

Switzerland helps RIs small businesses

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President of the Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard signed a commitment on Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) here on Tuesday to improve the quality, productivity and working conditions of Indonesia's small and medium businesses.

The SCORE program is being coordinated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and has been funded by the Swiss government at a cost of US\$5 million across seven countries, including Indonesia, China, Vietnam and South Africa.

It is designed to increase healthy competition between private enterprises by encouraging workplace cooperation, quality management and cleaner production, whilst maintaining safe working environments. In a launch ceremony held before representatives of Indonesia's Man-power and Transmigration

Ministry and the Indonesia Employers Association, President Leuthard outlined that increasing social partnerships in the workplace were fundamental to the development of Indonesia's small businesses.

Leuthard, who is on a four-day visit to Indonesia, called for the integration of "human values" in business culture with a commitment to "social partners" - a policy she identified "as part of daily life" in Switzerland. "Were here to promote partnerships and social engagement," she said. "The positive impact of these partnerships shows that the ILO's standards are alive and implemented around the world."

"Switzerland has a long history of social dialogue and social freedom. Increasing productivity and competition does not make the process less social. Simple and efficient measures can be used to increase higher standards, which can only be accomplished with the full and comprehensive participation of the workforce".



Swiss President Doris Leuthard launches the International Labour Organization's project called *Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprise (SCORE)* in Jakarta, Indonesia on 6 July 2010. SCORE is partially funded by the Swiss government.

Peter van Rooij, officer-in-charge of ILO Jakarta, commented that SCORE intended to make a "practical contribution to create decent work that is crucial for living standards", identifying that small businesses were "key to creating and sustaining work for all".

He stated that Indonesia was a "major and rising country" but highlighted that the private sector battles with "pressures from communities and legislation", hoping that it could benefit from the "excellent working relationship" shared by the Swiss government and the ILO.

Manpower and Transmigration Minister Muhaimin Iskandar expressed his "highest gratitude" to the Swiss government for its help in developing the workforce. He announced that "70 percent of

workers in Indonesia are formally employed by SMEs [small and medium enterprises]" but that the "quality of employment" was "still of concern".



Representatives from the Indonesian Government, Swiss Government, International Labour Organization and Indonesian business and trade union leaders take part in the launch event.

According to an official report, the SCORE program in Indonesia has currently started pilot activities in the auto parts sector and will soon expand to include two other clusters. Leuthard, who was accompanied by a number of Swiss businesspeople, also attended a business forum hosted by the

Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin).

Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu, Health Minister Endang Rahayu Sedyaningsih, Kadin chairman Adi Putra Tahir and Indonesian businesspeople were also present at the forum. Leuthard will meet President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Wednesday, presidential spokesman Dino Patti Djalal said, before leaving for Surabaya on Thursday to attend a business meeting and a lunch with the East Java governor and visit several business centers in the province.