

No. IICA-I-58/10/2022-SOBE
Dated: 01 March 2023

Subject: Request for Nomination for the 'IICA Certified Business & Human Rights (BHR) Professional' (3-month online learning and certification programme) – reg.

Sir / Madam,

Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, popularly known as IICA, is a premier autonomous institution **under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India**. IICA through its dedicated 'School of Business Environment' has been focusing on supporting the growth of corporates sector in India especially in the modern forward-looking areas of Environment-Social-Governance (ESG), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Business and Human Rights (BHR).

2. Among its many initiatives, IICA has launched an **online learning and certification programme - 'IICA Certified Business and Human Rights (BHR) Professional'** in collaboration with the **United National Development Programme (UNDP)** supported by the **European Union**. This programme aims at empowering business organizations to understand BHR Interface and to embed it in their policies and practices and to enable them to address associated risks by conducting Human Rights Due Diligence.

3. **First batch of the programme will start in April 2023**, duration of the programme is three months. Target participants will be heads of functional teams, project managers and BHR implementing agents including in value chains of businesses. Programme curriculum and content has been designed and developed by an Expert Committee and other key experts in the area. The programme is to be delivered in online mode through live interactive sessions by the Indian as well as international academia and industry experts.

4. In recent years, a rich dialogue has emerged around the role that business plays in shaping the environment and societal well-being. On the one hand, business is celebrated for making contributions to sustainable development through innovation and technology. On the other, business is vilified for promoting overconsumption, hastening natural resource depletion, and putting profit before human dignity.

5. In this context, there has been a rejuvenated campaign to address the prevalence of human rights abuses in business operations and global supply chains. Consumers, shareholders and business partners are demanding that enterprises do more to minimize harms and maximize social dividends, not only in times of economic expansion, but also as a response to present and future crises. For this reason, there has been a significant push to make the practice of human rights due diligence (HRDD) mandatory for businesses.

6. Today, the regulatory landscape is rapidly changing. In today's era of responsible business, it is expected that corporates report on their human rights profile in the form of 'human rights due diligence'. Stock exchanges and securities regulators are demanding greater transparency on non-financial risk reporting such as Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR), GRI, UNGC, etc. Human rights violations are also leading to greater levels of liability for companies. Human rights due diligence requires companies to assess impacts and risks in their value chain, and act responsibly to prevent, mitigate and account for human rights abuses in which they may be involved through their own activities and business relationships.

7. Programme modules of the 'IICA Certified BHR Professional' clarify the interface of Business and Human Rights, Compliance and Stakeholders engagement including the Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD), translating Policies to Practices, Global issues and way forward in BHR by tacking closely to internationally agreed principles and widely understood terminologies.

8. Within the above context, **we request you to nominate minimum three officials from your organization in this programme** (preferably one from senior management, one head and one junior professional from the concerned department identified for the Business and Human Rights Due Diligence).

9. Programme Brochure containing the details of curriculum, expert committee, pedagogy and registration process is enclosed herewith. For any further clarification pertaining to the programme, please feel free to contact the undersigned or Ms Sudha Rajagopalan (Tel.:0124-2640099, 9811377099 Email: sudha.rajagopalan@iica.in).

Best regards,



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