

**28 April 2009, Vientiane, Lao PDR
High Level Conference gathers 1000 participants from Parliament, Senate,
Government, Workers' and Employers' Organizations, Un Agencies and the
public to celebrate ILO 90, followed by National Job Fair.**

Celebration of ILO 90th Anniversary

The national event for celebration of ILO 90th anniversary was held at Don Chan Palace Hotel, Vientiane, on 28 April 2009. It was attended by more than 1000 people coming from the government, employers' and workers' organizations, diplomatic corps and the UN. The event highlighted several achievements and positive outcomes of Lao-ILO cooperation over the past 35 years, and in promoting decent work for all. The Prime Minister, H. E. Bouasone Bouaphavanh, attended the event and made a key note speech. The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare spoke, along side representatives of the Labour Federation (LFTU) of Trade Union and Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI). The ILO representative also delivered a speech in celebration of the anniversary. At the end, the PM cut the cake specially made for the auspicious occasion of the ILO 90th anniversary.

In his speech, the PM congratulated the ILO for the remarkable successes gained over the past nine decades, thanked the ILO for its technical assistance and support to the Lao PDR and re-affirmed the government's commitment for promoting labour justice and rights. He pointed out the adverse impact of the global financial crisis on jobs and earnestly hoped the ILO would further cooperation with and support its member countries.

National Job Fair

Following the formal celebration of ILO 90, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare opened its National Job Fair featuring companies from construction, electronic, manufacture, trade, social service and other sectors, offering more than 3000 job opportunities and expecting more than 10,000 visitors. The job fair was held from 28 April – May 1st. The opening ceremony was attended by the Prime Minister of Lao PDR, and the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare made a key note speech in which she stressed the importance of job creation for coping with the current economic crisis and meeting the national development target for creating 130,000 jobs per year for the next 5 years.