

The Challenge



The effect of financial crisis and climate change has brought drastic changes in Asia including the Philippines. The need for a sustainable and climate resilient economy is more pressing than ever, especially in the areas of economic productivity, decent work, and environment friendly economic activities.

In the Philippines, thousands are losing their jobs due to environmental plights that affect their sources of income. However, turning these challenges into sustainable opportunities has never been widely realized. In realizing these opportunities, there is a need to change our ways of producing, consuming, and earning.

While such calamities often happen, the effects of climate change and the resulting policies on the world of work are often not understood. This could result to a drain on the economy and competitiveness. The social benefits of climate-smart policies are not yet fully realized in the country spelling the need for a more sustainable and greener economy.

The Response

The International Labour Organization (ILO) works with Philippine counterparts in enhancing the capacities of workers and employers' organizations to develop and implement of just transition measures of green jobs at the national level. Strategies to be used include assistance to policies, research and communication, capacity building, demonstration project, knowledge sharing, and assistance.

Primarily, Green Jobs in Asia (GBA) will work with other sectors in promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling and waste management, and environmentally sound management of natural resources. The project is being implemented in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

The project will help employers increase market value, improve product handling and advance capacities on social dialogue. The workers, meanwhile, will experience benefits including employment creation, safety and social protection and improved quality of life. Lastly, the government will have the opportunity to improve its existing development thrusts while gaining institutional support and international prestige.

The project will promote the creation of green jobs in the Philippines particularly in socialized housing construction. After the project, it is envisioned that ILO constituents and partners will have enough knowledge on the impacts of climate change policies on the labour market geared towards a more sustainable and productive economic path.

Key Statistics

- There are about 111 million workers in the construction sector who can benefit from a global transition to energy efficient building. This can also create millions of job opportunities.
- Biomass and energy-related industries can employ about 12 million people.
- Typhoon Ondoy (international name: Ketsana) that hit the Philippines in 2009 affected 5.6 per cent of the country's population depriving thousands of their sources of income.

Objectives

- Assist Philippines in shifting to a sustainable and climate resilient economy that helps hasten jobs recovery, reduce social gaps, and support development goals and realize decent work.
- Promote the capacity of ILO constituents to engage in dialogue on green jobs through increased access to reliable sources of data and information on green jobs and training.
- Mainstream Green Jobs in labour, economic, social, and environmental policies of the Philippines.
- Implement Green Jobs demonstration programmes which respond to the various needs of women and men in key sectors after a series of research and consultations.

Relevant ILO Conventions and Recommendations

- Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174)
- Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144)

Achievements

- A roundtable discussion on greening of the Labor and Employment Plan (LEP) 2011-2016 was held with ILO constituents in April 2011.
- The LEP 2011-2016 and the Philippine Climate Change Action Plan now include green jobs in its strategies and action points.
- Through a network of ILO constituents, specialists, civil society, and other stakeholders, the Green Jobs in Asia Project has set-up a portal in which resources on Green Jobs are accessible.
- A Community of Practice (CoP) was established among pool of experts from the region to share best practices and experience.
- More than 300 green jobs partners and advocates were convened during the First Philippine Green Jobs Conference to initiate discussion and information exchange on green jobs at the national level.
- A feasibility study and an implementation plan for green jobs promotion in the construction of socialized housing was prepared in partnership with National Housing Authority (NHA).



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Components

Donor: Australian Government

Acronym: GJA

Start date: December 2010

End date: June 2012

Budget: AUD3 million (total)

Partners: Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Climate Change Commission (CCC)-Office of the President, Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), Federation of Free Workers (FFW), Association of Progressive Labor (APL), NHA, and National Green Building Council (NGBC)

Geographical Coverage: National

