

Just Supply Chains

Conference on Regulatory Reform

On December 13 and 14, 2012, held a Just Supply Chains conference at MIT in Cambridge, MA. The goal of these meetings, held periodically, is to bring together representatives of academia, NGOs, corporations, and other interested parties to engage in constructive conversations concerning best practices for achieving worker protection in global supply chains.

The focus of the Cambridge gathering was regulatory reform. We addressed an array of both public and private initiatives intended to enhance implementation and compliance with government regulations. Public regulatory reform may include increasing the ability of the state to deliver services, enforce contracts, and protect rights of workers. Firms have also contributed to regulatory reform by improving monitoring mechanisms and creating new methods for detecting violations and for gaining compliance from sub-contractors. Both states and firms have, at times, undertaken efforts to revise the regulations themselves.

December 13

observations from academics and from those working in the field, concluding with a discussion about public-private partnerships.

December 14

corporate case on efforts to create ethical supply chains: what works, what doesn't, and what the future might look like for private regulatory schemes.

Program

Thursday, December 13th

MIT Building E60-236

- 8:30 – 9:00** **Breakfast and Coffee**
- 9:00 – 9:30** **Introductions and Framing**
Margaret Levi, UW & University of Sydney
- 9:30– 10:45** **Regulatory Reform: Views from Academia**
Moderator: Layna Mosley, University of North Carolina
Panelists:
Tim Bartley, Ohio State University
Andrew Schrank, University of New Mexico, and Michael Piore, MIT
David Weil, Boston University
- 10:45- 11:00** **Coffee break**
- 11:00 – 12:30** **Regulatory Reform: Views from the Field**
Moderator: Gay Seidman, University of Wisconsin
Panelists:
April Linton, Fair Labor Association
Lisa Benton, CREATE
Scott Nova, Workers Rights Consortium
- 12:30 – 1:30** **Lunch Break**
- 1:30 – 2:30** **Case Study: Brazil**
Moderator: Richard Locke, MIT
Panelists:
Renato Bignami, Ministry of Labor, Brazil
Roberto Pires, IPEA, Brazil
- 2:30- 2:45** **Coffee Break**
- 2:45 –3:45** **Case Studies: China and Bangladesh**
Moderator: Margaret Levi, University of Washington
Panelists:
Mary Gallagher, University of Michigan
Anne Greenleaf, University of Washington

3:45- 5:15 **Public-Private Partnerships**
Moderator: Josh Cohen, Stanford University
Panelists:
Amy Luinstra, IFC
Matt Amengual, MIT
Anand Rajaram and Audrey Sacks, World Bank

6:00 **Dinner Reception**
The MIT Faculty Club
Dining Rooms 2&3

Friday, December 14th

MIT Building E60-112

8:30 – 9:00 **Breakfast and Coffee**

9:00 - 10:30 **Update on other Just Supply Chain Projects**
Moderator: Jennifer Noveck, University of Washington
Panelists:
Rick Locke and Greg Distelhorst, “Capability Building and Labor Standards”
Michael Hiscox and Jens Hainmueller, “Ethical Consumption”

10:30- 10:45 **Coffee Break**

10:45- 11:45 **Discussion of Next Steps**
Moderated by Richard Locke, MIT

12:00 – 1:30 **Lunch:** Box Lunch