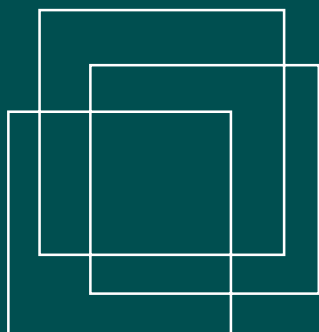




International
Labour
Organization

December 2007



HIV: Risks &
Strategies

Youth Speak Out
on Trafficking

Building Prosperity
in Cambodia

Disability Day

ASIAN 2006
DECENT WORK
DECADE 2015

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



ASIAN
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WORK
DECADE

Decent Work for All

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Cover Photo: Young advocates debate efforts to fight human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion with policy-makers. Mekong Youth Forum, September 2007.

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I N B R I E F

New Avian Flu Project

A year-long project to limit the effects of avian flu in the workplace began in Thailand in November 2007.

The aim is to promote better workplace practices in poultry production and encourage behaviour change through awareness raising, capacity building and training activities on preventive and protective workplace measures.

The project is being jointly implemented by the ILO and the International Union of Food Workers (IUF) and will focus on government officials, workers and employers, using the ILO's participatory training methods to help them identify and disseminate best practices.

Following the successful introduction of the Thai project, and subject to additional funding, the approach will be replicated in Indonesia, which is preparing a national pandemic preparedness plan.

The ILO has played an active role in the United Nations System Influenza

Coordination (UNSIC) and has urged the involvement of employers and workers in developing national action plans.

More countries ratify ILO Conventions

Nepal has ratified two more ILO conventions. In September it became the first country in South Asia, and only the second in the whole of Asia, to ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). In August Nepal became the 170th ILO member state to ratify the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention 1957 (No. 105), one of the so-called core conventions.

In October, Thailand ratified the Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons), 1983 (No. 159).

In July Japan ratified the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187).



Ms Sachiko Yamamoto, Regional Director, ILO Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific, visits a Community Learning and Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre (CLC) in Siem Riep, Cambodia. This is one of 107 CLCs supported by IPEC's Project of Support for Cambodia's Time Bound Programme for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Through ILO IPEC work in Cambodia, more than 16,000 children in the worst forms of child labour (or children at risk) have been rehabilitated or prevented from joining the workforce. Seen with Ms Yamamoto are (from left): Mr M.P. Joseph, Chief Technical Advisor of the IPEC Project, Mr Bill Salter, Director, ILO Subregional Office for East Asia and Mr Ouk Sisovann, Sr Programme Officer of the Project. Photo: ILO, September 2007.

MEKONG YOUNG PEOPLE DEBATE TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

*By Allan Dow, Communications Officer,
Mekong Subregional Project to Combat
Trafficking in Children and Women*

Young people from across the Mekong Subregion refuse to sit quietly when it comes to policy decisions about human trafficking.

While governments in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and indeed worldwide, grapple with human trafficking and the indisputable link with ill-prepared migration in a globalizing world, one may wonder why there is such little public consultation on how to better prevent trafficking-related exploitation, especially with those groups most vulnerable to abuse – children and youth.

In order to kick-start just such a dialogue, vulnerable young people from across the GMS gathered in Bangkok in September 2007 to take part in the second Mekong Youth Forum on Human Trafficking (MYF). The first was held in 2004.

During the intensive, week-long consultations the young delegates focused on finding better ways to prevent trafficking of children and youth within their countries and across borders. All had already taken part in similar national trafficking forums in their own countries.

On the Forum's penultimate day the Royal Thai Government hosted a dialogue between the young people and representatives of their governments in the GMS at a special session convened by the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion (UNIAP). A news conference on the same day attracted international media attention and news from the Forum was



Young advocates present their views to policy-makers on efforts to fight human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion, at the Mekong Youth Forum in Bangkok. Photo: MYF, September 2007.

transmitted by satellite around the world with help from the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union.

The final subregional recommendations of these young delegates were agreed the following day (and were later shared with the Governments through the UNIAP). The recommendations will be re-visited by senior government officials from all six GMS countries when they discuss their own joint plan of action to combat trafficking.

As well as dividing their recommendations into six thematic areas the young delegates highlighted some as requiring immediate attention:

Victim Protection

Enforce specific laws that strictly punish traffickers, particularly employers who beat or exploit their domestic workers. They must be punished. Communities must be informed on these laws and penalties. This will help prevent others from trafficking children. Traffickers who are in jail must be rehabilitated and educated so that they would not repeat their crimes.

