

# Media Update

17 March 2017

## ILO

### Press Release

#### Workshop on multinational enterprises, social policies and fundamental principles & rights at work successfully conducted

LAHORE (ILO News) - 16 March 2017: International Labour Organization (ILO) in close collaboration with the Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP) organized a 3-day workshop on Multinational Enterprises, Social Policies and Fundamental Principles & Rights at Work (FP&RW). The workshop was supported by the Government of Japan through the Project on "More and better jobs through socially responsible labour practices in Asia."

CEOs, directors and other representatives from the export oriented sports goods manufacturers in Sialkot, representatives from the brands, trade bodies, business associations and the Chamber of Commerce & Industries as well as representatives from ILO's constituents (government, employers' and workers' organizations) attended the workshop. Members of the Task Force established under the Project were also present.

This workshop strengthened the participants' understanding of the key elements of Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy Declaration (the MNE Declaration) with particular focus on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FP&RW). These concern Freedom of Association and the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining, Abolition of Forced Labour, Non-discrimination and Equality and Elimination of Child Labour. Furthermore, the participants discussed how the principles of the International Labour Standards relate to business and the workplace and the further steps needed to be able to apply these principles within company operations and the supply chain. The ILO Helpdesk for Business on International Labour Standards was also introduced to the participants. Other topics included the importance of social dialogue in industrial relations and ways to effectively support business partners to improve compliance with FP&RW.

The resource persons, Ms Emily Sims, Manager ILO Helpdesk for Business, Geneva, Mr Fasihul Karim Siddiqi, Secretary General of EFP, Mr Syed Saghir Bukhari, Senior Programme Officer, Mr Mian Muhammad Benyameen, National Project Coordinator and Mr Ijaz Ahmed, Project Officer, ILO Country Office for Pakistan facilitated the lively discussions.

The workshop was concluded by a panel discussion on challenges solutions to apply the FP&RW principles and the development of individual (company) and collective action plans defining the way forward.

Ms Ingrid Christensen, Country Director, ILO Country Office for Pakistan was the Chief Guest on 3rd day of the workshop. In her closing remarks, she thanked the participants for their active participation in the workshop. She emphasized that integrating the FP&RW is not only an obligation but can also impact business positively, including being more competitive, and achieving higher productivity, profitability and business sustainability. "Certificates of participation" were awarded to all the participants.

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