

Tripartite Technical Workshop on Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED)

An ILO Workshop on “Tripartite Workshop on Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED)” was held on 8 September 2011 at Chilis Chinese Restaurant in Dhaka. The workshop intended to share the preliminary findings on skill demands for current and future needs of two important export sectors: agro-processing and pharmaceuticals industry.

Representatives from different government ministries and agencies namely Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Commerce, General Economics Division, Export Promotion Bureau, Ministry of Industry, Bureau of Manpower, Education and Training (BMET) were present in the



workshop. The event was also attended by the representatives of Bangladesh Employers' Federation, National Coordination Council for Workers' Education (NCCWE) and the representatives from key agro-processing and pharmaceutical industries.

Mr Gagan Rajbhandari Director a.i., ILO Country Office for Bangladesh welcomed the participants while Mr Erik von Uexkull, of ILO Trade and Employment Programme explained the STED approach briefly. Later, Mr Uexkull, jointly with Mr Con Gregg from ILO Skill Department presented the initial findings of the skill scenario of the agro- processing and



Pharmaceuticals sector of Bangladesh. Mr Arthur Shears, Chief Technical Advisor and Mr Francis De Silva, Advisor, TVET project shared about the project and the Industry Skill Councils that were set up in different sectors. Ms Hasina Begum, Project Manager, ETE (Effects of Trade on Employment) provided a brief overview of the Project.



Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED) is an analytical tool developed by the ILO. Its purpose is to provide guidance for the design of strategic education and training policies that contribute to trade development and economic diversification and foster the creation of decent employment. STED methodology is meant to assist the governments and the constituents in anticipating skill demands for current and future labour market needs and the need to diversify domestic economic structure. This methodology was applied for the first time in Ukraine and is planned to apply in Macedonia and in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, STED activities consist of identification and conduct research on suitable sectors that have the potential to contribute significantly towards economic diversification and employment creation. Primarily, in Bangladesh, STED has identified two priority sectors namely; agro-processing and pharmaceuticals for which sector specific analysis will be undertaken.