The Ohio State University
Dept. Electrical and Computer Engineering

ECE 3080 Ethics in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Project: Corporate Citizenship Programs and Sweatshops

This project has two distinct and largely unrelated parts:

(1) Corporate Citizenship Programs: Theses are also called "corporate responsibility" programs (and perhaps other names having to do with supporting the community).
   a. Find four different corporate citizenship programs at major U.S. engineering corporations that are described on the web. Summarize the main features of the four programs. Which is the strongest?
   b. Does each program provide an engineer with extra compensation, make it part of their job assignment, or simply encourage it (e.g., via awards)? Does each program support local, domestic, or international citizenship? How much total money do they spend on the program per year (if they advertise that)?

(2) Engineering and Sweatshops: Engineers help set up and operate sweatshops (manufacturing sites in the developing world). To solve this problem each person in your group should first complete a and b below by themselves, then the group should discuss the issues together before writing up a solution to parts c-e.
   a. Read: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweatshop
   b. View the YouTube video "Nike Sweatshops: Behind the Swoosh"
   c. Identify the good things about sweatshops.
   d. Identify ethical concerns about sweatshops using the ideas from class on safety/risk, living wage, and the environment. Do you have other concerns that were not discussed in class?
   e. Should it be law in the US that US corporations must follow the same rules in other countries as they do for manufacturing sites in the US (e.g., for safety, minimum wage, environment, etc.)?