Electronics Watch:
Addressing Modern Slavery in ICT Supply Chains

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Contracting for Change

1. Demand decent working conditions in the electronics supply chain through contract performance conditions that affiliates can include in their contracts for ICT hardware products.

2. Monitor for compliance to detect possible contract breaches while also strengthening workers’ own voices to report on problems in their factories.

3. Work with industry, workers’ organisations, and other affiliates to improve conditions and ensure sustainable change.

- **Transparency**: Where are goods coming from? Are they from high risk regions and industries?

- **Due Diligence**: Requiring adherence to specified labour standards – e.g. a Labour Code – in collaboration with stakeholders (civil society, trades unions, workers).

- **Monitoring & Evaluation**: How will you assess compliance? What happens when suppliers fail to meet specified standards?

- **Remedy**: What efforts will you take to remediate ‘workers and prevent any further of future victimization?

- **Training**: For your own staff – being able to identify and act on risks.
Informed public buyers

Systemic Industry Improvements

Stronger worker voices

Increased transparency

Growing public buyer demand for decent working conditions

Improvements in factories
Factory: China
Products: Notebooks and Servers
Framework agreement: UK Higher Education Framework Agreement

**Issue:** Involuntary student labour

**EW:** Onsite worker survey & worker-management dialogue training, dialogue with brands and factory, affiliate engagement

**Impact:**
- Student labour only with consent
- 48%: factory improved last 6 months
**Issue:** Debt bondage (excessive recruitment cost for migrant workers, confiscation of passports and work documents).

**EW:** Compensation following monitoring through interviews with workers and recruiters, dialogue with Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN), RBA, brands, and factory.

**Impact**
- Passports & work documents returned to migrant workers
- Direct employment
- Workers compensated in a “rare award” which could total about $10 million, an estimate based on the number of workers and average sum of $660 they paid which was more than six times the legal limit
- Working with industry to address root causes and prevent recurrence of violations.

**See also:** Thai electronics firm compensates exploited workers in rare award, Reuters, 11 Dec 19. Electronics Watch, Lessons from Cal-Comp case, 2020.
Benefits of Collaborating

- **Monitoring reports** on your supply chain & action guide
- **Public buyer toolkit**: model contract clauses, Contractor Guidance, disclosure forms, tools for contractors
- **Voice** in Electronics Watch

- **Share cost** of monitoring with affiliate network
- **Use contract clauses** to address conditions in supply chains
- Provide **product data** to Electronics Watch

- Measurable **improvements** in socially responsible public procurement of ICT hardware
- Increased **supply chain transparency**
- Visible **leadership**
- **Knowledge exchange** across Europe
- **Insights** beyond social audit perspective
Questions?

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