Victims need more ways to report abuses and receive help. This can be done through mass media campaigns, hotlines at hospitals and within communities, and through establishing collaboration systems with local authorities, NGOs, and relevant

departments. International anti-trafficking hotlines should also be set up and share the same number (if possible).

The decision to return home must be voluntary.

For those returning to their communities:

- There needs to be a family assessment at the victim's home to ensure that it is safe for the victim to return.
- Families should welcome victims without any discrimination.
- Encourage victims to participate in activities to help re-gain their sense of value and belonging in the community.
- Provide psychological support to the victims.
- Provide vocational skills and support according to their needs and help find markets for their products.
- There has to be a system to monitor and follow-up with victims after their return. Governments must clearly identify which agencies are responsible for this.
- If for some reason, the family cannot welcome the victim home, the community must find another safe place for him/her.

(continued on page 10)

TACKLING HIV IN LOW RISK ASIAN COUNTRIES

By Eric Stener Carlson, Technical Specialist on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work, East Asia, Subregional Office for East Asia

The ILO has developed a comprehensive workplace response for countries with a generalized HIV epidemic, meaning a prevalence rate of one per cent or more of the total population. However, the question arises on what do we do in countries with low HIV prevalence? How can we focus on reducing HIV related discrimination in workplaces and changing risk behaviour where there are very few workers living with HIV? Should our approach be completely different?

The ILO/United States Department of Labor (USDOL) HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Programme in Cambodia is an example of a successful approach taken in a country with high HIV prevalence. When the programme was being formulated in 2003, Cambodia had the highest HIV infection rate in Asia, with an estimated 164,000 people living with the disease. Although the country was making significant advances in dealing with the epidemic, an adequate workplace response was missing.

Under the ILO/USDOL Programme, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, and employers' and workers' organizations, in collaboration with the ILO, formulated a workplace programme. Together, they promoted the adoption of workplace policies to reduce stigma and discrimination against workers living with HIV, based on the ten principles of the *Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work*. In addition, we developed educational programmes to reduce workers' risk behaviour, with goals



As a country with a low HIV/AIDS infection rate, work in Lao PDR focuses on prevention and education. Photo: ILO, 2000.

such as increasing condom use and decreasing the number of sexual partners.

By the time the Cambodian programme concluded in August 2007, eight enterprises had written HIV workplace policies, approximately 23,000 workers had received HIV/AIDS education, and Cambodia had produced substantial HIV guidelines, in the form of implementing legislation (*Prakas*) and two trade union HIV/AIDS policies.

The advances in Cambodia were significant, but in every country our approach depends on the national context. For example, in low prevalence countries in particular the needs of certain vulnerable groups – such as sex workers, injecting drug users and men who have sex with men – should be addressed, to prevent a generalized epidemic.

In Mongolia the number of people living with HIV is currently estimated to be less than 500, with only a handful of registered cases. Nevertheless, Mongolia has a number of risk factors, including increasing rates of sexually-transmitted infections, a young population and substantial levels of alcohol use. Within this context, the ILO's partners decided it was crucial to develop a workplace response well ahead of a generalized epidemic.

This is in line with the Ulaanbaatar 2006 Call for Action, which says that all "countries with low levels of HIV infection now have a window of opportunity to contain the spread of the epidemic by scaling up evidence

based interventions, with a strong focus on prevention."

As a first step, the ILO's partners translated the *Code of Practice* into Mongolian and launched it in 2006 at a workshop organized by the Mongolian Employers' Federation (MONEF). Next, they formulated the Mongolian Tripartite Declaration on HIV/AIDS Prevention in the World of Work and adopted it in October 2007.

According to this Declaration, "The parties will base their work on the principles of the International Labour Organization (ILO) *Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work*, to define principles and objectives of HIV/AIDS prevention within tripartite and bipartite partnerships. As a first step, the governmental agencies dealing with labour issues, local organizations, employers' organizations, trade unions, and their associations should recognize that HIV/AIDS is a workplace issue, and we should manage HIV as we do any other chronic, debilitating disease."

The Declaration provides our partners in Mongolia with a united platform to develop workplace policies and programmes. The hope is that, by sensitizing the workplace now, Mongolia will be able to avoid the harsh discrimination – such as mandatory HIV testing and exclusion of HIV positive workers from the workplace – that other countries have experienced.

