

URSP 3050

Special Topics in Urban Studies 1

Weeks 8 & 9: Encountering Others

Reflections

- Good to see individual styles being used.
- Need to demonstrate how your own thoughts intersect with the reading/s and key ideas (e.g. using and explaining key terms and ideas).
- It's ok to bring in ideas from other courses/readings/public affairs
- Remember that your marker (Jenny) needs to be taken onto a journey with you. (They are personal reflections that have an audience - weird!)

Week 2, 15 January: Key Concepts

I think this lecture is very inspiring and it really gives me some new insights into the alternative economy. The lecture began by introducing a term "capitalocentrism". The term is new to me, but the whole idea of the term is indeed what I am encountering every day. Capitalocentrism means that viewing "capitalism" as equivalent to "economy", and that the entire society is contained within capitalism. I actually agree that my life is engulfed in capitalism, and I strongly feel that every aspect in the Hong Kong society is influenced by the capitalists. In Hong Kong, the Basic Law clearly states that the operation of the capitalist system will be guaranteed under this law. Hong Kong people are also very proud of presenting the city as having the highest economic freedom, bringing wealth to many of them and creating the famous (or notorious) capitalists such as Lee Ka-Shing. We are all very used to the capitalist way of thinking our life.

The article written by Gibson-Graham, Cameron and Healy in 2014 (*Author's response in the Book Symposium on Take Back the Economy*) tells us that the economy is undoubtedly known to us through numbers and abstract data such as GDP figures, wage rates and so on. However, this article also tells us that capitalism is not as dominating as we perceive. Instead capitalism has many holes that allow alternative economic practices to exist alongside capitalist interests. Therefore we have to shift from "capitalocentrism" to a framework outside of capitalism. I think this further elaborates my reflection last week: that taking back the economy requires us to think out of the box. Many of us seem to be too absorbed in the capitalist system that we are not aware that we are giving out our right to the city bit by bit. This right to the city, as defined by David Harvey in *Rebel Cities*, is not only the right to enter the city, but the right to envision the future of the city. For example, we may think that old districts such as Sham Shui Po are so dilapidated that they have no economic value and have to be re-developed. Yet it is this mindset of having everything calculated in monetary terms that perpetuates the giving away of our right to the city. Only if we start rethinking "the economy" as an open space of ethical decision-making that is more environment and people centred can we take it back.

Week 3, 22 January: Surviving Well

Finally we came to the first theme of the book: surviving well. I was quite excited about this chapter as this chapter talks about surviving well through taking back our work. Working has always been annoying to many people: people need to work to earn a living but working is often very tiring and occupies most of the time in a day. Due to the fact that work really takes up lots of our time, it is important to rethink the relationships between our well-being and work. However, after reading the book chapter and listening to the lecture, I encountered some doubts.

Firstly, I was quite amazed by the idea of downshifting in order to get a better work-life balance in the US, Australia and the UK. Not only do downshifters cut back on their income, but they also tried to live a life with a less material focus. I agree that when considering human well-being, we have to look at the interaction between five elements: material, occupational, social, community and physical well-being. I also agree that simply maximizing one aspect of well-being cannot bring true happiness to a person, this is why interaction of the five elements is so important. Yet the point that obstructed me the most is that Asian cities like Hong Kong or Japan are well-known for their endless working hours but people still only earn an amount just enough for their daily necessity. For example, many people in Hong Kong are paying a great proportion of their income for housing, either to rent or to buy a house. Although people are working extremely long hours, the problem of "working poor" is still very rampant. Under these circumstances, I am quite skeptical that, taking back work to survive well seems to be the idea that is only practical in middle-class or above, where they are wealthy enough to adjust the work-life balance without suffering much decline in living standard.

Reflections

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Chapter 4

Take Back the Market: Encountering Others

What types of relationships to we have with the people and environments that enable us to survive well?

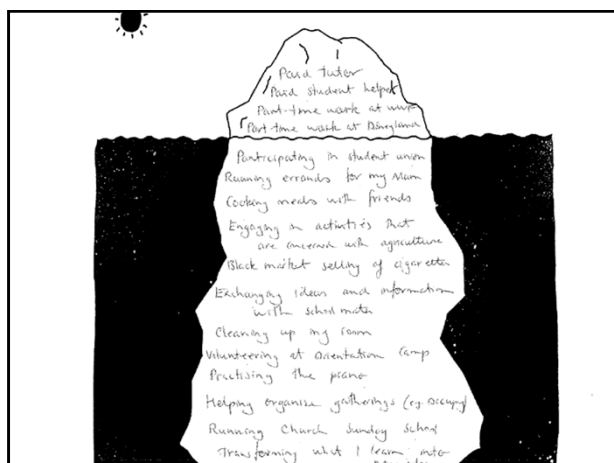
How much do we know about those who live and work in distant places and provide the inputs that we use to meet our needs?

