.](#)

Panasonic, Sharp and Toshiba Announce 50-State Recycling Program

January 12, 2009, Take Back My TV

The last thing the TV companies want is a visit from the TV Zombies, which invaded the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last week. To head off future visits from the zombies, Panasonic, Sharp and Toshiba have finally announced the launch of a 50-state recycling program by the end of January. This is an improvement over their statement last October that it would take three years for them to offer collection in all 50 states. That makes six TV companies -- Sony, Samsung, LG, Panasonic, Sharp, and Toshiba -- who are offering national take back programs. [Read the whole story.](#)

Mexico: Former Nokia workers protest dismissals and actions of Manpower and Adecco agencies

February 8, 2009, Akai

On Feb. 4, a group of former employees of the Finland-based Nokia company protested outside offices of the federal labor board. The company has not paid the severance packages which are required by Mexican law to a group of 1000 workers dismissed by Nokia last November. [Read the whole story.](#)

Dell set to cut 1,900 Irish Jobs

January 13, 2009, BBC News

Computer giant Dell is to cut 1900 of the 3000 jobs at its manufacturing site in limerick in the Irish Republic. Dell said the move - which will see production moved to a new factory in Poland - was part of a \$3bn global cost-cutting effort. This firm has seen global profits slip because consumers are buying fewer computers as they rein in spending. Local business leaders predicted the decision would put a further 6000 jobs in related industries at risk. [Read the whole story.](#)

Job losses announced by major electronics companies

February 2009, Good Electronics

In the previous weeks, several major electronics companies have announced job cuts, including Lenovo, Dell, Ericsson and Philips. Philips announced to cut up to 6.000 jobs worldwide this year. Lenovo clinched its plan for laying off about 550 employees in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. In the UK, with the impending closure of computer giant Dell, 400 jobs will be lost in North Cork. Redundancies are looming for hundreds of workers at two of the world's electronic powerhouses, Ericsson and TT Electronics. Toshiba, on the other hand, is expanding production of solid state devices (SSD), hard-disk drive-like devices, in the Laguna Technopark Economic Zone in the Philippines, creating jobs. [Read the whole story.](#)

Toxic Tech: Not In Our Backyard

21 February 2008, Good Electronics

Vast amounts of hazardous electronic waste unaccounted for.

The fate of large quantities of electronic waste is unknown, according to a Greenpeace report Toxic Tech: Not in Our Backyard, published today. While some electronic waste may be accounted for by storage in attics or garages, much may be disposed of with mixed waste in landfills and incinerators or exported - often illegally - for dumping in Africa or for rudimentary recycling in Asia, where it has a high toll on health, safety and the environment. [Read the whole story.](#)

TV Recycling Report Card Gives High Marks to Sony, but Flunks JVC, Philips, Vizio and More

January 11, 2009 by Erika Yost, Global Investment Watch

Electronic waste, or e-waste, dumping in developing countries such as Ghana reflects the worst of our "throw-away" society and our willingness to push our problems off on others. What are companies that produce TVs doing to protect people and planet? In 2001 the Electronics TakeBack Coalition, a national coalition of non-profit groups promoting green design and responsible recycling in the electronics industry, was established to study this and other questions. Take Back My TV is a campaign of the Coalition and in November 2008 the group started issuing a TV Takeback Report Card. [Read the whole story.](#)