

**GoodElectronics** is a global network on human rights and sustainable production in the electronics industry. This bi-monthly newsletter is distributed amongst a broad network of human rights and environmental organisations, unions, universities and individuals that aim to improve human rights and environmental conditions based in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the U.S. If you would like to learn more about GoodElectronics, or have any news, publications or events to share, please contact [info@goodelectronics.org](mailto:info@goodelectronics.org)

## Civil Society News

### Major Retailers Start PVC Phase Out

**May 23, As You Sow**

Following a commitment made to AYS by Target Stores last fall, three more giant retail chains will begin to reduce their use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in their products. As You Sow's Associate Director, Michael Passoff, and other shareholders have been in dialogue with several companies. Best Buy, the largest U.S. electronics retailer, set time tables for the phase out of PVC packaging for Best Buy brands beginning in 2008. The company also agreed to identify other products and packaging where PVC will be reduced or eliminated. Visit the [AYS website](#).

### Report: "High Tech – No Rights? A One Year Follow Up Report on the Working Conditions in the Electronics Hardware Sector in China.

**May 22, Bread for All, SACOM**

A year after the launch of the "High Tech – No Rights?" campaign, Bread for All, the Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund, and Students & Scholars Against Corporate Misbehavior (SACOM) publish a new study on working conditions in the factories where our computers are made. Download the full report [here](#).

### Greenpeace catches Sony, Microsoft, Nintendo "Playing Dirty"

**May 20, Greenpeace**

The Greenpeace scientific report "[Playing Dirty](#)", released today, reveals that the world's most popular game consoles, Nintendo Wii, Sony PlayStation 3 Elite (PS3) and Microsoft Xbox 360, tested positive for hazardous chemicals and materials such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), phthalates, beryllium and bromine indicative of brominated flame retardants (BFRs). [Read more](#).



### SVTC's India Documentation Project

**May 14, SVTC**

Unfortunately, 'recycling' of e-waste often means the crude dismantling of e-waste under extremely hazardous conditions. To help address this growing global problem, SVTC is teaming up with Chintan Environmental Research Action Group on a project to document the informal recycling sector in India and push for comprehensive waste management policies that protect workers and the environment. [Read more](#).

### Article: Mission Impossible? Raising Labor Standards in the ICT Sector

**May 8, Labor Studies Journal**

The June issue of the *Labor Studies Journal* includes an [article](#) by *Challenging the Chip* contributor, Dr. Anibel Ferus-Comelo. Based on primary research in Bangalore, hailed as the "Silicon Valley of India" and Silicon Valley, California, the article has three objectives: (1) to outline some of the challenges to unionization that arise from the



current forms of corporate structure in this profitable, global industry; (2) to highlight recent efforts by unions and community-based organizations to increase corporate social responsibility in various industries; and (3) to apply lessons from these examples to the high-technology industry. Also, the issue includes a [review](#) of *Challenging the Chip* by Peter Olney. (To get access signing in is required.)

## Scientists, Researchers, NGO's & DCA Lead Electronics Industry to Environmental Victory

**May 5, Friends of the Earth**

The unnecessary use of potentially toxic fire retardants in household electronics enclosures stopped, for now. A proposed new draft standard by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), IEC 62368 "Audio/Video, Information and Communication Technology Equipment - Safety - Requirements" which could have led to the introduction of hundreds of millions of pounds of potentially toxic fire retardant chemicals into consumers' homes and bodies, has been defeated. [Read more.](#)

## General News

### Techies told: Green IT is a goldmine, not a burden

**May 26, eWasteGuide**

The IT industry should view the buzz around green technology as an opportunity, rather than a compliance burden, according to industry analyst Bruce McCabe. Speaking at CeBIT Australia's eGovernment Forum, McCabe said the IT industry should not limit its "green" or sustainable ICT efforts to the cutting down of power usage within datacentres. Rather, the industry should see it as an opportunity to innovate and profit. [Read more.](#)

### EPA to act on e-waste hazards in Ghana

**April 25, myjoyonline.com**

Ghana's Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) now appears to be acting to address the problems of e-waste that has been confronting the country. The Daily Graphic issue of Friday April 25, 2008, reported that the EPA is developing guidelines to regulate the importation of used electronic gadgets into the country. [Read more.](#)

