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12.02.2012

Organizational greening through footprint reporting and promotion of green jobs and competencies: how labour relations transform

This doctoral research investigates the links between the greening processes, happening in the multinational companies, their supply networks, and in the Chinese organizations in China, due to the reporting of the carbon emissions and ecological footprint, and the effects it has on the existing labour relations of these organizations. China has emerged among the world's biggest carbon emitters with a low capacity of its stakeholders to address emissions reductions. As the technologies for the measurement, management, and reporting of the emissions are streaming to China from the EU and North America the organizations of the local production systems in China struggle with integrating these approaches and tools into their processes and practices. Among the tools available for reporting emissions are Carbon Footprint and Life-Cycle Assessment. At the same time, the skills and competencies for integrating these tools in organizations need to be developed, and here the policies of "green jobs" and the perspective of the International Labour Organization is useful here as "the notion of green jobs summarizes the transformation of economies, enterprises, workplaces and labour markets into a sustainable, low-carbon economy providing decent work" (ibid). Jobs are green when they help reduce negative environmental impact and ultimately lead to environmentally, economically and socially sustainable enterprises and economies. The "decent job" aspect of green collar jobs is tied to the improvement of the labour conditions. How do the multinational corporations and national enterprises in China understand the link between improvement of the employment conditions and the shaping of their ability to stay competitive at the global level? Do they understand the relationship between best practices in labour relations and in environmental performance and footprint reporting?