



International
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BOOST TO BANGLADESH'S TRANSPORT, TECHNOLOGY AND TOURISM SECTORS

Graduation of workplace trainers in three industry sectors allows growth of the country's skilled workforce

Bangladesh is one of the most populous countries in the world which presents an immense opportunity in terms of labour force. The transport, information technology and tourism/hospitality sectors employ a large section of the country's workforce and yet many workers have little or no formal skills. The BDT 136 Crore Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Reform Project, an initiative of the Government of Bangladesh, funded by the European Union and executed by the ILO, is changing this. Up skilling of workplace trainers is one of a comprehensive suite of reform initiatives that will ensure that the people of Bangladesh can access quality, market driven and flexible training through the development of a nationally-recognised qualification system.

Speaking at the graduation, IT Industry Skills Council Chairman Mr Shafquat Haider said "The transport, information technology and tourism sectors are all identified as priority sectors in Bangladesh. They all have enormous potential for growth but are constrained by a workforce with minimal education or skills. The most effective way to close this skill gap is through reforming our current skills development system and making it relevant for the needs of Bangladesh industries".

The Workplace Trainer Program course was the eighth which has been run so far, focusing on teaching trainers how to use a competency-based training and assessment (CBT&A) approach in the workplace. CBT&A is an internationally recognised approach to skill development where outcomes to be achieved are clearly stated so learners know exactly what they need to be able to do and organisations know the skill level they can expect from workers.

Md Enamul Haque has been training new employees at Sunderban Shipyard for a number of years without formal qualification. Upon graduating, he said "nationally-recognised qualifications are empowering for employees. Evidence of competence increases a person's confidence in their ability and gives them the freedom to work for an employer that they choose. Qualification also opens up opportunities for skilled labour migration".

The program was one of the many initiatives included in the National Skills Development Policy recently approved by Cabinet. The 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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