

Press Release

For immediate release
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BFC says enforcement and higher wage helping garment workers

Phnom Penh, Cambodia— The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Better Factories Cambodia (BFC) programme today welcomed the government's announcement of a \$5 monthly increase in garment and footwear workers' salaries.

"The Royal Government of Cambodia and factory owners are to be commended for this enlightened move which will contribute to the livelihoods of 400,000 workers and help to sustain up to 1.7 million Cambodians" said Jill Tucker, BFC Chief Technical Adviser.

She continued: "This raise is an encouraging development in a rapidly evolving environment and could not have been achieved without the committed work of our trade union colleagues advocating on behalf of workers."

Prime Minister, Hun Sen yesterday announced that the country's garment and footwear workers are to receive a \$5 monthly raise as a contribution to their health and well-being from January 2012 onwards. The move comes shortly after the issuing of new Prakas on *Sub-Contract Management in Garment and Textile Industry* which for the first time obliges subcontracting garment factories to register with the Better Factories Cambodia monitoring programme.

Article 3 states that: "Only the members of the Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC) that has registered with the Better Factories Cambodia in compliance with the Ministry of Commerce are entitled to the entry into a sub-contract."

Ms. Tucker said: "Many industry challenges remain, however this pay increase is yet another step in the right direction. It is especially timely that it comes following the Royal Cambodian Government's concentrated efforts in terms of subcontracting factories. It is vital that we as garment sector actors work together to achieve the highest quality labour standards for each and every worker in all of Cambodia's factories."

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