Role of NGOs in Business and Human Rights Compliance

Shin Young Chung
(Advocates for Public Interest Law, Korea Transnational Corporation Watch)
• A network of NGOs based in Korea working in various fields ranging from human rights, labor rights, corporate social responsibility to environmental issues.


• Focusing on Korean companies’ activities overseas
• Joint Field investigations: Uzbekistan, Philippines, Myanmar (2013); Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam (2014); Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras (2015); China, Indonesia, Mexico (2016)
• UN system: country visit by WG of biz&hr, country review for ICCPR/ ICESCR
• using and reforming campaign for NCP system
POSCO’s steel project in India

- development plan since 2005
- violence between the villagers for and against the project
- expected forced evictions, displacement and loss of livelihoods of up to 22,000 people
POSCO’s steel project in India

- The STOP POSCO Campaign
- Investigation trip/ Campaign/ NCP complaint/ UN systems
- Joint statements by UN experts in 2013
- POSCO withdrew in 2016
Forced labor in Uzbek cotton industry

- Forcibly mobilizing the workers to the cotton field, extortion, suppression of human rights activists
- Daewoo International/ KOMSCO (public corporation) in Uzbek
Forced labor in Uzbek cotton industry

- Daewoo International/ KOMSCO (public corporation) in Uzbek
- Investigation trip/ public campaign/ NCP complaint / UN systems/ Parliamentary hearing
- Companies still operation
Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework


- (a) Avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts through their own activities, and address such impacts when they occur;

- (b) Seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to their operations, products or services by their business relationships, even if they have not contributed to those impacts.
Role of the stakeholders - minority shareholdings of institutional investors

- “It is the view of OHCHR that minority shareholdings of institutional investors constitute a “business relationship” for the purposes of Principle 13(b).”

- Dutch/ Norwegian Pension Fund’s “socially responsible” investment