



A THREE-STEP HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE GUIDANCE SERVICE FOR JAPANESE COMPANIES AND THEIR SUPPLIERS

Japanese companies are faced with rapidly increasing levels of pressure to know and show the impact that their operations and those of their supply chains have on society.

Guidelines for respecting human rights in supply chains issued by the Government of Japan in September 2022 will define expectations of corporate respect for human rights in line with international standards.

A growing number of countries, including Germany, France and the UK have already introduced normative provisions on the subject. The expected EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, once approved, will bring about human rights and environmental due diligence requirements for all large companies operating in its territory. In the US, withhold release orders are prohibiting the import of goods associated with forced labor.

Pressure on companies does not come only from policy and normative instruments: consumers' and investors' expectations not to be associated with issues such as child labor or modern slavery are rising, as is the attention of the media on irresponsible business practices around the world.

In today's globalized market, companies that can prove to care about the wellbeing of society are better able to manage their legal, operational, financial and reputational risks while ensuring steady levels of long-term competitiveness.

UNDP, with support from the Government of Japan, is making available a three-step guidance service to Japanese companies and their suppliers to better know the human rights impacts associated with their operations and establishing appropriate due diligence processes in Japan and 17 countries: Ghana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Viet Nam.

Why should Japanese companies join the B+HR Academy?

- To get access to the latest analysis of the most salient human rights impacts in 17 countries
- To receive free of charge, confidential, expert guidance on how to conduct human rights due diligence
- To enhance their ability to remain competitive in the global market while pursuing well-being of society

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3-Step HRDD Guidance Service

1

Country Context Assessment Studies

Country Context Assessment Studies are being conducted by UNDP to determine the specific human rights impacts and human rights due diligence expectations that may be linked to the operations of Japanese companies and their suppliers in each of the 17 country contexts. The studies will be made available confidentially, only to requesting Japanese companies and relevant governmental bodies.

2

Human Rights Due Diligence Training

Human Rights Due Diligence Training – informed by the human rights Country Context Assessment Studies and tailored to the needs of Japanese companies and their suppliers – will be organized in Japan and the 17 countries in focus. The training will be delivered in Japanese, English and the local language by senior national and international experts on human rights due diligence, supported by specialists of the United Nations.

3

Individual Guidance Sessions with Individual Companies

More detailed one-to-one guidance sessions with individual companies will be made available in the language of preference using translators (Japanese, English, or a local language). In these closed-door interactive sessions, companies will receive guidance from a group of national and international experts on how to manage their impacts on human rights in the specific country contexts in which they operate.