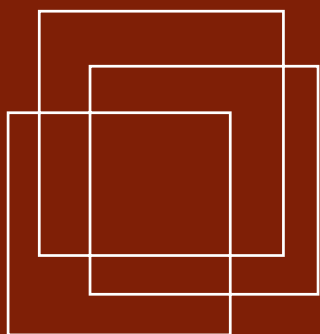




International
Labour
Organization

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



Fourteenth Asian
Regional Meeting

Crisis Response

Mongolian Child
Jockeys

August 2006
Vol. 5, No. 2



STRESS

CONTENTS

- 2 In Brief
- 3 Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting
- 4 Spreading Good Practices on Labour Migration Governance
- 5 New Initiatives on Skills and Employability
- 6 Restoring Livelihoods in Post-earthquake Pakistan
- 7 Mongolian Child Jockeys
- 8 Street Vending Policies and Protection
- 9 New Report on Labour and Social Trends
Photo Exhibit: Working for Change
- 10 ILO Asia Pacific Websites In Brief (continued)
- 11 In Brief (continued)
Calendar
- 12 Shelf Life

Cover Photo:

Realizing decent work; an office worker in Bangkok, Thailand

Photo: ILO/M. Crozet, 2005

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I N B R I E F

95th International Labour Conference

More than 3,000 delegates representing most of the ILO's 178 member states attended the 95th Annual Conference of the ILO that was held in Geneva from 30 May to 16 June. Among the topics discussed were the promotion of occupational safety and health, employment relationships, labour inspections, child labour, asbestos, and the situation of forced labour in Myanmar. Delegates approved a new Convention and accompanying Recommendations that set up a promotional framework for occupational safety and health. A Resolution concerning the use of asbestos was also adopted.

Another topic discussed at the Conference was the increasing difficulty in establishing employment relationships because of the worldwide trend towards more flexible working arrangements. A Recommendation was adopted, aimed at guaranteeing effective

protection for workers.

Forced labour in Myanmar was described at the Conference as having "unprecedented gravity" and "unacceptable to the ILO". The Conference adopted a Report and Conclusions asking the Government of Myanmar for two "tangible and verifiable" actions:

1. Release of any person imprisoned following contact with the ILO and cessation of any current prosecutions by the end of July, and
2. Agreement on a credible mechanism for dealing with forced labour complaints with guarantees of protection for complainants by the end of October.

The situation of forced labour in Myanmar will be re-examined by the Governing Body in November.

The dates of the 96th International Labour Conference are 29 May to 14 June 2007.

ILO helps Indonesia rebuild earthquake-affected areas

Following the devastating 27 May 2006 earthquake in East Java, the ILO supported the Government of Indonesia and its social partners to assess the damage to employment and livelihoods. More than 120,000 jobs were affected by the quake that killed almost 6,000 people and destroyed or damaged up to 400,000 houses. Most people who lost their livelihoods were informal-economy traders and vendors.

Drawing on the experience gained during the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami disaster response, the ILO is currently supporting recovery work by providing intensive courses on concrete mixing and masonry. These skills will allow people to rebuild stronger houses. The ILO is also exploring other ways to revive the local economy. Proposed outlines for reconstruction have been included in the UN's Earthquake Response Programme and presented to donors.



Damage to housing following the earthquake in Yogyakarta. Photo: ILO/T. Muhamad, June 2006.

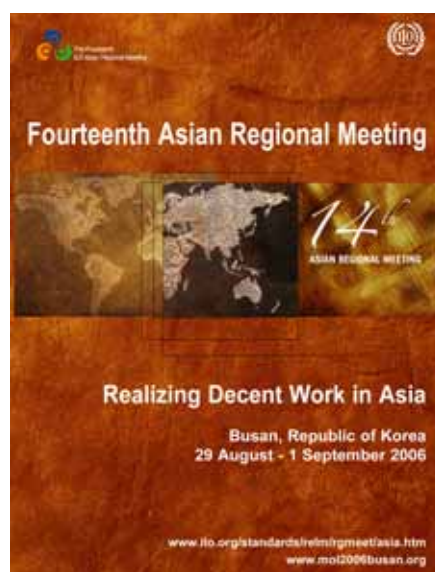
FOURTEENTH ASIAN REGIONAL MEETING – REALIZING DECENT WORK IN ASIA

By Oktavianto Pasaribu, Regional Programme Analyst, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting (14th AsRM) will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea from 29 August to 1 September 2006. The ILO Asian Regional Meeting brings together political, economic and social actors from 29 countries in Asia and the Pacific and 11 Arab States. The AsRM is intended to provide a platform for tripartite delegations to express their views on the implementation and programming of the ILO's regional activities.

The focus of the AsRM will be on the role of productive employment in people-centered development, encapsulated in the overall theme of the meeting, *Realizing Decent Work in Asia*. The concept of "decent work" encompasses employment creation and enterprise promotion, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue. An aim of the meeting will be to identify opportunities for realizing decent work as the route out of poverty and for creating a more productive and equitable society.

