

## Partnerships for Decent Work

### Working together to achieve decent work in Asia and the Pacific

#### What are partnerships?

Partnerships are a way for the ILO to work more closely with member States to jointly promote, implement and extend the outreach of the Decent Work Agenda across Asia and the Pacific. The ILO is actively engaged in a growing number of formal partnerships with countries around the world, as well as multilateral organizations, institutions, and private entities. The ILO's role is to implement technical cooperation programmes that deliver decent work and assist our Asia-Pacific constituents meet the Millennium Development Goals.

#### The evolution of partnerships and cooperation agreements

Asia-Pacific's annual rate of economic growth was estimated at 7.5 per cent in 2010, much higher than in Europe (1.7 per cent) or the United States (2.6 per cent). Many countries in the region are now considered "middle income." As such, many are now in a position to work with the ILO (as a facilitator) to offer technical assistance and knowledge transfer to other countries within the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Some high income countries, such as Australia, Japan, Korea and Singapore are engaged with the ILO in long-term partnerships for development.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) provide a channel for influencing public and private sector investment, policies, and practices, so promoting decent work more effectively.

The ILO's institutional partnerships within the region build on both existing and new collaborative ventures. Our partners include other members of the UN family such as UNDP and ESCAP, as well as regional bodies such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

***"Developing and emerging countries have made their presence felt as economic and political players in the international arena....They are assuming leadership, seeking their own solutions as well as the indispensable international cooperation to address the pressing challenges of today".***

*Juan Somavia, ILO Director-General  
at the South-South Expo 2010*

***"Countries across the Global South have created jobs and freed millions of people from poverty through homegrown solutions or by drawing on the innovations of others. The South is a font of ideas and actions that are helping to tackle the major challenges of our day".***

*Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General*



#### Some examples of partnerships

- In 2010 the ILO signed a letter of intent with the governments of India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) for the promotion of decent work through South-South Cooperation.
- Developing countries form the third element of a triangular cooperation arrangement with the ILO and a middle income economy. A cooperation agreement between Lao PDR, Singapore and the ILO has produced a labour inspection system that forms part of the ASEAN OSH network.
- The ILO continues to engage with its long-term partners such as Japan, Korea, (and more recently) Australia and Singapore, in projects that support the ILO's technical cooperation portfolio.
- The ILO has MOUs with a number of regional bodies including ASEAN, ADB and ESCAP. This type of partnership entails yearly meetings where cooperation activities are pre-agreed.
- The ILO Jakarta office has entered a public-private partnership with BP which promotes employability and entrepreneurship among Papuan youth in Bintuni Bay Area, West Papua. The partnership is a new start, aimed at revitalizing the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system in West Papua.
- The Better Factories Programme in Cambodia, managed by the ILO, was the forerunner of the 2006 ILO-IFC partnership and the Better Work programmes in Viet Nam and Indonesia. The IFC is the International Finance Corporation, part of the World Bank Group. The main aim of both Better Factories and Better Work is to improve productivity and working conditions in garment factories.



### Technical partnerships in Asia and the Pacific

The ILO's work in Asia and the Pacific has been strengthened by a growing number of formal partnerships with member States in the region, a trend that also reflects deepening integration. One result of these agreements is a growing portfolio of technical cooperation projects for decent work that increases the ILO's impact and reaches more beneficiaries at regional, national and local level. The agreements cover a wide range of work and work-place related issues, including labour law governance, migration, green jobs, youth employment, gender, enterprise development, social dialogue, and skills and vocational training.

### Some projects and activities in the region

- *The ILO/Singapore Partnership agreement* aims to offer technical expertise to other countries in the region on occupational safety and health, tripartism and social dialogue, productivity, employability and skills development.
- *The ILO/Australia Partnership 2010-2015* supports green jobs, labour migration and youth employment, amongst other things.
- *The ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme* focuses on social dialogue, social protection and collaboration with ASEAN and UN organizations.
- *The ILO/Korea Programme* supports work in the areas of competitiveness, productivity and jobs, labour market governance, social protection and labour migration.
- *The Better Work Programme* (Cambodia, Viet Nam and Indonesia) is a partnership with the IFC under which a number of private companies buy through, and support, the programme.
- *ILO/ASEAN Cooperation Agreement, 2007*. The ILO aligned its activities to the work programme of ASEAN to ensure coherence in its cooperation with the regional body.
- *ILO/ADB Memorandum of Understanding, 2002*, provides a framework for cooperation in a number of areas including labour market information, TVET and skills, green jobs. The ILO and ADB now hold regular yearly meetings.

- *ILO/ESCAP Memorandum of Understanding, 2009*, covers cooperation on social protection, statistics and migration amongst other things. The ILO meets regularly with ESCAP to review progress.

In addition, there are a range of cooperation activities across the UN system, at global, regional and county levels.



### Resources

#### Better Work

<http://www.betterwork.org/>

#### Global South-South Development Expo

<http://www.southsouthexpo.org/default.asp>

#### ILO/Korea Partnership Programme

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms\\_099682.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_099682.pdf)

#### ILO Partnerships in Asia and the Pacific

[http://www.ilo.org/asia/WCMS\\_160213/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/WCMS_160213/lang--en/index.htm)

#### Japan and the ILO

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms\\_100994.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_100994.pdf)

#### Public-Private Partnerships for Decent Work

[http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/pardev/download/relations/ppp\\_en\\_low.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/pardev/download/relations/ppp_en_low.pdf)

#### The Australian Government-ILO Partnership Agreement

<http://www.decentwork.asia> <http://www.decentworkpacific.org>

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