

**Tuesday, 14 April 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PRESS RELEASE

Tackling Youth Unemployment through Youth Entrepreneurship

SURABAYA (ILO News): The promotion of youth employment is one of the most critical challenges Indonesia is facing today. Nearly 2 million Indonesian young women and men enter the labour market each year. Nationwide, Indonesia's youth is six times more likely than adults to be without work, representing an alarming youth employment rate of 31%. As a result, the full potential of the majority of Indonesian youth is not being realized because they do not have access to productive jobs.

With a population of 35 million and a strong industrial base, East Java has been facing various labour problems, including youth unemployment. The youth unemployment rate in East Java is an alarming 33% - 40%, with the majority of unemployed youth attaining only an elementary school education.

To further discuss this issue, the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the JJFM 105.10 Surabaya, a leading radio station in East Java, will organize an interactive talkshow "Youth Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities for Young People", on Thursday, 16 April 2009, at Drago La Brasserie, Surabaya, East Java. The talkshow will present Dra. Made Dewi Anggraeni, Msi (MDA) (Head of Provincial Small Enterprises Office in Malang), Samurai (Chair of Surabaya Entrepreneur Club) and Rolly Damayanti (the ILO's Programme Coordinator).

The talkshow aims to raise the awareness about youth entrepreneurship as an employment option that can be chosen by young women and men to generate income and decent employment. It also aims to provide an interactive discussion for participants to share and discuss issues related to opportunities and challenges for young women and men to start a sustainable business. In addition, the discussion will talk about the roles of government, non-government organization and community in creating conducive environment and in supporting services for youth business start up.

The talkshow will be followed by a National Conference on Youth Employment, "Promoting Youth Employment: It is Everybody's Business" in Jakarta, from 23 – 24 April. Held in conjunction with the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the ILO, the Conference is targeted to policy makers and practitioners, aiming to facilitate the government planning process by identifying how important youth issues and lessons from other countries can be incorporated into the country's Medium Term Development Plan.

The conference will also bring together national and provincial governments, together with social partners, and identify how they can work together to develop effective strategies for tackling the problem of growing youth unemployment.

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**Tuesday, 21 April 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PRESS RELEASE

Commemoration of ILO 90 Years: ILO – Ministry of Manpower to Hold Joint Tripartite Dialogue and Photo Exhibition

JAKARTA (ILO News): The International Labour Organization (ILO) will mark its 90th anniversary with a world-wide series of activities, including a high-level event in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration (MoMT): a joint photo exhibition and a tripartite dialogue.

The joint photo exhibition titled “Portrait of the World of Work in Indonesia” and the joint Tripartite Dialogue titled “The Role and Contribution of the ILO” will be held on Wednesday, 22 April 2009, at the Tripartite Room, Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration. These events will be officially opened by the H.E. Erman Suparno, Minister of Manpower and Transmigration.

The Tripartite Dialogue focus on the role and contribution of the ILO in assisting Indonesia moving forward with strengthened labour laws, improved industrial relations, employment, labour inspection, tripartism/social dialogue as well as labour statistics, research and training, to ensure proper and effective implementation of labour laws, regulations and policies. The dialogue will also cover the work of the ILO’s tripartite partners—Government, workers and employers—in promoting social justice and decent work in Indonesia.

“In the last 90 years the ILO has played a vital role in many workplace improvements that we now take for granted, including the 6 day week, the basic eight hour day, and the right to organize,” said Alan Boulton, Country Director of the ILO in Indonesia. “ILO 90 comes during a global economic and employment crisis. It underscores the importance of promoting social justice and a fairer system of globalization, and shows that the work of the ILO is as relevant today as it has ever been”.

The role of the ILO in Indonesia will be further discussed by the key labour actors: Myra Hanartani, Director General of Industrial Relations, Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration; Sofjan Wanandi, Chairman of the Indonesian Employers’ Association (ApindO); and Thamrin Mosii, President of KSPSI.

The joint Photo Exhibition will be conducted for three days from 22 – 24 April 2009 at the main lobby of the Ministry of Manpower Office, Jl. Gatot Subroto, Jakarta. Consisting of around 80 photos, the photo exhibition portrays main activities of the Manpower Ministry to ensure better employment conditions for Indonesians, and provides a general portrait of the world of work in Indonesia.

