



PRESS RELEASE

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Asia's Garment Leaders Call for Improved Renewable Energy Regulations, Endorsing Cooperative Solutions in New Position Paper

Phnom Penh, February 24, 2025: The Sustainable Textile of the Asian Region (STAR) Network, representing 9 leading garment manufacturers' associations across Asia, is advocating for improved Renewable Energy (RE) regulations in the garment industry through a new position paper highlighting regulatory challenges and offering collaborative solutions.

Titled "Advocating for Improved Renewable Energy Regulations in Garment Producing Nations," the paper outlines the current challenges and opportunities in adopting renewable energy, particularly rooftop solar (RTS), in the textile and garment sectors. It serves as both an advocacy tool and a statement of commitment from STAR members, offering insights and actionable knowledge to drive sustainable energy practices.

"We are thrilled to present this position paper, a significant milestone in our efforts to promote sustainable energy practices within the textile and garment industry. By addressing key challenges and proposing actionable solutions, we aim to drive meaningful progress towards a greener future," said Mr. Thomas Hesketh, Head of STAR Secretariat.

The issue of renewable energy adoption in the textile industry is multifaceted. High upfront costs, complex regulatory environments, and limited access to financing are significant barriers that hinder the widespread adoption of renewable energy solutions. These challenges create unnecessary strain on manufacturers and workers, hindering the development of unified industry practices.

The STAR Network, with its secretariat headquarter based in Cambodia, spearheaded this position paper to address these issues head-on, providing a roadmap for overcoming these obstacles through better policies, access to financing, and regional cooperation.

Dr. Ken Loo, Secretary General, and STAR Board Member from the Textile, Apparel, Footwear, and Travel Goods Association in Cambodia (TAFTAC), added, "In Cambodia, as in other STAR member countries, the transition to renewable energy—particularly rooftop solar—has been challenging due to high upfront costs, regulatory barriers, and limited financing options. However, with the insights and recommendations provided here, we are better positioned to advocate for policies that can drive meaningful progress."

Ms. Daw Khine Khine Nwe, Secretary General, and STAR Board Member from the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association (MGMA) expressed her enthusiasm in contributing to the paper. "The barriers to renewable energy, such as high costs and complex regulations, are real, but they can be addressed through better policies, access to financing, and regional cooperation," she affirmed.

With this paper, stakeholders in the textile and garment industry are now equipped with an insightful toolkit to help navigate through the adoption of renewable energy such as Rooftop Solar (RTS). Presently, the complexity of this adoption eagerly calls for improved regulations that could help streamline the process, open better financing options, and lower costs. These barriers, if addressed, would lend a great avenue towards better working conditions, increased wages, and overall, more operational efficiency. In advocating for greater support of this energy transition, STAR Network envisions a future where sustainable energy practices benefit both the environment and the industry's economic and social well-being.

About STAR Network

The Sustainable Textiles of the Asian Region (STAR) Network, established in 2016 with the support of the GIZ FABRIC Project, is the first inter-Asian network of garment producer associations. It brings together nine associations from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Vietnam, representing over 35,000 members and around \$400 billion in export value. The network serves as a platform for dialogue and trust-building, helping its members find solutions to common challenges, particularly those related to sustainability.

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