Press Release  
24 March 2015, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Swisscontact signs Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security

A ceremony was held for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MOLES) and Swisscontact regarding the implementation of the Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP). The MoU covers the overall management of VSDP, as well as the implementation of two components: the Local Vocational Training and Support to the National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA). The signing ceremony took place in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 March 2015 with the presence of His Excellency U Aye Myint, Union Minister for Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Mr. Peter Tschumi, Minister/Director of Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar and concerned officials from respective governmental organizations in Myanmar.

The Program is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and the overall goal is “gainful and market demand-driven employment or self-employment and better income for disadvantaged persons in targeted areas of Myanmar”.

The Local Vocational Training component will provide practical vocational training courses for 3,000 disadvantaged women and men in Mon and Kayin States. In May 2015 the Component will commence pilot courses for disadvantaged men and women in four selected townships. The participants will learn skills that are important for employment or self-employment in four occupations: house wirer, tailor, beautician and village technician. Further courses will be offered in the future, depending on demand and employment opportunities.

The NSSA Component complements these efforts by promoting the development of skills standards and a system of skills testing and certification through support to the National Skills Standards Authority. The NSSA operates under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. Activities include advice in the development of relevant regulations and guidelines for skills testing and certification, assessor training, test item development, development of a test item database, training of workplace instructors who host apprenticeships, and support in the establishment of regional NSSA structures in the South East of Myanmar (including equipment for regional NSSA offices). Swisscontact is working hand in hand with the NSSA and with other development partners, particularly GIZ.

This assistance addresses the skills gaps in the Myanmar workforce and improve the employment opportunities and income of disadvantaged segments of the population.

END - For more information, please contact Aye Thinzar Aung, Communications Manager, Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP), Swisscontact Country Office, Tel: 09 250 676 976, or E-mail: aye-thinzar.aung@swisscontact.org