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VISĀKHĀ FOUNDATION

**Statement of continued support
by the President of the Visakha Foundation**

The Visakha Foundation is extremely delighted to support the United Nations Global Compact guidelines and principles. As a local non-governmental organization, our mission is to support the overall development of healthcare, education, and socioeconomic status of families from underprivileged communities. We strive to work toward our goals by creating opportunities for orphans and young children in vocational training, basic education, and other skills that will enable them to find employment opportunities in the near future. In addition, we work with international foundations, local universities, and healthcare organizations to provide healthcare and eye care services to people from underprivileged backgrounds that have lived in poverty. Through these efforts and practices the Visakha Foundation hopes to build a sustainable future that are in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this annual Communication of Progress, we describe the activities undertaken by the Visakha Foundation over the past year to support the Ten UNGC Principles and work toward the SDGs. We thank all the volunteers, partner organizations, and others involved in our daily operations in order to implement the UNGC Principles.

Sincerely,
Dr. Su Hla Han
President
Visakha Foundation

UN Global Compact COP Report 2016-17

Htut Arkar Win

The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact

Human Rights

PRINCIPLE 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

PRINCIPLE 2: Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses

The Visakha Foundation is strongly dedicated to upholding and protecting the human rights of individuals in the community.

Assessment, Policy and Goals

- We do not support any form of discrimination within our organization and any of our partner organizations.
- Our hiring practices to enter our vocational training, basic education, healthcare, and other programs are not biased by race, gender, religion, disability, and other traits.
- The organization fosters a working environment where volunteers, partner organizations, and stakeholders are able to freely express their values, opinions, and culture without judgment (unless it goes against the United Nations Human Rights Principles).
- Sexual harassment and other forms of harassment are not tolerated.
- We will continue to donate to charitable causes and philanthropic efforts that respect and align with the United Nations Human Rights Principles.
- We implement eye care projects in the poorest communities in Myanmar where they have no access to basic healthcare in order to improve their livelihoods.

Assessment of Human Rights related risks and impact in industry sector and country/countries of operation (see Risk Assessment Report at www.humanrightsbusiness.org)

- Myanmar currently faces religious conflicts between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine State. However, our organization cultivates a positive working environment where these types of conflicts do not occur in our workspace or with our stakeholders.
- There is a shortage of skilled and qualified labor in Myanmar. Therefore, we invest in vocational training programs that aim to build the capacity and develop the careers of individuals and families from underprivileged communities.
- Myanmar is a country that has an underdeveloped healthcare system with no universal healthcare coverage in place. Therefore, we provide appropriate and necessary healthcare to volunteers, underprivileged communities, and individuals from poor backgrounds.

Implementation

- We share this Communication on Progress to our volunteers and partner organizations in order to share our goals and mission to support the Human Rights goals.
- Our NGO conducts hiring practices and promotions in an unbiased manner without any discrimination.
- We collect feedback from our volunteers and partner organizations on how we can improve our policies to find better solutions to promote Human Rights.
- The highest level of personnel at our organization takes full responsibility in order to protect and promote Human Right.
- The organization implements a sexual harassment policy where any violations will be dealt with in a fair and prioritized manner.
- The NGO fosters an environment where people are able to express their cultural values and practice their religion without judgment.
- The organization holds various vocational training programs to build the capacity and develop the careers of individuals and families from underprivileged communities.

Measurement of outcomes

- Any incidences that violate Human Rights and goes against our policies are reported to the HR Department in order for them to be dealt with appropriately.
- The HR Department and high-level personnel collaborate to assess the demographics of our organization to see if there can be any improvement for diversity.
- The annual assessment of our monitoring systems is used to understand how our policies can be improved for future use.

Labour

PRINCIPLE 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

PRINCIPLE 4: The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

PRINCIPLE 5: The effective abolition of child labour; and

PRINCIPLE 6: The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

The Visakha Foundation is in alignment with the Labour Principles of the UNGC. The NGO puts effort to protect its volunteers from discrimination, forced labor, and other practices that goes against the UNGC Labour Principles. We also urge our partners to respect the labour rights of their workers in order to build a sustainable future.

Assessment, Policy and Goals

- Visakha Foundation does not support or practice child labour, forced labour, or compulsory labour within our workplace or any of its programs.
- The NGO adheres to Myanmar labor laws in order to provide volunteers and training students with the appropriate benefits, compensation, rights, and responsibilities.
- All volunteers and training students are compensated according to Myanmar labour laws.

