

## Concept note

### Regional Conference

### Introducing good practices working with Women's Cafés and Sunday Cafés

at Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar

5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 (8:30 am to 4:30 pm)

#### Background

The regional program Social and Labour Standards in the Textile and Garment Sector in Asia (SLSG), implemented by GIZ, which works on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), aims at strengthening communication and cooperation among employers, employees and government institutions to support them in achieving greater compliance with labour and social standards of the textile and clothing industries in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cambodia and Myanmar.

The conference forms part of a larger SLSG intervention on empowerment of female garment workers in Myanmar which was subcontracted to sequa, the lead agency implementing SMART Myanmar. sequa is a non-profit development organization promoting the development of the private sector and its business membership organizations as well as vocational qualification. sequa's shareholders are Germany's top business membership organizations (DIHK, ZDH, BDA, BDI) and GIZ.

SMART Myanmar is a 2.8 million EUR project funded under EU's SWITCH Asia with the aim to advance social and environmental improvements in Myanmar's garment industry. One work stream in the project foresees to empower women to know and claim their rights.

#### Why this conference:

- Raise awareness on best practices and benefits of working with Women's Cafés/Sunday Cafés
- Capacity development of representatives of women NGOs supporting female garment workers
- Enabling exchange and sharing of experiences between women centers for female garment workers in Bangladesh and in Myanmar to inform on the design and concept of these centers and contribute to their sustainability by strengthening capacities of women NGOs
- Discuss the current status and practices in Myanmar and Bangladesh
- Exchange views on the challenge of ensuring sustainability of the approach, share experiences made so far and discuss innovative solutions for enhancing sustainability
- Formulate recommendations for scaling up the approaches to other Asian countries
- Form alliances and support networks

## What is on the agenda:

Time	Details
08:30	Arrival of guests and registration
09:00	Welcome remarks and introduction of the <b>objectives of the conference</b> by Dr Monika Lueke, Programme Coordinator SLSG, GIZ
09:10	<b>GIZ's view on women empowerment</b> by Dr. Petra Schill, GIZ Country Director Myanmar, GIZ
09:15	<b>What does women's empowerment mean to you?</b> Working groups elaborate on the question and present to plenary, moderated by Simone Lehmann, Project Director, sequa
09:40	<b>Guided interview in plenary, a discussion on women empowerment through Myanmar Sunday Cafés</b> Interview by Su Tayar Lin, Project Manager, sequa with: Than Dar Ko, Country Director, BusinessKind Myanmar, Khin Myat Noe Swe, Garment Worker, Thuzar Myint Shwe Cin, Sunday Café Manager, Thone Pan Hla/BusinessKind Myanmar
09:50	Parallel interactive breakout sessions: <b>A) Women's empowerment through digital solutions and other communication tools</b> Presentation of Shwe job smart phone app Myanmar by Su Tayar Lin, Project Manager, sequa Discussion, experiences in other countries, challenges and learnings Moderated by Saskia Widenhorn, Project Coordinator Myanmar, SLSG, GIZ  <b>B) Legal advice services for workers – compare and discuss models in Myanmar and Bangladesh.</b> Speakers: Taslima Afroza, Project Coordinator, Away Foundation and Fabian Lorenz, Associate with Luther Law Firm Ltd in Myanmar Discussion, compare different approaches, define do and don'ts Moderated by Simone Lehmann, Project Director, sequa

Time	Details
10:30	Tea Break at Swe Taw Hall
11:00	<p>Parallel interactive breakout sessions</p> <p><b>C) Success stories and lessons learnt of female workers empowered through the support of the Cafés in Bangladesh and Myanmar</b></p> <p>Presentations of cases by Rokeya Rafique, Executive Director of Karmojibi Nari, Thandar Ko, Director Thon Pan Hla, Khadiza Akter, Treasurer of Awaj Foundation, Neelima Akther Chowdhury, President, Agrajattra and Shyamoli Mazumder, Chief Executive, Organization for Women’s Development in Bangladesh (OWDEB)</p> <p>Discussions e.g. how to introduce and maintain services, training Moderated by Sue Tym, Garment Sector Specialist, Pyoe Pin</p> <p><b>D) Impact assessment of the approach – the Bangladesh experience incl. sustainability of the approach</b></p> <p>Presentation by Mehzabin Ahmed, Advisor, PSES, GIZ Bangladesh Share these experiences, discuss them and jointly identify possible additional issues/solutions to achieve even wider impact. Moderated by Dr. Monika Lueke, Progame Coordinator SLSG, GIZ</p>
11:45	<b>Video demonstration</b> focused on women empowerment through Sunday Cafés in Myanmar
11:50	<p>Panel discussion: <b>How can Women’s Cafés/Sunday Cafés contribute to women empowerment?</b> What are issues to address in future? What is the way forward with Sunday/Women’s Cafés?</p> <p>moderated by Hnin Wut Yee, Research and Outreach Manager, Myanmar Center for Responsible Business (MCRB)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Zhou, Regional Sustainability Manager, Lindex, China</li> <li>• Jacob Clere, SMART Myanmar Team Leader, sequa, Myanmar</li> <li>• Ei Shwe Yi Win, Program Manager, Care International, Myanmar</li> <li>• Rokeya Rafique, Executive Director, Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh</li> </ul>
12:30	Lunch Break

