



International  
Labour Organization

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## ILO & UCEP COLLABORATE TO TUNE UP THE FUTURES OF YOUNG MOTORCYCLE MECHANICS

### Inauguration of Motorcycle Service Mechanics Course for underprivileged youth in Dhaka today

**The issue of rising youth unemployment in Bangladesh is not an easy one to solve, but the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in collaboration with Underprivileged Children's Education Programs (UCEP) today inaugurated an apprenticeship training program which will broaden the prospects of young people in Dhaka. The apprenticeship program was inaugurated at UCEP Mirpur Technical School by the Director General, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) Mr. Md Hazrat Ali, Chairperson, UCEP Board of Governors, Dr. Ubaidur Rob and Executive Director UCEP Bangladesh Brig. Gen. Aftab Uddin Ahmad (Retd.), in conjunction with ILO staff.**

Opening the ceremony, Executive Director UCEP Bangladesh Brig. Gen. Aftab Uddin Ahmad (Retd.) said "Bangladesh has a huge potential workforce but the majority lack formal qualifications or education. We have a lot of informal skills; look on the footpaths and you will see people repairing everything from cars and bikes, to televisions, but we need a more formalised system that can recognise and certify this. Skills development is the answer and the government is putting a lot of effort into developing an effective system."

The Motorcycle Service Mechanics Course is one of the initiatives of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform Project. The BDT 136 Crore Reform Project is an initiative of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), funded by the European Union and is being executed by the ILO with support from the government. The project will reduce poverty by reforming the current training system; ensuring the people of Bangladesh can access quality training to meet the country's current and future employment needs.

Before cutting the ribbon, the Chairperson, UCEP Board of Governors, Dr. Ubaidur Rob, said "For Bangladesh to become a middle income country, we need effective skills training options that provides pathways to employment. The goal of UCEP in the next four years is to see 10,000 young people trained each year."

This program is one of the first courses trialling flexible apprenticeship models, an initiative included in the National Skills Development Policy which was approved by Cabinet this week. The comprehensive policy offers a market-oriented approach to skills development and was developed by the Government of Bangladesh, with the support of the ILO.

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