

Implementing the Guiding Principles from the Bottom Up
Proposal for 2013 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights Side Event

Efforts at implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (“Guiding Principles”) has achieved a number of positive developments in the last year but has also faced numerous challenges, particularly in states under economic pressure to promote development. During this proposed side event, panelists will discuss grassroots and community approaches to addressing business and human rights issues in challenging development contexts. Panelists will focus on trends emerging from South and Southeast Asia under each pillar of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including recent successes and challenges in implementation.

The panel event will be organized in the following manner:

- (1) **National governance approaches:** State-business-society relationships in ASEAN countries draw out key challenges in implementing the Guiding Principles in challenging development contexts. Panelist Delphia Kim, recent LLM graduate of Harvard Law School, will draw from her work on the Human Rights Resource Centre's multi-site research study mapping the current landscape of the state duty to protect in ASEAN, and more recent developments.
- (2) **Business implementation:** Discussion on how communities, civil society, and business together can seek to improve how business is done within a given and often complex national governance and regulatory context. The panelist for this portion will be confirmed shortly.
- (3) **Access to remedies:** Communities in regions where judicial mechanisms are difficult to access are increasingly turning to non-judicial accountability mechanisms for redress and remedy. Komala Ramachandra, South Asia Director of Accountability Counsel, will share experiences of communities in India, Mongolia, and other parts of the Global South who are seeking justice for human rights violations committed by corporations, and the challenges for achieving effective remedy.

After a brief intervention by each speaker, we hope to invite participation from the audience to hear experiences from different stakeholder groups. The goal of the session will be to generate vibrant discussion from the participants on how to improve implementation of the Guiding Principles in South and Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on facilitating access to the communities most directly affected by business and human rights issues.

Name and contact details:

Komala Ramachandra

South Asia Director, Accountability Counsel

komala@accountabilitycounsel.org

US phone: +1 857 928 9911 (until October 28, 2013)

India phone: +91 813 074 9664 (after October 30, 2013)