

Bangladesh

Apprenticeship Programme to Boost Skills in Furniture Sector

Press release | 12 November, 2015

DHAKA - A programme that will see up to 1,400 apprentices trained was inaugurated today at Nadia Furniture Ltd. at Singair, Manikganj with the aim of developing skilled manpower in the Bangladesh furniture sector.

The International Labour Organization's B-SEP Project, funded by Canada, is facilitating formal apprenticeship programmes targeting 6,000 beneficiaries in five priority industries including the furniture sector. The initiative recognises the key role industry has to play in developing skills through apprenticeships for young people. The program is partnering with multiple enterprises within the furniture sector to increase the number of apprenticeships in the furniture sector. Nadia Furniture is one of the partner companies taking part in the programme and will train 100 workers including 23 female workers. The training programme will initially run for six months targeting two major occupations, Carpentry and Lacquer polishing.

Mr. A Karim Majumder, Managing Director of Nadia Furniture thanked the Government of Bangladesh, Government of Canada and ILO for providing this opportunity and highlighted the necessity of a skilled workforce for the development of the country. He advised that Nadia Furniture would try its best to implement the apprenticeship program successfully and showcase this initiative for other enterprises to replicate.

Mr. Francis De Silva, Senior Specialist, BSEP Project, ILO Dhaka provided insight into the steps taken by the BSEP project to support the apprenticeship program. He mentioned that developed countries had proven that apprenticeship programs were very useful for developing skilled manpower and improving productivity.

Mr. Abu Yusuf, Chairman, Furniture Sector Industry Skills Council said that though Apprenticeship program in Bangladesh has long history, but we are not practicing it. This program is very useful for industry owner. Employer could develop skilled manpower for his sector as per requirement. ISC Furniture sector will work with Government and other donor partner to boost skills in this sector.

Mr. SK AL Ferubi Assistant Director Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) emphasised how a skilled workforce could help to improve a country's economy. He stated that BMET would provide all necessary support from the government side to implement the apprenticeship program.

Ms. Riful Jannat, Senior Development Advisor, High Commission of Canada, Dhaka applauded Nadia Furniture for implementing the apprenticeship program. She advised that the Government of Canada would continue to support Bangladeshi youths in skills Development through the BSEP Project.

Mr. Michael Axman, Senior Skills Development Specialist, ILO Geneva emphasized that improved skills would create opportunities for employment and that apprenticeships are an effective way of promoting improved skills. He added that many countries had developed improved skills through apprenticeships. He also mentioned that social dialogue between employers, government and workers is essential to implement quality apprenticeship programs.

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The National Skills Development Policy 2011 (NSDP 2011) adopted by the Government of Bangladesh aims to contribute to skills development and employment promotion. In response to the priority placed on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Bangladesh, ILO is engaged with government agencies to deliver a major skills programme through several technical cooperation projects. One of the projects is “Bangladesh: Skills for Employment and Productivity Project” (or B-SEP in short) supported by the Government of Canada and implemented by the International Labour Organization.

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