

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

23 September 2015, Khujand city

Tajik tailors and designers learnt garment construction

Tajik tailors, designers, and textile industry engineers benefitted from a three-day training on garment construction held in Khujand, the second biggest city in Tajikistan, on September 21-23, 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 garment construction that are widely used in the modern fashion industry. Mr. Thomas Tan, Senior Design Consultant & Trainer, says, *"We covered the general construction of garments, and the various seams and stitches utilization in different components within the garment. The knowledge gained at this training will help the participants to reduce terminated designs that cannot be replicated in mass production, eliminate misinterpretation in sampling and production, and improve communication in production specifications"*.

Lectures, presentations, videos, group discussions, case studies, quizzes, simulations and experiential learning were used during the course. Ms. Nigora Khalilova, head of the sewing workshop of LLC "Leader", the training participant, says, in addition to learning the nature, history and business concepts of the apparel industry, the training helped her to identify common functional and decorative stitch types with reference to the international and industry stitch codes. She says: *"We were also taught to determine and illustrate seam types with reference to the seam codes and symbols in the international and industry standards. Now we are able also to identify the various pattern pieces of selected basic garments, analyze and articulate the sewing operations process of selected garments areas, as well as learned other related skills"*.

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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