



STATEMENTS 2011

**Press Statement at the First Philippine Green Jobs Conference
Joint Media and Website Launch**

**By Mr Lawrence Jeff Johnson
Director, ILO Country Office for the Philippines**

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Extreme weather, climate change and over dependence on natural resources affect people's lives.

We have witnessed the dramatic impact of the tsunami in Japan and drought in Africa. In the Philippines, floods and typhoons including massive fish kills have caused significant loss of income and livelihood. Supporting decent and productive work, at the same time, averting impacts of climate change and protecting the natural environment are workplace issues.

A number of employers' and workers' groups are trying to address these challenges as opportunities. They are investing in new products and services which can create, evolve or transform jobs. They take into account climate change measures and resource efficiency through reduction of waste and conservation of energy, water and materials.

A joint study on green jobs entitled, "Towards decent work in a sustainable, low-carbon world", revealed that such change resulted in positive effects on job creation mostly among workers in hazardous and lowly paid occupations, and the poor especially among women and youth.

In 2007, the ILO together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), and the International Organization of Employers (IOE) launched the Green Jobs Initiative.

Country programmes include policies on green jobs for waste management in Bangladesh, green jobs in social housing in Brazil and South Africa, map and support to green jobs creation in energy, forestry, heavy industry and recycling in China, and promotion of green entrepreneurship in Kenya and Thailand.

In the Philippines, ILO green jobs initiative included:

- Innovative financial and insurance schemes have been developed for farmers in Agusan del Norte. Early warning systems were also installed in farming communities to prevent severe impact of natural disasters.
- In Eastern Samar, typhoon victims were able to rebuild their community, while earning and enhancing their construction skills through community contracting.
- At the enterprise level, the Greener Business Asia Project helps in developing and promoting approaches to improve productivity and contribute to “greening” the economy.
- The Green Jobs in Asia-Philippines works to deepen the understanding and commitment of government, employers’ and workers’ organizations on the promotion of green jobs and a just transition to address environmental and climate-related challenges and to contribute to sustainable development.

The ILO supports the First Philippine Green Jobs Conference, focused on “Promoting Green Jobs and Decent Work for Inclusive Growth”, through the Green Jobs in Asia project which is funded by the Government of Australia.

The national conference provides a platform to initiate discussion and information exchange at the national level among key stakeholders of green jobs opportunities, in the move towards a low-carbon, climate resilient, environmentally friendly development.

The ILO believes that inclusive greener growth can be achieved through decent and productive work and within the bounds of responsible stewardship of the environment.

To the members of the press and to our green jobs partners and advocates, thank you for joining us today. I look forward to your continued support to the First Philippine Green Jobs Conference.

Thank you and *Mabuhay!*

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