How do we encounter others as we seek to survive well?

TBTE, xiii

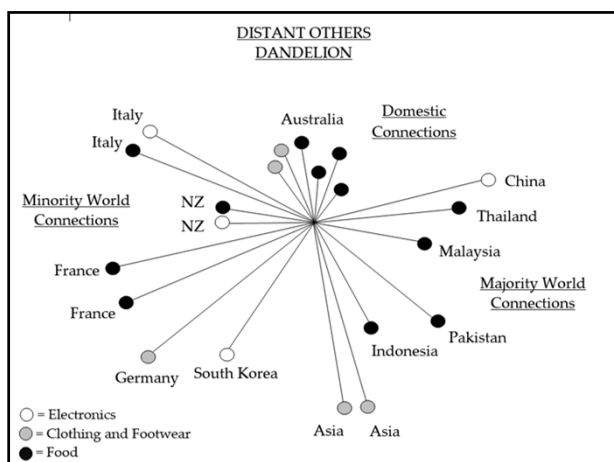
Tool: Where from? Inventory

- Select theme
- Think of items in this theme
- Where do the items come from?
- By what means did you obtain the items? (e.g. conventional; other sort of market; other means)



Tool: Distant Others Dandelion

- Can you show us your connections through a Distant Others Dandelion?



Concern

- Often when we buy items through markets we don't know about the conditions under which they were produced
- Often we focus on our own needs or desires

TAKE BACK THE MARKET 93

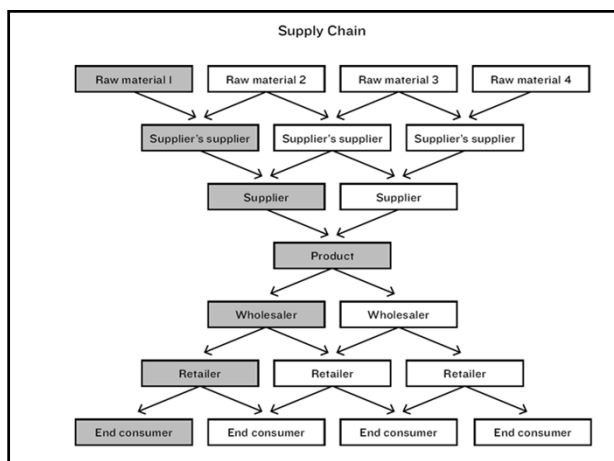
UNCORRECTED PROOF
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SHOPPER'S CHECKLIST

THE COST	THE UTILITY	OUR SENSORY RESPONSE
<input type="checkbox"/> Is it the right price?	<input type="checkbox"/> Is it functional? <input type="checkbox"/> Will it last? <input type="checkbox"/> Is it safe? <input type="checkbox"/> Is it a reliable brand?	<input type="checkbox"/> Does it look good? <input type="checkbox"/> Does it feel right? <input type="checkbox"/> Does it taste nice? <input type="checkbox"/> Does it sound right? <input type="checkbox"/> Does it smell good?

Concern

- Often when we buy items through markets we don't know about the conditions under which they were produced
- Often we focus on our own needs or desires
- It can be hard to figure out where the products we buy come from and what goes into them



Conflict Minerals, page 96+

CONTACT: 800-800-9000

THE ETHICAL CONSUMER RESEARCH ASSOCIATION'S CATEGORIES FOR ETHICAL RATINGS

Animals	Animal testing, factory farming, animal rights
Environment	Environmental reporting, nuclear power, climate change, pollutions and toxins, habitats and resources
People	Human rights, workers' rights, supply chain management, irresponsible marketing, arms and military supply
Politics	Antisocial finance, boycott calls, genetic engineering, political activities
Sustainability	Company ethos, product sustainability (including organic, fair trade, energy-efficient products)

Source: "Our Ethical Ratings," Ethical Consumer Research Association Web site, <http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/>.

Tool: Ethical Shopper's Checklist

- Go back to your Where From? Inventory
- Select some items that you don't know much about
- Can you find out more about how they are produced so you can complete the checklist?

