

## **Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Asia: Opportunities and Challenges**

*Abstract:* The imperative for engaging the corporate sector in achieving the sustainable development goals in Asia are growing with worsening air and water quality, looming threat of climate change and increasing damage to ecosystems. The drivers for corporate social responsibility in developing countries differ from those in developed countries. Weak regulatory system, large diversity of enterprises, with a significant number of small and medium size enterprises, low civic engagement and willingness to pay for eco-labeled goods limit the incentives for voluntary efforts to improve environmental performance by firms. Pressures for green supply chains by multi-nationals and by consumers of exports from Asia and from investors in capital markets have the potential to promote responsible environmental management by firms. This talk will highlight the lessons from efforts at promoting voluntary environmental responsibility by firms in developed countries and their implications for developing countries. It will also discuss the emerging trends in corporate social responsibility in developing countries, their key drivers as well as the challenges of relying on the corporate sector to voluntarily address the growing problem of environmental degradation in Asia.

## **Effects of Community Characteristics on the Spatial Redistribution of Toxic Pollution**

*Abstract:* Environmental information disclosure programs have been promoted to engage local communities in imposing pressure on firms to improve their environmental performance. However, the effectiveness of these programs in doing so will differ with the heterogeneous characteristics of the community. This research analyzes the effects of community pressure on the relocation of toxic-releasing facilities by using the public disclosure of toxic release information through the Toxic Release Inventory in the United States as a natural experiment. It examines the type of communities that were more likely to pressure firms to re-locate and the effects of relocation on the environmental performance of facilities. The findings of this research on the spatial pattern of facility relocation provides indirect evidence that environmental information disclosure may unintentionally worsen environmental injustice because of differential effects of community pressure.