

Advancing fair Globalization

Kassel/Geneva, October 9, 2004 (ACTRAV Info): Heidemarie Wieczorek Zeul, the German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development and Sir Leroy Trotman, the spokesperson of the Workers Group of the ILO welcomed an international group of students, trade unions and academics to the inauguration of the Masters Course on "Labour Policies and Globalisation" earlier this week in Kassel, Germany



The Masters course is an initiative of the Bureau for Workers' Activities in the International Labour Organization (ILO) and is implemented by the international labour movement in cooperation with the above universities and international partner universities. The course deals in particular with questions of International Labour Standards in the current context of globalization. It is unique in its international composition and its focus on International Labour Standards and the role and potential of trade unions.

The students who come from 16 different countries will be taught by an international faculty coming from South Africa, Brazil, Canada, the UK and the International Labour Organization.

Sir Leroy Trotman; Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul; the vice president of the German Trade Union Confederation, Dr Ursula Engelen-Kefer as well as a representative from the ILO expressed the important and innovative character of the program.

Sir Leroy Trotman stressed in his speech the importance of the International Labour Standards: "The International Labour Standards are an important means so that all people are equally treated with the same dignity, regardless of whether they come from the North or South."

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul conceptualised her ideas for governance of globalisation: "We need more coherence in international cooperation. We need better international governance and comprehensive international institutions for social and economic policies."

Dr Ursula Engelen-Kefer stressed the need for binding laws and regulations: "We need to make sure that the International Labour Standards and other agreements and frameworks which have been agreed upon voluntarily are implemented in an effective way, in the South as well as in the North."

The Masters program will be offered annually and commences each October.

For more details contact Frank Hoffer or Verena Schmidt at the ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities.