Meeting on UN Consumer Guidelines

By Jeremy Malcolm
Created 10/01/2011 - 10:42
Submitted by Jeremy Malcolm on Mon, 10/01/2011 - 10:42

Consumers International and its members are drafting proposed revisions to the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection to incorporate A2K [1] principles that are important for today's consumers. This would provide an international soft law instrument that consumers can use to advocate for laws and corporate practices that promote access to knowledge. More information [2] on this campaign is available.

Consumers are meeting in Hong Kong on 3 May (ahead of the CI World Congress [3]) to work together on this campaign. The purpose of this meeting will be twofold: firstly to brief CI members and interested members of the public about the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection and this campaign to amend them, and secondly to work on some draft text for the amendments themselves, through facilitated small group discussion.

Please continue to read on for information about the meeting's:

- Schedule
- Speakers
- Location
- RSVP

Schedule

AM SESSION - BACKGROUND

09:30-09:45 Registration
09:45-10:00 Welcome and introductions (Jeremy Malcolm)
10:00-10:30 History and importance of the UN Guidelines and their future (Robin Brown)
10:30-11:00 UNCTAD's role in global Competition and Consumer Policy (Hassan Qaqaya)
11:00-11:30 Tea break
11:30-12:00 Consumer advocacy and the eight consumer rights (Shirish Deshpande)
12:00-13:00 Proposed A2K amendments from working group reviewing the Guidelines (Jeremy Malcolm)
13:00-14:30 Lunch break

PM SESSION - DRAFTING

14:30-15:00 Briefing to table groups
15:00-16:00 Drafting session
16:00-16:15 Tea break
16:15-17:15 Synthesis and discussion
17:15-17:30 Closing remarks and next steps

Speakers

- Robin Brown has 25 years of experience in consumer and business regulatory affairs. He spent 10 years as the chair and chief executive of Australia's national consumer body, the Australian Federation of Consumer Organisations. Robin has been involved in projects to advance consumer protection and competition policy and regulation in a number of developing countries. In recent years Robin has served as a Councilor of the Australian Consumers International (CI) is the only independent global campaigning voice for consumers. With over 220 member organisations in 115 countries, we are building a powerful international consumer movement to help protect and empower consumers everywhere. For more information, visit www.consumersinternational.org.
Consumers’ Association. He holds a BA and a Master of Public Policy from the Australian National University.

- **Hassan Qaqaya** is the Head of United Nations Competition law and Consumer Policies programmes. He holds Postgraduate degrees in economics from LSE, UK and LLM in competition and consumer laws, Lausanne. He has been with UNCTAD since 1981, first in the division on Money, finance and Development, Globalization division and later in the Division on International trade in Goods and Services. He was the Chief of UNCTAD's Competition law and Consumer policy advisory services for 12 years. He has advised developing countries on the formulation and enforcement of national Consumer protection and competition laws, setting up competition and Consumer protection agencies, institutional building, application guidelines and advising case handlers and adjudicators.

- **Shirish Deshpande**, a Chairman of the largest voluntary consumer body - Mumbai Grahak Panchayat (MGP), is a graduate in Economics and Law, with Diploma in Business Management. He is a leading Consumer Advocate from India with several landmark consumer protection & public interest cases to his credit. Shirish is a passionate advocate for effective implementation of UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection. He has been appointed as a Consultant to draft Consumer Protection Act for Fiji under EU project undertaken by Consumer Council of Fiji. Shirish has been a regular contributor to various consumer columns in print media for last 25 years. He has authored books on Indian Consumer Protection Act, Medical Negligence etc. He is a recipient of several prestigious awards for his outstanding contribution in the field of consumer protection.

- **Jeremy Malcolm** is CI's Project Coordinator for IP and Communications, and coordinates CI's global A2K campaign. His background is as an IT and IP lawyer, admitted in New York and Australia. He completed his doctorate in law on the topic of multi-stakeholder governance.

**Location**

- **Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre** (HKCEC)

Expo Drive, Wanchai, Hong Kong, China

The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre is located at the business hub of Hong Kong - Wanchai district. Overlooking the Victoria Harbour, HKCEC offer direct access to public transport system including Mass Transit Railway, Airport Bus, City Buses and Ferries, and popular shopping and entertainment attractions.

**RSVP**

You may RSVP either by using the contact form on this site, or via the LinkedIn or Facebook events.

**Event Date and Time:** 03/05/2011 - 01:00 - 09:00

**Source URL:** [http://a2knetwork.org/meeting-un-consumer-guidelines](http://a2knetwork.org/meeting-un-consumer-guidelines)

**Links:**

1. [http://a2knetwork.org/glossary/term/42](http://a2knetwork.org/glossary/term/42)
2. [http://a2knetwork.org/guidelines](http://a2knetwork.org/guidelines)
4. [http://a2knetwork.org/glossary/term/41](http://a2knetwork.org/glossary/term/41)
6. [http://a2knetwork.org/contact](http://a2knetwork.org/contact)
Consumers International (CI) is the only independent global campaigning voice for consumers. With over 220 member organisations in 115 countries, we are building a powerful international consumer movement to help protect and empower consumers everywhere. For more information, visit www.consumersinternational.org.