- The organization endorses and practices hiring practices in a fair and just manner without discrimination. We also encourage partners to conduct the same practices to align with the UNGC Labour Principles.
- We foster a harmonious and positive working environment within our workplace for volunteers and training programs for students without discrimination of any means.
- Visakha Foundation is proud to hold vocational training programs such as nurse aid, security, hair care, and sewing programs that are in alignment with the UNGC Labour Principles.

Implementation

- The Visakha Foundation has labour policies that are regularly updated in order to align with national labour laws of the country so that all volunteers and training students are protected.
- If our policy on labour rights is revised, HR issues a memo so that everyone is notified about the update.
- Visakha Foundation provides training and seminars to bring awareness of labour rights, discrimination, forced labour, and relevant topics in order for them to understand the importance of the UNGC Labour Principles.
- We invest in bringing awareness to volunteers and training students so that they understand forms of discrimination in order for them to promote a non-discriminatory environment.
- We have a positive relationship with the Labour Union of Myanmar (Government Ministry) so that they can always provide information, education, and training to all our volunteers and training students about the latest updates in the country about labour regulations and policies.

Measurement of outcomes

- Visakha Foundation implements an annual assessment on organizational data to see how our labour practices can be better (e.g. gender, pay scale, sick leave, health coverage, training, diversity).
- We do not tolerate violations of the UNGC Labour Principles within our workplace and partner organizations. If there is a violation by one party, we will assess the situation in order to assess whether we should terminate all ties with the party in question.
- The HR Department works closely to monitor the labour policies of our organization to adhere to national labour laws.
- The HR Department conducts an annual assessment of any past violations to see if any action or improvement can be done for future reference.

Environment

PRINCIPLE 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

PRINCIPLE 8: Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

PRINCIPLE 9: Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

Visakha Foundation is strongly committed to the UNGC Environmental Principles because the organization believes in reducing waste and going green in order to protect the environment and build a sustainable future.

Assessment, Policy and Goals

- Our NGO will not participate in any activities that will significantly increase the carbon footprint and violate the national environmental laws of Myanmar.
- Our NGO implements awareness programs to volunteers and training students regarding the environment so they can learn to recycle and reduce waste.
- HR Department regularly holds activities to promote environmental responsibility, teach members about current challenges, and encourage practices to reduce waste.

Implementation

- Visakha Foundation encourages volunteers and members to engage in practices to reduce wastage and protect the environment (e.g. paperless communication, electronic data storage, reduce electricity usage, etc.).
- Our awareness programs address current environmental challenges in the world and ways to reduce waste.
- The HR Department regularly stays up to date with the national environmental laws so that the NGO can to adhere to these standards.

Measurement of outcomes

- The Visakha Foundation monitors the carbon footprint of the NGO (e.g. monthly electricity bill, purchase of paper, gasoline bills, recycling, water bill, etc.).
- We monitor our operations to assess where we can reduce wastage.
- We conduct annual assessments to understand how we can improve our activities to reduce wastage and protect the environment.

Anti-Corruption

PRINCIPLE 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Visakha Foundation is committed to its belief all organizations should work towards eradicating any form of bribery, corruption, extortion, and other unethical practices.

Assessment, Policy and Goals

- Visakha Foundation does not tolerate any form of extortion, bribery, or corruption within our workplace or partner organizations. Any partner, volunteer, or training student involved in these unethical practices will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- We do not endorse practices that will violate the UNGC Anti-Corruption Principle.
- The organization invests in bringing awareness to our members and volunteers to recognize any form of corruption if it is taking place.

Implementation

- We have established protocols to inform the HR Department a volunteer, training student, or partner organization discovers a situation involving bribery, extortion, or other forms of corruption.
- The organizational anti-corruption policy is made aware to all volunteers, partner organizations, members, and training students so they understand to act in accordance to these regulations.
- We conduct audits so that no corruption, bribery, malpractice, or extortion is being conducted in our workplace.

Measurement of outcomes

- The HR Department works closely with high-level personnel to handle any situation that is related to corruption in the workplace or if we are affected by partner organization.
- Reported incidents will be dealt with by evaluating prior actions and punishments.
- The HR Department works closely with high-level personnel to evaluate current anti-corruption standards of the organization so that it can be improved for future use.
- Every department is audited regularly to ensure that no corruption is being conducted in our workplace.

Concluding Statements

Overall, the Visakha Foundation is putting its effort in aligning with the Ten Principles of the UNGC. We are extremely proud of the progress the organization is making in its effort to build a sustainable future for our local community. In addition, we are proud to play a role in the local and global community to work towards the SDGs. We encourage all volunteers, members, training students, and partner organizations to participant in accordance with the Ten Principles of the UNGC to build a socially responsible world. Again, we thank all the people involved in our daily operations and practices in order to implement the UNGC Principles.