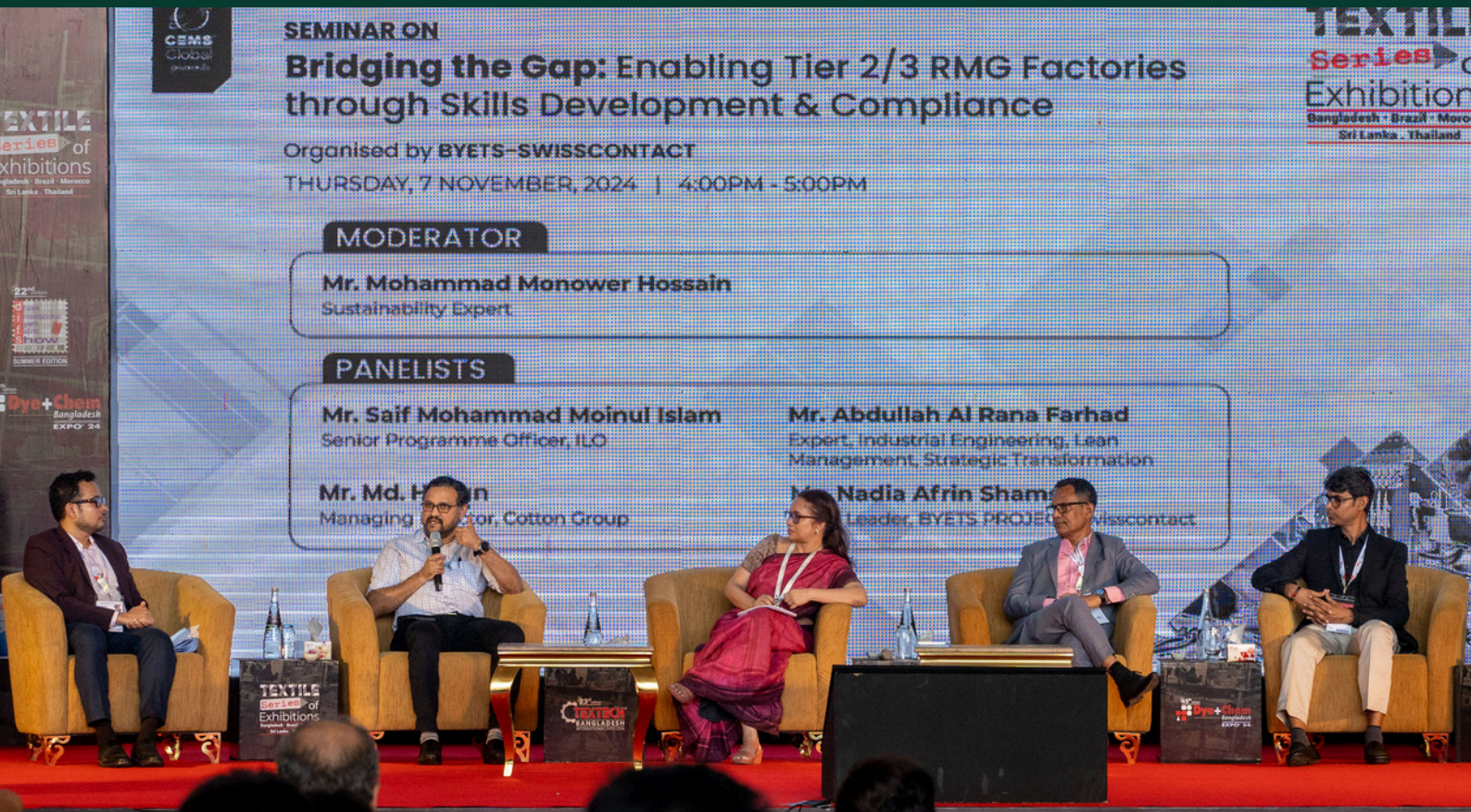


THE BYETS PRESS

January 2025 | Volume: V

A quarterly newsletter highlighting BYETS activities, achievements, and progress towards achieving its goals



The **Building Youth Employability Through Skills (BYETS)** project participated in the 23rd Textech Bangladesh 2024 International Expo, hosted by CEMS Global from November 6th to 9th, 2024. The event served as a platform for BYETS and its partnered consultancy firms to showcase specialised services for the readymade garments (RMG) industry. As part of the expo, BYETS conducted a panel discussion session titled **"Bridging the Gap: Empowering Tier 2/3 RMG Factories through Skills Development and Compliance"** engaging industry experts, development partners, and factory representatives.

On November 7th, 2024, the seminar was moderated by sustainability expert Mohammad Monower Hossain. The panel included Saif Mohammad Moinul Islam from the ILO, Nadia Afrin Shams from the BYETS project, industry expert Abdullah Al Rana Farhad, and Md Hasan as RMG factory representative. The discussion highlighted the challenges posed by new regulatory changes and stricter compliance requirements as Bangladesh transitions from Least Developed Country (LDC) status. Panelists emphasised the urgent need for Tier 2 and Tier 3 factories to prioritise skills development to meet compliance standards and remain competitive in the global market.