Time	Details
13:45	Setting the scene: <b>presentation of key points from the morning</b> by Sue Tym, Garment Sector Specialist, Pyoe Pin,
13:55	<p><b>Audience splits into working groups to discuss experiences and elaborate recommendations on four specific issues concerning the sustainability of the Cafés</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What role could male actors play to support the goals of the Cafés?</li> <li>2. How can the financial and institutional sustainability of the Cafés be strengthened by income generating services?</li> <li>3. Which mechanisms can be established to stay connected and to support each other?</li> <li>4. What kind of support is needed when starting and implementing Cafés?</li> </ol>
14:45	Tea break
15:15	Full group reconvenes to <b>present recommendations</b> and results of the working groups in plenary
15:45	<p>Questions and comments on the presentations by the audience</p> <p><b>Summary on how to improve the sustainability of the approach</b></p> <p>The way forward: how can the approach be replicated within one country and in other countries like Cambodia?</p> <p>Integrated evaluation: what have you taken from the conference?</p> <p>Conclusion and wrap up by Simone Lehmann, Project Director, sequa</p>
16:30	End of event

## Overview Parallel Breakout sessions

### Objectives and intended outcomes

Each break out session will shortly be introduced by the moderator regarding the objectives and topics, quickly getting an overview about the knowledge of the participants of the topic.

Then the design of each session will vary, some will use power point and Q & A sessions, other sessions will have a panel of speakers who will present their experiences.

#### A) Presentation of smart phone app Shwe Job to inform about labour laws and OHS

Although Myanmar has recently introduced new labour and occupational health and safety laws, worker knowledge on such legislation is weak. In keeping with SMART Myanmar's and GIZ efforts to educate and empower female garment workers, the app is focused on educating garment factory workers on their rights under Myanmar labour and workplace safety laws.

The goal of this session is to increase practical know-how on smart phone apps; on how to design such app, on its content, the user profiles and the success of it so far as well as presenting the way forward with a second game-app. Also, during this interactive session, participants will be invited to share their knowledge regarding digital solutions to empower women. Participants will thereafter have more knowledge on key issues when introducing apps and may consider to introducing such app in their countries.

Moderated by Saskia Widenhorn, Project Coordinator Myanmar, SLSG, GIZ

Speaker: Su Tayar Lin, Project Manager, sequa

Venue: 1<sup>st</sup> floor Meeting Room A at the Rose Garden Hotel

#### B) Legal counselling and mediation service

The Sunday Cafés and the Women's Cafés offer legal counselling for work and family conflicts by visiting legal advisors. This consultation, which focuses in particular on mediation, is intended to lead to the early resolution of conflicts. Women are encouraged to act more independently and more confidently.

The objective of the session is to increase knowledge and awareness on such services, compare and discuss Myanmar and Bangladesh models, define do's and don'ts, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and also to compare different approaches in the delivery of such services.

Moderated by Simone Lehmann, Project Director, sequa

Speakers: Taslima Afroza, Project Coordinator, Away Foundation and Fabian Lorenz, Associate with Luther Law Firm Ltd in Myanmar

Venue: Swe Taw Hall at the Rose Garden Hotel

### C) Presentation of success stories and lessons learnt from Bangladesh and Myanmar

Women NGOs from Myanmar and Bangladesh working with women cafés and Sunday Cafés present cases and speak about its experiences. Thereafter, an open discussion will take place.

The participants will – through this interactive session – get deeper insights on good practice and concrete examples of interventions that work, how they work and why they work. The participants will also discuss about and reflect on what can be improved, on problems and what was done to solve them and discuss what shall be avoided.

Moderated by Sue Tym, Garment Sector Specialist, Pyoe Pin

Speakers: Rokeya Rafique, Executive Director of Karmojibi Nari, Thandar Ko, Director, Thon Pan Hla, Khadiza Akter, Treasurer of Awaj Foundation, Neelima Akther Chowdhury, President, Agrajattra and Shyamoli Mazumder, Chief Executive, Organization for Women’s Development in Bangladesh (OWDEB)

Venue: Swe Taw Hall at the Rose Garden Hotel

### D) Impact assessment of the approach – the Bangladesh experience

More than 200,000 workers have been aware through Women’s Cafés in Bangladesh, where they learn through trainings, games, posters and films about their work rights. 20,000 of them have been trained as leaders through the 19 Women’s Cafés built with the support of GIZ. Each week around 200 workers, especially women, visit one of the Women’s Cafés in Bangladesh. They have gained knowledge on the legal social standards and conducting negotiations with the factory management. Legal counselling is also part of the offer of Women’s Cafés. The impact of the Cafés was assessed systematically and the results of the assessment will be presented. The objective of the session is to share these experiences, discuss them and jointly identify possible additional issues/solutions to achieve even wider impact.

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Moderated by Dr. Monika Lueke, Programme Coordinator SLSG, GIZ

Speaker: Mehzabin Ahmed, Advisor, PSES, GIZ Bangladesh to present the results of the impact assessment

Venue: 1<sup>st</sup> floor Meeting Room A at the Rose Garden Hotel