

Tai Ping & Label STEP partnership for hand-knot production

We have entered into a partnership with Label STEP to audit and work with our mills in Nepal to ensure and certify that our production is ethical, environmentally and socially responsible.

Some larger clients have demanded independent fair trade certification of our Nepal production, and our partnership with Label STEP addresses that need.

This organization in particular was selected because of their collaborative approach to working with the mills, as opposed to a top-down, punitive approach for non-compliance. They also focus on environmental concerns with a view to creating solutions that are sustainable long term, with the mills taking ownership of maintenance and development.

The partnership will be effective both in the selected mills' existing policies and socially responsible management combined with Label STEP's holistic auditing structure.

Key strengths as follows:

- Tai Ping uses one of the only coloration plants in Kathmandu where wastewater is treated before being returned to the environment.
- Social audits by Label STEP are independent, unannounced and unaccompanied.
- Label STEP verifies and helps in setting up Health & Safety Protection, safe working spaces (including cross ventilation and sufficient lighting), escape routes in case of emergencies and access to first aid kits. Label STEP also provides training for drills, first aid and evacuation procedures.
- Label STEP evaluates fair wages: in Nepal wages are set at a market rate which is negotiated between the unions and the government. Weavers are paid by the square metre which is open to abuse and requires detailed and ongoing evaluation and verification.
- Child labour is not tolerated. The Nepalese government defines weaving as a dangerous job and the minimum age limit is 18 yrs which Label STEP verifies continuously.
- Label STEP visits every workshop every 4 to 6 weeks and this includes the living quarters and shared spaces.
- Awareness programs: STEP provides a broad range of educational programs such as financial literacy helping workers to manage their finances and provide care and education for families.

+ *also provide the following text on the next page for sharing with customers*



Tai Ping statement for Instagram and Website

Tai Ping & Label STEP partnership for hand knot production

Tai Ping is a certified Label STEP Fair Trade Partner. We are committed to the wellbeing of weavers and workers in the handmade carpet industry. Each Tai Ping rug helps improve the lives of the people who created it.

Label STEP is more than just a label. To address the complex issues of the handmade carpet industry at their roots, Label STEP takes a solutions-based approach. Founded in Switzerland in 1995, the non-profit organisation’s comprehensive fair trade standards encompass universal human rights, including the prohibition of child labour, working conditions, fair wages and eco-friendly production.

As a Certified STEP Fair Trade Partner, Tai Ping commits to independent audits throughout the supply chain. STEP actively supports producer improvements while empowering weavers and workers through educational programs that cover such topics as health and safety and financial literacy.

Through these combined efforts, Tai Ping and Label STEP reinforce industry sustainability and help preserve centuries-old artisanal skills.



For more information, please visit the Label STEP web site: www.label-step.org