

# “Getting through the crisis together”

Asian Dialogues on Sustainability in the Textile and Garment Industry  
Webinar Series

Webinar 1:

## The Impact of the Crisis on Producers and Workers: Voices from Asia

Wednesday, April 29, 10 am CET (Berlin) / 3pm ICT (Bangkok) / 4pm CST (Beijing) – 90 Minutes

COVID-19 has disrupted supply chains globally, resulting in reduced orders and incomes, factory closures and job losses. The implications for developing countries are enormous, potentially leading to strikes and social unrest.

This webinar series by **GIZ FABRIC** sheds light on the pandemic’s impact on the textile and garment industry in Asia. The first webinar will discuss different aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic’s impact on the textile and garment production in Asia for the different stakeholders involved across the supply chain. Three representatives who are directly affected by the crisis will share with us their experiences from the viewpoint of workers, producers and regional associations & networks. They will discuss where they have seen positive approaches and what role collaboration can play in tackling the crisis.



### Mr. Miran Ali,

Director, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and member of the STAR Network.

Miran is a leading garment entrepreneur, leading Bitopi Group in Bangladesh as Managing Director. His passion for social responsibility and environmental sustainability motivated him to introduce green practices in his workplaces, emphasizing sustainability as one of the key factors for businesses to succeed. Miran is also active in various associations and networks as director of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), which has taken a strong role in communication during the crisis and as member of the STAR Network of regional producer associations.



### Mr. Herman Leung,

Head of Operations, Dakota Garment Group

Herman has been at DAKOTA a one-stop solution in garment design and manufacturing company with facilities in China, Cambodia, and Myanmar for more than ten years. He leads the creation, execution, and achievement of ambitious enterprise goals and is responsible for the central functions on-site that support the group’s development. Herman has been responsible for leading the group through different transitions, positioning DAKOTA with technology and high efficiency in the fashion industry. Over the years, he has continued to explore disruptive changes to the Group, like a collaboration with a university using Big Data to pursue smart AI-decisions in the supply chain.



### Ms. Khaing Zar Aung,

President, Industrial Workers’ Federation of Myanmar (IWFM) and Treasurer, Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM)

Leaving school at 16 to help support her seven siblings, Khaing Zar Aung got a job in a garment factory in Myanmar and completed a bachelor’s degree in economics by distance education. Having worked for some time at the Thai-Myanmar border, after joining classes by Federation of Trade Unions of Burma (FTUB) she became involved in the trade union movement in 2007 working at the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB) and CTUM. As president of IWFM, she is leading the strategic development of IWFM which is affiliated to IndustriALL Global Union and has become a well-known voice representing workers nationally and internationally.