ETHICAL SHOPPER'S CHECKLIST

THE COST	THE UTILITY	OUR SENSORY RESPONSE	THE PEOPLE AND PLANET CONNECTIONS
<input type="checkbox"/> Is it the right price?	<input type="checkbox"/> Is it functional? <input type="checkbox"/> Will it last? <input type="checkbox"/> Is it safe? <input type="checkbox"/> Is it a reliable brand?	<input type="checkbox"/> Does it look good? <input type="checkbox"/> Does it feel right? <input type="checkbox"/> Does it taste nice? <input type="checkbox"/> Does it sound right? <input type="checkbox"/> Does it smell good?	Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Are animals treated humanely? Environment <input type="checkbox"/> Are the environmental impacts of production addressed? People <input type="checkbox"/> Is well-being taken into account? Politics <input type="checkbox"/> Are the politics just? Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Does the product have a neutral or positive impact?

Collective Actions

- Tracking where products come from
- Legislating against unethical practices, for example:
 - Banning battery cages for egg laying hens
 - Suspension of Bangladesh from GSP

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Bangladesh factory collapse: big brands urged to pay into help fund

Primark, Matalan, Walmart, Benetton and JC Penney among 22 of 27 brands still to contribute after Rana Plaza disaster



Rescuers try to help garment workers trapped under rubble at the Rana Plaza building after it collapsed. 1,138 workers died in the disaster and thousands more were injured. Photograph: Andrew Brag/Reuters

Highlight All Match Case 3 of 3 matches

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GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

The United States and twenty-six other industrialized countries adopted unilateral programs known as the Generalized System of Preferences in the 1970s, each of which varies in terms of the beneficiaries, products covered, and type of preference granted.

The GSP program was designed to further the economic development of developing countries through the expansion of their exports, especially in industries that cannot compete with producers in more developed countries. Companies and consumers in the United States also benefit, since the elimination of duties lowers the overall price of products imported into the United States under the GSP program.

The Enabling Clause, officially called the "Decision on Differential and More Favorable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries," was adopted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1979 and allows developed country members to give differential and more favorable treatment to developing countries.

The Enabling Clause is the legal basis under the World Trade Organization (WTO) for GSP. Under the GSP program, developed countries offer non-reciprocal preferential treatment (such as zero or low duties on imports) to qualifying imports from developing countries. Preference-giving countries unilaterally determine which countries and which products are included in their schemes.

The U.S. GSP program, which began in 1976 and was last reauthorized through December 31, 2010, grants duty free treatment to more than 4,800 tariff lines (defined at the eight digit level in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States) that are imported from 131 designated developing countries and territories.

Top U.S. GSP beneficiary countries include India, Brazil, Thailand, Indonesia, Turkey, Philippines, South Africa, Argentina, and Russia. Approximately 1,400 tariff lines have been exclusively dedicated to the least developed (LDCs) and African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) countries. In 2008, GSP eligible beneficiary countries shipped goods worth more than \$31 billion to the United States duty free under this program.

ITA analysts review product preferences each year during the U.S. GSP Annual Review, in which interested parties can



Generalized System of Preferences: Background and Renewal Debate

Vivian C. Jones
Specialist in International Trade and Finance

December 16, 2014

On June 27, 2013, the President announced the suspension of GSP benefits for Bangladesh on the grounds that "it has not taken or is not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights to workers in the country." The suspension became effective 60 days after the publication of the proclamation in the Federal Register on September 3, 2013. As of this writing, U.S. Administration trade officials who reviewed Bangladesh's progress have indicated that the country has made advances in some areas, including hiring more building inspectors and increasing union registrations; however, the country still comes short on worker safety issues and labor law reforms related to freedom of association and collective bargaining.



Collective Actions

- Tracking where products come from
- Legislating against unethical practices, for example:
 - Banning battery cages for egg laying hens
 - Suspension of Bangladesh from GSP
- Voluntary Agreements, for example FLA



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COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Most students take pride in their universities and like to demonstrate school spirit. From t-shirts, sweatpants and hats, to baking accessories, golf equipment and headphones, students and alumni buy many products bearing their school's logo. Even as they enjoy these products, students and alumni also care that college-topped products are manufactured in a facility that respects its workers and treats them well. FLA university affiliates are committed to ensuring that fair labor standards and human rights are respected wherever their branded merchandise is produced. FLA-affiliated universities require their licensees — any company manufacturing products bearing the school's marks or logo — to commit to the FLA Workplace Code of Conduct. Licensees are required to meet strict standards, and to develop social compliance systems that identify risks to workers and fix problems quickly when they are identified. FLA provides tools for college and university officials to monitor the performance of their licensees. **Is your school involved? Find out below.**

[Read more](#)

 **ALBION COLLEGE**

 **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**

About the school's commitment to protecting workers' rights and the FLA Workplace Code of Conduct: As a condition of being permitted to produce and/or sell licensed products bearing the name, trademark and/or images of American University, licensees and licensee's subcontractors are expected to meet a code of conduct that is consistent with Fair Labor Association and Worker Rights Consortium codes.

