

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON DEVELOPMENT - Charoen Pokphand Group Input

The right to development concerns not just society and the government, but all businesses as well. Companies can only grow alongside the communities they serve, which is why Charoen Pokphand Group's operations are guided by an important mandate by the Senior Chairman, Dhanin Chearavanont: to put the needs of the country and communities we operate within before the company's own. Called the "Three-Benefits Principle," this mantra has been embedded in the Group's culture since its beginnings as a humble seed shop. By ensuring that the Group grows alongside the people we employ and serve, we are, in turn, supported by the community. The Group therefore supports the right to development of all individuals, communities, and countries in our sustainability efforts, alongside our employees, local communities, state agencies, UN organizations, and all our other stakeholders. This principle, deeply embedded in the Group's culture, underscores the interconnectedness between business success, community well-being, and societal progress. With this approach, businesses are encouraged to act as catalysts for positive change, fostering inclusive growth and development for collective societies and the wider communities.

A. Climate Justice: Loss and damage

4. In addition to making a financial contribution to the Fund, what non-financial components may be relevant from a climate justice perspective (e.g., transfer of green technologies, building of capacity and relocation pathways for climate-induced migrants)?

- As the global economy transitions away from carbon-intensive fuels and progresses towards new, greener technologies, we must ensure that this transition does not disproportionately impact developing nations and vulnerable communities. This is especially relevant for new regulations emanating from the Global North, often imposed upon nations of the Global South.

- For this reason, we must ensure that these dedicated efforts help contribute towards driving net-zero targets and do not turn protectionist or place undue burdens upon those who these laws are meant to help.
 - To illustrate, a prime example is the European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, otherwise known as CBAM. This regulation is meant to prevent carbon leakage – when carbon emissions are simply “exported” to countries without carbon taxes or fewer regulations – by placing a carbon tax on goods imported from outside of the EU.

- While ensuring a level-playing field for EU industries, there are fears that this can impact developing countries’ industries negatively. Through no fault of their own, many countries in the Global South remain dependent on carbon-intensive fuels for many industrial uses, stemming from the lack of capital to invest in green energy or import machinery that can take advantage of renewables.
- Therefore, to ensure that a “just transition” from carbon to green energy can take place, state-owned entities and international organizations must work together to support the SMEs (small-medium enterprises) that make up the backbone of most developing economies in order to help them adapt to new regulations and transition to sustainable practices.
 - One of the key challenges of SMEs lies within their lack of access to capital, such that undue restrictions and regulations will only serve to harm their well-being and livelihoods.
 - Hence, the government must also encourage entrepreneurship in new industries such as green technologies through loosening bureaucratic barriers and providing tax incentives.
- These strategic approaches can help jump-start the transition, fostering a new industrial and capital base needed to facilitate the move towards net-zero targets. By working closely with the private sector by fostering entrepreneurship in emerging industries and facilitating access to green technologies, we can unlock the entrepreneurial spirit and harness the essential skills, knowledge, and talent needed for us to facilitate a “just transition” for not just the Global North, but the whole world.

- C.P. Group itself recognizes the importance of a “just transition” towards its net zero commitment by 2050. The Group has been embedding a green culture throughout the value chain. The Group provides green upskilling and reskilling opportunities to suppliers, including farmers in the group's supply chain. Through business units, C.P. Group uses sustainable logistics to reduce scope 3 GHG emissions and continues to offer a range of sustainable products and services to its valued customers.

B. The right to development of children and future generations

2. How are the human rights of children and future generations impacted by development-related decisions (e.g., related to economic development or new technologies) made by the present adult generation? Please provide examples from your country or area of work.

- As we push for climate justice to preserve our environment for the next generation, we must also recognize our duty to provide them with the opportunities and education they need to thrive. Thus, the right to development of children is another focus area of Charoen Pokphand Group’s sustainable development efforts.
- As part of the private sector, we play an important part as providers of essential goods and services for the youth as well as employers of future generations. We are a direct beneficiary of a society that is thriving, skilled, and ethical. Therefore, throughout our many operations across our subsidiaries, we strive to provide a positive impact on the development of children and youth.
- Recognizing that today's decisions impact the rights and opportunities of tomorrow's leaders, Charoen Pokphand Group prioritizes investments in education and skills-building for youth. This begins with primary and mandatory education. With many pupils in state schools falling behind the digital divide – lacking digital connectivity and devices – there is the danger that their education will not prepare them with the necessary skills to succeed in the job market.
 - To address this issue, Connex ED Foundation, a foundation supported by the Group and its subsidiaries, works to enhance and uplift the education system across Thailand. This includes providing the basic connectivity and devices for

schools to enable students to learn about technology, access the internet and education materials, and accustom themselves to these devices.