The AsRM is particularly important in light of international commitment to addressing the global jobs crisis. At the United Nations World Summit in September 2005 world leaders strongly endorsed full and productive employment and decent work as central objectives of relevant national and international policies, explicitly supporting fundamental principles and rights at work, and spelling out the central role of decent work in development strategies and poverty reduction. The meeting will provide a venue



for translating this global political support into policies making decent work a reality.

Discussions at the meeting will address four main themes.

Competitiveness, productivity and decent jobs in a globalizing context

Productivity growth is key for Asian countries to remain competitive and effectively reduce working poverty. However, productivity gains can be employment-displacing and may not raise wages or improve working conditions. Ways to promote both growth and decent employment to ensure that productivity gains benefit workers will be discussed at the meeting.

Labour market governance for realizing decent work in Asia

A review of measures to adapt or modernize labour laws, institutions and administrations to effectively balance employers' needs for greater flexibility with workers' concerns for employment security. This theme will highlight the importance of enhancing the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations, and the extension of social protection to the informal economy.

The millennium generation: Decent jobs for young people

One of the most worrying aspects of the current jobs deficit is its impact on the "millennium generation" – the young people who will be entering the labour force for the first time this century, 60 per cent of whom are in Asia. The Meeting will discuss the

experiences of countries in eliminating child labour, achieving the goal of Education for All and promoting youth employment.

Labour migration: Regional strategy towards implementation of the ILO multilateral framework

How can the Asian region implement the 2004 resolution of the International Labour Conference for a "non-binding, rights-based" multilateral framework that includes principles for managing labour migration? The delegates will share experiences on the management of labour migration to benefit both sending and receiving countries, and to better protect the rights and equal treatment of migrant workers.

At the AsRM, the Director-General of the ILO will present two reports. The first, *Decent Work in Asia, Reporting on Results 2001-2005*, describes how the ILO has been helping countries to give people a fair chance at a decent job through efforts at local and national levels. The report, *Realizing Decent Work in Asia*, calls on countries in the region to take the next steps to make decent work a reality at both the regional and global levels.

A number of Asian Heads of State and Government will take part in a special panel session. They will share their countries' experiences of providing decent jobs in periods of turbulent economic, social and demographic changes, and suggest how regional cooperation can help their efforts.

There will also be a Panel of Heads of Regional and International Organizations, including senior representatives of workers' and employers' organizations, to discuss strategic partnerships and cooperation for achieving decent work.

The Minister of Labour of the Republic of Korea will host a Special Session for Labour Ministers to discuss strategies for developing workers' skills for decent jobs in the context of globalization.

The AsRM allows ILO constituents to make commitments to practical measures to realize decent work and to ensure that the ILO's own contribution is effective and credible.

SPREADING GOOD PRACTICES ON LABOUR MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

By Manolo Abella, Chief Technical Advisor, Asian Programme on the Governance of Labour Migration, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

How do countries decide how much foreign labour to admit? If employers are to be discouraged from hiring undocumented foreign workers, what incentives should States use? Which measures work best to ensure that foreign workers are treated fairly and equally? What policies of labour-sending countries have made a real difference to the employment conditions of their workers abroad? How can the rights of migrant workers to pension benefits be protected if countries do not have bilateral agreements on social security?

These are only a few of the questions that a new ILO regional project will address over the next three years. The new programme is funded by the European Union under its *AENEAS* Programme (Thematic Programme for the Cooperation with Third Countries in the Areas of Migration and Asylum) and aims to support Asian countries in their efforts to improve the governance of labour migration. The project will be jointly implemented by ILO and UNIFEM.

Economic and demographic changes in Asia are creating conditions that will no doubt accelerate cross-border movement of workers. The new migration project's goal is to have migrant workers in Asia "legally employed in decent work". It recognizes that it is not possible to improve the protection



Migrant workers wait for transport in China. Photo: ILO/J. Maillard

of the rights of migrant workers unless clandestine or irregular movements of labour across borders in many parts of Asia are reduced, and the problem of illegal foreign workers is addressed. Managing the demand for labour and establishing proper legal channels for this are important elements of the solution, as is improving bilateral and multilateral arrangements for managing migration.

The recent adoption by the ILO Governing Body of "ILO's Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration" provides direction. This framework comprises "non-binding" principles and guidelines for managing migration based on international norms and best practices around the world. For its preparation the ILO drew on documented policies and regulations of many states that have dealt with migration issues for some time. It also includes the views of international experts on how effective these policies and regulations have been. A Tripartite Meeting of Experts, convened by the Governing Body in November 2005, reviewed and endorsed the framework.

The ILO Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific, which has been developing decent work country programmes in the region, will play the major role in the project's activities.

