



STATEMENTS 2011

**Opening Address at the Roundtable Discussion and
Project Advisory Committee Meeting on Green Jobs Initiative**

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Our constituents, representing the Philippine government, employers' and workers organizations
Distinguished guests, partners and green jobs advocates
Colleagues from the regional office
Ladies and gentlemen, *magandang umaga* (good morning)!

Thank you for accepting our invitation to the Green Jobs Roundtable Meeting. Your presence affirms your support to the issue of green jobs in relation to decent and productive work and poverty alleviation.

For those of you who are new to the process, the International Labour Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that brings governments, employers and workers together in common action to promote decent and productive work throughout the world.

Together, as members of the ILO with our social partners we recognize the challenges of the twenty-first century of:

- Averting the impacts of climate change and protecting the natural environment while
- Providing decent and productive work and achieving sustainable greener growth

We are all aware that these challenges are closely linked thus cannot be addressed separately - we must tackle the challenges together.

As such, our response to these challenges defines the ILO's stance towards finding a sustainable path towards poverty alleviation. A path not solely based on achieving economic growth at all cost, but rather a more focused intelligent approach that examines how we achieve sustainable

growth through the creation of decent and productive employment, income security and social protection.

The ILO and our social partners recognize that growth has to happen within the bounds of responsible stewardship of the environment. By basing strategies on sustainable use and reuse of our natural resources and the environment, a green economy generates sustainable decent and productive employment and earnings for both workers and enterprises.

Environmental challenges will not only affect social and economic development, but also the world of work. It is crucial to capitalize on transition towards greener, more sustainable approaches to economic growth which include investing in our natural capital through protection, regeneration and recycling.

The Green Jobs Initiative, launched in 2008 by the ILO, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Organisation of Employers and the International Trade Union Confederation, highlighted triple dividend from green jobs:

1. sustainable enterprises;
2. poverty reduction; and
3. job-centred economic recovery

Green jobs and the promotion of a green economy are the key drivers for achieving economic and social development that is also environmentally sustainable.¹

It is our response to adapting to climate change and to build resilience to future climate and environmental challenges.

Governments, employers and workers organizations play important roles. Providing decent and productive work while averting impacts of climate change and protecting the natural environment are workplace issues.

The ILO took this process further through the Green Jobs Programme. The Green Jobs Programme aims to develop knowledge base and practical approaches to ensure full involvement of governments, employers' and workers' organizations by:

- Analyzing labour market impact of climate change and policy implications
- Defining practical approaches to greening of enterprises

¹ ILO brochure 2009, The Green Jobs Programme of the ILO

- Promoting green jobs in key sectors, and
- Facilitating just transition to a sustainable low-carbon economy through job and enterprise creation.

We should also remember that the approach to Green jobs is linked to the Millennium Development Goals in terms of decent and productive work, poverty alleviation, and protecting the environment. In turn, making each of the MDG indicators mutually supportive rather than placing them in conflicting.

The recent global economic crisis has caused not only economic hardship but also negated the progress of reducing decent work deficit and slowing the progress towards poverty alleviation and has even lead to increased disregard for the environment in various parts of the world.

It is truly unacceptable from the view point of our society, and from the view point of future generations, to allow use of the current economic crisis as an excuse to inappropriately manage or plunder the planet's natural resources. It is time to think about the way we produce, consume and recycle – not only for our current communities but also for future generations.

As a response, governments, workers' and employers' organizations, unanimously adopted the Global Jobs Pact at the International Labour Conference held in June 2009. The Pact proposes measures and policies to support job creation and promote investments in employment-intensive sectors, including green jobs.

The Department of Labor and Employment working with representatives of employers' and workers' organizations in setting and shaping the Philippine Jobs Pact, towards achieving economic and social development that is also environmentally sustainable. We in ILO Manila and Bangkok stand ready to support you.

Green Jobs Approach is also part of the UN strategy to tackle climate change globally. In the Philippines, the ILO is actively involved on 'decent and productive employment for sustained greener growth' as an outcome in the UN Development Assistance Framework or the UNDAF. UN agencies within the country use the UNDAF to align resources and development efforts.

Green jobs will also be a special high-level event of the 15th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting based on the theme "Building a sustainable future with Decent Work". It will discuss the impact of climate change in relation to employment and the economy.

We are pleased to announce two projects on Green Jobs in the Philippines. The Greener Business Asia project, supported by the Japanese Government, focuses on the enterprise dimension of transition to a greener economy. The project builds on social dialogue and partnership of workers' and employers' organizations to promote improvements in terms of enterprise competitiveness alongside social and environmental practices.

And the most recent addition, Green Jobs in the Philippines, supported by the Australian Government. The project seeks to deepen constituents' understanding and commitments for the promotion of gender sensitive, green jobs opportunities and a just transition for workers and employers towards a low-carbon, climate resilient development.

The Green Jobs in the Philippines and the Greener Business Asia project both contribute to the broader goal of assisting constituents and partners to address environmental and climate-related challenges and to contribute to sustainable development.

The ILO's work on green jobs is built around partnerships. We hope that this roundtable will serve as a prelude to a tripartite forum on Green Jobs Initiatives in the Philippines. Together we build a bridge between institutional policies, labour market realities, and key sector issues towards Green Jobs in the Philippines.

Once again let me welcome each of you and *Mabuhay!*

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