

LABOUR MARKET COOPERATION BETWEEN MYANMAR & DENMARK, Annual report for 2016

PARTNERING WITH DENMARK – Danish Authorities in International Cooperation

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Partnering with Denmark has a triple purpose of supporting development, building relations between Denmark and the partner country and paving the way for economic cooperation by opening doors for Danish companies



Cooperation on labour market reforms and occupational safety & health in Myanmar

In 2011, Myanmar initiated a comprehensive reform process aimed at achieving a transition to a more democratic, market-based and socially equal society. Since then, Myanmar's economy has seen impressive growth rates. It is widely accepted, however, that labour market reform is a prerequisite for fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth and an enabling business environment. Decent jobs, including safe and healthy working conditions and sound industrial relations are important framework conditions for fostering foreign investment and export-led economic development.

Therefore, the Danish support consists of capacity-building activities aimed at contributing to better occupational safety and health (OSH) conditions and improved social dialogue. Regarding OSH, the activities are aimed at the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department (FGLLID), which is the government institution responsible for OSH under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. Regarding social dialogue, the Danish support consists of capacity-building activities for three major trade unions and main employers' organization in Myanmar.

Key activities in 2016

28 March 2016 saw the entry into force of the strategic sector cooperation project. Subsequently, the Danish Working Environment Authority developed a training plan for approximately 100 newly recruited OSH

inspectors, including both classroom and on-the-job-training, covering eight fundamental topics required for being able to function effectively as OSH inspectors. By the end of 2016, the majority of the scheduled trainings had been carried out, covering topic such as accident prevention and risk assessment, chemical safety and indoor climate, machinery safety and noise, construction safety, ergonomics and inspection skills.

During 27 - 30 September, the Danish Minister for Employment visited Myanmar, which further improved the existing positive bilateral relationship. The Danish Minister met with his Myanmar counterpart, parliamentarians responsible for labour affairs, representatives of Myanmar trade unions and employers, as well as representatives of Danish businesses in Myanmar.

From 13 - 18 November, the senior management of the FGLLID undertook a study tour to Denmark. During the visit, they had the opportunity to study a wide range of labour market topics. In addition to covering all of the aspects of the work of the Danish Working Environment Authority, from the planning of inspections, legal framework, tools for conducting inspections and actual inspection visits, the Myanmar delegation was also introduced to the Danish way of handling compensation related to occupational injuries and diseases, and not least the fundamental role of social dialogue in Danish labour market governance.

During 2016, two training sessions have taken place focusing on social dialogue primarily at the workplace level and covering topics, inter alia, such as the Danish model of labour market governance, the general concept of social dialogue, collective bargaining agreements and negotiation skills.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2016

The peer-to-peer approach integral to the strategic sector cooperation, including the posting of a growth counsellor, is in high demand from the Myanmar partner and provides a solid basis for capacity- and relation-building.

The nexus between Myanmar's labour market related development challenges and Danish private sector interest and capability provides room for synergies between the strategic sector cooperation project and the Danida business instruments.

Status: SSC Preparation Project under implementation. **Partners:** Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department (FGLLID), Agricultural and Farmers' Federation of Myanmar, Confederation of Trade Unions of Myanmar, Myanmar Industry, Commerce and Services Federation, and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce. **Contact:** Kenneth Emil Holm Petersen (keh@at.dk), Growth Counsellor Martin Engmann Jensen (mareje@um.dk).