The ILO - which deals with employment and workplace issues - is the oldest specialized agency of the United Nations (UN). The ILO was founded in 1919, and is the only surviving major creation of the Treaty of Versailles, which ended the First World War. When the UN was formed in 1946 the ILO became part of it. Indonesia became a member of the ILO in June 1950.

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Tuesday, 21 April 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

The Impact of the Financial Crisis to Indonesian Migrant Workers in East Java

SURABAYA (ILO News): In times of economic crisis, migrant workers are often the group of workers most vulnerable to adverse impact, as they tend to have the most insecure terms of employment. As it turns out, the current global economic crisis is no different, as migrant workers of various nationalities find themselves on the receiving end of the downturn.

In Asia and the Middle East, Indonesian migrant workers are predominantly employed in construction, manufacturing, plantations, agriculture, hotel and catering, and health and care work, including domestic services. Among these sectors, particularly construction, manufacturing, hotel and catering have been negatively affected by the global financial crisis. thousands of Indonesian migrant workers have already been laid-off in the export-oriented economies such as Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea etc. For their families almost exclusively dependent on their remittances, this is a severe blow, particularly as migrant workers in the present economic climate have trouble finding new jobs, either abroad or in Indonesia.

To discuss further about the impact of the crisis on Indonesian migrant workers, the International Labour Organization (ILO), in collaboration with JJFM 105.10 Surabaya, a leading radio station in East Java, will organize an interactive talkshow, "The Impact of the Financial Crisis to Indonesian Migrant Workers, in particular in East Java" on Wednesday, 22 April 2009, at JJFM Conference Room, Surabaya, East Java.

The talkshow will present M. Cholily (Chairman of East Java Migrant Workers Union), Heri Pratono (Lecturer of University of Surabaya), Rahayu (Head of East Java Service Unit of Migrant Workers) and Albert Y. Bonasahat (the ILO's Programme Coordinator on Migrant Workers). This talkshow is held in conjunction with the commemoration of the ILO's 90th anniversary and is part of a series of ILO 90 activities in Indonesia.

The talkshow aims to raise awareness about the impact of the financial crisis on Indonesia as the second largest exporter of labour after the Philippines. It also aims to stimulate an interactive discussion by participants on issues, such as the loss of overseas employment, the impact on working conditions, and how families cope with reduced remittances. In addition, the discussion will talk about the roles of national and local government, non-governmental organizations and local communities in mitigating the impact of the crisis on the migrant communities in Indonesia, in particular in East Java, and highlight ongoing programmes and good practices which are addressing the needs of affected migrant workers and their families.

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Organisasi Perburuhan Internasional - Jakarta
International Labour Organization – Jakarta

**Wednesday, 22 April 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PRESS RELEASE

Commemoration of the ILO 90 Years: Promoting Youth Employment, It is Everybody's Business

JAKARTA (ILO News): The world is facing a growing youth unemployment crisis. The latest ILO data indicates that out of the world's estimated 190.2 million unemployed people in 2008, around nearly 75.9 millions are aged between 15 and 24. In many economies, young people are more than three times likely to be unemployed than adults but in Indonesia youth are five times more likely to be unemployed than their adult counterparts.

In order to address these challenges, the Government of Indonesia with the support from the ILO has established the Indonesia Youth Employment Network (IYEN), involving senior policy-makers from different government agencies, the private sector and civil society.

To tackle challenges of youth employment and facilitate more effective government planning, the ILO in collaboration with The Indonesia Youth Employment Network (IYEN) will organize a two-day Youth Conference titled "Promoting Youth Employment: It is Everybody's Business", on Thursday - Friday, 23 – 24 April 2009, at Borobudur Hotel, Jakarta. The event will be opened by H.E. Erman Suparno, Minister of Manpower and Transmigration.

