

“Getting through the crisis together”

Asian Dialogues on Sustainability in the Textile and Garment Industry
Online Seminar Series

Online Seminar 8:

How can social dialogue help us get through the crisis together?

The online seminar is open for all industry stakeholders and free to attend. To register, please [click here](#).

Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 11am (Berlin) / 4pm (Bangkok) / 5pm (Beijing) – 90 Minutes

In the eighth seminar, which is jointly organized by [GIZ FABRIC](#) and [ILO's Decent Work in Garment Supply Chains Asia project](#), we will focus on social dialogue as a key component of strong industrial relations. Given the challenging situation for both workers and employers due to Covid-19 how does efficient collaboration look like in such difficult times? We will hear about how manufacturers and trade unions have worked together and reached agreements, the guidelines and frameworks they used to inform the dialogue process, the roles of brands and retailers in this, and the benefits they derived from engaging and cooperating with each other.



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. After joining classes by Federation of Trade Unions of Burma she became involved in the trade union movement in 2007, working at the National Council of the Union of Burma and CTUM. As president, she is now leading the strategic development of IWFM, which is affiliated to IndustriALL Global Union. She played a key role negotiating Myanmar's Freedom of Association (FOA) Guideline and will give insights into how the forum was used to negotiate the Joint Framework for Action in times of COVID-19.



Ms. Gladys Tang, Senior Sustainability Manager, **Tchibo Merchandising Hong Kong**. Gladys has been working on Human Rights and Social Compliance for 15 years. Having started as Human Rights Compliance specialist for Ann Taylor Sourcing Far East in 2004, with management positions in compliance Eddie Bauer international and Warnaco Global Sourcing, she became Senior Sustainability Manager for the German brand Tchibo in 2014. In this position, she is overseeing the WE Program in Asia, which was initially developed together with GIZ and has the goal to facilitate dialogue in Tchibo supplier factories. In her capacity, she also supported the involvement of Tchibo suppliers in the negotiation of the FOA Guideline in Myanmar.



Mr. Suryadi Sasmita, Owner, **PT. Indonesia Wacoal** and Vice Chairman, **Employers' Association of Indonesia APINDO**. Mr. Suryadi is the owner of PT Indonesia Wacoal Factory operating out of Bogor, West Java, Indonesia. Wacoal makes women's undergarments and has recently pivoted to producing face masks as a way to maintain the factory's 2000 strong workforce during the pandemic. He is also the Vice Chairman of APINDO, and has recently supported the brokering of a new joint commitment with Garment/Footwear Trade Unions Federations in Indonesia, APINDO, API and APRISINDO amidst the COVID-19 Crisis. This agreement looks at protecting business sustainability as well as the safety and welfare of workers in the export-oriented garment and footwear sectors in Indonesia.



Mr. Amilthan Suntharalingam, Country Head Bangladesh, **Hop Lun Manufacturing Group**. Mr. Amilthan is the new Bangladesh Country Head of Hop Lun, a manufacturing group that specializes in fashion lingerie, swimwear, casual wear and nightwear. The Hong Kong based company owns eleven factories in Bangladesh, China and Indonesia. Mr. Amilthan was one of the signatories that collaborated with Sommilito Garments Sramik Federation recently to co-design an innovative collective bargaining agreement by employer and union. Prior to Bangladesh, Mr. Amilthan was with Hop Lun in Indonesia as Head of Operations Indonesia/Corporate Manufacturing Excellence and in Sri Lanka, in Operations Manager roles for over a decade with MAS Holdings and Brandix.

Welcome and thematic introduction by **Alexandra Behns**, Coordinator Regional Cooperation, GIZ FABRIC and **John Ritchotte**, Industrial Relations Technical Specialist, ILO Decent Work in the Garment Sector Supply Chains in Asia. Moderated by **Dr. Stephen Frost**, Editor, The Fashion Sustainability Week in Review & Director, GoBlu. For any questions, please contact Weini.Zhang@giz.de.



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