(continued on page 5)

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A similar approach is being taken in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Lao PDR too, has a relatively low HIV prevalence rate, with an estimated 3,700 people living with HIV, according to UNAIDS. Likewise, they have a relatively young population and are experiencing massive changes in infrastructure development and migration flows which may contribute to a rise in HIV prevalence rates.

The Laotian workers' and employers' organizations and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare are currently organizing the launch of the Laotian translation of the *Code of Practice*. The three partners are already planning specialized HIV education sessions for the hotel and construction sectors as a follow-up.

Instead of a Declaration like Mongolia's, talks are underway in Lao PDR to develop a model HIV workplace policy that could be adapted to fit the needs of various employment sectors.

In sum, in low HIV prevalence countries, the emphasis needs to be on sensitization and prevention, while in high prevalence countries we also need to enhance efforts for the care and support of HIV- positive workers.

However, whether in high or low HIV prevalence countries, the ILO's experience is that a workplace response begins with dissemination of the *Code of Practice* in the local language.

Using the ten key principles as a basis, our partners can develop their own guiding documents – such as national codes of practice, declarations and policies - that take into account their specific cultural, political and economic contexts.

The main lesson for countries in Asia is that it is never too late (or too early) to act. Indeed, the Ulaanbaatar 2006 Call for Action cautions that “the label ‘low prevalence’ diverts resources and attention at all levels of society.” Therefore, we should develop a workplace response to HIV in all countries, regardless of the prevalence rate, and we should do so now.

10 Key Principles of the *ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work*

1. Recognition of HIV/AIDS as a workplace issue

HIV/AIDS is a workplace issue, not only because it affects the workforce, but also because the workplace can play a vital role in limiting the spread and effects of the epidemic.

2. Non-discrimination

There should be no discrimination or stigmatization of workers on the basis of real or perceived HIV status.

3. Gender equality

More equal gender relations and the empowerment of women are vital to successfully preventing the spread of HIV infection and enabling women to cope with HIV/AIDS.

4. Healthy work environment

The work environment should be healthy and safe, and adapted to the state of health and capabilities of workers.

5. Social dialogue

A successful HIV/AIDS policy and programme requires cooperation and trust between employers, workers and governments.

6. Screening for purposes of employment

HIV/AIDS screening should not be required of job applicants or persons in employment and testing for HIV should not be carried out at the workplace except as specified in this code.

7. Confidentiality

Access to personal data relating to a worker's HIV status should be bound by the rules of confidentiality consistent with existing *ILO Code of Practice*.

8. Continuing the employment relationship

HIV infection is not a cause for termination of employment. Persons with HIV-related illnesses should be able to work for as long as medically fit in appropriate conditions.

9. Prevention

The social partners are in a unique position to promote prevention efforts through information and education, and support changes in attitudes and behaviour.

10. Care and support

Solidarity, care and support should guide the response to AIDS at the workplace. All workers are entitled to affordable health services and to benefits from statutory and occupational schemes.

PRIORITIES & AND TOOLS FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

*By Ginette Forgues, Senior Specialist
in Local Strategies for Decent Work,
Subregional Office for East Asia*

Local Development for Decent Work is a good strategy for creating decent jobs and sustainable local economic activities.

It addresses key decent work issues such as working conditions, rights, social protection and social dialogue. It uses local resources and a participatory process that encourages and facilitates partnerships between local stakeholders, allowing them to jointly design and implement strategies.

Currently projects using local development strategies are being implemented in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Viet Nam, China and Indonesia. In addition there are many ILO-supported initiatives throughout Asia which contribute to local development, such as work on women's economic empowerment and rural economic activities.

The ILO is currently building a knowledge base on local development to help support national decision and policy-makers. This work is based on a 2007 Seminar on Local Development that was attended by policy-makers and decision-makers from nine Asian countries (China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam).

This knowledge base falls into three categories: documenting collective knowledge, developing work instruments and transferring knowledge.

Documenting collective knowledge

A guidance note is being prepared as part of the regional priorities' resource kit. This will be supported by Asian case studies on value chain development, infrastructure



Linking local economic development with decent work priorities helps countries like Nepal create sustainable economic and social development. Photo: ILO, 1985.

planning, business cluster development, youth employment, green jobs, urban infrastructure, enterprise development and local planning. Fact sheets on ILO programmes that can be integrated into a Local Development for Decent Work Strategy will also be available. These will describe how issues or programmes can be integrated, possible entry points, key actors, tools and contacts for more information.

