

MEF holds briefing on ISO 26000

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MEF REGIONAL MEETING

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Datuk Mohd Yusof Hitam, (left), chairperson for the briefing Lily Dublin (centre) and Michael Chiam at the briefing yesterday. PHOTOS: TH LU.



A section of the participants at the briefing on ISO 26000 Social Responsibility by the Malaysian Employers Federation.

KUCHING: The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) held a briefing on the ISO 26000 Social Responsibility and its impact on Malaysia yesterday as part of its efforts to inform Malaysian corporations and to get their feedbacks on it.

Social clauses and conditions go back to before the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements as there were attempts to incorporate social clauses and conditions in the WTO agreements but were finally left out due to objections from developing countries. Later, there were attempts to include these conditions under the Human Resource part of the Interantional Labour Organisations and as at 2001, the consumers forum is being roped in.

Even though it is now at the

comments generating stage of the Working Draft 3, ISO 26000 Social Responsibility will have wide ranging impact on Malaysian corporations as they will find it very hard to comply which may mean the door of opportunities for outside trade slamming in their face and even foreign investments being turned away from Malaysia for not complying.

ISO 26000 covers a wide scope including all organisations in the supply chain (organisations you outsource from need to be compliant also) and covers labour standards, environment issues and transparency just to name a few. Stake holders involved include the industry (manufacturing, consultancy, logistics, etc), the government, consumers, labour, non-governmental organi-

sations, support, service, research groups.

Among the areas that need to be negotiated further are funding and stake holder engagement, communications to stake holders, procedures, scope, context and principles and guidance on employment standards.

The overview of the ISO 26000 was given by MEF Council Member Datuk Mohd Yusof Hitam while MEF Council Member and Member of the delegation ISO/ILO Working Group on Social Responsibility Michael Chiam highlighted the main areas of concern for Malaysian corporations on the ISO 26000.

For further details, visit www.mef.org.my or email mef-hq@mef.org.my or m.chiam@streamyx.com.