Press Release

23 February 2015, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Swisscontact signs Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

A signing ceremony was held for the Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MoHT) and Swisscontact regarding the implementation of the Hotel Training Initiative (HTI), a component of the Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP). The signing ceremony took place in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 February 2015 with the presence of His Excellency U Htay Aung, Union Minister and responsible officials from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Ms. Carin Salerno, Deputy Director of Cooperation from the Embassy of Switzerland/SDC in Myanmar.

The HTI Component is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), focussing on the provision of practical vocational training courses in hospitality. The component aims to train 3,000 disadvantaged women and men and 1,000 hotel line staff, improving their employment opportunities and income in the emerging hospitality sector.

The Ministry has welcomed this kind of assistance, which intends to increase skilled labour for the rapidly developing hospitality sector and strengthen the capacity of existing three and four star hotels in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

The HTI Component is now conducting a Training of Trainers (ToT) course for Master Instructors, implemented in coordination with experts from the Swiss Hotel Management Academy, Lucerne (SHL). These Master Instructors in Swiss Hospitality will be responsible for training supervisory staff at Partner Hotels to become Hospitality Instructors. The trained Hospitality Instructors will then conduct training for disadvantaged women and men (referred to as Leaners), with the first batch starting in April 2015. The Learners will receive 36 hour Preparatory Courses, where they will learn basic concepts used in the hospitality and tourism industry as well as life skills, before engaging in 7-week long hospitality courses in the Partner Hotels. By the end of these courses, the Learners will have acquired knowledge and skills in the hospitality sector, helping to both meet the growing demand for skilled labour and improve the lives of the Learners.

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