Developing work instruments

This will include a list of basic local development tools, including their contents, uses, key references and download sites. A second list of key research and training organizations in Asia is being prepared, complemented by a roster of relevant experts, covering technical assistance, conferences, consultancies, etc. Experts will be encouraged to submit their resumes to this list, to keep it up-to-date.

Fact sheets on key partners and donors interested in local development will also be available. A generic *Trade Union Manual for Organizing the Informal Economy* is being finalized to help trade unions organize informal economy sectoral groups.

Transferring knowledge

Project documents, concept notes, and evaluations of local development initiatives are being developed and collected to help

those planning similar work. Papers from the May 2007 regional Seminar on Local Development will also be available and the possibility of organizing further seminars is also being discussed.

This information will be available on the ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific's Knowledge Sharing Website, which is currently being developed, the Geneva-based Enterprise Global resource platform and via a Global Knowledge Sharing Platform on Local Economic Development, which will be coordinated jointly by the ILO's Geneva and Turin offices.

These platforms, which will be updated regularly, are intended to complement each other. Taken together they will provide practitioners and policy-makers with the basic information they require to contact experts, use a decent work approach, utilize lessons learnt, access tools and other resources required to plan, design and implement local development strategies on their territory.

A number of ILO offices work together to support and assist implementation of local development for decent work strategies: the International Training Centre in Turin (which offers training courses, manuals and resource guides), the LED Unit and the CRISIS Unit in the Enterprise Department in Geneva, and the Subregional Offices in Delhi, Manila and Bangkok, which have focal points tasked with this mandate.

ROADS, JOBS & PROSPERITY IN RURAL CAMBODIA

By Chris Donnges, Programme Coordinator ASIST-AP, Subregional Office for East Asia and Mukesh Gupta, Chief Technical Advisor, Mainstream Project, Cambodia

Local roads are important for rural communities. They provide access to work, markets, education, health and other social and economic services, which in the long term can boost local development and sustainable poverty reduction. New roads also release untapped potential for job creation and business start-ups, some of which are linked to the development, maintenance and operation of the infrastructure itself.

The need for investment in local roads is huge in many developing countries and the positive effect of such investment on local development is well documented. The Employment Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) has demonstrated that infrastructure investment is an effective approach to social and economic development that helps the poor. The Advisory Support, Information Services and Training - Asia and the Pacific (ASIST-AP) is implementing the EIIP in the Asia-Pacific region.



Small building contractors in Battambang, Cambodia are trained to use labour-intensive techniques. Photo: ILO/Van Samsan, March 2007.



Construction workers in Battambang, Cambodia, sift laterite for use in building roads. Photo: ILO/Van Samsan, March 2007.

Cambodia is among the countries working with the ILO on an employment-intensive investment approach. Approximately 90 per cent of Cambodian people live in rural areas. To promote local economic growth and create jobs for these people the Cambodian Government plans to use employment-intensive investment to build a country-wide road network.

More roads means maintenance has also become an urgent issue. A recent road condition survey found that less than a quarter of the road network is in good condition. But this also demonstrates how more – and better – roads can create lasting employment. Another study estimated that using labour-based methods for upgrading roads as well as maintaining the existing network could create employment equivalent to between 3.6 and 6.5 million days per year.

The Government, the private sector and local communities are focusing infrastructure spending on methods that create productive employment and improve access for the poor to basic goods and services. This local participation in planning, combined with appropriate work methods and a focus on using locally available skills, technology and materials,

has shown itself to be both effective and economically viable.

Another ILO project: Mainstreaming Labour-based Road Maintenance, funded by the Asian Development Bank's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, is helping the Cambodian Government develop a network for decentralized, labour-based road maintenance. Currently the project supports 10,800 temporary jobs in rural areas and maintains 600 kms of roads. This improves access to education and health services, markets, and other employment opportunities. Other benefits include an increase in the number of women working and the development of small-scale and community contracting businesses.

These contractors are being trained to carry out labour-based routine maintenance. In turn they employ local people who live along the roadsides. The aim is to engage about 50 such contractors in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin provinces.