Key activities

The project activities will focus on innovative approaches to the governance of labour migration. These include:

- Exchanging experiences on how to better manage the demand for workers in labour-receiving countries in Asia, Europe and North America;
- Designing social security programmes for migrant workers that use new cell phone technologies to manage contributions;
- Linking trade unions in labour-receiving and labour-sending countries more closely so they can cooperate in reaching migrant workers;
- Helping administrators to design policies by making more use of existing databases;
- Incorporating migration issues in training courses for foreign ministry staff;
- Ensuring that the lessons learned elsewhere about seasonal labour migration schemes are passed on to Asian countries; and
- Looking at how fiscal instruments can be effectively applied to migration policy-making.

NEW INITIATIVES ON SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

By Trevor Riordan, Manager, Regional Skills & Employability Programme (SKILLS-AP), ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Many countries in Asia and the Pacific have identified skills development as a priority. They are finding it a growing challenge to respond to the skills needs of their workforces in a time of increasing globalization, new technology and changing patterns of work. In response to this challenge, the ILO has developed a new Regional Skills and Employability Programme (SKILLS-AP) to provide more effective services to ILO member States on skills issues.

All the relevant units in the ILO, at Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in the three subregional offices, at headquarters and at the Turin Centre will now be able to integrate all programmes and activities for skills development in the region into a single work plan. This plan will form a Strategic Framework for Skills and Employability in Asia and the Pacific. It will enable the ILO, together with our key donors and strategic partners, to address skills issues in the region in a strategic and coherent way.



These 15-18-year-old Acehnese women are participating in an ILO vocational training programme that aims to help them learn professional skills and escape from possible child-labour exploitation. Photo: ILO



Learning new skills in Solomon Islands. Photo: ILO

One of the aims is to help countries improve their productivity and competitiveness by promoting lifelong learning to ensure that skills are constantly renewed and that workers have core work skills that equip them for a wide variety of potential jobs. Another aim is to reorient policies for education and training to focus on the needs of working people, especially the poor and excluded. Countries grappling with the aftermath of disasters and conflicts have also emphasized the importance of skills development for helping people find new jobs and restore livelihoods.

SKILLS-AP builds upon the invaluable earlier work of the Asia and Pacific Skills Development Programme (APSDEP), which has been generously supported by the Government of Japan since its inception in 1978.

Among the most valuable elements of APSDEP was the Regional Skills Network in Asia and the Pacific. This promoted inter-country cooperation through partnerships between key member vocational training and human resource development institutions. Two regional meetings of the partner organizations were conducted in 2005 to revitalize the network and develop more effective cooperation in light of the region's changing skills development needs.

The first Technical Meeting of the Regional Skills Network Partner Institutions (held in Incheon, Republic of Korea in November 2005) brought together skills development partner organizations from all ILO member States in the region, including those organizations operated by workers and employers. The meeting adopted a Statement of Common Understanding which "agreed that ILO constituents across the region will share their knowledge and experience in order to optimize human resources development processes and promote decent work. This will help constituents to improve the skills and well-being of people to improve the economy and facilitate development of the region as a whole."

The partner organizations also agreed upon a Framework for Cooperation on Skills Development for Asia and the Pacific, which "comes out of a shared commitment to cooperation, recognizing that all partner organizations in the region have information and experiences to share which will be valuable to others."

Now that ILO members in Asia and the Pacific have endorsed these initiatives, SKILLS-AP is working with constituents in member States to develop further cooperation and partnerships to carry this important work forward.

RESTORING LIVELIHOODS IN POST-EARTHQUAKE PAKISTAN

By Manzoor Khaliq, Sr. Programme Officer, ILO Office in Pakistan

The earthquake in Pakistan on 8 October 2005 was the biggest the country had ever experienced. It damaged the physical, natural, social and economic resources of one of the most disadvantaged and tradition-bound regions in the country.

Since this disaster the ILO has been in the forefront of the relief effort, providing technical support for a comprehensive response aimed at developing and implementing programmes that focus on labour opportunities.

The ILO began its work after the earthquake by conducting a rapid assessment of employment and livelihood losses. The ILO was the first agency to re-introduce economic activities. It launched a Rapid Income Support through Employment (RISE) project, which includes cash-for-work, employment services through Emergency Employment Information Centres (EEIC) and skills development programmes.

The work has not only given people ready cash to meet their immediate needs but has also provided them with the opportunity to organize and contribute towards the reconstruction of their communities.

Working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Pakistan Workers' Federation, Employers' Federation of Pakistan and NGOs, the RISE project has employed 60,000 men and women under the cash-for-work programme. In addition, more than 6,000 people have been registered with EEICs, of whom more than 200 people have already been linked with



Men working under the cash-for-work project under the ILO's Rapid Income Support through Employment (RISE) Programme in a camp in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan. ILO/M. Khaliq, November 2005.

employment opportunities. The ILO also has supported its constituents and NGOs on several other skills training programmes in different affected areas. Over 1,000 people have been trained in masonry, carpentry, building, electrical work, plumbing, welding, bead-work, dress-design and paper-maché. Training courses on repair of household appliances and mobile telephones have been designed for people with disabilities.