- Furthermore, training is provided to instructors such that they are able to make the most use of these enhancements - all of which is measured and monitored through an integrated digital system, with on-going evaluations of schools and pupil progress. This country-wide effort will continue to expand and be improved upon, as we at C.P. Group believe in the importance of education in development.
- Furthermore, a child's development is contingent not only upon the quality of education, but also their nutritional intake. C.P. Group and its subsidiaries leverage our expertise in food and agriculture to help support schools in providing quality food.
 - For instance, the Charoen Pokphand Foundation for Rural Life Development helped students in rural schools raise laying hens to supply eggs for their lunch program in the "Raising Layers for Student Lunches" project. Extra eggs are sold to the nearby community to raise money for the school as well.
 - CP Foods (CPF) assisted this initiative by funding chicken coops and providing the animal feed. Experts in animal husbandry from CPF also regularly visit the schools to share knowledge of farm management and provide technical advice. Currently, over 800 schools across Thailand are participating in this program, helping children obtain the necessary nutrients needed to grow up healthy and strong.
- As we transition into a new, green, and future economy, traditional educational institutions are struggling to properly equip their students according to the private sector's needs. The Group is addressing this issue with the Panyapiwat Institute of Management (PIM), owned by our subsidiary CPALL.
 - With unique insights into the private sector, PIM provides graduates with skills and experience that aligns with demands of the new job market. With PIM's program of work-based education, students spend time in work-experiences and internships that are relevant to their studies, ensuring that they are prepared for work the moment they receive their degrees.

- Whether they are studying logistics, aviation, management, or hospitality, PIM's many partnerships within C.P. Group and beyond provide the students with work opportunities beyond any traditional education institutions.
- In addition, True Digital Academy, under True Corporation, also provides essential education on technological areas of study, including data science, digital transformation, digital marketing, and more. This will ensure that the next generation obtains the foundational knowledge necessary to keep up with the disruptions of the job market.

3. How to ensure a meaningful participation of children and future generations in development-related decisions at all levels (e.g., in policy formulation or impact assessment)? Are there any existing good practices or models?

- The voice of the youth is often lost among the many discussions we have on development – yet it is their future that is at stake. We must not only amplify their voices, but also provide them with opportunities to put their ideas into reality. As a business, the youth represent the next generation of leaders and employees – and we see them as critical to our future.
- The Group, thus, provides multiple avenues for their self-improvement and autonomy, one of which is the One Young World (OYW) program. The Group recruits our most ambitious, ethical-minded, and talented young employees into a program centered around the annual One Young World global summit.
 - Aside from having a chance to attend the forum in-person to discuss, learn, exchange ideas and network with other youth leaders from around the world, the Group also arranges for them to participate in charity work, experience the Group's various operations, and learn about sustainable development and SDGs in greater depth through visits and training sessions throughout the year.
 - By providing them with this leadership opportunity for self-improvement, the Group intends to cultivate a generation of brave leaders who will lead us forward sustainably and ethically.

- In conjunction to this, the Group is running several leadership development programs – the largest of which is the Future Leaders Development Program (FLP), with over 2,000 new talents recruited through the program.
 - The FLP is a management trainee program which embeds young talent into different operations across the Group as front-line staff, allowing them to acquire an intimate understanding of the work being done. When they are promoted into management positions, they will already possess the leadership, vision, and in-depth knowledge of the operations needed to make good decisions.

4. How to integrate an intersectional approach to the participation of children to ensure that differentiated impacts on children due to various discriminations, exclusions or vulnerabilities are considered? Kindly share any good practices.

- As part of our efforts, we must also ensure that no child is left behind. Recognizing that there are children who are more vulnerable due to their circumstances, C.P. Group has placed great importance on developing initiatives to address their specific struggles.
- A prime example of this is the Group’s cooperation with the Autistic Thai Foundation and their ARTSTORY initiative. Supported by the Group and its subsidiary, True Corporation, the Autistic Thai Foundation provides autistic children with opportunities to express their unique talents and creativity.
 - The ARTSTORY project is a social enterprise which transforms the art produced by autistic Thais into various products, providing a sustainable and fulfilling livelihood for them. C.P. Group and True Corporation has supported this project by helping to open the ARTSTORY Creative Hub to support their endeavors, a space where they are free to fully express their creativity.
 - Furthermore, C.P. Group and True Corporation have also developed a Digital Learning Center and a Vocational Training Center for people with autism, with the aim of providing them with the right environment to facilitate their studies and develop their potential.

- These initiatives are the steps the Group is proactively taking towards a more inclusive world for all autistic and neurodiverse children, to ensure they will not be left behind.
- In addition to this, the Group is also working with children from other vulnerable groups, including migrant workers. CP Foods, one of the Group's subsidiaries, has worked with migrant workers within its supply chain to develop vocational training programs to help support the livelihoods of their children. Children from over 200 households have participated in this program.

Ultimately, C.P. Group's holistic approach to sustainable development, climate justice, and the right to development exemplifies a model for businesses to not only thrive economically but also drive positive social and environmental change. By integrating principles of equity, inclusivity, and long-term thinking into their operations, C.P. Group sets a precedent for corporate responsibility and stakeholder engagement in advancing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. In order to achieve the SDGs by 2030, all stakeholders must work in unison, hand-in-hand towards a sustainable future. Carbon regulations must facilitate, not hinder sustainable growth in the Global South whilst climate justice can also help unlock the potential of youth as we work to provide them with the necessary opportunities needed to help make a better change for their future.