The ETE Project in Bangladesh and ITC-ILO jointly organized a tripartite training on ‘Assessing and addressing the Effects of Trade on employment: an Introduction to Social Accounting Matrix and Multiplier Analysis’. The training was held from 13-15 February 2011 at BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka. The training aimed at strengthening the participants’ skills to empirically analyse the effects of trade on employment using a Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) and multiplier analysis.

Mr Md Ghulam Hussain, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce was present as the Chief Guest in the inaugural ceremony. Others guests include Ms Rozana Wahab, representative, EU Delegation to Bangladesh, Mr Kaihan N Rahman, Member Bangladesh Employers’ Federation and Mr Zafrul Hassan, Chairman, National Coordination Committee on Workers Education (NCCWE) were also present. Mr. Andre’ Bogui, Director, ILO Country Office, Dhaka delivered the welcome speech whilst Mr David Cheong, Chief Technical Advisor of ETE project made the introductory remarks.

The opening session was followed by a technical presentation on Trade and Labour Market Policies in Bangladesh: sharing perspectives, experiences and way forward. Mr Fakhrul Ahsan, Chief, General Economics Division, and Planning Commission made the presentation which was then followed by lively debate and discussions among experts, social partners and policy makers.
A blended approach was adopted for the training which combined individual presentations by experts and a series of hands-on exercises to gradually introduce participants to SAM and Multiplier analysis. The ILO staff (including the ILO-ITC Turin Centre) developed the course modules and facilitated the course with the assistance of the national experts.

In order to promote the proficiency of the participants in the use of SAM and Multiplier Analysis and to receive more hands-on experience, weekly follow-up training sessions were carried out for the same participants. Participants were divided into groups and conducted simulation exercises under the guidance of Dr Selim Raihan, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, and Dhaka University. Four scenarios of trade agreements: (1) SAFTA (2) BIMSTEC and (3) LDCs duty free access to the developed countries have been chosen by the participants to assess the impact of trade and trade liberalization on employment. The Training was implemented in partnership with SANEM (South Asian Network for Economic Modeling) Secretariat, Dhaka.

A total of 17 representatives from various agencies such as the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Economic Relations Division, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh, National Board of Revenue Employers’ Federation as well as Trade Unions participated in the technical training and follow-up sessions.