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MoU signed to enhance BMET training centres capacity

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Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) Director General Md Salim Reza and KOICA Bangladesh Country Director Joe Hyun-gue exchange documents after signing an MoU in the SEIP conference room in the capital on Monday.

The government on Monday signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the capacity of Technical Training Centres (TTCs) of BMET with a view to improve the training capacity in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. The MoU was signed among Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) at the SEIP conference room in Dhaka. BMET Director General Md Salim Reza, KOICA Bangladesh Country Director Joe Hyun-gue and SEIP Executive Project Director Abdur Rouf Talukder signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations. Under the MoU, KOICA, the Korean Government's agency for overseas development

partnership, has confirmed US\$ 8.5 million as grant assistance. According to the agreement, KOICA will provide technical assistance to develop the capacity of three TTCs through project planning, preparing competency standards and curriculum development. KOICA also will provide technical and financial support to develop the training system of the BMET through organising skill competition, promoting the apprenticeship and intern training, facilitating entrepreneurship development of the trained graduates to encourage self-employment. Speaking on the occasion, BMET Director General said that they are one of the oldest institutions to provide skills training. He hoped that BMET would resolve the setbacks through improving the quality of training in the coming days with help from the development partners like KOICA. Joe Hyun-gue expressed his confidence that this project will further strengthen the relationship between Bangladesh and Korea, praising BMET and SEIP for their tremendous contribution in improving technical and vocational education and training which is reducing unemployment through developing skilled manpower in Bangladesh. He hoped that all parties will continue to work closely in implementing the project. Abdur Rouf Talukder, National Project Director of SEIP said they will provide about US\$ 18 million for the upgradation of the three TTCs through this project. He expressed gratitude to KOICA and the Korean Government for being a constant friend of Bangladesh and for supporting this initiative. With a view to achieving this objective, BMET, KOICA and SEIP are working together to improve the skill development training system of Bangladesh by upgrading its three TTC, namely Bangladesh - German (BG) TTC, Khulna TTC and Sylhet TTC. Considering the three TTCs as models for skill development leading to employment generation, KOICA will also extend its support to the overall development of other TTCs. Sunhwa Lee, Principal Social Sector Specialist of ADB Manilla, other high officials of BMET, SEIP, Finance Division of Ministry of Finance and KOICA were also present in the signing ceremony.