

STRENGTHENING EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SECTOR AND ENHANCING TRADE SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES IN TAJIKISTAN

31 October 2015, Dushanbe city

Tajik garment factories learnt apparel costing

Tajik tailors, designers, and garment industry managers benefitted from a three-day training on apparel costing held in Dushanbe on 29-31 October 2015.

The training was organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC)'s project funded by the Government of Switzerland within its Trade Cooperation Program (TCP) in Tajikistan.

The training aimed to provide Tajik specialists with occupational knowledge and skills of various techniques and concepts in material and apparel cost computations that are widely used in the modern fashion industry. Ms. Choong Lai Ean, ITC international consultant says, *"We covered fabric costing, fabric consumption calculation and apparel costing. This fundamental knowledge will enable the entrepreneur, designer, merchandiser or marketing personnel to compute cost based on given sketch or sample. Awareness from costs of various components enables a designer to estimate commercial viability of his/her design, and allows a merchandiser to be a more effective negotiator with suppliers or manufacturers. Having this knowledge, a product development executive can apply various alternatives to fulfill the design/collection; and marketing personnel will be able to provide quotations on the spot"*.

Lectures, presentations, group discussions, case studies, simulations and experiential learning were used during the course.

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.

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

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