

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

12 August 2015, Qayroqqum town

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TAJIKISTAN: LEAD AUDITOR TRAINING COURSE ON ISO 14001:2004 STANDARD

A special 6-day learning course on ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management System (EMS) certified by the International Register of Certificated Auditors (IRCA), a division of Chartered Quality Institute of UK, started on August 10 in Qayroqqum town, Sughd province. The training on this subject is being conducted for the first time in Tajikistan. The training aims to prepare the local lead auditors for auditing of environmental management systems according to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard 14001 requirements. The representatives of relevant ministries and agencies, textile and clothing companies, consulting companies and universities participate in this event. The knowledge gained during the training will also help organizations to effectively implement EMS and obtain internationally accredited certification.

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

The ISO 14000 family of standards provides companies and organizations with practical tools to manage their environmental responsibilities. Implementation of this standard assures control and improvement of environmental performance of companies and organizations. According to the [ISO website](#), so far about 300,000 certifications of ISO 14001 are issued in 171 countries, 96 of them in Tajikistan in 2013.

The workshop is conducted by the ITC international consultants Mr. Subhash Arora and Ms. Gulnara Jusupjanova. Mr. Arora says, *"this training gives an opportunity for the participants to learn about principles of implementing and realization of Environment Management System according to ISO 14001 standard, and also to understand the EMS audit process covering audit planning, conducting of audit, reporting of audit results and follow up activities in accordance with the international standard on auditing guidelines"*.

According to Mr. Arora, the ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems is applicable to all companies, regardless of the type and size of the business, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs). He says, this standard specifies requirements to assist companies to develop and implement an environmental management policy and objectives, which take into account legal requirements to which the organizations subscribes and the significant environmental aspects.

The participants who successfully passed a written examination will get the certificate issued by German company "TUV NORD CERT CmbH".

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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