

**Communication (Jan 2017)**

## **Improving productivity, quality and working conditions in the Myanmar garment industry**

The Danish partners, Danish Ethical Trading Initiative (DIEH), BESTSELLER, the Danish Trade Union Federation, 3F and Aalborg University are pleased to be one in five partner consortia that has received an invitation by DANIDA to proceed with the development of a full project under the new DANIDA Market Development Partnership.

The project is focusing on improving productivity, quality and working conditions in the Myanmar garment industry. Myanmar's garment industry is gaining importance in the global garment value chain and a need for improving productivity, quality and not least working conditions has been identified.

The project's overall aim is to contribute to the development of stable, effective and responsible suppliers and thereby more competitive commercial partners in the project, for a fast and safe insertion of Myanmar into the global value chains on garments, and to decent jobs creation.

DIEH, 3F and Aalborg University are currently working in Bangladesh on DANIDA funded projects on increased productivity (AaU) and social dialogue (DIEH & 3F). BESTSELLER suppliers are involved in both projects. These two projects will be combined in Myanmar and relevant experience from Bangladesh will be applied to Myanmar with all due respect for the cultural differences.

DIEH will be responsible for administration and supervision of the project besides promoting a multistakeholder approach, training, communicating and facilitating the cooperation between partners. 3F will be responsible for the involvement of and capacity building of workers' representatives and trade union organisations in Myanmar. Aalborg University is responsible for productivity training and OHS activities at Bestseller supplier factories as well as evaluation and documentation of the business case.

BESTSELLER will be responsible for promoting the project and signing up participating suppliers. Myanmar is an important future sourcing market for BESTSELLER who seek to promote democratic and stable economic development through increase in trade and in alignment with its sustainability strategy. This project can support BESTSELLER's efforts in sourcing better products of high quality in factories that are safe and healthy workplaces.

BESTSELLER will not receive any support or benefit directly from the Danida grant and will cover all own expenses. However, the creation of decent jobs in sustainable supply chains will, of course, be of significant value and benefit the Danish company indirectly in the medium to long term.

### **About Danida Market Development Partnerships**

The overall objective of Danida Market Development Partnerships is to contribute to sustainable economic growth and employment in developing countries. This is done by supporting partnerships that combine knowledge and resources from several actors. The aim is to contribute to sustainable market development in developing countries that promotes the achievement of the UN Global Goals. Focus is on Goal 8 in particular – promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



The point of departure for a partnership project is a business idea driven by one or more private businesses. Danida support is given to combine knowledge and resources from different actors with the aim to ensure wider development results. A partnership must as a minimum include a private business and a non-commercial partner.

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