



## STRENGTHENING EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS OF SMES IN THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SECTOR AND ENHANCING TRADE SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

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February 12 2014, Khujand city

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### TRAINING IN SOURCING FOR TEXTILE & CLOTHING COMPANIES IN TAJIKISTAN

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**Tajik textile and clothing companies, as well as professors and students specialised in fashion and clothing will have the opportunity to improve their sourcing skills during a two-day training course organized by the International Trade Centre in Khujand and Dushanbe cities.**

A series of two training courses started today, 12 February, at the Khujand Polytechnic Institute of the Tajik Technical University (KPITTU) in Khujand city. The second course will be held at the Technological University of Tajikistan in Dushanbe on 18 and 19 February 2014. The training courses are part of the new ITC project on “Strengthening export competitiveness of SMEs in the textile and clothing sector and enhancing trade support institutional capacities” financed by the Government of Switzerland within its Trade Cooperation Program (TCP) in Tajikistan.

ITC international consultant on sourcing Ms. Ashley Choong will introduce participants to the basics of sourcing and supply chains with a focus on the most effective modern methods of finding and evaluating sourcing suppliers and defining the quality of their products. The participants will be given an overview of the global textile and apparel industry supply chain, and will be introduced to the top textile exporting countries and common terms and requirements of foreign trade contracts.

Ms. Ashley Choong says, *“During practical exercises, participants will learn how to independently define the quality and characteristics of fabrics. Aiming to improve the skills of participants, we teach them where to effectively find material suppliers, how to evaluate them, as well as how to use common tests to prepare themselves for sourcing trips”.*

Ms. Ashley Choong adds, *“We will also show them ways of identifying fabrics by name, to evaluate color shading, to identify fibers, knits, weaves, , to understand different yarn sizes, to understand the types of dye and the dyeing stages , to find defects in fabrics, to know the common types of finishing and their impact on costs, etc.”.*

Ms Choong’s mission also includes individual consultation visits to some of the partner companies. One of the practical purposes of these training courses and individual consultations is to prepare local textile and clothing enterprise representatives for the March 2014 visit to the Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics, Shanghai wholesale markets, China Textile City in Keqiao. Tajik companies will get the opportunity to find out more about international systems of fabric and trim sourcing, personally meet with suppliers, and to discuss possibilities of cooperation.

The present project is component FOUR of the Trade Cooperation Program (TCP) in Tajikistan and aims to increase the export competitiveness of the textile and clothing (T&C) sector, by providing sector specific support to SMEs and relevant trade support institutions (TSIs), as well as supporting respective stakeholders in taking a strategic approach to the sector's development. It will also explore the challenges and development potential of the tourism and handicraft sectors in Tajikistan, outlining relevant trade related technical assistance priorities.

About Swiss support: Within its Cooperation Strategy for 2012-2015 Switzerland focuses on the four sectors in Tajikistan, such as Health, Rule of Law, Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, and Private Sector Development. The overall goal of the Swiss Cooperation in Tajikistan is to support the transition process in the country through contributing to the economic development and by helping build institutions and systems which are responsive to the population's needs. [www.swisscoop.tj](http://www.swisscoop.tj), [www.deza.admin.ch](http://www.deza.admin.ch), [www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch](http://www.seco-cooperation.admin.ch)

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