

EC to provide 14m euro for poverty alleviation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Commission (EC) will provide 14 million euro to fund a major Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) project aiming to support alleviating poverty in Bangladesh.

An agreement to this effect was signed at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) in the city yesterday.

ERD Secretary Aminul Islam Bhuiyan and Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh Dr Stefan Frowein signed the contract on behalf of their respective parties.

The fund will be utilised for the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) project, which has the ultimate goal of supporting Bangladesh in alleviating poverty in line with its National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction.

The EC's direct counterpart in the project is the Directorate for Technical Education (DTE) and the project will be implemented by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), says an EC press release.

The project aims at contributing to a market-oriented and flexible TVET system, which responds to the demand for competitive skills in the

modern marketplace, as well as to the needs of youth and underprivileged groups.

The project has five main components: (1) TVET policies and legislation reviewed and strengthened at the central and decentralised levels; (2) Enhanced flexibility, quality and relevance of TVET; (3) Strengthened TVET institutions through improved knowledge and skills of managers and teachers; (4) Improved skills development resulting in enhanced productivity and competitiveness in key growth and export-oriented industries in the formal industrial sector; and (5) Increased access of underprivileged groups to TVET.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Frowein said, "Improving skills through well-targeted training is essential not only for the development of individuals but also for the development of Bangladesh. I am delighted that the European Commission is able to extend substantial assistance to the TVET initiative, which will contribute significantly to the creation of a 'knowledge economy' in Bangladesh. I am particularly pleased that the programme will foster skills amongst underprivileged groups."

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