

WATCH OUR TALKSHOW ON JOBS AND SKILLS FOR YOUTH

What are the challenges that Asian youth face in the labour market? How to promote youth employability in the region? Our guests representing government, workers and employers share their views and experiences with ABC News presenter Del Irani. The talkshow was organized during the ILO Work4Youth Conference in Bangkok, on May 21.

Watch the talkshow [here](#):

<http://apskills.ilo.org/media/videos/talkshow-jobs-skills-for-youth-in-asia-pacific>



VIET NAM HOLDS NATIONAL QUALIFICATION FRAMEWORK MEETING

With the ASEAN Economic Community coming to effect in 2015, South East Asian countries are developing and harmonizing their national qualification frameworks (NQFs) to allow for free flow of skilled labour within the region. Viet Nam held a roundtable meeting on **National Qualification Framework Development** in Ha Noi in May, organized by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), the ILO and the British Council. The goal of the meeting was to review the progress towards an NQF in Viet Nam as well as establish a road map for NQF development.

In attendance were key members of the Viet Nam NQF development working group and representatives from government agencies, workers, employers and other relevant organizations. Presentations by experts and lessons learned from other countries provided the basis for discussion. The meeting resulted in plan to develop an 8-level Vietnam National Qualifications Framework in line with ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF). The ILO and British Council continue to provide technical assistance and other support in the process.

SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES MEET TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE ON APPRENTICESHIPS

South Asia has the world's largest youth population which puts a lot of pressure to the education and training systems in the region. One of the key constraints is the lack of capacity to train new entrants to the labour market and meet the skill shortages faced by industry. To respond this challenge, many South Asian countries are currently reforming their TVET and skills development systems, including their workplace training systems.



In support of this, the ILO organized a **South Asia Knowledge-Sharing and Technical Consultation on Apprenticeships** in New Delhi on 14 and 15 May 2014. Over 50 participants from across the South Asia region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – attended the workshop. The meeting gave an opportunity for experts and policy-makers to exchange information on different aspects related to apprenticeship systems. Some of the key questions discussed were: *How can industry play a greater role in apprenticeships? What are the different options for training and assessing apprentices (both on and off the job)? How can apprenticeships be made more attractive to young people? Can apprenticeship training work in the informal sector?*

The recent ILO/World Bank report [Towards a Model Apprenticeship Framework: A Comparative Analysis of National Apprenticeship Systems](#) provided a resource for the meeting. The report presents eleven (11) country case studies on apprenticeship systems and provides a model apprenticeship framework based on the identified good practices from the case study countries.

MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN INDIA

The ILO has conducted a study of skilled labour in manufacturing in India, together with the Institute for Human Development (New Delhi). The aim was to investigate to what extent the availability of skilled labour is a constraint in the expansion of manufacturing and what other constraints there are hindering the growth of the sector.

The study surveyed some 200 small, medium or large firms in two manufacturing sub-sectors: automotive products, a sector that has experienced rapid growth, and electronics, a sector where growth has been slower. The study confirmed that a great deal of research, not to mention the experience of leading firms, demonstrates that the skills, ideas, and commitment of blue collar workers are central to obtaining the levels of quality and productivity needed to survive in today's hypercompetitive economy. In the automotive sector in particular, the study found surprisingly high levels of workplace training, with up to 80% of large firms in some locations delivering training to workers at different skill levels. The study also found that those firms which provided workplace training were more likely to retain workers as employees rather than contract labourers. Whilst the study also found varying wage differentials in the sectors between skilled and unskilled workers, it confirmed the strong correlation between increasing demands for higher quality and increased demands for formally trained and higher skilled workers.

The report will be published in July this year and will be made available in Skills & Employability Network [Resources](#) section.

WELCOME LAURA BREWER

Laura Brewer, Skills and Employability Specialist currently based in ILO Headquarters in Geneva will be moving to the ILO Office in Manila in July. Laura will be a member of the ILO regional specialist team on skills and employability.



Very warm welcome!

NEWS FROM THE REGION

[China: 38 million students expected at vocational schools by 2020](#)

[India: Labour ministry initiates steps for skill development](#)

[Raising the bar for Philippines' tech-voc professions](#)

[Key milestones reached for new education goals](#)

[More news on Skills & Employability Platform](#)

FEATURED RESOURCES



[Innovative Asia: Advancing the Knowledge-Based Economy](#)

This paper summarizes the main points of the ADB study titled "Asia's Knowledge Economies: Next Policy Agenda". The study identifies how developing ADB member countries can advance as knowledge based economies.



[Skills trends for green jobs in the steel industry in India](#)

This ILO report looks at the skills for green technologies in the steel industry in India by both reviewing the existing systems in place for developing a skilled labour force and by making recommendations on how to adapt to evolving demands.



[The gender divide in skills development: progress, challenges and policy options for empowering women](#)

This policy brief discusses the role of skills development in reducing gender inequalities in labour markets, and outlines practical policy options, based on recent international research and experience from ILO country-level work.

[More resources on Skills & Employability Platform](#)