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Your Partners for Responsible International Workplaces

## Newsletter October 2008

### Industry Survey Results: Collaboration

In August of this year, we asked members and industry contacts to complete a survey that would help the FFC to better understand its position in the marketplace and ways to provide additional value to the community in the future. We also asked for your ideas on what collaboration means and to provide information on current and future practices.

As promised, we wanted to share the results with you, the “voice of the worker.” In this newsletter, we are providing an overview of the results on collaboration. Please stay tuned for additional survey results in subsequent newsletters.

#### Collaboration Practices

As a starting point, we wanted to know in *what areas are you currently collaborating today, and what your plans are for the future*. Here is what you told us:

##### *Level of Collaboration Today*

- Auditing 73.30%
- Training 50.00%
- Remediation 59.50%
- Capacity Building 52.40%
- Worker Grievance Channels 18.60%

##### *Planned Future Collaboration*

- Auditing 95.0%
- Training 87.2%
- Remediation 80.5%
- Capacity Building 82.9%
- Worker Grievance Channels 66.7%

#### The Role of Collaboration

Next, we wanted to know your open views *on the role of collaboration*. While everyone had various point-of-views, the overarching themes were that collaboration can achieve:

- Real-time access to factory information
- Elimination of redundancy; efficiency in processes and efforts

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## Also This Month

### FFC Membership Drive

We are currently running a membership drive, with up to 35% in savings for those signing up by the end of the year, to support our industry efforts to maximize collaborative cost-saving opportunities in ethical sourcing. By leveraging these offers, companies can realize their return on investment in FFC after only a few collaborative activities. See our [press release](#) for more information.

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- Reduced costs
- Increased leverage with suppliers
- Shared resources, expertise and tools
- Knowledge transfer and sharing of best practices
- More active role for remediation, with aligned CAP management
- Easier implementation by suppliers

Ultimately, collectively these can achieve enhanced performance and improved workplace conditions in factories.

### Collaboration Defined

We asked you, *what is collaboration?* Here is how you defined it:

- Information sharing
- Joint auditing
- Joint remediation
- Joint education & training
- Shared tools development
- Stakeholder engagement
- Harmonization of audit methodologies & tools
- Harmonization of code of conduct / standards

### Role of Technology

We asked you, *how can technology help collaboration?* Here is what you told us:

- Identification of opportunities for collaboration
- Communication and workflow management
- Benchmarking
- Performance Measurement

### Vision for Future

Finally, we asked you *what would you like to see in the future?* Here is what you told us:

- One very good, in depth audit per factory
- Sharing & collaboration as the standard, moving away from silos
- Trusted self-reporting from factories, with occasional third party verification
- Universal codes and established monitoring standards for industries, which are agreed upon by all: brands, suppliers, NGOs, government, etc.
- A move from auditing and remediation to capacity building and relationship management
- A market mechanism that in addition to price, quality and delivery, rewards “good” compliance performance and sanctions the others

### Industry Profile of Respondents

- Apparel & textile: 56%
- Consumer products: retail: 8%
- Electronics: 2%
- Footwear: 8%

- Furnishings: 2%
- Manufacturing: 4%
- Professional services: 12%
- Sporting goods: 4%
- Technology: 2%
- Pharmaceutical: 2%

### **Thank you!**

Thank you again for your continued support of the FFC and its mission.

(If you are interested in the raw results, please email [information@fairfactories.org](mailto:information@fairfactories.org))

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## **FFC Collaboration Research Project**

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### **Next Steps for the FFC: Research**

In its continued efforts to stay on top of the industry, offer valuable products and services, and most importantly deliver on its mission, the FFC has secured funding for a six month research project that seeks to:

- Identify and understand drivers and opportunities for future innovations in industry-wide collaborative efforts in the supply chain
- Identify barriers to collaboration
- Explore the role technology can play in speeding up time for adoption and ensuring the implementation and success of these collaboration efforts

### **Project Details**

At the end of the project, we want to easily answer the question: *How can we get industry working together to share information on their factory audits and to collaborate on improving conditions, such that economies of scale and efficiencies ultimately lead to easier/better monitoring and improved factory conditions?*

The project will build on the research and findings from the surveys conducted in the summer of 2008. We will use primary and secondary research, including focus groups and interviews. We will engage stakeholders in industry (various sectors), government, academia, and non-profit sectors. The project will result in an action-oriented business plan for implementation of programs identified in the research. We will share the business plan with the corporate responsibility community and other stakeholders for valuable peer review.

### **Get Involved**

In order to achieve the goals set forth by this research project, we need your help. This is a great opportunity to have your opinions heard, share your expertise, and play a vital role in directing the future of the industry. The project will be launched in the near future, and so we kindly ask all

interested parties contact us by December 15th, 2008.

To volunteer to help with this research project, or for further information, please contact:

Marianne Voss  
Executive Director, Fair Factories Clearinghouse  
email: [mvoss@fairfactories.org](mailto:mvoss@fairfactories.org)  
phone: +888-FFC-NGO1

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**Fair Factories Clearinghouse - 244 Fifth Avenue, Suite M271 - New York, NY 10001 - ph 888-332-6461**