



International
Labour
Organization

International Labour Organization 90 years working for social justice



DECENT WORK

A better world starts here

90 years working for social justice



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ASIAN 2006
DECENT WORK
DECADE 2015

International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO) promotes social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. Its overarching goal is to achieve decent work for all so everyone can work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. In working towards the goal of decent work for all the ILO has four principal strategic objectives. These are:

- To promote standards and fundamental principles and rights at work.
- To create more opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment.
- To enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection.
- To strengthen the relationship between workers, employers and governments, and encourage social dialogue.

The ILO's tripartite structure, with workers, employers and governments acting as equal partners in its governing institutions, is unique in the United Nations system.

Key events in the ILO's history

- 1919 Founding of the ILO. The organization was created by the Treaty of Versailles, which ended the First World War and founded the League of Nations.
- 1926 The International Labour Conference (ILC) sets up a supervisory mechanism to monitor the application of international labour standards.
- 1944 Adoption of the Declaration of Philadelphia, encapsulating the core principles of the ILO.
- 1946 The ILO becomes the first specialized agency of the newly-formed United Nations.
- 1969 The ILO is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its promotion of social justice and peace among nations.
- 1998 Adoption of the Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
- 1999 The ILO adopts the concept of decent work as the contemporary expression of its historical mandate.
- 2004 The World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization releases its report, "A Fair Globalization: Creating Opportunities for All".
- 2006 The ILO's members in Asia and the Pacific commit themselves to an Asian Decent Work Decade, and the overall goal of full, productive and decent employment for all by 2015.
- 2008 The ILC adopts the ILO Declaration on Social Justice and Fair Globalization, positioning the ILO to meet the challenges of globalization through the Decent Work Agenda.

ILO - 90 years of working for social justice

"The ILO's greatest strength is that its message of social justice is as relevant and inclusive today as it was 90 years ago. Work is one of the few experiences that everybody shares and decent work sums up the aspirations we all have for our working lives."

Sachiko Yamamoto
Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

In 2009 the ILO and its members celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Organization's foundation in 1919. The ILO is the oldest specialized agency of the United Nations and the only surviving major creation of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles.

In Asia and the Pacific, as in other regions, ILO 90 will be marked by a wide range of high-level activities during the week of 21-28 April, (the ILO's original Constitution was approved on 28 April 1919). These activities will be united by the theme of "90 years working for social justice" and will be organized by the ILO's tripartite constituents with support from the ILO.



The nature of individual events will reflect the different situations in individual member countries, but all will aim to highlight the tangible work done by the ILO to improve the lives of working people. At the same time they will create forums in which key contemporary issues can be highlighted, including the need for fair globalization, decent work, the financial crisis, and building coherent economic and social development policies.

Among the planned national events are high-level symposiums, workshops and rallies, exhibitions, cultural performances, a mini-marathon, radio and TV programmes, newspaper supplements, essay, photo and drawing competitions, and the issuing of commemorative stamps.

