

The Sustainable Trade and Innovation Centre



## **Opening of European Hub**

**Brussels 21.11.2002**

**Leadership is daring to step into  
the unknown** Stephen Hawking

# Textile Supply Chain



Cultivation



Spinning



Fabrics



Processing



CMT



Packaging



Storage



Transport

**Are  
these the  
solutions?**



# child labor

## Why are 6-year-olds working 14-hour days in the U.S.?

**A**t age 10, Analuz Torres worked grueling, 10-hour days picking berries. At 11, she wielded a sharp knife cutting grapes. "We had to provide our own water," says Analuz, now 16. "People were fainting and bleeding from the nose. It was terrible, but our family needed the money." Ana Catalán, now 15, started picking lettuce and cabbage when she was only 6. Her days began at sunrise and ended 14 hours later. "The worst part was how tired I was," she says. "My back hurt a lot." When Ana was 7, a part from a tractor fell on her and pinned her to the ground, leaving her body purple with bruises. She labored another year after the accident before begging her parents to let her quit.

You might think that these girls are working in developing nations such as Guatemala or Brazil—countries that are criticized by American leaders for their child-labor abuses. But both girls are residents of the United States; children of seasonal workers harvesting fields in Oregon and California. Recently, Congress denied trade benefits to developing

The fruit and vegetables you eat may have been harvested in the U.S. by girls as young as 6 years old. These children endure slave wages and dangerous conditions—and there are no laws to protect them. By Joyce Gregory Wyels

countries that don't comply with a new treaty on child labor abuse—but the United States itself does not comply.

- An estimated 100,000 minors work on farms in the U.S.
- 100,000 of them suffer injuries every year.
- Only 55 percent of them finish high school.
- They earn as little as \$2.50 per hour, and rarely attain minimum wage.

In 1938, Congress passed legislation to protect child laborers, but farmworkers were pointedly excluded. Though the law restricts the hours 14- and 15-year-olds can work in most industries, farms can hire 14-year-olds to work unlimited hours. With parental consent, children as young as 10 can legally work on farms.

Lee Tucker, the author of a recent Human Rights Watch report on this issue, notes that this double standard "is particularly outrageous, because children working in agriculture work under much tougher conditions than children working in fast-food restaurants."

Indeed, young farmworkers are regularly exposed to toxic pesticides and allowed to work with dangerous equipment. And young women face the added

risk of sexual harassment, because they work in isolated areas in a male-dominated occupation.

The average level of education completed by farmworkers is fifth grade. The average adult annual wage is \$7,500. With all members of the family working to put food on the table, exhausted children miss school, fall behind and drop out, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

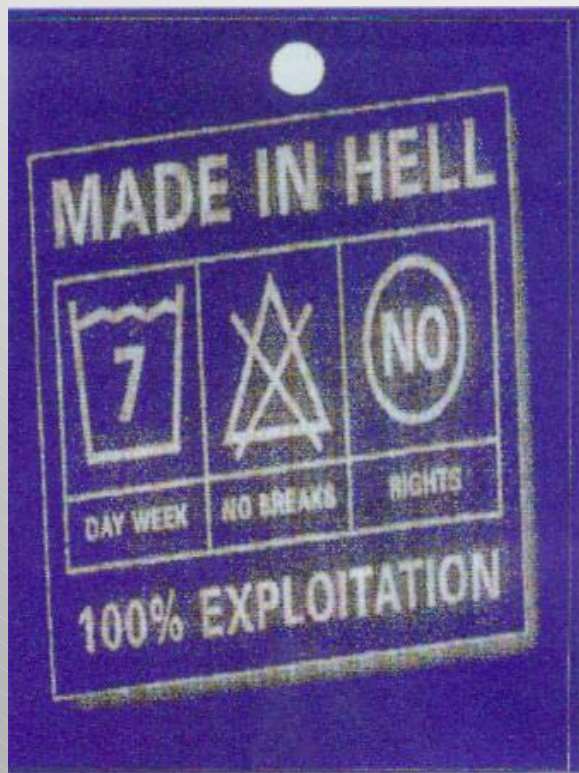
Analuz Torres might have followed this path. But this year, she persuaded her parents to let her attend summer school instead of working as a grape-picker. "Now I realize it's no good to work in the fields," she says. "I'm going to college, no matter what."

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Legislators have introduced bills that would amend U.S. labor laws to protect all working children equally. Contact your Congressional representatives and urge them to support the Young American Workers' Bill of Rights Act. Urge your senators to support the Children's Act for Responsible Employment.
- Contact Human Rights Watch (212-213-1837 or [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)) or the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (703-528-4141 or [www.afop.org](http://www.afop.org)).



Children work in the tomato fields of Virginia's Eastern Shore.





Zwölf Stunden pro Tag in der Produktionslinie: Arbeiterinnen stellen in der „Panasrub“-Fabrik bei Jakarta „Prodatar“-Fußballschuhe her

## Für eine Hand voll Euro

Pünktlich zur Fußball-WM protestieren Globalisierungskritiker gegen **SPORTMULTIS**, die in Billiglöhnländern produzieren lassen. Der *stern* war in einer Fabrik in Indonesien, in der 8000 Frauen arbeiten

Vier Nähte um die drei Streifen, Adidas-Logo auf Sportschuh-Lasche, 190-mal pro Stunde die gleiche Bewegung, als würden die schmalen Hände zu einem Roboter gehören. Seit 7 Uhr früh sitzt Rokomawati an der Maschine, heute wird die 20-Jährige wie an so vielen Tagen bis nach 20 Uhr auf die Nadel starren, die vor ihr auf und ab rattert. Bis die drei Streifen vor ihren Augen verschwimmen.

