Workshop Summary Report

“Climate Change and Green Jobs - The role of Trade Unions”

Background

The National Co-ordination Committee on Workers Education (NCCWE) is a body of 13 federations and labour organizations. NCCWE represents workers in various green jobs activities, including the policy advisory committee as well as in national seminars and workshops held on green jobs. The ILO Green Jobs in Asia project supported by the Australian Government-ILO Agreement Partnership 2010-2015 has been implemented in Bangladesh aiming to promote environmentally sustainable jobs and development in a climate-challenged world.

The workshop on “Climate change and green jobs – The roles of Trade Unions” is part of the Green Jobs in Asia project to provide training and build capacity for ILO social partners in the country. Within the framework of the project capacity building training, four one-day workshops on the role of Trade Unions were carried out during April and May 2012 in Bangladesh.

- Location: Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong, Rajshahi
- Number of participants/gender ratio: total 124/ women 47
- Partners involved: National Trade Union Federations

Capacity Development Curriculum

These workshops sessions were presented with a position paper, presentation on the ILO Green Jobs initiatives, panel discussion and group discussion on identification of the trade unions. Participants were representatives of the Trade Unions from different sectors like Garments, Tailoring and boutiques, Construction, Railways, Transport, Tea industry, Banks and full time trade unionists.

Objectives of workshop/activities

The objective of the workshops were to raise awareness of workers and leaders regarding issues related to climate change and green jobs and to sensitize workers representatives about their responsibilities at workplaces to protect the environment and minimize the vulnerability of working people.

Brief description of activities/presentations

A position paper prepared by the trade unions was presented. The paper highlighted causes, consequences of climate change and its impact, environmental degradations and role of the trade unions in protecting environmental hazards specially caused by the production process. A presentation was made on Green Jobs initiatives of the ILO Bangladesh, the presentation touched
definition of green jobs, background, importance and involvement of trade unions and some example of green jobs in other countries. Group works were divided in two broad themes (e.g. the effects of climate change and the role of trade unions) based on the position paper.

**Key outcomes and outputs**

A total of four day-long workshops organized by NCCWE and s set of recommendations for future trade union action. Also suggestions about what roles the trade unions can play on climate change and Green job issues were discussed. Some of those suggestions are TU can create awareness among the workers through campaign activities, trade unions can raise voice against gas emissions from the factories, demand compensation from the rich countries for huge carbon and gas emissions, dialogue with the employers for green jobs, proper waste management at industry level, encourage green technologies awareness campaigns for working people by forming small committees at plant level, include Climate Change issue in all trade union education curricula, popularize green job concept among the workers and organised informal sector, training on Climate Change issues, formation of green job cells at federation level to undertake activities like training seminars, workshops, Update Labour Laws etc.

Output of the workshops includes a position paper on climate change and green jobs developed by the Trade Unions.