

COP REPORT-2007-2008 Laxmi Wood Craft Udhyog

Background:

In 2007 and 2008, the political situation of Nepal improved a lot. But still the downfall of the financial position all over the world especially America and Europe affected our country as well -specially trade, industries and other businesses. LWCU (Laxmi Wood Craft Udhyog) was among one – we were compelled to decrease our production, which was affecting our business.

Despite difficulties, our enthusiasm and interest to facilitate the Global Compact Principles has remained the same as before. We conducted a few of the following activities:

- a. In our previous reports, we had mentioned to open up a Handicraft Institute. We were almost finished but because of the financial crisis all over the world, we were forced to decrease our production, still we are unable to start the "Laxmi Button and Handicraft Institute". Soon as the Udhyog (company) is in a position to open up the Institute, we will make a public announcement through advertisement to provide training to produce skillful manpower in handicraft sector.
- b. "Blood Donate Campaign", bearing in mind that this campaign is not only for the social welfare but also for our workers to get blood during emergencies.

Activities conducted:

Although LWCU had already been supporting the labours, environmental and health aspects; we have further enhanced our activities after being registered with Global Compact. Though we are still at the learning stage of implementing the principles of Global Compact, we have tried our best to conduct the following activities to support the 10 principles:

ENVIRONMENT:

- ❖ Mrs.Laxmi Sharma – the proprietor, being a strong campaigner of environment and involved with few organization working for social and environmental issues; LWCU has not been using chemicals for processing and other aspects for producing our handicrafts items. Instead we have been using tea, henna etc, for dying purpose.
- ❖ We have managed to organize an awareness programme on work efficiency, health and environmental issues with our staff. LWCU was impressed to see the staff enjoying such activities being organized. It was then finalized that these activities would be carried out every month.
- ❖ We are using polythene bag for packing our products. But, we are trying to use Eco-friendly packaging products that could be disposable after use.
- ❖ We are making a documentary based on environmental and cultural factors. As soon as it finishes we'll let you know.

- ❖ We are opening a non profitable magazine based on messages related with environment, education, culture, religion etc. it has already been registered as "Successful Dreams" publishing quarterly in a year.

LABOUR

- ❖ We strongly support the voice against the child labour. Also please be noted that there is no caste and sex discrimination in our industry. More so, LWCU has been giving training to handicapped (lepers, blind, and mentally disturbed) people, amongst them some are working with us. On humanitarian ground LWCU partially supports and sponsors education for the staff's children who has been working with the company for a decade.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- ❖ Staffs are provided with provident fund, medical allowances, maturity leave etc. Also LWCU not only provides staff with over time money but also give them food supplement. They are given entertainment facilities. LWCU nominates each best staff for their discipline, attendance, and initiative by awarding them with televisions, gold chain, money, stereos and other household items to make pleasing atmosphere for them.
- ❖ We also give clothes to our staff during winter and summer.
- ❖ We have built comfortable working rooms for our labours, so that they feel pleasant atmosphere while working.
- ❖ We have been helping financially to our ex-staff Mrs. Sita Lama who is suffering from Cancer.
- ❖ We have been helping the Orphan child of Herald School by giving them food every month.

As mentioned earlier, LWCU is a small cottage industry and we are trying our best to implement the principles of Global Impact. We would be pleased to learn from other industries that have successfully practiced and conducted the 10 principles and hope that their experiences would be shared with us as well. Your advice would be invaluable to us.