The EIIP approach has been successful and the Cambodian Government has so far allocated US\$ 220,000 as counterpart funds for the actual maintenance works. A national workshop is planned for 2008 to upscale the approach and solicit further donor support.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: DECENT WORK, HUMAN RIGHTS & ECONOMICS

By Debra Perry, Senior Specialist on Disability, Subregional Office for East Asia

December 3rd is the United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons (IDDP). The theme for 2007 is Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities, making this day particularly relevant to the ILO.

December 2007 also marks a year since the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a landmark human rights instrument and the first of its kind in the 21st Century.

The story of decent work and people with disabilities has many dimensions—personal, human rights and business and economics.

The personal, human side is about those who have decent jobs and those who do not. People with disabilities are a significant group. By current estimates there are 650 million disabled persons globally—about 400 million of them in Asia and the Pacific, including 285 million of working age.

While many disabled persons are successfully employed and have demonstrated their ability to contribute productively at the workplace, as a group, persons with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed and to have much lower earnings than non-disabled people. Many are economically inactive, dropping out of the labour market because they have become disappointed and discouraged that their job aspirations have failed to translate into decent work. It is no surprise that as a group disabled persons, especially disabled women, are among the poorest of the poor.



Representatives of persons with disabilities demonstrate in Bangkok to promote their rights. Photo: ILO, May 2007.

The individuals who “make it” must typically overcome all types of barriers, such as physical barriers related to accessibility. For example, in many Asian cities trying to get across the street in a wheelchair or get into a bus is no easy task.

Information barriers are another—how can a blind person learn about jobs that are advertised in print newspapers or on inaccessible internet sites?

Systemic or institutional barriers include things like the lack of laws (or their implementation when they do exist) to protect disabled persons’ right to learn, train and work with everyone else. At the heart of the problem are negative attitudes and stereotypes which result in exclusion or outright discrimination.

Even those who find their way into self-employment face discrimination. Consider the story of a blind musician in Cambodia who is a member of a traditional music group that includes both disabled and non-disabled persons. When the group plays at weddings, the disabled musicians have to stay home—the bride and groom fear they will bring bad luck.

The human rights side of the story is straightforward—disabled persons are citizens like everyone else, but their rights are too often denied. The new UN Convention calls for nondiscrimination, reasonable accommodation and other

measures to foster the inclusion of disabled persons in all aspects of society. The Convention includes an article on the right to work. An optional protocol addresses enforcement of the Convention through a Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that will hear claims related to violations in countries that ratify the Protocol.

With the UN Convention comes renewed attention to ILO Convention concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons), 1983, No. 159 which is based on the concept of equal opportunity and equal treatment of disabled workers as compared to regular workers.

Disabled persons are family members, neighbours, friends, co-workers and ILO constituents. When their right to decent work is not honoured, their countries and communities also share the burden.

This is linked to the third aspect of story about decent work and people with disabilities - the economic and business case.

Disabled people represent a huge untapped human resource. Highly developed countries with labour shortages and aging populations like Australia, are taking significant measures to bring disabled persons into the workforce—and to actively build their skills through inclusion in regular vocational systems. The desired economic result is to increase inclusion, reduce the staggering costs related to welfare and disability dependence

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PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES...

and build a diverse and skilled workforce.

According to a World Bank study, exclusion of so many people from the workplace creates losses to global GDP of between US\$1.37 trillion to \$1.94 trillion.

Many individual employers know the business benefits of hiring or retaining disabled employees. Research shows their performance to be equal to or better than non-disabled workers with regard to productivity, safety and attendance. Hiring disabled workers can also increase overall company morale, improve its image and increase the stability of its workforce.

Smart businesses also recognize that people with disabilities are customers. Disabled persons from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom have a combined estimated disposable income of US\$275 billion. This is not a market to be ignored. And as the population ages, the

disability market will grow. Having disabled persons on staff will help businesses access this market.

While some groups of disabled persons do require assistance or support to work, most of these costs are reasonable. From an economic perspective, investment in inclusive policies and practices far outweighs the costs of exclusion.

The framers of the ILO Philadelphia Declaration in 1944 understood the need to be inclusive, as shown by their affirmation that “Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere.” Decent work for all, including people with disabilities, is the only acceptable goal.

Note: To focus positive attention on the issue of Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities and to mark the UN International Day of Disabled Persons, the ILO joined forces with Disabled Persons International and Irish Aid to organize a regional photographic competition. The next (April) edition of Issues will feature some of these images.

Principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Respect for the inherent dignity of disabled persons, including freedom of choice and independence
- Non-discrimination
- Full and active participation and inclusion in society
- Respect for difference and acceptance of disabled persons as part of diversity and humanity
- Equality of opportunity
- Accessibility
- Equality between men and women
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities.

ASIAN EMPLOYMENT FORUM REVIEWS DECENT WORK PROGRESS

By Guy Thijs, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

The Asian Employment Forum: Growth, Employment and Decent Work, held in Beijing from 13 to 15 August, was the first major meeting of the ILO's constituency in the region since the 14th Asian Regional Meeting (AsRM) late last year.

It brought together more than 250 delegates (including 10 Ministers, senior representatives of governments, workers, employers, regional organizations, academics and other experts) from about 20 Asian and Pacific countries, to discuss the need to produce more decent, productive jobs between now and 2015.

At the start of the forum a set of specially-produced background papers was used to set up a high-level round table. During this discussion a wealth of ideas and experiences were shared, producing an up-to-date diagnosis of the growth, employment and decent work challenges in the region. These include persistent and widespread informality, large pockets of poverty, vulnerability and a troubling increase in inequality, environmental pressures that increasingly threaten sustainable growth, the specific needs of women and youth (including under-utilization of labour) and the challenges of an ageing workforce.

The general consensus was that decent work has become an important objective for all countries, yet the national policies designed to achieve it take different shapes in different states. Consequently, decent work country programmes need to be tailored to individual country needs, as part of their national development plans.

There was a clear call for the ILO to help constituents move forward at their country level, by providing support based on

tripartism and social dialogue. Policy convergence was identified as an intellectual as well as a practical challenge, one which will require a strong push if it is to be achieved.

Given the growing informal economy, the need to have an affordable social floor was emphasized, to prevent people falling even deeper into poverty in times of crisis. Many other recommendations were made, complementing points that were stressed during the 2006 AsRM. In addition two new issues emerged strongly. The first was the need for better knowledge-sharing of experiences and ideas, and specifically an Asia-Pacific Knowledge Network on Decent Work. The second was the call for economic sustainability. As the ILO's Director-General Juan Somavia told the delegates, economic sustainability in the region involves contributing to a cleaner, greener future “that includes taking a closer look at the impact and potential of environmentally friendly green jobs.”

Details of the event, reports, and the follow-up actions taken so far can be found at: <http://www.ilo.org/asiaforum>.

*(continued from page 3)***MEKONG YOUTH...**

For those who cannot return to their own communities and families, the local government must provide job opportunities for them in areas where they would like to stay.

Prevention

Better awareness-raising and information-sharing within the community about trafficking, including the sharing of real-life experiences of victims (if the victims are willing to do so or as told through their friends if more desirable). Education/information materials on human trafficking must be made available at schools, supermarkets, bus and train stations and hospitals, so that all people are made aware of the issues.

A system should be set up to support poor families so that parents can stay united with their children instead of going away to work.

Child protection systems should be established to help children in all places, especially where trafficking is a big problem – not only in the cities but also in the rural areas.

Participation

All children and youth should be given the opportunity to participate in activities without discrimination or distinctions made between rich and poor, educated and uneducated, male and female, children and youth, victims, disabled, and people of different religions.

Governments, parents, and international organizations should provide financial and technical support for children's participation.

Provide space for children to share their opinions and their experiences on human trafficking and child participation with other children and young people and also with responsible adults. Provide victims with opportunities to voluntarily share information with other people as a specific part of this participation effort.

Education

Governments need to supply more and

better quality teachers in remote areas. This should include increased incentives for urban teachers to work in these remote areas. Meanwhile governments should encourage and support villagers to become teachers. Students should be encouraged to go back to their schools and become teachers after graduation.

All children must have formal education and access to non-formal education to help protect themselves from being trafficked.

Migration

Governments of all countries, both origin and destination, need to have workable agreements and policies in place to ensure the rights of all migrants (e.g. access to legal documents, laws that protect migrants, etc.) and to take action immediately in situations of abuse and exploitation. Governments of all countries need to establish an organization/office which is responsible for providing support to the migrants.

Set up job information centers in both cities and remote areas to provide information for migrant children and youth (of legal working age) about safe migration and also about available job opportunities.

Nationality

Officially register all children born in the country as soon as possible to allow them access to all public services.

Government agencies must provide special identification for those whose nationality is not recognized and for the victims of trafficking who want to remain in the country where they are at present in order that they can rely on receiving basic public care.

A Website has been set up to document and promote the recommendations:
www.mekongyouthforum.com

The young people's participation in the Forum was jointly sponsored by the International Labour Organization's Mekong Subregional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women, Save the Children UK and World Vision International.

HIV/AIDS WEBSITES

www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/trav/aids/index.htm

ILO/AIDS site, with links to the *ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the world of work* and other ILO materials on HIV/AIDS.

www.unaids.org

Joint UN programme that includes 10 UN agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNDOC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. It is the portal to key UN documents including:

www.unaids.org/en/Issues/default.asp

Issue-by-issue examination of the epidemic.

www.unaids.org/en/MediaCentre/PressMaterials/FeatureStory/2007_0103_feature_story_Words.asp

UNAIDS Terminology Guidelines.

www.unaids.org/en/HIV_data/epi2006/default.asp

UNAIDS/WHO AIDS Epidemic Update, December 2006.

www.who.int/hiv/en/

Site of the World Health Organization (WHO) which provides evidence-based, technical support on treatment, care and prevention services as well as drugs and diagnostics supply to ensure a comprehensive and sustainable response to HIV/AIDS.

www.youandaids.org

United Nations Development Programme site on HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.

www.avert.org/hivquiz.htm

Test your knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

www.engenderhealth.org/res/onc/hiv/index.html

Mini-course on HIV/AIDS by Engender Health.

www.kaisernetwork.org

The latest news on HIV/AIDS from around the world, run by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

C A L E N D A R

2007

3 December, Bangkok, Thailand	Award ceremony for winners of the ILO Asia-Pacific region and Thai photographic Competition on “Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities”
3 December, Manila, Philippines	Tripartite Consultations on ILO Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006
3-7 December, Jakarta, Indonesia	Knowledge Sharing and Training Workshop on Decent Work, Gender Equality and Tripartism
3-7 December, Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam	Workshops on Convention 29 for Trade Union Officials
3-7 December, Viet Nam	*6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare Development & *2nd ASEAN Plus Three Ministerial Meetings on Social Welfare and Development
4-5 December, Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan Tripartite Skills Forum
4-6 December, Jakarta, Indonesia	National Authority for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Overseas Workers, Training of Trainers on Bilateral MOU Negotiations
5 December, Kobe, Japan	ILO Association of Japan/ILO Office Joint Forum on Promoting Decent Work for All in Japan
5 December, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	*ASEAN Plus Three Policy Dialogue on OSH Management Systems
6-7 December, Colombo, Sri Lanka	HIV/AIDS Sustainability Workshop
10-11 December, Jakarta, Indonesia	Training for Mediators, Conciliators and Arbitrators in Enhancing Mediation Skills
10-12 December, Chengdu, China	ILO/MOLSS Meeting on Integration of Rural-Urban Labour Market
10-14 December, Jakarta, Indonesia	National Authority for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Overseas Workers, Training of Trainers on Migration Management
11 December, Colombo, Sri Lanka	National Workshop on Guiding Principles of Livelihoods
11 December, Colombo, Sri Lanka	National Workshop on Standards and Guidelines for Early Economic Recovery
12-14 December, Beijing, China	COMMIT Inter-ministerial Meeting
13-14 December, Jakarta, Indonesia	Training on Collective Bargaining and Negotiation Skills for Employers and Workers
16 December, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Final event of the Garment Workers Campaign & Competition: “I Am Precious”
17 December, Jakarta, Indonesia	National Consultations on Indonesian Labour Migration Policy
17-18 December, Hanoi, Viet Nam	Vietnam Employment Forum
18 December, Jakarta, Indonesia	Migrant Workers Day event
19 December, Colombo, Sri Lanka	Public Sector Dispute Settlement Meeting
19 December, Jakarta, Indonesia	National Consultations on Indonesian Employment Services for Migrant Workers

