Workshop Summary Report

“Promoting Green Jobs in the Industrial Sector of Bangladesh”

Background

Bangladesh Employers’ Federation (BEF) is an all-country organization representing all sectors including industry, trade, banking, insurance, etc. and it is the only Federation of its kind in the country. BEF is aware of that over the last few decades, the country has been facing the impacts of climate changes, environmental degradation, pollution and natural disasters. In this context, the promotion of green jobs is linked to measures to tackle these problems. Green jobs include jobs that help to reduce consumption of energy and raw materials, de-carbonize the economy, protect and restore ecosystem services like clean water, flood protection and biodiversity, and minimise the production of waste and pollution. As one of the implementing partners of the ILO, Bangladesh Employers’ Federation (BEF), planned and organized, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), two workshops on “Promoting green jobs in the industrial sector of Bangladesh” in Dhaka and Chittagong, under the Green Jobs in Asia project.

- Dates: 3rd May 2012 and 24th May 2012
- Location: Dhaka and Chittagong
- Number of participants/gender ratio: (Dhaka: total 30/ women 3) and (Chittagong: total 64 /female 7)
- Partners involved

Capacity Development Curriculum

These capacity development initiatives were comprised of material development (brochure), development of power point presentations, open discussions and sessions were on i) Promoting green jobs in the industrial sector of Bangladesh, ii) Green Jobs Initiatives of ILO, iii) case study highlighting best practices, example of Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Limited and iv) case study highlighting best practices example of sanofi-aventis Bangladesh Limited. The workshop programme was designed for the senior and middle level managers/ executives of human resources, production, planning, and the personnel who desire to learn and understand the concept of green jobs initiative or any other suitable participants who after attending the programme would be able to contribute at the work places.

Objectives of workshop/activities

The objectives of the workshop programmes were to create general awareness on “Green Jobs” highlighting the facts, benefits, necessities and opportunities of creating Green Jobs. The workshop programmes were expected to share the views on the necessity to support and promote “Green Jobs Initiatives”.
Brief description of activities/presentations

The paper titled “Promoting green jobs in the industrial sector of Bangladesh” discussed the job challenge in the era of free market supremacy and environmental degradation, Bangladesh’s demographic – geographic and economic settings, Bangladesh’s thriving private sector, Bangladesh’s employment and environmental predicament, green jobs and global initiatives - green jobs elements - green jobs agenda, green jobs initiatives in Bangladesh - green job assessment, green jobs promotion in the industrial sector of Bangladesh – ILO’s constituents and green job agenda - ILO’s tasks –Governments policy support – Employer’s strategies – Workers’/Trade Unions’ responsibilities, and other related issues.

The presentations on Green Jobs Initiatives of the ILO explained background of green jobs, steps to be taken to promote Green Jobs, green jobs initiatives in Bangladesh, new phase and current green jobs initiatives and activities undertaken in Bangladesh, Climate change, risks for business – issues and challenges, solar home system in Bangladesh, examples of China –Mongolia – Singapore in promoting energy efficiency and other related issues.

The case study of Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Limited highlighted that renewable as an alternative energy, green jobs, sectors employing for green jobs, green jobs in solar energy, a brief history and the creation of green jobs of Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy, impact of green jobs, green job – a look into the future and sustainability for Bangladesh, among other issues. The case study from Sanofi-aventis Bangladesh limited was on best practices example of greening the job, greening achievements in sanofi, future planning for sustainable energy in sanofi - expected ultimate benefits, and other related issues.

Key outcomes and outputs

The participants opined that the “Green Jobs” is a new concept. As such more awareness development programmes might be organized in the future. They expressed their hope and confidence that they would be able to make some contributions at their workplaces by utilising the knowledge gathered from the workshop. The level of awareness and preparedness of the target audience on “Promoting Green Jobs initiatives in the Industrial Sector of Bangladesh” has been significantly increased after the workshop. Commitments from the participants have been affirmed to further disseminate the knowledge and awareness among colleagues and other related quarters.

Outputs of the workshop were 2 case studies on experiences on green jobs or related issues in Bangladesh and the brochure on green jobs developed and disseminated.