

BILS Dialogue session with Patuakhali Science and Technology University-PSTU held

BILS Dialogue with Patuakhali Science and Technology University-PSTU held on July 28, 2022 at Seminar Hall, Faculty of Agriculture, PSTU, Patuakhali focusing on living standards and human rights situation of small-scale fishers in Bangladesh. Findings of sector wide impact assessment and role of stakeholders were shared in the dialogue.



The main objective of the dialogue was to share the findings of BILS-SWIA project with teachers and students, to present ways forward to academicians and potential role players in the future, and to learn about the observations/interests of future engagement of attendees.

Professor of the Department of Aquaculture at Patuakhali Science and Technology University-PSTU Dr. Lokman Ali chaired the meeting and Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries Dr. Mohammad A.B. Siddik was present as the chief guest. Assistant Professor of the Department of Fisheries Management Md. Hafijur Rahman was

present as moderator, while Professor of the Department of Fisheries Management Dr. Md. Moazzem Hossain, Chairman of the Department of Fisheries Technology Dr. Md. Sazedul Hoque, Associate Professor Dr.

Ferdous Ahamed, Social Welfare Affairs Secretary of Jatiyo Sramik Federation Central Committee as well as President of Barishal District Committee S.M. Zakir Hossain, MJF representative Shaikh Giasuddin Ahmed and BILS Representative Rezoanul Haque Azom also spoke on the session among others.

The session essentially highlighted the situation of living standards and human rights of small-scale fishers of Bangladesh, on the basis of the key findings from SWIA. The session was successfully organized with the effective participation of students, and the resourceful contribution of teachers of fisheries faculty.

Dr. Mohammad A.B. Siddik expressed his satisfaction to BILS and MJF for organizing the event at their university. He said, we have emphasized not only sea-going fishers but also people involved with knitting, transportation, dry fish processing, seed collecting etc. This initiative has covered almost every point and aspect of the small-scale fisheries sector of Bangladesh. Human

rights are much more emphasized in our targeted developed country, so it should be a priority of the government to concentrate on securing fishers' human and labour rights. He said, what we can do afterward, is incorporating the rights and livelihood-based aspects of small-scale fishers in our sociology subject. He also said, if the organizer can support us with documents



and inputs, we can update our outcome-based course curriculum.

Study circle with youth TU organisers held

BILS with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organised a study circle with youth TU organisers on August 14, 2022 at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Seminar Hall, Dhaka.



Developing a set of skilled and committed youth trade union leaders who are playing the role in the national trade union

federations for improving the standard of life and rights of the working class people was the main objective of the programme.

BILS Executive Council Joint Secretary General Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, ILO South Asia Decent Workers Technical Team Workers Activist Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmmed, SKOP Joint Coordinator Ahsan Habib Bulbul, BILS Director Kohinoor Mahmood and Nazma Yesmin, FES Program Coordinator Iqbal Hossain, BILS Sr. Program Officer Monirul Kobir spoke on the program. A number of TU youth organisers attended the study circle.

BILS-FNV Project Advisory Committee meeting held

A Project Advisory Committee meeting held under BILS-Social Dialogue for Decent Work in RMG 2022-2023 Project on September 04, 2022 at BILS Seminar Hall, Dhaka.

The meeting was organised to share the activity of BILS-FNV project (June 2022- May 2023) and Suggestion and guidelines for implementing the activities.

BILS Lifetime Member and BILS-FNV Advisory Council Member Shamsun Nahar Bhuiyan, MP presided over the meeting while BILS Advisory Council Member Naimul Ahsan Jewel, BILS Vice Chairman Anwar Hossain, BILS Lifetime Member Md.

Touhidur Rahman, BILS Director and Project Coordinator Nazma Yesmin, Sr. Officer Rezoanul Haque Azom and Md. Syaduzzaman Mithu were present at the meeting.

Sromik Shanghoti Forum-SSF discussion meeting held

With the support of BILS-DGB-BW, Sromik Shanghoti Forum-SSF organised a discussion meeting to urge government organs and employers to implement declared wage structures in 42 sectors and ensure trade union rights and workplace safety has been held on September 03, 2022 at the Chattogram Press Club.

Awareness raising to ensure workplace safety and Government-declared wage-structures in the 42 sectors are the main objectives of the meeting.

A concept note on the topic of “Implement Government-declared Wage-structures in 42 Sectors, Ensure Workplace-Safety & TU Rights” was read out by BILS senior officer Rizwanur Rahman Khan. Speakers in the discussion opined that the Bangladesh government has revised wage structures in 3 sectors namely Shrimp, Printing Press & Saw-Mill recently. In total, wage structures have been declared in 42 sectors. But workers and TU activists know little about these because the campaign is less visible in this regard. Employers are not cooperative and willing to pay the wages as per grades.

Moreover, workplace safety and trade union rights are questionable in our country. We have to fight a lot to ensure our declared wages, workplace safety and TU rights-the speakers said. TU leadership also has a role to play in this regard-they said.

BILS-LRSC Coordination Committee Chairman A M Nazimuddin presided over the meeting while BILS-LRSC Information and Documentation Officer Pahari Bhattacharjee acted as a moderator. The meeting was addressed among others by JSL Central Committee Vice-President Md. Safar Ali, Former President of Chattogram Union of Journalists-CUJ Nazimuddin Shaymol, Md. Ali Shahin of YPSA, Sharif Chowhan of BNPS, Md. Shariful Islam of IGU, Sohel-Ud-Dowza of BBF, Advocate Tasnim Sultana of BLAST, Md. Alauddin of Awaz Foundation, Kanta Mollick of SANGSAPTOK, Kazi Sheikh Nurulla Bahar & Shahenewaz Chowdhury of BJSJ, Kazi Altaf Hossain of BMSF, K M Shahidullah of BFTUC, Md. Babul of TUC.

Quarterly meeting of Apex Body held between TU and CSO leaders

10th quarterly linkage meeting of Apex Body under BILS Securing Rights for Women Domestic Workers (SRDW) project was held on August 29, 2022 at BILS Seminar Hall.



Agenda of discussion of the meeting were discussion of first six months report on situation of domestic workers in 2022, discussion regarding handing over to the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the preparation of the Draft Monitoring Strategy of the National Action Plan for Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015, decision regarding meeting with Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation etc.

A total of 33 People (F- 23, M- 10) participated in the meeting. The decisions of the meeting were Sending letters to each police station to inform about domestic workers, Organizing a meeting with the Islamic Foundation regarding the imams of mosques to give an awareness speech on the rights of domestic workers

and sending a letter requesting that the foundation send letters to mosques in all areas, follow up the Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation for a meeting with TU and CSO leaders, requesting BLAST for legal assistance of domestic workers on the basis of list of abuses of domestic workers from January to June 2022

The virtual discussion meeting of the

PIC meeting held online

members of the Policy Implementation Committee (PIC) consisting of representatives of trade unions and civil society was held on August 11, 2022, on zoom platform.

BILS Joint Secretary General Dr. Wazedul Islam Khan presided over the discussion meeting. Other members of the Policy Implementation Committee participated in the discussion.

Decision was taken to follow up the State Minister for Labour & Employment regarding the implementation of the National Action Plan on Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015. Dr. Wajed was requested to take initiative to arrange the meeting with the Minister.

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