

Vacancy researcher East Asia (m/f) 0,4fte – Project MVO in Asia

(Nr 2018-1 CSR)

Duration

LeidenAsiaCentre is searching for a researcher(m/f) starting February 2018 to March 2019. Recent graduates and PhD researchers are eligible to apply for this position. For this project, the LeidenAsiaCentre is looking for researchers with an internationally oriented MA, **with a focus on East Asia**, and an interest in South Asia and Corporate Social Responsibility.

LeidenAsiaCentre

LeidenAsiaCentre is the international expertise Centre for modern East-Asia in the Netherlands. The goal of the Centre is to promote the acquisition, application and dissemination of knowledge at Leiden University about modern East Asia and in particular the current East Asia, in all its aspects. Employees of LeidenAsiaCentre conduct research with a strong focus on valorization: research questions are formulated together with our societal partners. Our partners consist of, among others, governments, companies, media, and other academic and non-academic institutes and centers.

Activities

The researcher works independently as much as possible on his / her own research area, in consultation with the project manager and social partners. Primarily, the researcher is responsible for researching **the Asian context of CSR** in the relevant labour projects.

Requirements

Potential candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Excellent command of English, both orally and in writing;
- Knowledge of an East Asian language is recommended;
- Experience researching policy documents;
- Relevant university degree;
- Good communication skills and good written expression;
- Broad general development and interest;
- Affinity with East Asia and South Asia.

Salary, depending on expertise and experience, will be between pay scale 8 (minimum of 2465€) and 10 (up to a maximum of 4084€) on the basis of 1,0fte.

Applications

If you are interested in this position at the LeidenAsiaCentre, please send your resume, motivational letter and possible reference to the manager of the LeidenAsiaCentre, Lily Sprangers (sprangers@leidenasiacentre.nl) before January 22, 2018

See below for an elaborate project description

Project CSR in Asia – LeidenAsiaCentre and Mondiaal FNV 2018/2019

According to the Global Slavery Index (GSI), workplaces in Asia are responsible for over 2/3 of global slavery and human trafficking. Not only are these numbers staggeringly high, they also allude to labour issues related to slavery and human trafficking, such as poor work safety.

To try and ensure that tragedies do not occur and that international agreed standards are respected, many corporations have so called Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies, which vary per company in length, detail and topics. These policies try to make sure that companies take responsibility respecting international agreed standards such as decent labour conditions of their employees, for the complete value chain.

This project aims to analyse the functioning of CSR in value chain responsibility in Asia, both on paper and in practice through a network analysis. This research aims at analysing case studies about the current state of CSR in South and East Asia, its best-practices and shortcomings, and what is needed for more effective and efficient CSR in the region.

This research, a joint effort of LeidenAsiaCentre and Mondiaal FNV will focus on the policies of first tier suppliers/manufacturers (direct link to the main company/bank), and, where possible, also second tier (direct link to the first tier). Within this framework, specific attention will be given to the roles of Dutch companies, or foreign companies based in the Netherlands, if present.

To narrow the scope, this research will focus on two case studies within two sectors notorious for labour violations; construction and textile industry.

1. CSR and chain liability in regional projects in South Asia under the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank and the WorldBank

This pillar will focus on construction projects in South Asia set up by any of the above-mentioned banks, with a specific emphasis on project bids won by companies from Japan, China and South Korea. Many of the projects that the ADB, the AIIB and the WB finance, are won in bids by corporations in East Asia. East Asian presence in South Asia is enormous, so projects executed by East Asian companies will be one of the key prerequisites when picking case studies for the construction pillar, as these are often also the largest projects.

2. CSR and chain liability: the case of North Korean-made textiles/garments both within the country and abroad

The second pillar is a clear defined case study, which delves into the product chain of North Korean-made textile products, which are often sold as 'made in China'. The garments are both made within North Korea, but also in Chinese factories that employ North Koreans. This case will investigate CSR responsibility in particular meeting international human rights obligations as laid out in the OECD guidelines for multinationals/UN Guiding principles.

The project team for both pillars will consist of a CSR researcher, and Asia researcher, project advisors (experts in the fields of CSR and East Asian policy), and a project manager.

LeidenAsiaCentre: www.leidenasiacentre.nl

Mondiaal FNV: www.mondiaalfnv.nl