

Consultation Workshop on “Finalizing the List of Hazardous Work” on 18th August at BIAM Foundation Auditorium

A consultation workshop ‘Finalizing the List of Hazardous Work’ organized by the Child Labour Unit (CLU) of Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) through financial and technical supports of the ILO-executed Urban Informal Economy (UIE) Project. The overall objective of the consultation was to produce a single list of hazardous work for prohibition employment of children under 18 years old which will be submitted to MOLE and Tripartite Technical Committee for their respective review and adoption.



The Honorable Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Mr. Md. Nurul Haque, was present as Chief Guest at the workshop, while the Joint Secretary of MOLE and Head of Child Labour Unit, Mr. Arun Kanti Aich, was present as the Chair. Mr. Gagan Rajbhandari, Acting Director, ILO, Dhaka was present as Special Guest. The workshop was participated by approximately 90 participants from relevant government ministries and institutions, workers’ and employers’ organizations, UN agencies, international and national agencies, research institutes and media.



The ILO Director a.i, in his welcome remarks said “Bangladesh ratified the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in 2001 as the first country in South Asia. As a consequence, the Convention calls for the ratifying country to determine the hazardous sectors and, or occupations on the basis of the socio-economic condition of that country. It is, therefore, one of the obligatory of the Government of Bangladesh

is to take action for identifying and denouncing the worst forms of child labour in the country as defined in Article 4 of the Convention. And I would like to repeat here that a list of hazardous work which is in line with the Convention 182 has not been finalized by Bangladesh even though the country is the first country ratified this Convention”.



"Today's workshop is not the first consultation on the topic but it is another important step for all of us. Until and unless list of hazardous work is decided, it is difficult to formulate legislation, to develop action plan and strategies, and to expedite our program and project implementation which can effectively and successfully address the worst forms of child labour in the country by 2016. It is therefore that

today's consultation should collectively agree on concrete time bound actions to be undertaken by MOLE and the Technical Tripartite Committee (TTC) towards adoption the list of hazardous work for prohibition employment of children under 18 year old, and finalizing a list can not wait for more now", he added.



Mr. Aich, Joint Secretary of MOLE and Head of Child Labour Unit, in his opening remarks said "We are here with a view to reaching a consensus on preparing a list of work that is deemed hazardous for children below 18. Child Labour, especially in its worst form, is a big problem for us. According to a BBS source published in 2003 more than 1.3 million children are engaged in hazardous work. It is almost a decade we ratified the ILO Convention No.182. But unfortunately, till this day we don't have an official list of this hazardous work".

He also said that "It is worth mentioning here that our government is fully aware of the enormity of the problem, and over the years it has taken various steps towards getting rid of problem-the latest being adopting the National Child Labour Elimination Policy (NCLEP 2010). Another landmark in this regard is the new education Policy 2009, which provides for compulsory primary education up to class VIII. All these, when implemented, will ensure attendance of children in school which, next to whom, is the best address for them".

The chair in his final remarks urged all participants discuss and come up with concrete suggestions and recommendations in paving the way for preparation of such a list.

