

Green Jobs in Asia Regional Conference

Background

In an era of climate change, resource scarcity and environmental degradation, the promotion of green jobs has become synonymous with the wider development agenda driving efforts towards a more sustainable and fairer development path. Economies in the Asia and Pacific region already find themselves in a structural transition period with an increased emphasis on environmental sustainability and low carbon development already taking place.

Many sectors of the economy need to find new sustainable ways of doing things which have repercussions on livelihoods, incomes and employment. A green economy can help alleviate poverty and increase the capacity of countries to adapt to climate change and promote low carbon, environmentally friendly development in a socially inclusive way. However, a well-managed transition is required that involves the actors of the world of work to ensure that such a shift towards a greener economy can also create decent work and bring social equity. This transition is required to maintain or enhance productive capacity, to develop new skills sets including skills for new green jobs and greener jobs, to develop, transfer and deploy new technologies and techniques and to develop financial schemes better linked to climate risks.

Governments, enterprises and workplaces in the Asia are in the early stages of identifying ways to engage in this transition, with some countries in the region taking notable steps in different areas.

In supporting these processes, the ILO seeks to draw attention to the social dimension of the green economy and promote coherent policies that enhance both sustainable growth and green jobs opportunities by improving working conditions and promoting sustainable enterprises.

Between 2010 and 2012, the ILO, under the Australian Government–ILO Partnership Agreement, has helped constituents in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka to build the necessary capacities to shift to a low-carbon, environmentally friendly and climate resilient economy that helps accelerate the jobs recovery, reduce social gaps, support development goals and realize

decent work. Upon completion of this Project and taking into consideration other initiatives under implementation in the other countries, the ILO is now seeking the opportunity to review recent achievements, challenges encountered and discuss possible ways forward with constituents and different partners committed to the promotion of green jobs in a sustainable future.

Overall Objective of the Green Jobs in Asia Conference

The Green Jobs in Asia (GJA) Project was launched in August 2010 with the expressed aim of developing the capacity of ILO constituents and national partners in five participating countries (Indonesia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Sri Lanka & Nepal) to enhance national policy coherence, generate green jobs employment opportunities and a just transition for workers and employers towards advancing low-carbon, climate resilient, environmentally friendly development. Training and capacity building targeting the ILO constituents, mainstreaming of green jobs in the policy framework, and the development of green jobs creation models for further expansion and replication were the three main specific objectives of the project. During this time, numerous requests have been received by the same countries for an expansion of the green jobs activities as well as from other countries in the region for support on green jobs activities.

This conference will serve as an opportunity to reflect on the achievements and lessons learnt from the two years of the implementation of the GJA Project (2010-2012) throughout the five target countries. The meeting will be organized to provide a platform for further discussions with additional countries in the region on key messages related to creating the enabling conditions for the promotion of green jobs and decent work as well as supporting the social dimension of climate and environment-related policies. The meeting will discuss further interregional cooperation and action on green jobs, highlighting the critical role of the social partners involved in this effort and that of the ILO.

On this occasion, other relevant and successful green jobs experiences from the region will be presented to the participants so as to enrich the information base and

discussions (see Background Note of the Conference for more information on the specific projects and initiatives). Also, an exchange of views with an enlarged circle of institutional partners and the donor community will be organized to increase common understanding of main priorities and challenges relating to the promotion of green jobs, greener jobs and decent work for countries in the Asia and Pacific region.

Furthermore, the event is organized with a view to advancing interregional cooperation and action on green jobs, highlighting the critical role of the ILO and its constituents involved in this effort.

Expected Outcomes

The three day regional conference will allow participants to:

- Share experiences, achievements and lessons learned from the Green Jobs in Asia Project through a comprehensive report on the implemented activities and tools in place in the five targeted countries;
- Listen and learn from on-going, upcoming and new projects in other countries in Asia and Pacific Region;
- Agree on what constituents and strategic partners see as main course of action and reengage in social dialogue for the mainstreaming of green jobs policies.

Target Audience and Geographical Coverage

This meeting is open to representatives from governments, employers' and workers' organizations from a limited number of countries in the region as well as experts, practitioners and donor agencies having an interest in the promotion of green jobs and in the mainstreaming of decent work in sustainable development.

Representatives from the GJA Project will include Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. In order to enlarge the scope of the discussions and experience sharing they will be joined by additional countries with green jobs experience: China, Fiji, India, Malaysia and Thailand. This will bring opportunities to discuss other areas of work that are also

critical to the ILO Green Jobs Programme in the Asia and Pacific region and that would be of high interest in planning future actions.

Programme Structure

The conference has a duration of three days structured as follows:

- Day 1 – Seizing opportunities and assessing institutional capacity building needs for green jobs in a sustainable future
- Day 2 – Reviewing achievements and lessons learned from the Green Jobs in Asia Project and other successful and relevant green jobs experiences from the region
- Day 3 – Mainstreaming of green jobs policies and future priorities for actions for ILO constituents and other key stakeholders

Methodology

This conference is implemented by the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific with the technical support of the ILO Green Jobs Programme and the International Training Centre of the ILO.

The sessions proposed are intended to be participatory and interactive, making use of:

- Panels, round tables and presentations;
- Group discussions and exchange of experiences among participants;
- Case studies and practical examples analysis;
- Working groups and interactive exercises.

The event will be facilitated by an international team of experts from the ILO Green Jobs Team and by national experts and high level panelists from the targeted countries.

Venue

The conference will be held at the Singgasana Hotel in Surabaya, Indonesia.