First Inclusive Job Centre in Bangladesh

A first of its kind, an Inclusive Job Centre (IJC) is in the process of being established in Mirpur in 2015. On the 24th August 2015, a Minutes of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Mirpur among the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The MoU includes the objective of the IJC, which is to facilitate skills training and increase employment and career opportunities in the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) industry for persons with disabilities. The key objectives of the IJC are to identify persons with disabilities for skills training, link them with referral network, improve disability inclusiveness in factories, and promote inclusive workforce in the RMG sector.

The key roles of the IJC are indicated in the MoU, which consists of functioning as a platform for advisory services, information sharing, capacity building and job-searching based on individual needs and competencies; and to establish a referral network. These activities are backed by the expertise of professionals in the field of disability inclusion from NGO partners. The MoU is the basis for establishing a tripartite relation among CRP, BGMEA and GIZ. The MoU will facilitate GIZ’s cooperation with the concerned departments of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, especially with the National Skills Development Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The signatories were Dr Jochen Weikert, Programme Coordinator, GIZ; Mr Shafiq-Ul-Islam, Executive Director, CRP and Mr Reaz Bin Mahmood, Vice President, BGMEA.

By engaging its members, BGMEA can make a significant change in the dynamics of the workforce through establishing an IJC. RMG industry suffers from the shortage of a skilled workforce and BGMEA can support the IJC in the process of skills development and job placement of persons with disabilities to meet the demands of the sector. IJC will use the experiences and strong network of CRP in the RMG sector and with other stakeholders to facilitate a disability inclusive RMG Labour Market.

The IJC will assist the RMG factories to have an inclusive environment. It will introduce persons with disabilities to inclusive skills training on RMG sector. It will support persons with disabilities to find employment in barrier free RMG factories. IJC considers the public-private partnership move towards an inclusive RMG workforce by creating linkages among skills training and employment opportunities for an untapped workforce of persons with disabilities.

GIZ will support to renovate the infrastructure for the IJC centre, provide required equipment and establish an interactive website. GIZ will also support with a development advisor to establish this centre. GIZ is organising a study tour in Germany with the key stakeholders in October 2015 for sharing of technology and knowledge and learning the best practices.

GIZ will support the centre till June 2017. The aim of this joint effort is to make the IJC sustainable with the support from the private sector.

For more information:
Ms Farah Rahman
Communications & PR Associate, PSES
e-mail: farah.rahman@giz.de