

## Child Labour and Trade License

An Inception and Orientation Workshop was held on the newly issued "Office Order" on Child Labour and Trade License on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at the Auditorium of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC). The objectives of the workshop were to i) raise understanding and knowledge of around sixty (60) Tax and Revenue Officials at DCC and Zonal level on the child labour issues and its consequences, relevant national and international legal instruments, and the new Office Order; and ii) mobilize their participation in addressing child labour in the hazardous sectors of the urban informal economy through workplace monitoring and creating synergic linkages between the Officials and DCC's Community-based Workplace Surveillance Groups (CWSGs).



The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Chief Executive Officer, DCC and Mr. Shamsuzzaman, Deputy Secretary, DCC, Mr. Moniruzzaman, Chief Revenue Officer, DCC, Mr. Anwar Hossain Patwary, Chief Slum Development Officer, DCC, Mr. Gagan Rajbhandari, Deputy Director, ILO, Dhaka and Mr. Sophea Mar, Chief Technical Adviser of the ILO-UIE Project spoke at the workshop.

The speakers emphasized on the importance of such regulatory mechanism in addressing child labour and urged all concerned officials of DCC to effectively and efficiently apply it at the workplaces. The ILO Deputy Director and Chief Technical Adviser of the UIE Project thanked Dhaka City Corporation for taking another bold step, which aims at achieving the goal of prevention and elimination of child labour, especially its hazardous and worst forms, by incorporating child labour as a pre-conditional clause into its existing trade licensing application and enforcement procedures.

Mr. Rajbhandari concluded that until and unless Revenue and Tax enforcement Officials monitor the workplaces, educate employers, and firmly enforce the new "Office Order" against those unlawful employers, it is not possible for Bangladesh to address child labour in a sustainable and successful manner.



It is important to note that the new procedure requires operators of business enterprises or establishments to submit a conditional declaration revealing that 'no child labour is engaging in the hazardous work and dangerous environment'. DCC will revoke the trade license from any business or establishment if child labour is found working in hazardous work and dangerous environment.