### Central Pollution Control Board India releases 'Guidelines for Environmentally sound management of E-waste'

**April, TU - Union of Salaried Employees**

'The objective of these Guidelines is to provide guidance for identification of various sources of e-waste and prescribe procedures for handling e-waste in an environmentally sound manner. These Guidelines shall apply to all those who handle e-waste which includes the generators, collectors, transporters, dismantlers, recyclers and stakeholders of e-wastes irrespective of their scale of operation.' [Read more.](#)

### Unions want Nokia to sign a Global Framework Agreement

**April, TU - Union of Salaried Employees**

The key trade unions of the Technologies Industry, the Metalworkers' Union, the Union of Salaried Employees and the Union of Professional engineers state that Nokia should as the first Finnish company sign an International Framework Agreement with the trade unions. The agreement would secure the basic rights of Nokia's employees world-wide. It would also secure the trade union rights of the Nokia personnel. [Read more.](#)

Related news: [Nokia itself appoints "the union leaders" at its plant in Mexico.](#)

### Philips ending production of TV's for U.S. market

**April, New York Times**

In another sign of a shake-out in the competitive flat-panel television market, Royal Philips Electronics, the Dutch consumer electronics giant, will no longer manufacture televisions for sale in the United States or Canada. The Philips brand will still be sold, but the sets will now be made under license by Funai Electric for at least five years.



While not a well-known consumer brand in the United States, Funai, based in Tokyo, already sells Emerson, Sylvania, Symphonic and other lower-priced brands in the North American market. [Read more.](#)

## Intel considering closing Philippines test, assembly plant

April, EDN.com

After 34 years of doing business in the Philippines, chip giant Intel Corp is considering closing down its test and assembly plant there this year, according to reports. Intel officials notified local employees during a meeting last Wednesday that the company was exploring multiple options for the manufacturing plant, with one of the options to close the facility. Severance packages have already been arranged for the employees the [reports](#) state. [Read more.](#)

## HP Supplier list released by HP; new reproductive health training program announced for women workers

April, HP

Hewlett Packard made a significant announcement that they are publishing the list of their major suppliers, the first time a global electronics company has done so. This announcement is in response to proposals from HP's Stakeholder Advisory Council which is comprised of NGO representatives from around the world who asked HP to make this disclosure in order to provide greater transparency and accountability in its supply chain which includes more than 400,000 workers around the world. At the same time, HP announced a new training program for women workers that focuses on reproductive health. [Read more.](#)

## E-Calendar

Month	Event	Organized by	Web link	Location
June				
11 - 12	12th Canadian Pollution Prevention Roundtable	Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention	<a href="http://www.c2p2online.com/CPPR">www.c2p2online.com/CPPR</a>	Edmonton, Canada
12	2008 Net Impact Europe Conference: Sustainable Prosperity: Taking on the Global Challenge	Net Impact	<a href="http://www.netimpact.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&amp;subarticlenbr=1978">http://www.netimpact.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&amp;subarticlenbr=1978</a>	Geneva, Switzerland
23 - 24	The Sustainable Finance Summit 2008	Ethical Corporation	<a href="https://secure.firstconf.com/ethicalcorporation/finance/register-logix.asp">https://secure.firstconf.com/ethicalcorporation/finance/register-logix.asp</a>	Renaissance Hotel, Brussels
24 -25	The Green Supply Chain Summit 2008	Ethical Corporation	<a href="http://www.ethicalcorp.com/greensupplychain/?t=CorpReg">http://www.ethicalcorp.com/greensupplychain/?t=CorpReg</a>	Regent's Park Marriot, London, UK
July				
16 - 17	IPC Conference on Electronics and the environment	IPC, Association Connecting Electronics Industries	<a href="http://www.ipc.org/calendar/2008/GreenSym-Boston0708/green0708.html">http://www.ipc.org/calendar/2008/GreenSym-Boston0708/green0708.html</a>	Cambridge, Boston (Cambridge) Mass. U.S.
31 - 1	Building Organisational Capacity for a Sustainable Strategy	ACCSR	<a href="http://www.accsr.com.au/html/learning.htm">http://www.accsr.com.au/html/learning.htm</a>	Melbourne and Sydney, Australia



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