

Decent Work

In Astana (Kazakhstan) on the initiative of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the population of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 21-22 April 2009 took place the “round table”, dedicated to the 90th-anniversary of the ILO. The Republic of Kazakhstan was welcoming the ILO constituents from the Central Asian region. To discuss the Decent Work issues on improvement of working conditions, and conditions of employment in Central Asian countries were invited experts of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as the representatives of ministries, social partners and deputies of parliament of Kazakhstan and representatives of international organizations.

The participants primarily addressed the current crucial issues of crisis and deliberation of ways of solution. No festive - arousing speeches were sounded – too many serious questions were on the agenda to discuss during the two days event. Consideration of acceptable ways of overcoming the negative consequences of the crisis in labour and social sphere became the basic target of the conference. The participants focused on the development of the national OSH systems and labour inspection in the detailed deliberations.

The countries in Central Asia have pursued the process of implementing the ILO Convention 187 (preparation of national OSH profiles and programmes to create a national OSH system) in enterprises, introducing GOST 12.0.230-2007 on OSH management systems (OSH MS) identical with ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines on OSH management systems. All countries have prepared a national OSH profiles and the process of preparing national OSH programmes is in progress. Some countries have started to introduce the GOST OSH MS in selected enterprises.

Mr. S. Petersen (ACTEMP) described the history of the ILO as the oldest agency of the UN system. Kazakhstan became a member of the ILO in 1993, and after the establishing the ILO NC office in Almaty, the relationships between the ILO and Kazakhstan reached a fundamentally new level. ILO provided significant assistance in improvement of labour legislation, in particular the Labor Code of Kazakhstan, the recommendations on the improvements of the employment law, legislative acts on Targeted Social Assistance were introduced.

ILO OSH Specialist Mr. W. Husberg noted that Kazakhstan is considered as a positive example in the CA region as the country, which in a short time frame has reached successes in OSH system development.

In the course of the meeting colleagues from CA region shared information on the ongoing activities and policies in their respective countries. Among the speakers were Chairman of the Trade Unions Federation of Kazakhstan Mr. S. Mukashev, Chairman of Employers Confederation of Kazakhstan Mr. K. Baykenov, Chief State Labour Inspector, Kyrgyzstan, Mr. O. Karabalaev, Deputy head of labour inspection, Tajikistan, Mr. M. Sharopov, Head of Department OSH, Mr. A. Sharapov, Uzbekistan, and many others. The approach called for the consolidation of efforts, by combining national efforts for solving of the most urgent issues in social, labour and especially in OSH using the tools and methods, prepared by the ILO.

Vice- minister of labor and social protection of Kazakhstan Mr. B. Nurymbetov noted that today Kazakhstan considers as a State priority the employment creation issues. To stabilize the labor market and to implement the employment strategy including VET the National budget reserved significant resources.

The government together with the Federation of Trade Unions and the organizations of employers initiated conclusion of Collective Agreements and Memorandas with most important companies for the retention of work places and averting of the mass release of workers to soften the consequences of the financial crisis. Thus a powerful impulse is given to the development of the social partnership institutes. In the framework of Corporate Social Responsibility actions related to the UN Global Compact it is concluded about 40 000 Memoranda and Collective Agreements, which assume social investment for the amount approximately 74 billion KzTenge].

This year Kazakhstan successfully completes DWCP in Kazakhstan, which is started in 2007, - Vice-minister of labor and social protection noted. Priorities targeted are:- improvement of OSH system, further development of collective bargaining and the development of employment strategy. Taking into account current state of the world economy and the anticrisis policy of Kazakhstan, the new Decent Work country program between the ILO and Kazakhstan in the sphere of labor and social protection will be aimed on **post-crisis development measures**.

***TU-NC in Kaz