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PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS WORLDWIDE

From coffee and electronics to apparel and footwear, most of the products we enjoy and use every day are made by men and women in factories and on farms around the world. These workers harvest the cotton used to make our shirts, sew buttons and zippers onto our jackets, grow the cocoa our children drink, and make high-tech soles for our running shoes. Unfortunately, many of them work in deplorable conditions.

FLA's Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Improving Workers' Lives

The products we buy should not come at the cost of workers' rights. The Fair Labor Association believes that all goods should be produced fairly and ethically, and brings together three key constituencies — universities, civil society organizations (CSOs) and companies — to find sustainable solutions to systemic labor issues. Since 1999, FLA has helped improve workers' lives by:

- Holding affiliated companies accountable for implementing FLA's Code of Conduct across their supply chains.
- Conducting external assessments so that consumers can be assured of the integrity of the products they buy.
- Creating a space for CSOs to engage with companies and other stakeholders to find viable solutions to labor concerns.

1 Set Standards
FLA's Code of Conduct sets the standards.

2 Monitor & Report
FLA monitoring holds companies accountable.

3 Support Compliance
Companies receive clear guidance and support.

Our Mission: Protecting Workers' Rights

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Our Mission: Protecting Workers' Rights

Participating Companies
Participating Suppliers
Collegiate Licensees
Colleges & Universities
Civil Society Organizations
Benefits & Membership

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PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

As part of FLA, some of the world's leading brands have committed to ensuring fair labor practices and safe and humane working conditions throughout their supply chains. Companies that have committed to FLA's Code of Conduct and established systems to identify and remedy ethical violations are making significant strides towards that goal. These companies are working with FLA to develop and improve social compliance systems that flag issues and lead to sustainable solutions when workers are at risk. Companies join the FLA on a voluntary basis, but they must meet strict labor standards for as long as they are affiliated. FLA holds Participating Companies accountable for monitoring 100% of their own supply chains to ensure that they meet FLA labor standards. In addition, FLA conducts independent assessments of a random sample of companies' supplier factories. **Click the logos below to learn more about brands' compliance efforts and results of FLA assessments of their suppliers.**

 **adidas GROUP**

All adidas Group's apparel, footwear and equipment products. The adidas Group brands include adidas, Reebok, TaylorMade adidas Golf, Rockport, CCM, and Ashworth. adidas Group's compliance program is accredited by FLA.

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 **AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS, INC.**

All apparel by American Eagle Outfitters®, aerie® by american eagle, and 7Kids by american eagle® brands.

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PARTICIPATING SUPPLIERS

Manufacturers, farms, factories and factory groups are key players in the global supply chain. Often, these producers — called "suppliers" — are the first line of defense when it comes to protecting workers. They are responsible for meeting brands' social compliance requirements and upholding brands' codes of conduct in their facilities. FLA Participating Suppliers take this level of commitment further, taking ownership of their own programs and assuming a leadership position by directly committing to implement in their facilities the same high labor standards as FLA Participating Companies. The joint commitment of brands and the facilities supplying them is essential to improving conditions for workers. **Learn more about suppliers' efforts below.**

 **Brooklyn Mills Ltd. de C.V.** is headquartered in Tennessee. Two factories in El Salvador produce knit tops and bottoms, outerwear, jackets, activewear, and more.

[Read more](#)

 **CF CHEN FENG**

Chen Feng, based in Kunshan, Jiangsu, China (near Shanghai). Six factories produce apparel, including shirts, pants, leisure suits, pajamas, sports wear, silk shirts, and children's wear.

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TRANSPARENCY

Assessments
Tracking Charts
Complaints And Investigations

Catalyzing Positive Change for Workers

Transparency is essential to upholding fair labor standards and protecting workers throughout product supply chains. If we don't know what is happening behind the scenes in factories and on farms around the world, we cannot address the issues and make positive changes. As affiliates of FLA, companies agree to subject their supply chains to independent assessments and monitoring — the results of which are published here. This type of transparency helps consumers make more informed decisions about the products they buy and helps ensure brand accountability. There is no perfect brand or factory — labor issues are often identified even at the best facilities. FLA's assessments lead to an open and honest dialogue about the conditions that workers face and facilitate swift action in consultation with workers' groups, civil society organizations and others.