**BYETS Project
Participated at the
International Textile
Exhibition**

Roundtable on GRI Reporting for a Compliant and Transparent RMG Sector



The BYETS project, in collaboration with The Daily Star, hosted its first of the series of three roundtable discussions on October 24, 2024, focusing on *"Implementation of Global Reporting Initiatives (GRI) Standards in the RMG Sector of Bangladesh."* The event brought together key stakeholders—RMG factories, policymakers, and embassy representatives—to discuss how GRI reporting can enhance compliance, accountability, and the global reputation of Bangladesh’s RMG industry. As sustainability becomes crucial for maintaining competitive advantage, GRI reporting offers a structured framework to measure and address key issues like energy efficiency, fair wages, and workplace safety. The roundtable aimed to equip the sector with the tools and knowledge to meet global standards, tackle emerging challenges, and achieve long-term sustainable growth.

The event was attended by Thijs Woudstra, Deputy Head of Mission from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Md. Monowar Hossain, Sustainability expert, presented the keynote paper, while distinguished speakers included Dr. Moyazzem Hossain, Research Director at CPD, and Michael Claud, Manager at GIZ.

Roundtable on Inclusive ICT Training Pathways for Persons with Disabilities



In collaboration with The Daily Star, the BYETS project hosted its second roundtable discussion on December 4, 2024, titled *"Equity in ICT: Inclusive Training Pathways for Persons with Disabilities"*. The event brought together diverse stakeholders, including representatives from the European Union, UN Women, Bdjobs.com, A2i, the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), disability-focused organisations, advocacy groups, TVET educators, and policymakers.

Persons with disabilities (PWD) trainees from CRP actively participated, sharing their experiences and offering valuable insights into the challenges they face in accessing skills training and employment opportunities. The discussion focused on strategies to make national competency standards more inclusive and developing partnerships among stakeholders to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in the formal employment sector.

NSDA Adopts BYETS Developed Competency Standard for Food Sector Supervision

BYETS collaborated with industry experts and the government to develop a national competency standard (CS) aimed at equipping supervisors with the skills to enhance operational efficiency in the Agro-food processing sector. In a landmark achievement, the CS was validated, approved, and officially adopted by the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA). The NSDA has made the CS publicly accessible on its website, allowing industries and training service providers to integrate it into their programs. Currently, BYETS is encouraging FMCG factories to apply for Skills Training Provider (STP) status with the NSDA. This accreditation will enable factories to train workers, and upon successful completion of the Production Supervision for the Food Sector training and assessment, participants can receive NSDA certification.



Launching High-End ICT Training Through Partnership with QA Harbor Limited

BYETS partnered with QA Harbor Limited, a software company, on November 28, 2024, to launch a Software Quality Assurance (SQA) training program. As part of this collaboration, QA Harbor is expanding its business by establishing a revenue-generating training wing to ensure sustainability beyond the project. The three-month SQA training is divided into beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels, offering participants a seamless learning journey.

This partnership aims to support the market actor in introducing new services. The training module developed under this project will also be validated by NSDA. This initiative seeks to deliver impactful, demand-driven training to bring systematic change by engaging multiple stakeholders on a shared platform

Transforming Opportunities for Ethnic Minority Youth

To uplift marginalised communities, BYETS has joined hands with Educo to provide ICT training to youth from the Santal community in Rajshahi. On October 31st, 2024 the project formalised a strategic partnership with the INGO Educo which has been working with youth and marginalized population since 1999. to bridge skill gaps and create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for youth from ethnic minorities.

Educo operates more than 308 youth clubs around the country in which large number of youths from indigenous population participate. By leveraging this networks BYETS aims to maximise impact. With support from Educo youth clubs, the project aims to engage a demographic cohort that has previously remained unreachable. Meanwhile, e-Learning & Earning Ltd. will deliver accessible, market-driven ICT training to. This initiative aims to equip ethnic minority youth with the skills needed for economic participation, enhancing their prospects for employment and entrepreneurship.



BYETS: Recap of 2024 (as of December 31 2024)



12,566

Trainees have enrolled in training. Among them, **62%** are female and **38%** are male trainees.

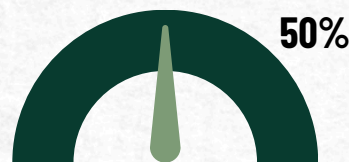


10,029

Trainees have successfully completed or graduated from the training. Among them, **65%** are female and **35%** are male trainees.



Number of Trainees Completed Training Under Classroom-Based & Workplace-Based Training



50%

5,006

out of 10,000 trainees completed training from 15 TSPs providing ICT training



50%

7,560

out of 15,000 workers completed training through 62 WBT at RMG and AP factories

BYETS Working With

62 Partnership with RMG and AP factories

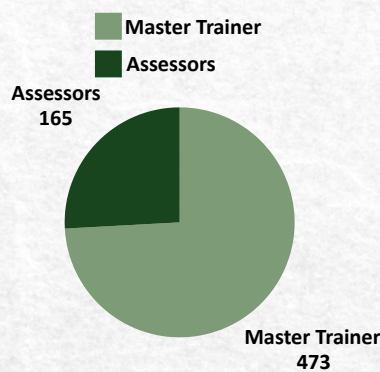
16 Partnership with local Training Service Providers (TSP)

8 Partnership with private sector local Consultancy Service Provider (CSP)

5 Partnership with international Consultancy Service Provider (CSP)

11 Training modules developed from which 1 is NSDA adopted

Significant Progress Toward Sustainability



638 master trainers and assessors developed at RMG and AP factories



EURO 976,190

As of Oct. 2024, BYETS garnered over Euro 976,190 in private investment in the RMG, AP and ICT sectors through **WBT** and **hybrid model** interventions in the factories.