Soon after the earthquake, the UN established a cluster system to coordinate activities of all agencies involved and to help advise the Government. The ILO has actively participated in cluster meetings, specifically focusing on employment while chairing the Employment and Livelihood Cluster. Also in collaboration with other agencies the ILO carried out a joint assessment on early recovery, livelihoods and employment losses which was published in the UN Early Recovery Framework Document. The ILO also assisted in formulating a Livelihoods Restoration Strategy for the Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA).

It is interesting to note how customary boundaries between the roles of women and men have been altered by the disaster in this region. A large number of those who have participated in the employment projects are women. A mutually acceptable compromise seems to have been reached that is benefiting women as part the recovery effort.

The ILO aims to broaden the scope of its continuing projects by linking the immediate income support activities to longer-term economic recovery through collaboration

with ILO constituents, other UN agencies, international and national civil society organizations and government agencies. In addition to mobilizing its own internal resources, the ILO Office in Pakistan joined with other UN agencies including UNDP, FAO and UNIDO to formulate a joint project document for donor funding. As a result a US\$12 million project document has been signed by the EC Delegation to Pakistan and UNDP, in which the EU provides \$10 million and UNDP contributes \$2 million. The ILO will receive \$3.9 million for its work. In addition, as part of the ILO-Korea Skills Development Programme, a project targeting the earthquake-hit areas has been launched to enhance the capacity of training institutes to implement demand-based skills development training.

For knowledge-sharing, the ILO has developed a toolkit on recommended management and policy options for employment-friendly reconstruction. The tools include guidance on cash for work, food for work, public employment services, labour-based infrastructure projects, community contracting, vocational and skills training, local economic development, small enterprise promotion, business development services, women entrepreneurship, starting and improving your own business and micro-finance.

The ILO Office in Islamabad continues to work with the Ministry of Labour and workers' and employers' organizations to mobilize additional resources.

MONGOLIAN CHILD JOCKEYS – BALANCING CULTURAL HERITAGE WITH SAFETY

By N. Mongolmaa, National Project Manager, and B. Bayasgalan, Programme Officer, ILO/IPEC Mongolia

There is a popular saying: “Mongols are born in the saddle”.

It is impossible to imagine Mongols without a horse. Children learn to ride at the age of four or five. Since ancient times horses have been part of the traditional nomadic way of life and no celebration is complete without a horse race.

Horse racing is one of the three games of Naadam festival, organized every July to celebrate the People's Revolution. Young children are the masters of the Mongolian horse race. Horses race from 12 to 28 kilometres across the steppe, the distance depending on the horse's age. In preparing for Naadam children take part in repeated practice races and help the trainers take care of the race horses.

In the last few years a new trend has emerged, an increasing number of races in the period after the Lunar New Year in January or February. Sub-zero temperatures at this time bring much higher risks of injuries and other health problems. These races are commercial, organized by horse training associations or wealthy individual horse owners.

The changing nature of such racing, from traditional entertainment into business promotion for the wealthy, has gradually drawn public criticism. Injuries and fatalities among child jockeys have also drawn increasing attention.

In May, for the first time, the issue of child jockeys was discussed at the National Forum



Child jockeys racing in Ulaanbaatar. Gamma Photo Agency/S. Tasatsra, 2004.

of Child Jockeys organized jointly by the National Department for Children, National Human Rights Commission and National Sports Committee of Mongolia with financial and technical support of ILO's International Programme to Eliminate Child Labour (IPEC). The Forum brought together more than 100 child jockeys from all 21 *aimags* (provinces) in Mongolia, as well as horse trainers and representatives of sports organizations to discuss ways to ensure the safety and protection of child jockeys.

According to the Law on National Grand Naadam, children must be seven or older to participate in horse races. The 2005 decree of the Deputy Prime Minister requires them to wear protective helmets, knee and elbow pads. However, lack of both enforcement and approved standards means not all children wear the gear or use clothing which meets protection needs.

“It is estimated that 150,000-180,000 horses compete in 500 races each year in which more than 30,000 child jockeys are engaged,” says Mr. Jadamba Dashdorj, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission of Mongolia (NHRCM). In preparation for the National Forum, the NHRCM collected information, with IPEC support, on injuries and fatalities in the last three years. The findings were alarming. The study revealed a substantial number of cases of child jockeys receiving serious, sometimes fatal injuries from falls. “Horse racing is

increasingly becoming an issue of violating children's rights” said Mr. Dashdorj.

At the National Forum the young jockeys were able to talk about their pride in being jockeys, as well as the many challenges they face, such as poor conditions, attitude of police, race organizers, poor medical services and difficulties in keeping up with their education.

