

# **Daewoo International Corporation's response to concerns regarding forced labour in Uzbekistan**

*The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre invited Daewoo International Corporation to respond to the following item:*

- "Daewoo: Help End Uzbek Cotton Slavery," 30 June 2014, Walk Free

[http://www.walkfree.org/daewoo-](http://www.walkfree.org/daewoo-cotton/?utm_source=taf&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daewoo-cotton-AT-30June)

[cotton/?utm\\_source=taf&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=daewoo-cotton-AT-30June](http://www.walkfree.org/daewoo-cotton/?utm_source=taf&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daewoo-cotton-AT-30June)

*Daewoo International Corporation provided the following response on 05 August 2014.*

We, Daewoo International Corporation, would like to express our thanks for your interest and concern in our company and the subsidiary's business.

With regard to the issue of forced labor in Uzbekistan, we are endeavoring to solve it as a top priority. During 2013 cotton harvesting season, the Uzbekistan Government had accepted International Labor Organization (ILO)'s inspection for conducting due diligence and it is considered as the result of continuous request from the company and Cotton Campaign. According to the 2014 ILO Report, it concluded that forced child labor was not used on a systematic basis in Uzbekistan to harvest cotton in 2013. In addition, ILO announced that there has been 'significant progress' in complete performance in international agreement in Uzbekistan, saying that it highly appreciates endeavors by Uzbekistan Government to solve the issue of forced labor.

Furthermore, Uzbekistan Government is widening width of conversation and cooperation with international community, in such ways as keeping establish legal and institutional system since ratification of Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action Toward the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in 2008, initiating Decent Work Country Program ('14~'16) proposed by ILO recently, and announcing resolution of Uzbekistan Cabinet of Ministers for performing this plan.

As mentioned above, we are endeavoring to solve of forced labor as a top priority, requesting active intervention of Uzbekistan Government to eliminate forced labor, making conversation consistently as to something we can contribute to this issue. In recent, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a communication channel as to forced

labor in Uzbekistan, sent us letter with regard to the matter of Uzbekistan Government and international organizations cooperate, in order to eliminate forced labor. We are preparing the answer to this letter, asking it to share details of cooperation between Uzbekistan Government and international organizations with us, so that we can contribute to the problem-solving.

A series of outcomes mentioned above can be seen as a fruit of our efforts, of which we have been demanded improvement and practice of labor human rights consistently, reflected somewhat.

We have been doing many CSR activities such as childcare support, scholarship for Uzbekistan people. In addition, we are contributing to livelihood of local residents and development of local community by employing approximately 6,000 in the Uzbekistan, which is one of developing countries, conducting real and active social contribution projects, especially annual treatment of ophthalmopathy and after-school class for children center at underdeveloped regions.

We are going to request the Uzbekistan Government to improve labor environment consistently in collaboration with such agencies as Korean Embassy and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, endeavoring to dispel concern of international community as to labor environment in Uzbekistan continuously.

Daewoo International will continue to maintain communication with Uzbekistan Government, international Organizations and other interested parties with regard to labor rights and working conditions in the Uzbekistan cotton industry.

Once again, thank you for your kind interest in our business in Uzbekistan and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions.