



This project is funded by
the European Union



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23rd

200 attend labour laws seminar hosted by SMART Myanmar and GIZ at UMFCCI

Participation in Tuesday's labour laws seminar was higher than expectations with over 200 factory managers joining a training session on labour laws at the UMFCCI's Mingalar Hall

Yangon, 22nd August 2017 -

The European Union funded SMART Myanmar project and the project Social and Labour Standards in the Textile and Garment Sector in Asia (SLSG), implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, which works on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) jointly organized a half-day seminar on labour laws most relevant for factories in Myanmar. Although initially aiming to host about 70 managers and staff, over 200 individuals attended to hear lawyers from Luther Law firm answer questions on existing labour laws in Myanmar.

"Attendance at the seminar far exceeded our expectations. I believe most factories are interested to comply with Myanmar's existing labour laws, but it is often not simple. Sometimes laws are inconsistently applied and this can create immense confusion for factory managers. We hope today brought some added consistency and clarity." **said Mr. Jacob A. Clere, SMART Myanmar Team Leader.**

SMART Myanmar is the largest not-for-profit technical training initiative in Myanmar's industrial sector. Funded by the European Union and German government, the project has trained hundreds of managers and dozens of garment factories on various social and environmental topics. The legal seminar on Tuesday was designed to broaden the outreach of these efforts and engage a wider audience.

During Tuesday's event SLSG sequa Project Manager, Ms. Su Tayar Lin presented the smartphone app **Shwe Job** - an app designed to educate workers in the Myanmar garment industry on labour laws and occupational safety & health in the factory. Since the app's launch on May 1st Shwe Job has achieved over 3,300 downloads in the Google Play Store, an average of about 1,000 installs per month.

"We're not promising a revolution, but I believe that by educating both workers and managers on the existing laws healthy industrial relations will be easier to achieve," **said Ms. Su Tayar Lin, sequa Project Manager working for GIZ's SLSG project.**





This project is funded by
the European Union



Organizational Backgrounds:

SMART Myanmar is a European Union and German government funded project (2013-2019). Led by sequa gGmbH, SMART Myanmar's local partner is the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association. SMART Myanmar conducts factory consultancies and capacity building projects to improve occupational health and safety, workplace management systems, and environmental sustainability practices in the garment, textile and footwear sectors in Myanmar. SMART Myanmar has engaged with over 200 garment, textile and footwear factories in Myanmar via seminars, classroom training and on-site consultancy modules.

Social and Labour Standards in the Textile and Garment Sector in Asia (SLSG), implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, which works on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is a regional project funded by the German government and is designed to improve social and labour standards and performance in the garment & textile sector in Asia. Myanmar was included in this multi-country initiative since 2016. The project currently runs a program training 5 factories in Yangon on social dialogue.

For more information:

Website of SMART Myanmar project:

<http://www.smartmyanmar.org/>

Jacob A. Clere, SMART Myanmar Team Leader:

jacob.clere@smartmyanmar.org, +959976330473

Su Tayar Lin, sequa gGmbH Project Manager working for SLSG:

sutayarin@googlemail.com +9595158286

Su Mon Thair, SMART Myanmar Project Manager

sumon@smartmyanmar.org +959970413400