“Child jockeys learn essential life skills, good discipline, endurance and great tolerance of hardship. But horse racing is a very risky job. I always feel relieved when both horse and the child return safely to the finish line,” says Ms. Purevkhoo, a horse trainer from Huvsgul *aimag*.

With due respect to cultural tradition, the hazardous situation of children in horse racing was debated extensively during discussions. Topics addressed included the need to improve legal protection of child jockeys, imposing and enforcing safety standards, insurance schemes, pre-race medical examinations and a reward system for child jockeys. Agreement was also reached to suggest to the authorities that races in sub-zero degree temperatures be prohibited and the age of child jockeys in commercial racing be raised.

The Forum agreed to a Memorandum of Cooperation for three years between the National Sports Committee, National Department for Children, Human Rights Commission and three major horse trainers' associations. The parties agreed to improve laws on organizing horse races, ensure legal protection of child jockeys, collect and analyse information on injuries, and monitor the implementation of relevant laws. This has set a starting point for finding solutions to a daunting task of preserving heritage while protecting the rights of child jockeys.

The Forum's recommendations were presented to the National Council for Children, headed by the Prime Minister of Mongolia on 30 May 2006. Amendments to the Regulation for Horse Races of National Grand Naadam are underway.

STREET VENDING POLICIES AND PROTECTION

*By Sandra Yu, Chief Technical Advisor,
Project on Informal Economy, Poverty &
Employment, ILO Subregional Office for
East Asia*

“**S**treet vending is a cultural asset in Thailand that has been around for more than 200 years,” Dr. Narumol Nirathron said in her presentation at the Theme Seminar on Street Vending Policies and Labour Protection Strategies held in Bangkok in May 2006. Her study reports that 70 per cent of fixed vendors started out as mobile vendors, thereby suggesting upward mobility. Over 80 per cent of the street vendors say they are satisfied with their trade.

With Bangkok serving as a rich backdrop, the Theme Seminar on Street Vending Policies was organized by the ILO Informal Economy (IE), Poverty and Employment Project, in collaboration with Thammasat University. The Theme Seminar on Labour Protection Strategies was co-organized by the IE Project and the Thai Ministry of Labour.

Policy makers and researchers from Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Kuala Lumpur, Ulaanbaatar, Phnom Penh and Mumbai shared their experiences and enjoyed lively discussions. Site visits in Bangkok and Chiang Mai inspired participants to realize that street vending, hardly the eyesore that it is often seen by local authorities, can inject life and vigor into the local economy.

Ms. Zolboo Gulu, an officer with the Ulaanbaatar city food and agriculture department reflected, “In Ulaanbaatar, we have a special market like the walking street of Chiang Mai only twice a year, during special festivals. I think this might not be enough for agricultural producers to sell their products. We have to consider having more frequent markets like this.”



Orange vendor in Bangkok. ILO/M. Crozet, 2005

Finding space on the street or in markets is not the only problem that vendors face. They also work in extreme weather conditions. They might lack drinking water, first aid and toilet facilities. Mobile vendors risk accidents. Most are not insured and have no employer to pay for medical services or accident compensation. Small-scale farmers, construction workers, home workers and domestic helpers all fall into the same category of workers who do not enjoy labour law protection.

Dr. Leng Tong of Cambodia's Labour Ministry stated that 85 per cent of his country's workforce of six million are in the informal economy. They fall outside the labour protection system.

Mr. Sathaporn Charupa, Director of Thailand's Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, says there are 2.6 million labourers hired in the agricultural sector and 500,000 home workers in Thailand. However the numbers fluctuate according to seasonal work.

Despite these challenges, labour ministries are undeterred. Dr. Huy Han Song, Under-secretary of Cambodia's Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, speaks of continuous training on occupational safety and health in informal work settings using ILO's work improvement programmes. The labour law is under review. Inspectors are being reoriented to informal work settings. In Thailand, the labour law was extended to

home workers and agricultural workers through Ministerial Regulations.

Participants also saw the strategic role of other ministries in delivering worker protection services. Thailand's Ministry of Public Health organized visits to the northeastern province of Lamphun to show workers receiving medical services and training on occupational safety and health from public healthcare staff. The public healthcare system reaches the most remote villages. Diagnosis of ailments by public health centres is now linked to occupation, so is data collection on incidences of disease. “Workers in the agricultural sector are likely to be exposed to chemical and pesticide poisoning. Some of them show symptoms after a long time,” Dr. Somkiat Siriruttanapruk remarked. The problem is complex and, in Thailand, different ministries are working together to match the enormity of the need.

Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, Director, ILO Subregional Office for East Asia, stressed the need to advance decent work to all workers. She stated that “ILO's collaboration with government, trade unions and employer's organizations in all three countries (Cambodia, Mongolia and Thailand) under the informal Economy Project has focused on testing strategies and practical approaches to enhance labour protection and in finding viable solutions.”

