

Changes in the Governance of Garment Global Production Networks: Lead Firm, Supplier and Institutional Responses to the Rana Plaza Disaster

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The April 2013 Rana Plaza building disaster in Bangladesh was a focusing event triggering major international and national policy initiatives aimed at improving labour and environmental standards in global garment production. The project analyses changes in lead firm policies and practices relating to these standards across four countries - two liberal market economies (Australia and the UK) and two co-ordinated market economies (Germany and Sweden). It complements this analysis with an examination of changes in actual labour and environmental standards in Bangladeshi factories that supply garments to these lead firms. The assessment of the local situation in Bangladesh includes factory managers' and workers perceptions of changes in standards since the Rana Plaza disaster in the context of current institutional reforms. A unique multi-level, multi-actor design should allow important policy implications to be drawn for improving supply chain governance structures and labour and environmental standards in Bangladesh and more widely.

Projektbeteiligte

Prof. Dr. Elke Schüßler

Freie Universität Berlin

Wirtschaftswissenschaft / Betriebswirtschaftslehre

Management

Berlin

Prof. Dr. Sarah Ashwin

The London School of Economics

and Political Science

Department of Management

London

Grossbritannien

Dr. Niklas Egels Zandén

University of Gothenburg

School of Business, Economics and Law

Gothenburg

Schweden

Prof. Naila Kabeer

The London School of Economics
and Political Science
Gender Institute
London
Grossbritannien

Prof. Dr. Stephen Frenkel

University of New South Wales
UNSW School of Business
Management
Sydney
Australien

Simeen Mahmud

BRAC University
Institute of Governance and Development
SK Center, GP.Ja-4, TB Gate
Dhaka
Bangladesch