RepRisk collects data worldwide – and creates transparency
Child labour. Destruction of the environment. Corruption. Bribery: Who adheres to ethical principles, laws, and international standards – and who doesn’t? How does a company find a business partner, producers or suppliers with whom business can be done without risk and with a clear conscience? It is very simple: By using the RepRisk database, it is possible to purchase reliable and comprehensively researched information.

RepRisk emerged from “Ecofact”, a consulting firm specialised in environmental risks within the banking business. The database was initiated in 2006 following a request by an investment bank seeking a list of controversial companies. In addition to banks, also multinational companies, insurance companies, asset managers and independent businesses soon started to use the database which currently contains approximately 43,500 companies, more than 10,000 projects and also utilises information from 7,300 NGOs and 6,000 government authorities. The data is gathered by 42 permanently employed analysts – including 16 in Manila – as well as external consultants.

A domicile was sought in Asia – the final decision was made in favour of Manila
“We create transparency, which leads to the fact that many companies question and improve their behaviour,” says Peter Ing, General Manager of the branch in Manila, which was established within just six months by the former Operations Manager of the headquarters in Zurich. Ing counted on the support of Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) and its partners in Manila. Initially, when it came to the choice of the location, he stated: “Originally, our preference was Malaysia – because of the minor bureaucratic obstacles; but due to the quick location analysis given by S-GE, Thailand, Taiwan and the Philippines were also discussed.” In the end, RepRisk chose the Philippines, because “there, the costs are moderate and educational standards are high”. A decisive factor, as affirmed by Ing: “RepRisk needs highly intelligent people who are able to figure out what is important and also know how to summarise the relevant facts in reports.”
Originally, our preference was Malaysia – but due to the quick location analysis given by S-GE, Thailand, Taiwan and the Philippines were also discussed.

*Peter Ing, General Manager RepRisk Philippines*