Essentials of Occupational Safety and Health (EOSH): Background

‘Essentials of Occupational Safety and Health (EOSH)’ is an innovative capacity enhancement package developed by the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) International Training Centre in Turin. It is coordinated and facilitated by the Bangladesh Employers Federation (BEF) with the support of the ILO. The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) are implementing the training activities.

The third phase of the project has a very ambitious target: providing basic training on OSH (selected topics) to at least 700,000/800,000 workers in 585 participating RMG factories. All the 8,038 midlevel managers, supervisors and floor chiefs who were trained in the 2nd phase are the main actors to conduct training sessions with the workers. The activities will be implemented in coordination with BGMEA and BKMEA.

The training for workers covers seven priority areas for the RMG sector namely: fire safety; electrical safety; trips, slips, falls and good housekeeping; dangerous substances; ergonomics; personal protective equipment and first aid. In addition to the EOSH training, the initiative will also see 585 company representatives oriented on the formation of Safety Committees at factory level. The goal is to establish 110 functioning Safety Committees at company level. The first two modules of an ‘Occupational Safety and Health kit’ that the Government of Bangladesh is developing in collaboration with ILO will be used for training covering the areas of managing safety and health, and establishing Safety Committees. OSH kits will be distributed to all RMG factories to provide guidance and support to newly formed Safety Committees to help them function.
Bangladesh Employers’ Federation (BEF) organized a two-day long inception workshop on the 3rd phase of project activities on EOSH during 30-31 October 2016. Mr. Farooq Ahmed, Secretary-General, BEF, Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen, Programme Manager, ILO RMG Programme, spoke at the opening session of the event. Project officials from the BEF, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) participated in the programme, which was conducted and facilitated by resource persons from the ILO Country Office for Bangladesh.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES**

- **2014 1st Phase**
  - Five ToT workshop on EOSH were conducted by ITC-ILO in Dhaka and Chittagong
  - 114 Senior Master Trainers were trained

- **2015 2nd Phase**
  - 8,038 Midlevel Managers, Supervisors and floor chiefs from 585 RMG factories were trained

- **2016 3rd Phase**
  - Dissemination/training session on 7 selected OSH issues for 800,000 workers will be organized
  - Orientation workshop on Safety Committee for the representatives of 585 RMG factories
  - Piloting of Safety Committee in 110 factories.

**ACTIVITY UPDATES**

Mr. Md. Mujibul Haque, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Labour and Employment, is seen delivering the inaugural address as the chief guest at the Signing and Launching Ceremony of the 3rd Phase of the project activities on the Essentials of Occupational Safety and Health (EOSH) and Stakeholders Consultation on Bangladesh Decent Work Country Programme (2016-2020) organized jointly by the Bangladesh Employers’ Federation (BEF) and ILO Country Office for Bangladesh on 9 October 2016 at the BEF Conference Hall. Mr. Golam Mainuddin, Vice President, BEF, Mr. Srinivas B. Reddy, Country Director, ILO Country Office for Bangladesh, H. E. Mr. Benoit-Pierre Laramee, High Commissioner of Canada in Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Siddiquur Rahman, President, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA), Mr. Mansoor Ahmed, Vice-President, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BKMEA) are also seen in the picture.

Bangladesh Employers’ Federation (BEF) organized a two-day long inception workshop on the 3rd phase of project activities on EOSH during 30-31 October 2016. Mr. Farooq Ahmed, Secretary-General, BEF, Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen, Programme Manager, ILO RMG Programme, spoke at the opening session of the event. Project officials from the BEF, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) participated in the programme, which was conducted and facilitated by resource persons from the ILO Country Office for Bangladesh.
BKMEA organized the Inauguration Program of its Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Unit at BKMEA Dhaka office on 24 November 2016. Mr. Syed Ahmed, Inspector General of Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, is seen delivering his speech as the chief guest on the occasion. The program was chaired by Mr. Mansoor Ahmed (3rd from left), Vice President, BKMEA. Mr. Tuomo Poutianen (extreme right), Programme Manager, ILO RMG Project Office, Mr. G. M. Faruque (extreme left), Vice President (Finance), BKMEA are also seen in the picture.

Mr. Tuomo Poutianen, Programme Manager, ILO RMG Programme, Dhaka is seen speaking at the Orientation Workshop on Safety Committee Building Awareness held at the BKMEA Dhaka office on 24 November 2016. Mr. Manjur Kader Khan, Additional Inspector General of Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, Mr. Masum-Ul-Alam, Programme Officer ILO Dhaka office, Ms. Farzana Sharmin, Joint Secretary, BKMEA, Mr. Serajul Haque, Unit Administrator BGMEA are also seen in picture.

BGMEA organized an Orientation Workshop for the representatives of selected factories on Safety Committees formation at enterprise level at the BGMEA Complex on 26 November 2016.