

Interim Activity Report – REALM – CESD

First half of 2019

- 1) Project inception and preparatory works – January – June 2019
 - DERG delegation led by Prof. Finn Tarp and Prof. John Rand met with CESD staff to layout the project plans.
 - Zaw Oo approached the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population for the approval and commitment of the Ministry in conducting three research work.
 - Zaw Oo and Ngu Wah met with the authorities of Social Security Board to explain the research objectives and inquire the priorities of the SSB.
 - Zaw Oo, Kanayde and Ngu Wah met with the Department of Labour to explain the CESD's plans to assist the Ministry's work on skill training programs and inquire the priorities of the National Skill Standards Authority (NSSA)
 - Zaw Oo and Ngu Wah met with the Permanent Secretary of the MOLIP who is in charge of minimum wage setting committee to explore the status and needs in 2019-20.
 - CESD organized a stakeholder meetings with MOLIP, inviting private sector associations and workers union.

- 2) TOT/CAPI Course on Kobo and Data Collection – March 2018
 - Prof. Neda Trifkovic came to Myanmar and gave course.

- 3) Work package 1: Social Security Provision
 - SSB requested the CESD to examine the performance of health care service deliveries targeted to formal sector workers and their family members to check what options are the best to enhance labour productivity and social relations between employers and workers as well as on the financial sustainability of expanding/improving its services to the workers.
 - o Visited SSB clinics in Yangon area
 - o Visited and discussed several rounds of meetings with OSC Hospital, a private clinic contracted by SSB to provide health services in the areas concentrated by the workers (not served by the public SSB clinics)
 - Work Plans:
 - o To conduct a quick worker survey to understand the health care costs, demand for health services and behavior of preventive health/ or perception surveys
 - o To get the financial data from SSB to work with Stewart/Bea to explore financial sustainability issues
 - o To conduct employers perception/demand surveys

- 4) Work package 2: Skills Certified Worker Training
 - CESD is now supporting the DOL's plan to provide 'Skills Certified Worker Training' in the garment sector, for which the DOL has been developing a budget proposal to submit to the cabinet. CESD will help ensure that MOLIP integrates skill standards in overseas destinations of Myanmar migrant workers such as those in Thailand. CESD is ambitious to take the opportunity to apply RTC methodology to monitor the progress and outcome of

training programs together with the MOLIP in order to inform the government to fine-tune their skill programs.

- Visited NYT to talk to skill development program
- Worked with DOL on project bank proposal to get the training program being financed in 2020 or taken up by the donors
- Consulted some key stakeholders of the workers training program including CTUM, Aung Myin Hmu TVET School and other employers association
- Work Plans:
 - To consult DERG regarding the design and planning of RTC methodology for skill training program
 - To further assist the DOL in furnishing the training proposal and its roll-out plans
 - To organize the workshop with key stakeholders when the proposal is finalized

5) Work package 3: Minimum Wages

- CESD is assisting the Minimum Wage Setting Committee to review on the impact of setting minimum wages in 2016 and 2018 respectively, particularly on inequality across the sectors and regions, for example, to look at the wage differentials and gender wage gaps before 2016 through 2105 LFS and to compare the after-effects of minimum wages in 2019 LFS (if possible, 2017 or 2018).
 - CESD secured the partial dataset of LFS 2015 and some data of 2017 for initial exploration
 - CESD prepares the first CAPI of the DOL to conduct the upcoming LFS survey in 2019
 - CESD works with the manpower statistical division of DOL to design the upcoming LFS survey.
- Work Plans:
 - To consult DERG regarding the vigorous application of quantitative methods to review the LFS and to provide further analysis on LFS regarding inequality and wage dynamics in Myanmar
 - To further assist the DOL in testing the MOLIP's LFS 2019 survey
 - To conduct a living wage survey to understand the market situation (which is not part of the LFS 2019) to support the MOLIP
- CESD is also working with the parliament in reviewing the minimum wage setting mechanisms to be modified in 2020
- Work Plans:
 - To consult DERG regarding the strengthening of institutional mechanisms of minimum wage setting – particularly the impartial role of technical reviews
 - To organize the workshop with the Workers Committee of the parliament

6) Networking activities

- ILO sponsored “Responsible investment in Myanmar” forum participated by Zaw Oo and Ngu Wah Win to discuss about the case studies on garment industry and its ongoing labour protection reforms in the country – June 2019