Centre for Social and Sustainable Innovation
Communiqué
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This edition is brought to you by PRME Principle 6: Dialogue
We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organisations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

Firestone in the hot seat:
an International Business case study
A PBS documentary has discovered documents revealing a 1991 deal in which Firestone agreed to pay Liberian warlord Charles Taylor $2.3 million in exchange for keeping its rubber farm in operation during a bloody civil war. This case study from Andrew Hoffman at UMich explores the social and economic implications of a foreign company operating in a politically unstable and economically undeveloped country.

After discussing this case, students should be able to:
• Explore the implications of a multinational company entering a developing country/emerging market to do business when the company has more money/power than the country it is entering.
• Examine the responsibilities of the company to upheaval in the country and identify where the line between government and company responsibility should exist.
• Determine the balance or allowable imbalance between social equity and economic prosperity.
• Explore future actions and responsibilities for recently uncovered wrongful actions and how these actions can or cannot make up for the past.
• Discuss levels of transparency in measuring the social equity and economic prosperity of a country.

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Teaching Bullies:
a new book for all of us
Olympian and Professor Emerita Sandra Kirby describes Teaching Bullies as “a comprehensive account, based in current sport research, that will be extraordinarily useful to others in danger of following the same [bullying or bullied] path (athletes and coaches alike). The promise of sport is that it is a welcoming and safe place for all participants. This book will help us all to get there.”

Author Jennifer Fraser, PhD, adds, “This [book] doesn’t only apply to sports. It applies to everything from children in classes, athletes in sports, the legal system and workplace where bullying is rampant.”

Is it OK to ship recyclables cross-country — if landfill is the alternative?
One paper out of the UK reported that shipping recyclables from Great Britain to China (a distance of more than 10,000 miles) spewed less carbon than condemning those items to a landfill. Another from the clothing company Patagonia compared the impact of shipping old polyester shirts to Japan for textile recycling to producing brand-new polyester (which comes from petroleum): It found that shipping the stuff overseas for recycling still resulted in 76 percent less energy use and 71 percent fewer carbon emissions than making the fabric anew.

Get the whole story in Grist, August 31, 2015.

Rechargeable batteries: Which are the most eco-friendly?
Grist figures it out on August 27, 2015.
(CSSI will share this again in plenty of time for holiday shopping.)

Is banning child labour naïve?
Maybe even harmful?
Banning child labour imposes naïve western ideals on complex problems, according to Dr. Frank Wijen of the Rotterdam School of Management in The Guardian on Aug 26, 2015.