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7-9 January, Islamabad, Pakistan	Pakistan Tripartite Pension Forum for the Informal Sector
15 January, Hanoi, Viet Nam	Workshop on Policy Dialogue under ILO/Korea Partnership Programme
22-31 January, Chiba, Japan	SKILLS-AP/Japan Regional Workshop & Study Programme on Workplace Learning in Japan
(tbc) January, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Industrial Relations Conference
(tbc) January, Manila, Philippines	Asian Regional Tripartite Workshop on the Draft Resolutions on Statistics of Child Labour
28-29 February, Chiba, Japan	Preparatory Meeting on G8 Labour and Employment Ministers Conference
(tbc) March/April, New Delhi, India	Asian Regional High-Level Meeting on Strategies to Extend Social Security Coverage
8 March, Fiji	SKILLS-AP/Japan Subregional Workshop on Skills Development in the Pacific: Special Skills Development Needs of Small Island Economies
6-9 May, Bangkok, Thailand	*ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting and Labour Ministers Meeting
11-13 May, Nigita, Japan	*G8 Labour Ministers Meeting

* Non- ILO Meetings

S H E L F L I F E

**Child domestic labour information resources**

A guide to IPEC's child domestic labour publications & other materials
ILO, Geneva, 2007, 32 pp.

A comprehensive source of information which, includes rapid assessments, national thematic reports, reviews of international and national legislation, good practices and training materials.

**Child Labour Facts and Figures: An Analysis of Census 2001**

ILO Indus Project, New Delhi,
June 2007, 130 pp.

Based on the 2001 census (released in May 2006) this report provides statistical data on child labour in all 35 States and Union Territories in India. The report presents a profile of working children aged 5-17 years and gives cross-classifications by economic activity and by sex of Main, Marginal and Non-workers aged 5-19 years old who are attending educational institutions.

**Legal and policy initiatives in South Asia to strengthen the national responses to HIV/AIDS in the world of work**

8th International Congress on HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, 19-23 August, Colombo, Sri Lanka

ILO Geneva, August 2007, 28 pp.

An overview of the HIV epidemic in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, including the current legal and policy situations.

**Developing National Skills Strategy**

Report of ILO/SKILLS-AP/Japan Regional Technical Meeting on Developing National Skills Strategies, Chiba, Japan, 27-30 March 2007, 36 pp.

Report on experiences, good practices and the development of Tripartite Action Plans for Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan and Timor Leste. It also provides an effective roadmap for follow-up action.

**Developing Skills and Employability for Young People in Asia and the Pacific**

Report of ILO/SKILLS-AP/Japan Regional Technical Meetings on Developing Skills and Employability for Young People in Asia and the Pacific, Chiba, Japan, 13-16 February 2007, 23 pp.

This guide covers existing tools, policies and approaches to improving skills and employability for youth, as well as recommendations, priorities and areas for collaboration between network members.

**Skills Development for Economic Empowerment and Poverty Reduction**

Report of ILO/SKILLS-AP/Japan TESDA Regional Technical Meeting on Development for Economic Empowerment and Poverty Reduction, Manila, Philippines, 30 January - 1 February 2007, 28 pp.

Review of different approaches to skills development in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.



Skills Recognition for Migrant Workers, Report of ILO/SKILLS-AP/Korea Regional Planning Workshop on Skills Recognition for Migrant Workers, Bangkok, Thailand, 23-25 April 2007, 28 pp.

Discussion on approaches and strategies to help migrant-sending countries get recognition for their workers' skills, including developing regional model competency standards. Also included are the relevant Korean skills standards.

**Training Module for Teachers on Child Labour, Trainers Handbook (54 pp.) and Trainee Reference Material (8 pp.)**

ILO Indus Project, New Delhi, April 2007, 54 pp.

A tool to help teachers in formal schools understand the needs of working children. It includes strategies to prevent students dropping out of formal education as well as motivation and feedback techniques.

**Training Module for Village Education Committees (VEC), Trainers Handbook**

ILO Indus Project, New Delhi, April 2007, 43 pp.

A practical, step-by-step approach to sensitizing Village and Ward Education Committees to the problem of child labour, with suggestions to help find long-term, sustainable solutions.

**Training Guides** (in vocational skills)

ILO-USDOL Project, Training for Rural Economic Empowerment (TREE), Philippines, October 2007.

User-friendly guides containing the information necessary to plan and carry out training for all forms of community-based training of trainers, particularly for rural communities. 15 Training Guides on: Brassware Casting, Bread and Pastry Making, Electrical Services, Farm Implement Fabrication, Fiberglass Making, Garment Making, Meat Processing, Metal Products Fabrication, Pedicab Fabrication, Radio and TV Servicing, Stall Chair Pipe Making, Fabrication and Wooden Furniture Making.