



Open Letter to Samsung Electronics Urging Support for the Mediation

To: Kwon oh hyun, CEO, Samsung Electronics
From: Civil Society leaders from 24 Countries

We represent a diverse and growing movement which includes a wide range of civil society organizations around the world who are calling on Samsung Electronics to meet your social responsibility by accepting the July 23, 2015 recommendations of the Mediation Committee which was established at your suggestion and with your support.

We are moved and saddened by the incidence of leukemia and other serious diseases amongst Samsung workers. In addition, we are pleased to see that Samsung has agreed to provide 100 billion Won (\$85.8 million) and we also recognize that you have offered your “sincerest apology” for the sickness and deaths of your workers.

But we are dismayed that you have also rejected the core recommendation of the Mediation Committee to fund an independent non-profit foundation to implement the basic provisions necessary to implement steps to improve workplace safety and transparency and to prevent the recurrence of occupational illnesses. The key to assuring effective prevention strategies in the future is through the proposed foundation, made up of a wide range of independent experts who can help you become a respected leader in occupational and environmental health, matching your leadership in global technology.

As you are keenly aware, there are many key issues still at stake here. We list just a few of the key questions that are of great concern:

- ** which diseases will qualify for compensation;
- ** how long a worker must have worked at the company;
- ** whether contract workers are covered;
- ** how much compensation will be provided to each worker/family;
- ** how much transparency about hazardous chemicals will Samsung permit, and how to define legitimate trade secrets;
- ** how much and what quality of chemical and health monitoring will be conducted (and made public);
- ** how to develop an effective strategy for assessing and incorporating safer chemicals into production.

We agree with the recent editorial in Hankyoreh which stated: “Taking preventive action to protect current workers is every bit as urgent as compensating past victims, and appears to reflect an understanding that a public pledge to maintain a healthy workplace is as important as apologizing to individuals who have suffered misfortune already.”

In addition, if these issues are to be resolved with the credibility and acceptance that they require, there need to be assurances to the public and to the workers and their families that these decisions will be made by an independent, credible expert body. If Samsung insists on controlling all of these key decisions by yourselves, you will not achieve the acceptance and labor peace that you profess to desire.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to accept the recommendations of the Mediation Committee and work with the other stakeholders to establish the independent non-profit foundation to carry out the remaining decisions.

We the undersigned are the initial signatories to this Open Letter - we will continue to circulate it to all of our networks and colleagues until we get a satisfactory response from you.

Sincerely,

Initial List of Signatories for Open Letter to Samsung Electronics

Name	Organization	Country (alphabetical order)
Konrad Rehling	Südwind	Austria
Md Rezaur Rahman	Executive Director at Law Life Culture	Bangladesh
Zuleica Nycz	Toxisphera Environmental Health Association	Brazil
Kathleen Ruff	RightOnCanada.ca	Canada
Dimitri Kessler	Economic Rights Institute	China
Paul Jobin	University of Paris Diderot	France
Alexandra Caterbow	Women in Europe for a Common Future	Germany
Emmanuel Odjam-Akumatey	Ecological Restorations	Ghana
ibrahima sory sylla	ONG Carbone Guinée	Guinea
Monina Wong	International Trade Union Congress	Hong Kong
Jason Chan	Labour Action China	Hong Kong
Pikki FUNG	Labour Education and Service Network	Hong Kong
Mohit Gupta	ANROEV	India
Jagdish Patel	ANROEV	India
edwin	FSPMI	Indonesia
Mr. Sugio FURUYA	JOSHRC	Japan
Mageswari Sangaralingam	Consumers Association of Penang	Malaysia
Gopalkishnam	Malaysian Trade Union Congress	Malaysia
Charles Hector	WH4C - Workers Hub For Change	Malaysia

Fernando Bejarano	Centro de Analisis y Accion sobre Toxicos y sus Alternativas	Mexico
David Foust	Cereal (Labor Studies and Action Center)	Mexico
Marisa Jacott	FRONTERAS COMUNES A.C.	Mexico
Pauline Overeem	GoodElectronics Network	Netherlands
Reden Alcantara	Metal Workers Alliance of the Philippines	Philippines
Cecilia V. Tuico	Workers Assistance Center, Inc.	Philippines
Olga Speranskaya	Eco-Accord	Russia
Jim McCourt	Phase Two	Scotland
Wen-Ling Tu	National Chenchi University	Taiwan
Penchom Saetang	Ecological Alert and Recovery -Thailand	THAILAND
Hilda Palmer	Hazards Campaign	United Kingdom
Kathleen Jenkins	Scottish Hazards Campaign	United Kingdom
James Puckett	Basel Action Network	United States
George Kohl	Communication Workers of America	United States
Michael Marx	Corporate Ethics International	United States
HK Chun	Georgia Southern University	United States
Elizabeth O'Connell	Green America	United States
Thomas H Gassert MD	Harvard School of Public Health	United States

Ted Smith	International Campaign for Responsible Technology	United States
Garrett Brown	Maquiladora Health & Safety Support Network	United States
Earl V Brown Jr	Solidarity Center	United States
Robin Schneider	Texas Campaign for the Environment	United States
NS Young	The Story of Stuff Project	United States
BONGKYOO CHOI	UC IRVINE	United States
Dee Chapell	United Methodist Women	United States
Amanda Hawes	Worksafe	United States
Ngo Huong	Center for Development and Integration	Vietnam