Press Release

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Switzerland promotes local vocational training in Kayin and Mon States

The partnership between Switzerland and Myanmar covers four important areas, 1) employment and skills development, 2) agriculture, 3) health, social infrastructure and local governance and 4) the promotion of peace and democratisation.

Within its strategy, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is financing the Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP). This program (20 mio USD 2014-2017) is being implemented by a consortium of Swisscontact (Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation), and the German company INBAS (Institute for Vocational Training, Labour Market and Social Policy). One of its components, the Local Vocational Training, is implemented in Mon and Kayin States, which are the geographic focus of Swiss development cooperation in Myanmar.

The South East region of Myanmar is going through political, economic and social reforms, as everywhere else in the country, but in a post-conflict context. The new cease-fire agreements between the government and ethnic armed groups have opened opportunities for development, and SDC is supporting all the partners in their efforts aiming at a peaceful, inclusive and equitable society in which people enjoy better livelihoods. The region has excellent development potential and the establishment of special economic zones, the increased number of small and medium enterprises, and the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) that comes into force in 2015 are significant steps that also bring challenges to be addressed. Among those, VSDP will concentrate on the need to expand the number and the quality of skilled workforce.

It is in this context that the Local Vocational Training component of the VSDP will provide market oriented short-term vocational training courses to disadvantaged women and men in the South-East. Economic sectors and occupations have been identified that are expected to provide employment, self-employment and income opportunities for vulnerable people. By 2018, more than 3,000 disadvantaged persons will have been trained to participate in the growing labour market. The program has developed demand-oriented curricula and training material and will train up to 200 local trainers. In addition, it will develop apprenticeships, and support selected training providers in the regions, to expand the skills development capacity of the region. For the implementation of Local Vocational Training, Swisscontact is collaborating with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) which has strong local networks with stakeholders and target groups.

The official launching ceremonies of Local Vocational Training are jointly organized by State Governments of Mon and Kayin and the Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar and held in Hpa-An, Kayin State on 26 January 2015 and Mawlamyine, Mon State on 28 January 2015. The Chief Minister of respective States; U Htin Aung, Deputy Union Minister for Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security; and His Excellency Christoph Burgener, Ambassador of the Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar, will be present at the official opening of the program.

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