NEW REPORT ON LABOUR AND SOCIAL TRENDS

By Gyorgy Sziraczki, Senior Economist,
ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

The new ILO report, *Labour and Social Trends in Asia and the Pacific 2006: Progress toward Decent Work* provides background data and analysis for discussions at the Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting (AsRM).

Published every two years, the report has two main aims:

- To show the major trends in employment and social conditions in the Asia-Pacific region, drawing attention to the key policy challenges posed by these trends, and
- To contribute to the development of internationally comparable, gender-sensitive indicators to measure progress made in the different dimensions of decent work, which also provide information to support the ILO initiative of establishing a regional Decent Work Indicator database.

The report presents an overview of recent subregional trends in the labour market, including labour market governance and reforms, trends in unionization, collective bargaining and industrial action. It also highlights various other issues including information gaps in data collection and ways of tackling this; labour productivity growth; youth unemployment; migrant workers (Asia and the Pacific is the largest migrant-sending region in the world); poverty and child labour.

The report is the product of strong collaboration between the ILO Regional, Subregional and Country Offices in Asia and the Pacific, and ILO Headquarters' Bureau of Statistics and the Employment Trends Team, Economic and Labour Market Analysis Department. It was produced by the Economic and Social Analysis Unit of the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Photo exhibit: Working for Change – Child Labour and the Organizations Fighting to End It

An exhibition of photographs by Jeffrey Leventhal was organized with the support of the ILO during May at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand, Bangkok. The exhibition explored the issue of child labour in Asia and the work being done to protect children's rights and to end this form of exploitation. Below is a message by Jeffrey Leventhal:

There are two main objectives for this project. The first is to raise awareness about the harsh reality of child labour in our world. The second is to promote the work of the organizations who are dedicated to protecting the rights of all children to healthy development and to freedom from exploitation.

I began the project in 2003 because I felt child exploitation was a pressing issue, but one that in many countries seemed to be accepted by society, unaddressed by the government, and just glanced over by tourists. However during my research, I discovered that there is an entire global network of people working to eradicate child labour. This became an integral part of my work - to not just focus on the tragedy of the issue, but show that positive change and an end to child labour is possible. www.jeffreyleventhal.com



Education: These girls, ages 9-12, used to work as house maids or tend animals and fields. VIN-CSO, a local NGO, ran a ten-month bridge school supported by the ILO-IPEC in order for the girls to catch up with education and be placed in a mainstream school for the first time. This is part of the Andhra Pradesh National Child Labour Programme. (Gajapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India, July 2004)



Porters: Cambodian children, mostly boys, provide cheap labour as porters bringing goods – sometimes illegally – across the Thai-Cambodian border. Many receive no education. A new programme organized by ILO-IPEC, the Cambodian Government and the U.S. Department of Labour aims to address this. (Poipet, Cambodia, March 2006).



Home-Based Speaker Cone Production: Children make paper cones for audio speakers, working bare-handed with chemicals that can cause skin diseases, frequently in rooms with little or no ventilation. They earn 30-40 Rupees (less than US\$1) for an eight hour day. (Jaipur, India, June 2004)

ILO ASIA PACIFIC WEBSITES

www.ilo.org/asia/14asrm

Website for the Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting, which will be held in Busan, Republic of Korea from 29 August-1 September 2006. Representatives from about 40 Asia-Pacific and Arab states will meet to discuss ILO projects and themes focusing on the promotion of decent work.

www.ilo.org/asia/child/trafficking

Information on the battle against human trafficking from the ILO Mekong Subregional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women.

www.ilo.org/asia/japanmb

The ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme site details a number of projects including employment promotion for women (Cambodia and Viet Nam), cross-border labour migration in Southeast Asia, labour law and industrial relations networks, occupational safety and health (Viet Nam), and Start and Improve Your Business (China).

www.ilo.org/asia/skills-ap

The new ILO Regional Skills and Employability Programme (SKILLS-AP) site gives details on integrated programmes and activities for skills development in the region.

www.ilo.org/apec

The ILO and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) site focuses on child labour, poverty and the importance of educational opportunities. Member countries (Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam) are urged to “use education to combat child labour as part of their overall growth and economic development strategy.”

www.iloasist.org

The website for the Advisory Support, Information Services and Training in Asia and the Pacific (ASIST-AP), which aims to mainstream poverty alleviation strategies through sustainable infrastructure development.

www.betterfactories.org

This site aims to improve working conditions in Cambodia's export garment factories through independent monitoring, liaison with management, training, advice and information. Site available in English, Khmer and Chinese.

www.agri-osh.org/english

The website of the ILO/Japan Regional Programme for Capacity Building of Occupational Safety and Health in Agriculture in Viet Nam shows examples of low-cost safety and health measures coordinated with national ministries and provincial governments, with technical support from the ILO. The programme has a network of trainers and farmer volunteers. Site in English and Vietnamese.

www.microfinance.org.vn

This site has details of the ILO-Viet Nam microfinance project. Site available in both English and Vietnamese.

