Minutes of the Committee Meeting on Labor Standards and Human Rights
March 16, 2001

Members Present:  Kristen Ablauf, Sioban Harlow, Stevan Rosenberg, Alan Deardorff, Kevin Kolben, Scott Trudeau, Larry Root

Members Present Via Speakerphone:  Veronica Johnson, Rob Howse

Members Absent:  Louis Green

Meeting Highlights:

Kristen Ablauf gave update on code implementation.  All licensees have received a copy of the CLC and code of conduct for Michigan.  Licensee notification letters went out on March 12, 2001.

The Committee discussed approaches to monitoring, including potential roles for FLA monitoring and the WRC.  Monitoring issues were discussed further during the conference call with Maureen Murtha of the FLA.

The Committee discussed potential symposium topics.
·  Sioban Harlow is moving forward on health and safety symposium with a focus on the role of multi-nationals in health and safety.
·  The idea for a symposium on lessons learned thus far from the Kukdong experience was discussed.  Larry Root will follow up on this idea.
·  Alan Deardorff and Larry Root will discuss the potential for a symposium on wage determination and multi-nationals.
·  Kevin Kolben will look at symposium ideas on “freedom of association.”  Rob Howse mentioned that a leading scholar in this area (Lance Caupa from Cornell University) may be coming to the University in the fall.

The Committee also discussed the issue of “hours of work.”  It was noted that ILIR’s new Globalization and Labor Program might be a good source for funding small-scale research on this topic.

The Committee also discussed the idea of internships with both local NGOs and with multi-nationals.  Verite may be initiating such an internship.  Veronica Johnson expressed interest in working on internship possibilities.

Maureen Murtha, University Liaison for the FLA joined the meeting through speakerphone.  152 schools are members and the FLA is in the process of accrediting monitors.  Three monitors have been FLA accredited:  Verite in 14 countries including the US, Phulki in Bangladesh and Coverco in Guatemala.  She agreed to provide copies of accreditation materials to the Committee and also directed the Committee to their web-site for copies of accreditation forms and protocols.  Various issues on this topic were raised:
·  Assessing the credibility of NGOs
·  The process for selection and training FLA monitors
·  The limits on monitoring based on resources available
·  “Transparency” of monitoring (openness of process and extent of publication of findings)
·  Extent to which Universities can get information from monitoring which goes beyond FLA criteria.

The meeting scheduled for March 23, 2001 was cancelled.  The next meeting is Friday, April 6, 2001 at 8:30 am in Room 2609 at the International Institute in SSWB.