Targeted at policy makers and practitioners, the Conference will highlight practical experiences of good practices across Indonesia that help young people gain access to decent and productive work. The Conference will facilitate the planning process by identifying how youth employment policies can be mainstreamed into existing government policies and what strategies need to be developed to tackle specific youth unemployment issues. Another issue addressed by the conference is how local economic development can stimulate employment for young people. The findings will provide a means by which government at different levels can work with stakeholders including youth representatives to influence the content and direction of youth policies within Indonesia for the next five years.

The Conference will bring together national and provincial level governments and other stakeholders to develop effective operational strategies for tackling the problem of growing youth unemployment in Indonesia.

Alan Boulton, the ILO's Director in Indonesia, said that today's young people are the most educated generation and have clear ideas about fulfilling their aspirations at work and in society. They only need the chance of a decent job. Achieving decent work for youth is a challenge shared by all countries across the world but it is an especially big challenge for Indonesia. This

Conference will play an important role in renewing commitments of stakeholders to tackling the complex challenges of youth unemployment, in revitalizing the secretariat of IYEN, and intensifying cooperation among relevant stakeholders, as well incorporating youth employment issues into the government's policies.

The Conference will be divided into specific working discussions, covering various practical issues on youth employment, namely: unlocking the potential of sectoral strategies; preparing youth for work through support to vocational training; job and education career counselling, apprenticeship programme, fostering youth entrepreneurship; and improving access to decent and productive employment opportunities for youth. The Conference will also allow youth to share their aspirations and employment experiences including young people from DKI Jakarta, East Java, South Sulawesi and Nusa Tenggara Timur.

Participants in the Conference will come from governments, trade unions, the business community and employers' organizations, academia, civil society and youth groups.

The Conference will make recommendations on how Indonesia can move forward in promoting youth employment policies and provide more decent work opportunities for young people.

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Organisasi Perburuhan Internasional - Jakarta
International Labour Organization – Jakarta

Monday, 27 April 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work: Empowering Unions to Tackle the Spread of the Avian Influenza Virus in Workplaces

JAKARTA (ILO News): As of 23 April 2009, 141 people in Indonesia have been infected by the avian flu virus (H5N1), of whom 115 died (fatality rate 81%). This makes Indonesia the highest in the world in terms of numbers of human cases. Workers and employers in workplaces have a risk of getting infected. At the same time, the workplace can be used as an important start in promoting awareness to prevent the spread of the avian influenza virus.

To further prevent the spread of this transmitted disease at the workplace, the International Labour Organization (ILO) will conduct a workshop titled “Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and Union’s Initiatives” on Tuesday, 28 April 2009, at Mezzanine Room, the Aryaduta Hotel, Jakarta, from 09.00am to 17.00pm.

The workshop is organized in conjunction with the commemoration of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work as well as the commemoration of the ILO having been founded 90 years ago. The workshop will be officially opened by dr. Harjono, Chairman of National Occupational Safety and Health Council (DK3N), Syukur Sarto, Chairman of KSPSI, and Peter van Rooij, Deputy Director of the ILO in Indonesia.

The workshop aims to strengthen the capacities of unions and encourage workers to be more active in the OSH committee in their companies. The ILO, through the Avian Influenza and the Workplace Project in Indonesia, has developed and conducted trainings on preventing the spread of the avian influenza virus for workers. This training material was developed based on the Participatory Action-Oriented Training method, the same method as the already existing POSITIVE training programme.

“The call to protect workers against sickness, disease and injury arising out of employment has been at the heart of the ILO’s agenda. OSH is a human right and an integral part of a people-centred agenda for development. Safe work also underpins sustainable enterprises which benefit from improved productivity, quality and workforce motivation. A healthy workforce and safe and productive enterprises are part of successful and sustainable development strategies,” said Peter van Rooij, emphasizing the importance of OSH at workplaces.

POSITIVE stands for Participation-Oriented Safety Improvement by Trade-Union initiative. This programme has been developed to promote action-oriented training in OSH by trade union initiatives and how unions can contribute to improved work conditions, especially at the plant level. Thus, this workshop also aims to enrich the POSITIVE training with the preventive measures at the workplace to prevent the spread of transmitted diseases like avian influenza by integrating the avian flu training material into the POSITIVE programme.

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