I N B R I E F

Launch of Global Report on child labour

The new Global Report on child labour was launched in Asia on 4 May 2006 in Bangkok. The report: *The end of child labour: Within reach*¹ states that the number of working children in Asia and the Pacific has dropped by five million since 2000 – from 127.3 million to 122.3 million (in 2004). This represents 18.8 per cent of the 650 million 5-14 year olds in the region.

“Progress has been made in reducing child labour in the Asia-Pacific countries, particularly some of the worst forms. We now see that the target of eliminating the worst forms of child labour within 10 years is achievable, and we must redouble our efforts to do so,” said Ms. Lin Lean Lim, Deputy Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. “We must not be complacent”.

Ms. Panudda Boonpala, Senior Child Labour Specialist, ILO Subregional Office for East Asia, highlighted five recommendations for

action to help Asia-Pacific countries meet the 2016 target:

- Countries should increase their efforts to combat poverty and expand education;
- More money should be invested in combating child labour;
- National targets to end the worst forms of child labour need be set as soon as possible;
- Special attention should be given to vulnerable groups such as minorities, migrants, and children affected by natural disasters or political crisis; and
- Those countries which have not already done so should ratify and apply the ILO fundamental conventions.

“This is a leadership issue,” Ms. Boonpala added. “To be really effective national action against child labour needs to be supported by policy makers at the highest levels. Work to combat child labour must also be integrated into and reinforced by policies to support education, youth employment, economic development and human rights”.

Lao radio training

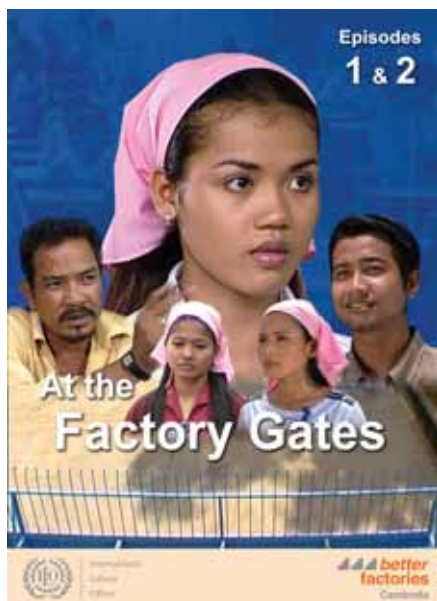
More than 30 reporters, presenters and editors from Lao National Radio took part in three ILO training workshops on reporting work and workplace issues in Lao PDR.

The training programme was the first of its kind in Lao PDR. It was organized by the Indochina Media Memorial Foundation (IMMF), co-sponsored by the ILO.

The courses were run in three locations, Pakse, Vientiane, and Luang Prabang, and included journalists from provinces throughout the country. The training workshops that took place in February were the final elements in a three year course. The courses covered reporting standards and technical skills. As part of the practical work the journalists made and broadcast programmes about workplace issues.

¹ *The end of child labour: Within reach, Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, report to the 95th Session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva 2006. Available in PDF format for download at www.ilo.org/declaration.*

I N B R I E F



Cambodian soap opera poster

First soap opera about Cambodian garment industry

A soap opera series about real life problems and solutions in the Cambodian garment industry was commissioned by the ILO Better Factories Cambodia in April 2006. The drama series "At the Factory Gates" was launched at a premiere in Phnom Penh attended by H.E. Cham Prasidh, Minister of Commerce, H.E. Nhep Bunchin, then Minister of Labour and Vocational Training and Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, Director, ILO Subregional Office for East Asia. The first two episodes of the series focus on educating workers on ways to solve disputes and on their rights and responsibilities in conducting legal strikes. They were

broadcast on two Cambodian national television stations. The episodes will also be used as part of the Better Factories Cambodia training programme. Four more episodes are now in production and will be shown later this year.



DPI and ILO staff members joining the May Day walk rally at Sanam Luang, Bangkok. DPI, 1 May 2006.

DPI and ILO join Labour Day walk rally

On International Labour Day, 1 May, the Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) and the ILO joined the two-kilometre march in Bangkok from the Royal Plaza to Sanam Luang. The marchers listed four demands on the Government:

1. Ratify ILO Convention 159 on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons), 1983;
2. Review, amend and abolish 52 laws/regulations which discriminate against persons with disabilities in employment;
3. The Ministry responsible for ministerial regulations on employment promotion

for persons with disabilities be shifted from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to the Ministry of Labour;

4. Ensure implementation of safety measures in the workplace to avoid increasing numbers of persons with disabilities, and for those who become disabled at work, to receive life-time medical service instead of 10 years under the current Social Security Act.

ILO joins National Council of Women of Thailand for International Women's Day

To mark International Women's Day on 8 March, the ILO took part in an exhibition organized by the National Council of Women of Thailand at their Bangkok headquarters. As the ILO's theme this year was "Women in Sports", the ILO joined the Thailand Women and Sport Association (TWSA) and the Thailand Olympics' Women and Sport Commission (WSC) at their Sports Clinic. The booth offered information about Thai women in sports as well as fitness tests and demonstrations in yoga and aerobics to promote sports and good health.