Assessments

Workers and factory managers give their perspectives to help FLA better understand factory conditions and issues. More than 16,000 workers have been interviewed or surveyed since 2007.

[More >](#)

Tracking Charts

Since 2002, FLA has conducted more than 1,500 unannounced factory visits throughout the supply chains of company affiliates. The results of these assessments are publicly available.

[More >](#)

Complaints & Investigations

FLA's transparent and effective process for handling third party complaints and investigations addresses workers' rights violations flagged by union representatives, workers, or local CSOs.

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COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

In addition to its standard due diligence activities, FLA is equipped to intervene rapidly when workers' rights have been violated or are at risk. As a multi-stakeholder initiative, FLA is uniquely positioned to bring civil society organizations, government agencies, brands and factory management together to address issues quickly and in a sustainable way. Through its complaints and investigations, FLA works quickly to bring resolution to workers' rights violations flagged by union representatives, workers, and local civil society organizations. When allegations are brought against a company that has committed to FLA labor standards, FLA takes immediate action in one of two ways: If an official complaint has been filed, FLA informs all involved parties and initiates its effective and proven Third Party Complaint process. If a complaint has not been filed, but FLA or its affiliates learn about allegations from a credible third party, FLA may launch an independent investigation. Learn more about the Third Party Complaint process and view complaint and investigation reports below.

Ergonomics Third Party Complaint Regarding Gildan Activewear Facilities in Honduras

Publication date: Wednesday, July 3, 2013
Report type: Third Party Complaint

On February 8, 2011, the Collective of Honduran Women (Colectiva de Mujeres Hondureñas, CODMUH) filed a Third Party Complaint with the Fair Labor Association (FLA) with respect to ergonomics at facilities in Honduras owned and operated by Gildan Activewear.

[Read More](#)

Ergonomics Third Party Complaint Regarding Hanesbrands Facilities in Honduras

Publication date: Wednesday, July 3, 2013
Report type: Third Party Complaint

On November 30, 2010, the Collective of Honduran Women (Colectiva de Mujeres Hondureñas, CODMUH) filed a Third Party Complaint with the Fair Labor Association

Texops factory in El Salvador

Publication date: Thursday, June 20, 2013
Report type: Third Party Complaint

On May 10, 2013, FLA commissioned Comisión para la Verificación de Códigos de Conducta (COVERCO) to investigate allegations by the union Sindicato de Trabajadoras, Trabajadores, Sastreros, Costureras y Similares (SITRASACOS) that workers' freedom of association had been violated at the Textiles Opico, S.A. de C.V. (TEXOPS) factory in El Salvador.

[Read More](#)

Tecnorex factory in Nicaragua

Publication date: Wednesday, June 19, 2013
Report type: Third Party Complaint

On March 20, 2013, FLA commissioned Comisión para la Verificación de Códigos de Conducta (COVERCO) to investigate incidents of violence against workers and allegations that their freedom of association rights had been violated at the Tecnorex factory in Nicaragua.

[Read More](#)

JoeAnne Dominicana factory in the Dominican Republic

Publication date: Monday, June 17, 2013
Report type: Third Party Complaint

On April, 2013, FLA commissioned COVERCO to investigate allegations by the labor union FEDOTRAZONAS that workers' freedom of association had been violated at the factory JoeAnne Dominicana in the Dominican Republic.

[Read More](#)

Second Foxconn Verification Status Report

Publication date: Thursday, May 16, 2013
Report type: Investigation

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SECOND FOXCONN VERIFICATION STATUS REPORT

Publication date: Thursday, May 16, 2013

From January 15 - 23, 2013, FLA assessors revisited three Foxconn facilities in Guanlan, Longhua and Chengdu to verify the implementation status of remedial action items through December 31, 2012. This report describes progress made by Apple and Foxconn to implement action items agreed to following FLA's original investigation in February 2012. The January verification is FLA's second verification exercise. Read the report, along with detailed information on each of the action items, below.

- Second Foxconn Verification Status Report
- Appendix 1: Foxconn Verification Tracker - Guanlan
- Appendix 2: Foxconn Verification Tracker - Longhua
- Appendix 3: Foxconn Verification Tracker - Chengdu

Read the original investigation report and action plan at www.fairlabor.org/report/foxconn-investigation-report, and see FLA's last verification update from March 2012 at www.fairlabor.org/report/foxconn-remediation-verification.

