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BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS

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Dear readers,

We are delighted to share with you the second edition of our bi-monthly newsletter.

This newsletter provides highlights of our work in January and February 2022 from four areas of the project's intervention.

Should you be interested to read about the S.I.C. project, please click or scan the below QR code.

We hope you have a good read!





Improved worker support

A technical agreement was officially signed with Adama, Hawassa, Debre Birhan industrial parks (IPs). This agreement lays down the modes of cooperation and the activities under the 3 intervention areas namely improved workers support, IPs management and environmental sustainability that will be jointly implemented by IPs and S.I.C. project.



A partnership workshop was held with the newly established Ministry of Labour and Skills (MoLS). The objective of the workshop was to identify areas of collaboration and discuss the modes of cooperation. A joint technical task force team was established and agreed on a joint action plan. Focus areas of the collaboration will be the development of a sector-specific occupational safety and health (OSH) policy, strengthening the labour inspection system and improving OSH measure in IPs. Going forward, a technical agreement detailing out the joint action plan will be signed.

Improved sustainability frameworks



The Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (formerly the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission) is mandated with the formulation of environmental policies, laws and standards as well as monitoring and enforcing the respective regulations. The S.I.C. project is engaged in different interventions to support the authority's effort to conduct compliance inspections and monitor environmental impacts. As part of these interventions, the project procured and handed over a 3 water quality meter devices. The devices enable to inspect more than 15 important water quality parameters like pH, temperature, electrical conductivity (EC), and salinity.





Improved environmental sustainability in industrial parks

As part of Ethiopia's Greening IP Strategy, the Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC) has installed a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) facility in selected parks including HIP. With it, HIP has the potential to safeguard the environment by recycling the industrial wastewater. This system employs a range of advanced wastewater treatment technologies to recycle, recovery and re-use the treated wastewater and thereby ensure there is no discharge of wastewater to the environment.

The S.I.C. project provided capacity building training to 50 technical staff, including the operators, technicians and supervisors working in different units of the ZLD facility. The training, which is designed by the Ethiopian Standards Agency based on International Organization for Standardization (IOS), focused on environment, laboratory, and energy management systems. The main objective of this training is to develop processes that will ultimately reduce the environmental impact of the ZLD facility while increasing its operational efficiency. In addition, the training also provides the technical staff the ability to provide competent service to the companies in the park.



We asked selected trainees to tell us more about the training...



Tesfanesh Gameda, Plant Operator

The environmental management system training helped me understand the basic concepts of environmental management, identify environmental impacts caused by the plant and the park, learn how to develop preventive measures, and the financial and operational benefits gained after the implementation of the system.

A task force responsible for the development of the system is formed after the training. We are working on the continuous improvement of the ZLD facility and aim to get an ISO certification for our service provisions soon.



Alezewud Adugnaw, Laboratory Technician

The laboratory management system training is one of the requirements to certify our team and thereby accreditation of our processes and protocols. Personally, the training has helped me capture the general workflow of a laboratory, how to integrate instruments, manage samples and associated information. This is very essential to generate valid results and operate competently. I have also learnt how to systematically exchange information and experiences and facilitate activities between different laboratories, which in turn contributes to having consistent standards and procedures.



Eskinder Legesse, Electrical Technician

The amount of energy consumed to operate the ZLD is the biggest cost HIP incurs. The energy management system training is particularly important to set achievable targets for energy use, and design plans to reach the targets and monitor progress. I believe through the implementation of the system we can succeed in reducing energy costs, get better control over the technical processes and enhance productivity. I am looking forward to share what I have learned with my team and make the best out of this training.



Strengthened linkages between locally-based businesses and industrial parks

In the collaboration with the Ministry of Industry (MoI) and the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC), the S.I.C. project has developed a capacity building programme tailored to capacitate locally based companies working in the textile and garment sector. This programme is implemented by Sequa, a German development organization which focuses on promotion of the private sector.

Following an intensive suppliers and garment manufacturers pre-assessment visits, 13 textile and garment factories were shortlisted for further screening.

A workshop was organised on the 21st of February hosting stakeholders from the private and public sector to create awareness on the capacity building opportunities and affirm the commitment from the government to support the sector.

Brief introduction was given to the participants about the project objective, activities and structure of the implementing task force. They were also apprised to the progress achieved on the project and its roadmap. Companies acknowledged the support offered and raised concerns over the existing bottlenecks.

The MoI and EIC representatives attested the existing challenges and highlighted potential incentives and policy support initiatives that are in the pipeline to address



these challenges and assured the commitment of the government. The workshop was concluded by agreeing on expectations from companies which are selected for this intervention including a commitment letter.

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