

LABOUR MARKET COOPERATION BETWEEN BANGLADESH & DENMARK, Annual report for 2019

Danish Authorities in International Cooperation



Project description

The main objective of the project is to improve the health and safety for workers in Bangladesh through the strengthening of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) and Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE). As an additional benefit it is expected to improve the competitiveness of Danish companies who has activities in Bangladesh.

Key activities in year 2019

The project Phase II was initiated January 1st 2019. In Phase I, the emphasis has been on capacity building in order to increase knowledge, and a large number of key persons in DIFE have been trained.

With Phase II, the focus has changed from knowledge to action.

The main activities have been:

- Completion of Phase I training activities
Expert training on 1) crane safety, 2) boiler safety and 3) dialogue/activation of safety committees on inspection.
- DIFE internal training program (DIFE2DIFE)
DIFE internal trainers have planned and performed training of 70% of the inspectors on machinery

safety, accident prevention, chemical safety and ergonomics.

- Targeted inspections
A new way of inspection, targeted inspections, have been introduced. These inspections are focusing on one sector, one district and the main (few) working environment challenges. The first round in the construction sector of Dhaka was initiated in 2019 and will be completed and evaluated in 2020.
- Training activities in cooperation with Danish brands
After request the project has performed training activities requested from the Danish brands, who send the participants: Half-day seminar on boiler safety and 3 days basic training in strategic working environment work. Module 2 will take place January 2020
- High Level visit to Denmark
A small group including Secretary and Inspector General had a fruitful visit to Denmark in the fall.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2019

Important achievements were derived from Phase 1: First of all DIFE launched their internal training program called DIFE2DIFE, in their own venues and with their own trainers. Furthermore 29 inspection guidelines, developed in Phase 1, were approved by the National Council for Industrial Safety and Health and hereafter printed and used as manuals.

The launch of the targeted inspections has been a success in the sense that DIFE has been able to establish a project group, to set some goals, to instruct the involved inspectors and perform the plan.

The coordination with other donors, especially the GIZ and the ILO has been intensified to mutual benefit. And the Danida Fellowship Centre offers have supported the project in the best way through master students, 6-weeks-students and management training.

The project has become more aware of non-transparency as a significant barrier to development. It has led to a strategy that addresses the problem in any activity.

Status: Phase II

Project period: January 2019 to December 2021

Partners: Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), Bangladesh, and Ministry of Employment (MoE), Denmark

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