Die 24-jährige Yaanti im lilafarbenen Kopftuch beugt sich über eine kleine Schablone, mit der sie wie ein Automat

Markierungen für Hackennähte auf Lederteile zeichnet. Daneben streckt Hasarawati ihre Hände unter eine Haube, um mit einem kreischenden Schleifer bei 180 Schuhen pro Stunde Lederflächen anzuschmiegeln. Samah, ein paar Meter weiter, nimmt das Dröhnen des Fließbands gar nicht mehr wahr, das an ihr vorbeirückt. Sie streicht Klebstoff auf Sohlen, von dem Dämpfe trotz Absaugschläuchen neben ihr aufsteigen. Seit fünf Jahren arbeitet sie hier. Seit sie 15 ist.

„Happy“ sei sie mit ihrem Job, sagt Samah. „Happy“ sind auch die anderen,

wenn man sie fragt und sie unter den Augen der „Supervisor“ antworten. Merkwürdig blieb, dass keines der vielen tausend Gesichter in der riesigen Halle lächelt. Nur einer strahlt. Hendrik Sasmito. Der erklart ganz ungeniert: „Ich bin der Boss hier!“

Hendrik Sasmito ist der Herrscher über 17 Hektar Fabrikgelände, das hinter hohen Stacheldrahtzäunen in einem Vorort der indonesischen Megastadt Jakarta liegt. Besitzer der Firma „PT Panarub“, wo Adidas monatlich 650.000 Paar „Prodatar“-Kickerschuhe produzieren lässt. In der kühl klimatisierten Lobby empfangen Poster →

free child labourer with  
each purchase



Simon Gaucho

Damn... we can't use 'em in the  
factory anymore so we're just gonna have  
to give them away!

Simpleshoes<sup>Ericheys</sup>

**Shouldn't  
we opt for a  
positive approach?**

# THE AIMS



**Support  
of  
Economic  
Environmental  
Social  
Development**

**Increase the level  
of**

**Economic  
Independence**

**Self-Reliance**

**Innovation**

**and  
bridge  
the  
poverty gap...**

# THE PRINCIPLES

# The Triple Bottom Line

**People – Planet - Profit**

# Profit enables all parties to invest into ...



**Generating profit  
to support national economy,  
build social structures and  
allow a minimization of  
environmental load.**



## EU-Asia Pro Eco Programme

# THE INITIATIVE



# Stakeholders



# STIC Partners

## 1. Donors

**European Union  
European Governments  
with sub-organizations**

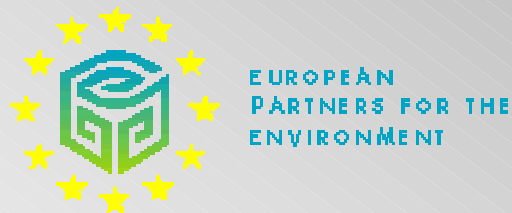
## 2. Retail Buyers

**Business Project Group**

## 3. Institutional Buyers

**Business Project Group**

# ORGANISATION



## Programme & Project Management

**eco-tex**

**Project Implementation – Partner Coordination**

**Know-how transfer - Global Information Resource  
Center (WebSite –Learning Software)**

# Organization in Asia

## Single Hubs:

Philippines

Malaysia

Bangla Desh

Bhutan

Cambodia & Lao PDR

Myanmar

Pakistan

Indonesia

Sri Lanka

Thailand

Nepal

Mongolia

## Multiple Hubs:

China                      5 Hubs

India                        5 Hubs

# Solutions for Textiles & Apparel

**...with an emphasis on  
Uniforms & Workwear...**

# Long-Term Programme for Textile & Apparel Manufacturing Industries in Asia

# ... start with the Planet...



# Environmental Criteria

## Definition & Harmonization



# ...and continue with the People...



# **Social Criteria**

## **Definition & Harmonization**

**Criteria Definition  
&  
Harmonization  
by  
Partner Working Groups**

**All requirements must be  
well understood by all  
parties involved!**

**Coaching of local organizations and manufacturers with information and knowledge transfer to reach international requirements on a sustainable platform.**

**Development of export strategies in cooperation with local Industries and Associations, Institutional Buyers, Retail and Trade.**

**Sustainable qualitative  
improvements through  
a systematic approach!**

**People**

**Responsibility**

**Paper**

**Documentation**

**Practice**

**Implementation &  
Communication**

**System Platform**

## **Additional Requirements**

e.g. Standards like  
SA 8000/Öko-Tex 100

Additional  
Requirements

## **Harmonized Basic Requirements**

Minimum  
Requirements

National  
Laws & Regulations

**System Platform  
guarantees sustainable compliance.**



# BENEFITS

- **Promotion of Sustainable Trade**
- **Awareness & Understanding**
- **Implementation of Requirements**
- **Overall Improvement**
- **Sustainability through System Approach**
- **Networking between all parties involved**

# BENEFITS

**Compared to other initiatives, covering single parts of the requirements at multiplied costs, the STIC Programme is affordable for buyers and vendors, even SME's, and provides added value and continuous improvements.**

**Benefit and profit for the enterprises,  
its workers and employees and their  
families lead to**

**Economic Independence**

**Self-Reliance**

**Innovation**



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