

DATE: 26 February 2025

TO: [REDACTED]
Officer-in-charge
Special Procedures Branch, OHCR

FAX: + 41 22 917 9008

TEL: + 41 22 917 9220

EMAIL: [REDACTED]

FROM: M.L. Paramaporn Devakula
General Manager
Precious Metal Refining Co., Ltd.

TEL: + 66 38 465 258

E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

REF: AL OTH 12/2025

PAGES: 4 (INCLUDING THIS PAGE)

SUBJECT: Human Rights Allegations Against Chatree Gold Mines

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you very much for reaching out to us regarding the Human Rights Allegations against the Chatree Gold Mines. Human rights are among our top priorities and main criteria for us when screening our suppliers and customers. As an RJC-COP and RJC-COC Certified Member, our policy and procedure fully comply with the OECD sustainable development guidelines in all areas.

As you have listed, the allegations were from the past. When we performed risk analysis of Chatree Gold Mines as part of our supplier screening process in 2023, we were surprised to hear about these allegations. However, upon looking into the facts and findings from various official investigations and studies by governmental agencies and independent parties, the study results did not support the allegation claim. While majority of the community members supported Chatree Gold Mines, we concluded that allegations from a small group of concerned community members could be addressed with better understanding and communication. The mine has already taken action to close gaps via better communication with all community members.

1. Information/comments about the allegations:

Right of access to information and public participation:

Akara, the owner of Chatree Gold Mines, performed EIA and EHIA, both of which required Public Hearing as a major part of the study. Public Consultation sessions were conducted to obtain stakeholders' opinion as input for the mitigation measures. Information is publicly available at ONEP (Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning) and on the ONEP Website.

Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

We were not able to validate the allegation because the lack of evidence of intimidation to the community by Akara. We heard that police stepped in to clear the roadblock and restore normal traffic. Akara had since established better communication with that small group of about 20 people and addressed their concerns. After the mine was ordered closed by the military-led government, we saw in the News that about 5,000 people from 29 surrounding communities gathered at the Provincial Hall to voice out from the actual people living close to the mine and see the positive impact of the mine.

Health and Environmental Impact

There were numerous studies by various Universities and International Consultant Hired by the Ministry of Industry. We screened out the study that was not validated by the governing committee and only included the study that was comprehensive and done officially by the Universities, and also the by international consultant. The five studies we examined showed that the mitigation measure by the mine according to the EIA and EHIA were effective in preventing health and environmental impact to the surrounding community.

Note: Contrary to the information you received, conclusion from the Health and Environmental Impact monitoring done by Khon Kaen University (published in the verdict of the Provincial Administrative Court) showed that the water quality is within limits.

2. Steps Taken to protect against negative human rights impacts according to UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

PMR has established Human Right Policies according to OECD guidelines and UN-Global Compact Principle, with consideration of UN-Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We have communicated our policies (Thai Language) on our website since 2022.

In accordance with OECD 5 Steps, PMR established management systems, identified and assess risk within our supply chain, designed and implemented strategic response for the identified risk. PMR also performed due diligence of the established supply chain policy, and setup OECD committee to handle due diligence activity. We created human right due diligence procedure that govern activities throughout our supply chain. An official

grievance reporting portal was made available on our website to receive and potential complaint. The system was regularly audited by Third Party. We also conducted management review and published annual report on our website.

Note: UNGP and OECD focus on human rights are in line with each other.

3. Addressing human rights risks and impacts linked to actual and potential procurement activities in its policies, frameworks and strategies, in line with the UNGP.

We completed KYC (Know Your Counter Part) on our suppliers and customers. At the same time, we also communicated our Policies (including Human Right Policy) to establish a clear understanding and expectations for sustainable business activities together. We use risk assessment to identify responsible suppliers and customers.

Our Human Right Procedure mandate that Risk Assessment is performed and to find ways to mitigate the risk if necessary. However, since we started operations, we have never found it necessary to do business with high-risk customers.

4. Remedial measures to prevent being associated with human rights law, international criminal law and international humanitarian law abuses.

We established CAHRAs List (Conflict-affected and high-risk areas) use for screening customers and suppliers. Our assessment, which covers all three criteria (Governance, Human Rights, and Conflict), concluded that Thailand is not a High-Risk Area and did not raise any Red Flag. However, as a proactive measure, we formally informed all our counterpart that we are an RJC-COP and RJC-COC Certified member. That our policy followed OECD principles, one of which was the emphasis on Human Rights Protection. We asked that our counterpart also perform and inform us on the result of their risk assessments according to our policies.

5. Human rights due diligence processes and stakeholder engagement

We performed risk assessments of the supply chain, and human right due diligence on our suppliers and customers. We visited customers and suppliers to observe their operations. In the case of Chatree Gold Mine, our people visited the site for two days in 2023 and had a chance to work with and talked to the workers. From our observation, the working environment was clean and safe, and the workers were happy. The atmosphere in the community near the mine was peaceful with no indication that the community were opposing the mines. We also had a chance to talk to provincial government regulators from department of primary industries and mines who visited the mine on the regular basis and found no concerning issues.

6. Guidance on how to respect human rights from Thai Government in line with the UNGPs.

Thai constitution and law is comprehensive regarding Human Rights. Our Human Right Policy has incorporated all existing Thai and international laws. The Policy covers all areas such as race, ethnicity, fundamental freedom, freedom of worship, freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom from fear, social status, physical appearance, sexual orientation, child labor, forced labor, equal opportunity, and other basic rights. We value and respect individual rights both of our employee and the community that we are a part of. We also value and respect the individual rights of the employee and the community that our suppliers and customers are a part of.

Respectfully,




M.L. Paramaporn Devakula

General Manager

Precious Metal Refining Co., Ltd.