The ILO also commissioned a film about Ms. Pawina Thongsuk, Thailand's Olympic gold medal weightlifting champion, which was shown in Bangkok and Geneva.

C A L E N D A R

Forthcoming Asia-Pacific Meetings 2006

6-7 July
Beijing, China

Tripartite Technical Workshop on Occupational Safety and Health in the Coal Mining Industry

12-14 July
Jakarta, Indonesia

ILO/Japan Subregional Seminar on the Application of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-Up, Theme: Elimination of Child Labour

29 August-1 September
Busan, Republic of Korea

Fourteenth Asian Regional Meeting

27-29 November
Hanoi, Viet Nam

National Asbestos Workshop

SHELF LIFE


Anti-child Trafficking Legislation in Asia: A Six-country Review; Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia

By Radhika Coomaraswamy and Ambika Satkunanathan
Bangkok: ILO, 2006
ISBN: 978-92-2-118448-5.
www.ilo.org/asia/library/pub16.htm
The report highlights inadequacies in the legal frameworks and discrepancies between national laws and international instruments in the six countries reviewed.


Child Domestic Labour in South East and East Asia: Emerging Good Practices to Combat It

By Ayaka Matsuno and Jonathan Blagbrough
Bangkok: ILO, 2006
ISBN: 978-92-2-118366-2
www.ilo.org/ipeec
The report explores the current child domestic labour situation in the region and actions being taken to combat it.


Child-friendly Standards & Guidelines for the Recovery and Integration of Trafficked Children

By ILO TICSА-II
Bangkok: ILO, 2006
ISBN: 978-92-2-118456-0
www.ilo.org/asia/library/pub16.htm
This publication includes procedures and services needed for the protection, recovery and social integration of child victims of trafficking, especially in shelters.


Philippines Infrastructure for Rural Productivity Enhancement, Tools for Identifying Rural Infrastructure Investment Priorities

By Chris Donnges, Martha Espano and Nori Palarca
Bangkok: ILO, 2006
ISBN: 978-92-2-118605-2
www.ilo.org/asia/library/pub14.htm
This report offers procedures for improving rural access, including municipal level planning tools to identify local investment priorities that are in line with the real access needs of the local people.


Demand Side of Human Trafficking in Asia: Empirical Findings

By ILO TICSА-II
Bangkok: ILO, 2006
ISBN: 978-92-2-118448-5
www.ilo.org/asia/library/pub16.htm
These report probes the "demand side" of trafficking, covering the attitudes and policies that enable this crime. It focuses on Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and covers five sectors: commercial sexual exploitation, domestic labour, organized begging, fireworks production and child soldiers.


Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning in Nepal: Guideline

By Chris Donnges, Jagannath Ojha and Chloe Pearse
Bangkok: ILO, 2005
ISBN: 92-2-117044-6
Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning is a local-level planning process for improving access in rural areas. This guide outlines the different steps of the process developed in Nepal.


Rehabilitation of the Victims of Child Trafficking: A Multidisciplinary Approach

By Center for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation
Bangkok: ILO, 2006
ISBN: 978-92-2-118450-8
www.ilo.org/asia/library/pub16.htm
A comprehensive needs-based approach including medical, social and legal elements, to ensure the effective rehabilitation of children rescued from trafficking and other abuses.


Maintenance Study in the Philippines

By ILO ASIST-AP
Bangkok: ILO, 2006
ISBN: 978-92-2-118600-7
www.ilo.org/asia/library/pub14.htm
An assessment of the situation of rural roads in five provinces: Albay, Bataan, Eastern Samar, Guimaras and Zamboanga del Norte Province


Achieving Equal Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities through Effective Legislation

Chinese: ISBN 92-2-518035-7, Beijing: ILO, 2006. Khmer: ISBN 978-92-2-816427-5, Bangkok: ILO, 2006. Thai: ISBN 978-92-2-818787-8, Bangkok: ILO, 2006. Vietnamese: ISBN 978-92-2-816427-5, Hanoi: ILO, 2006. English: ISBN 92-2-116427-6, Geneva: ILO, 2004
Intended for policy-makers and drafters of legislation this publication is to help improve the effectiveness of national laws concerning training and employment of disabled persons.


Situation Analysis of Rural Road Maintenance in Madhya Pradesh

By ILO ASIST-AP
Bangkok: ILO, 2005
Volume I: Strategy Elements and Options for Reforms
ISBN: 92-2-117091-8
Volume II: Policy, Institutional and Financial Aspects
ISBN: 92-2-117093-4
These volume examine rural road maintenance and identify the technical, institutional and financial gaps that exist at various levels, with the aim of being used as a model for other states of India.