

Launch event of UpSkill held at the Houses of Parliament

UpSkill showed as an innovative initiative to support the Bangladeshi garment industry

GreenGrade's UpSkill e-learning platform was launched at the Houses of Parliament on Monday 24th of November. The attendees included representatives from UK retailers and buyers, Members of Parliament and civil society organisations. We were delighted to have the Right Honourable Desmond Swayne, Minister of State for International Development at the gathering.



MP Jim Fitzpatrick (pictured on the left) acted as the keynote speaker for the event, representing the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Bangladesh. He highlighted the support from APPG stating the fact that they are pleased to continue with their support within the Bangladeshi garment industry.

Jonny Richards, Economic Advisor of the BIS/DFID Trade Policy Unit, highlighted the work of the Trade in Global Value Chain Initiative (TGVCI) towards improving the sustainability of the Bangladeshi garment supply chains. Speaking on behalf of the Department for International Development, he applauded the efforts being made so far, encouraging and supporting UpSkill.

Dr. Sharon Sadeh, GreenGrade's founder and Managing Director (pictured on the right), made his point emphasising the role of UpSkill as an e-learning platform that allows factories to go to the next level at a low cost. He related the good connection that UpSkill will have with the rising population of young managers and the growing adoption of mobile technology among them. Dr. Sadeh described UpSkill as a "smart and simple system" that will match the expectations of an enthusiastic workforce.



Stockholm Environment Institute's Annemarieke de Bruin and Roberto Rinaldi presented the pilot results, comprising 33 participants in 10 factories, some of which have had a number of small accidents in the past. Final conclusions showed that 90% of participants rated the course as good or excellent. Participants used a wide range of devices to access the training, fact that supports the raise of mobile technology use among factory managers. Overall, participants gained good foundational knowledge leading to the implementation of measures in piloted factories.

Further steps are being taken into consideration to improve the overall measurement of the training, such as further analysis of the data collected, the improvement of surveys, the assessment of new participants, and the assessment of long term affects of the training provided.

The technology demonstration with two laptops and two tablets at the launch event went really well, as we felt that attendees were enthusiastic and interested in the platform due to the engagement and number of questions posed to the technology team.

We would like to thank everybody who took part in creating and developing UpSkill to the platform it is today, with a special mention to MP Anne Main, Chair of APPG Bangladesh, and her office for sponsoring and supporting GreenGrade's team for the launch event. Find some more information about the launch of UpSkill in Dhaka the 13th of November on the following link: <http://goo.gl/dzLYAt>

For more information about GreenGrade and UpSkill, please visit our website www.greengrade.co.uk or the UpSkill site www.upskill.greengrade.co.uk, or follow us in the social media. We would like to hear your thoughts about UpSkill.



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