

The Challenge



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While the Asia Pacific Region has generally experienced economic boom during the last few years, sustainability remains a huge challenge. Growth and poverty reduction happen seemingly at the expense of the region's environment and natural resources.

When enterprises remain negligent of measures that harm the environment, workers may also suffer as they can be eventually deprived of their means of living. Environmental problems including climate change pose a threat to the overall development of the Asia Pacific Region.

Certainly, there is a need for sustainable strategies that will benefit both the workers and employers at the enterprise level. As millions of workers continue to live under US\$2 per day, it is imperative to impose sustainable measures. Improved performance and globalised competition should be considered as well. These can help in welcoming more decent opportunities that would be beneficial to all. This serves as the ILO's contribution to the Philippine Government's goal of achieving a sustainable and greener economy while upholding decent and productive work in the country.

The Response

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is implementing the Greener Business Asia (GBA) Project to show that employers and workers can work together towards improved competitiveness and performance on labour and environmental issues. Essentially, the project will build knowledge and develop ILO tools and stakeholder capacity with focus on workers-employers cooperation. These include good practice examples and materials focused on enterprise level approaches that contribute to a greener economy.

ILO's Decent Work values are integrated with the project in terms of cleaner production, eco-efficiency, and green productivity approaches that make enterprises more sustainable. Greener enterprises are essential since they continuously create decent jobs, high value products and services. They also propel economic growth amidst challenges like climate change.

Adopting environmentally-sound practices and technologies is not only necessary to ensure long-term viability of enterprises. It can also be a strategy to maintain or improve firms' competitiveness. This results to cost-savings or opening of new market niches. All of these are possible by protecting the natural capital on which enterprises depend.

Benefits of Greener Business Operations

- Competitive businesses that are also more desirable places to work.
- Increased profit margins through more efficient use of resources and less waste.
- Businesses that are more committed to their workers and workers that are more committed to their jobs.
- Businesses that are better equipped to face up to increasingly complex global challenges.



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The Greener Business Asia (GBA) approach is based in the recognition that:

- **Workplace Cooperation** are participative practices in the workplace where employees and management work together towards mutually beneficial goals and targets for the enterprise.
- **Worker-Employer Cooperation** is key to effective and lasting positive changes at the enterprise level.

GREENER
BUSINESS ASIA

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Objectives

PHASE I (2010-2012)

- To promote an integrated approach that helps companies improve their business performance measures in terms of environmental, economic, and social impacts, while advancing the decent work agenda in the workplace.

PHASE II (2013-2014)

- To strengthen support systems for enterprises to undertake a process of bottom-up improvement through workplace cooperation, and aim to become greener, safer and more productive workplaces.

Achievements

- Green Jobs, Greener Business Foundation Training to build the capacity of ILO Tripartite Constituents and partners was developed and conducted.
- Enterprise training tools and onsite advisory package for enterprises have been developed and tested with positive results in the manufacturing sector (automotive) and service sector (tourism).
- Concrete cases of improvements, particularly in the areas of worker-employer cooperation, resource efficiency (including energy), waste management and overall workplace condition were achieved by the enterprises that participated in the pilot programme.
- Nationwide programme roll-out and replication mechanisms put in place through the DOLE National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) Productivity Programmes for enterprises.
- ‘Green’ information and knowledge sharing initiatives, designed for enterprises’ needs, was developed for Workers Organizations (Handbook on Trade Union Actions for Climate Change, Sustainable Enterprises and Environmental Challenges) and Employers (Greener Industries Portal and Information Sheets), including a local network of support organizations and green practitioners.

Components

Donor: Government of Japan

Acronym: GBA

Start Date: 1 January 2010

End Date: 31 December 2014

Budget: US\$1,284,980 (subject to annual contribution)

Project Sites: Philippines and Thailand



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