Report type: Investigation
Associated organization: Apple

Upload:
 second_foxconn_verification_status_report.pdf

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FAIR LABOR ASSOCIATION

Improving Workers' Lives Worldwide

SECOND FOXCONN VERIFICATION STATUS REPORT

May 2013
 Prepared by Fair Labor Association

SECOND FOXCONN VERIFICATION STATUS REPORT



The FLA indicated that it would schedule follow-up verification visits to track developments and verify progress reported by Foxconn and Apple. FLA's independent external verification process evaluates progress by affiliated companies and/or factories to resolve issues identified during an FLA assessment or investigation. FLA's verification process includes a review of documentation such as policies and procedures, time and payroll records, etc.; visual inspection of applicable facilities; and interviews with workers and management.

From June 25 to July 6, 2012, Openview and SCSA returned to each of the three Foxconn facilities for the first verification assessment to evaluate the implementation status of action items through June 30, 2012. The results of the verification were published by the FLA in August 2012.¹

SECOND VERIFICATION OF ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Local independent monitoring organizations Openview and SCSA conducted a second round of verifications at the three Foxconn facilities over the period January 15 to January 23, 2013, focusing on the implementation status of remedial action items through December 31, 2012. FLA staff also participated in the assessments. Foxconn management provided full cooperation and unrestricted access to the facilities throughout the verification process. As shown in Table 1, the action plans developed by Apple and Foxconn consisted of 350 individual action items, of which

On March 28, 2012, FLA published detailed reports on each of the three factories along with recommendations for improving conditions for workers, and a complete action plan prepared by Apple and Foxconn to address each issue identified during the FLA assessment. Each action item included a description of the steps to be taken, the name of the unit within Foxconn responsible for implementation, and a timeline for completion. The action plan stretches over a period of 15 months, from April 1, 2012, through July 1, 2013, with deadlines for many of the action items set in the first three months.

SECOND FOXCONN VERIFICATION STATUS REPORT

- Column L indicates FLA's method of verification.
- Not due for verification indicates that the action item's due date has not yet occurred.
- Column M shows the status of the action item as assigned by the verification team.
- Completed indicates that FLA has verified completion of an action item.
- Pending indicates that the action item is due at a future date.

ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

As described in the initial verification report, Foxconn management has put in place numerous physical changes to improve worker health and safety since the investigation, including the enforcement of ergonomic breaks, changing the design of workers' equipment to guard against repetitive stress injuries, updating of maintenance policies to ensure equipment is working properly and testing of emergency protective equipment like eyewashes and sprinklers. Since June 2012, Foxconn management also enhanced factory grievance systems; and performed additional risk analysis in the areas of health and safety, which provides guidance to improve existing health and safety policies and procedures. With respect to sustainable improvement regarding construction of additional fire escapes and toilets, the required actions to carry out such construction have been taken but the actual construction is ongoing and is not due to be completed until July-August 2013.⁴

FLA assessors reported notable increases in the participation of workers in union committees and a corresponding decline in management participation in such committees since the first verification visit in June 2012. As a result of union elections held to fill in vacancies and to increase the strength of workers representation, from the first verification assessment through January 2013, the percentage of worker representatives in the main union committees increased significantly in all three facilities (see Table 2): to 38.7% in Guanlan in January 2013 (from 0% in June 2012); to 40.9% in Longhua (from 10.3%), and to 29.5% in Chengdu (from 7%). It is expected that workers' participation will rise even higher when the next election is held. The schedule of these elections at the three Foxconn units assessed is as follows:

- General Labor Union for Foxconn Group - Shenzhen Area
New election will be held on January 3, 2015 (Guanlan & Longhua)
- General Labor Union for Foxconn Group - Chengdu Area
New election will be held on March 24, 2014 (Chengdu)

	2012	2013	2012	2013	% of total workforce
	Union	Union	Union	Union	
Guanlan					
June 2012	27	0	0	0	
January 2013	42	24	38.7		
Longhua					
June 2012	29	3	10.3		
January 2013	44	18	40.9		
Chengdu					

Collective Actions

- Tracking where products come from
- Legislating against unethical practices, for example:
 - Banning battery cages for egg laying hens
 - Suspension of Bangladesh from GSP
- Voluntary Agreements, for example FLA
- Developing different sorts of markets, for example:
 - Fair Trade
 - CSA

HOMEWORK

Reflections from Today

Case Study (we're working on this next week)