



STATEMENTS 2011

Opening Address at the Philippine Employment Projections Appreciation Seminar

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- Honourable Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz of the Department of Labor and Employment
- Ms Cruz from the Department of Labor and Employment Institute for Labor Studies
- Officials and representatives from our partner government agencies
- Our social partners from TUCP, FFW, APL and ECOP
- Our Development partners, including from the World Bank and ADB
- Dr Macaranas from the Asian Institute of Management Policy Center
- Colleagues from the ILO, including our consultant and friend, Souleima
- Ladies and gentlemen, *magandang umaga sa inyong lahat* (Good morning to all of you)!

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Philippine Employment Projections Expanded Training!

The International Labour Organization supports the country's goal of achieving inclusive growth through decent and productive work.

During the course of the last year the ILO Team in Manila with support from our Decent Work Team in Bangkok and technical team members from Geneva have strived to support, while trying to keep up, with the Department of Labor and Employment and our social partners in the activities associated with the Philippine Development Plan.

The Philippine Development Plan has as its primary goal inclusive growth which is sustainable that massively creates jobs, draws the vast majority into the economic and social mainstream, and continuously reduces mass poverty. Decent and productive work is the cornerstone if we are to meet the objectives of inclusive growth.

The global economic crisis has shown that economic growth alone is simply not enough. Growth which is not inclusive is not only unsustainable but can also contribute to economic and social instability regardless of a country's level of development.

In the Asia and the Pacific region, there continues to be signs of a strong economic recovery and many labour market indicators are back to pre-crisis levels.

Yet, based on the finding shown in the ILO's Global Employment Trends 2011, the recovery has not been felt by the majority in Asia especially among:

- the unemployed which stands at 87 million in Asia,
- the 1.1 billion workers in vulnerable employment, and
- the 422 million workers in extreme poverty, living and surviving with their families on less than US\$1.25 per day.

With such poor quality of work, women and the youth are often among the hardest hit.

Here in the Philippines, about 2.9 million Filipinos were unemployed in 2010. However of greater concern when it comes to inclusive sustainable growth are those among the ranks of the vulnerable employment, which stand at 42 per cent of those employed or more than 15 million.

It is a simple fact that is often overlooked; most people in the world do not have the option of joining the ranks of the unemployed. They are left with little choice but to accept or create whatever work is available just so they and their loved ones can survive another day. Vulnerable employment not only pushes individuals and their families into poverty but can also trap future generation.

Certainly we can agree that economic growth alone is not enough to address inclusive growth? Without improvements in policy and practices that address social protection and improved productivity, sustainable economic growth is not in our future or the future of our children.

This simple fact can be brought into the light for all to see when we collectively invest in statistical systems and the analysis of timely data they can provide.

Prior to my appointment as Director in Manila, I served as Chief of the ILO's Employment Trends, the team which is responsible for a number of flagship reports which includes:

- the Global Employment Trends,
- Key Indicators of the Labour Market,
- the World Employment Report, and
- Various specialized reports following both manmade and natural disasters for the DG.

All of these were based on the analysis of country level data. I have also worked alongside governments, workers' and employers' representatives to ensure fact-based decision making, and the national and provincial levels.

I believe that fact-based and informed policy decisions through statistical and evidence basis methods are critical to ensure that objectives are met, and benefits of policies and programmes are distributed equally. Hence, the importance of strengthening our knowledge in generating projections of employment growth.

The Employment Projections Training and discussion that continue here today can help identify areas of skill mismatch, labour use and where we can target decent and productive work. It can also be used to monitor employment dynamics associated with globalization or help us better understand how to create and support greening of the workplace.

The Philippines Employment Projections Model is based on the work of ILO EMP/TRENDS and Inforum located at the University of Maryland.

The model can be used for planning for structural change, anticipating labour requirements, produce alternate projections based on different assumptions, assess impact of exogenous economic shocks and evaluate policy measures.

The first workshop was conducted in November 2010. That initial workshop included an overview of the theory and concepts involved in developing employment projections, as well as simulation exercises to familiarize participants with relevant concepts.

From the initial workshop, simulations were done by ILS in collaboration with IDEA and the results will be presented today. We will also present the ILOs preliminary work on the projections of vulnerable employment.

This expanded training is part of the follow-up activities, which aims at the following:

- conduct training on simulations for exports, remittances, employment generated from establishments by size and sectors indicated in the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016)
- explore other areas where the model can be useful (i.e. employment impact of trade agreements, green jobs estimates, vulnerable employment);

I believe that is our collective hope that this model will be useful to you as our partners and that this can contribute to coherent national planning and promotion of employment-led inclusive growth.

I wish you a productive training and I look forward to hearing about the results of this training. Thank you and Mabuhay!