

**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 Brazil, Canada, China, Congo, Finland, Europe, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Taiwan and Thailand, The Philippines, Singapore and the USA. If you would like to learn more about GoodElectronics, or have any news, publications or events to share, you can write to [info@goodelectronics.org](mailto:info@goodelectronics.org)

## E – News

### Activists accuse firm of targeting hepatitis B carriers

**July 30 2007, SACOM**

Students and Scholars against Corporate Misbehavior (SACOM [www.sacom.hk](http://www.sacom.hk)) and Beijing-based Yirenping ([www.yirenping.org](http://www.yirenping.org)), a support group for Hepatitis B carriers, displayed signs and shouted slogans for two hours outside a Hong Kong listed electronics company, VTech Holdings, on 30 July 2007. Activists urged the firm to seriously take up its corporate social responsibility (CSR) and to respect Chinese workers' right to equal employment. Read full [article](#)

### Silent Hands Behind the iPhone

**July 18 2007, New York Times**

Etched into the back of every iPhone are the words "Designed by Apple in California. Assembled in China." Apple might as well have added "Made in Taiwan." Taiwan companies are playing a big role not only in the production of Apple's latest device but in a wide array of other communications equipment, including the broadband modems in homes across the United States and the next generation of high-speed wireless gear. Read full [article](#)

### E-Waste Hazards: Chinese gear recyclers absorb toxic chemicals

**July 14 2007, Science News Online**

Residents of a Chinese region where 80 percent of families include workers who dismantle and recycle electronic devices have high concentrations of flame-retardant chemicals in their blood, researchers report. Inhabitants of a fishing village not far away also carried elevated amounts of the chemicals, called polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs). Read full [article](#)

### STMicroelectronics publishes its 2006 CSR Report

**July 13 2007, Ethical Performance**

STMicroelectronics announces the publication of its 2006 Corporate Responsibility Report. Report verification has been provided by Bureau Veritas. Feedback from all stakeholders is encouraged on the content and presentation of the report at [corporate.responsibility@st.com](mailto:corporate.responsibility@st.com) Read full [report](#)



## Thai factory manager offers apology for poor working conditions

**July 9 2007, Somo**

"Our workers work a maximum of 84 hours a week, which means we comply with Thai legislation." This was one of the many responses of factory managers to the results of a study by SOMO into working conditions in the electronics sector. For Hewlett Packard, this study was a reason to organise a Suppliers Forum in Bangkok on 18 May 2007. In a unique setting, the company discussed the implementation of the Electronics Industry Code of Conduct (the EICC endorsed by HP) with managers of its suppliers' factories and labour organisations. Read [more](#)

## SOMO and Nokia's correspondence on "Investigations into SOMO Claims of Poor Working Conditions at Two Suppliers – Summary of Findings"

**July 8 2007, Somo**

In its November 2006 report The High Cost of Calling: Critical Issues in the Mobile Phone Industry, SOMO reported on labour conditions in four countries where mobile phones are being produced and sent the report to all mobile phone companies sourcing from the factories researched. In response to SOMO's report, Nokia conducted investigations at two of its suppliers in Thailand that were mentioned in SOMO's report – Namiki and LTEC. Read [Nokia's response](#) and [Somo comments on Nokia's response](#)

## CHINA: Lead Toxins Take a Global Round Trip

**July 12 2007, The Wall Street Journal**

High levels of toxic lead turning up in cheap jewellery from China are prompting recalls in the U.S. But some of the lead used by these Chinese manufacturers comes from an unconventional source: computers and other electronic goods discarded in Western countries and dumped in China. Read full [article](#)

## Host or Attend a Screening of Maquilapolis: City of Factories

**July 2007 Green Trader, Sierra Club's Trade Campaign E-Newsletter**

Ever Wonder Where Your TV Came From? Interested in learning more about international trade and its impacts on communities and the environment? Host or attend a screening of the film Maquilapolis: City of Factories and share with your community the riveting tale of women factory worker's fight for justice and a healthy environment. Read more about the [project](#)

## Industry to tackle 2 million tonne electrical waste problem

**June 29, 2007 UK Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (National)**

WEEE Regulations come into effect on 1 July. New legal obligations on the electrical industry will from Sunday 1 July start to see more waste products recycled and not consigned to the scrap heap. Last year 2 million tonnes of electrical waste was generated in the UK alone, enough to fill the new Wembley Stadium six times over. Read [full article](#)

## Vodafone publishes its 2006 CSR Report

**June 26, 2007 Ethical Performance**

Vodafone's seventh Corporate Responsibility report, out now, uses the company's signature 'we said, we have, we will' format to present its most recent performance against various social and environmental commitments. Read full [report](#)



## E – Publications & Campaigns

### **"The Enclave Economy: Foreign Investment and Sustainable Development in Mexico's Silicon Valley," (MIT Press) by Kevin Gallagher and Lyuba Zarsky**

The book shows that although Mexico was initially successful in attracting multinational electronics corporations, foreign investments waned in the absence of active government support and as China became increasingly competitive. Moreover, the authors find that foreign investment created an "enclave economy" the benefits of which were confined to an international sector not connected to the wider Mexican economy. In fact, foreign investment put many local IT firms out of business and transferred only limited amounts of environmentally sound technology. The authors suggest policies and strategies that will enable Mexico and other developing countries to foster foreign investment for sustainable development in the future. See for more [information](#)

### **Corporate Social Responsibility in China's Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**

Published by the Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS) and Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), the report examines how suppliers, customers, governments and local NGO's each contribute to the overall social and environmental health of the ITC sector and provides recommendations for improvements. Read the [report](#)

### **The Greenpeace latest ranking guide for greenelectronics**

#### **June 27 2007 Greenpeace**

Apple has finally moved up from being the lowest-ranked electronics manufacturer in the latest Greenpeace Guide to Greener Electronics. In the fourth issue of the Guide, Nokia regained the lead, with Dell and Lenovo tying for second place, followed by Sony-Ericsson and Samsung. Apple moves up the ranks of latest Greenpeace Guide to Greener Electronics but Nokia regains lead. Read [the guides update](#)

### **ASK-Verité ICT Newsletter**

#### **June 2007, ASK-Verité**

Awareness of social responsibility in the Information and Communications Technology sector is on the rise. The ASK-Verite CSR Bulletin for the ICT sector aims to provide information useful for those concerned about corporate social responsibility in this sector, particularly India. This next edition of the newsletter includes updates on the Electronics Industry Code of Conduct, the International Labor Organization's tripartite meeting on electronic component production, and "going green" in the electronics industry. Read [the bulletin](#)

