



## *Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP)*

### *ASIST Africa and ASIST Asia-Pacific*

#### *E-News Update*

*May 2007*

#### **Greetings to all our readers – Thank you for your continued interest and support for our work!**

The Employment-Intensive Investment Programme “Global Team” of regionally and headquarter based ILO advisers met in March in Geneva to reflect on and review areas of work, explore new directions and challenges, and map out and plan the strategy for moving forward. This biennial gathering highlighted recent developments such as the greater integration of the EIIP within ILO’s Decent Work Country Programmes, the increased support from the ILO Regional Offices in Africa and Asia to the Programme, the increase in number of technical cooperation projects and funding for EIIP work at the country level as the technical cooperation funding of the regionally based ASIST Programmes has decreased. The discussions were lively and refreshing, focusing around the three priority work strands for the programme as proposed in the ILO Programme and Budget for the 2008-09 biennium:

- employment impact assessments of mainstream investments;
- linking employment creation with social protection; and
- employment, procurement and private sector development.

These substantive areas were discussed, and activities and partnerships for improved outcomes and results agreed upon. Other key areas of work discussed were strategies for raising visibility, improving knowledge management and communications.

The changing technical cooperation environment presents challenges regarding funding of regionally based technical expertise, which in turn raises concerns regarding the quantity and quality of programme development and implementation at national level. This is a great paradox as the demand for strategies, methodologies, tools and capacities to operationalise employment creation objectives and meet targets, including those of the MDG, is very high now that poverty reduction strategies and national development plans are more than ever emphasising employment issues. The meeting therefore explored strategies to better engage at country level to provide knowledge and advisory support on employment-intensive investment and distributional economic growth, and most importantly, to mobilise resources for the very much needed regional support programmes.

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We are really pleased to share with you some highlights and news on various activities and events, both current and planned since our last issue in December 2006. Below are brief updates on country specific activities, research, publications and events. You can scroll down or alternatively select a quick link, hold the <Ctrl> key down and click left mouse button to go directly to the section your interested in.

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## BRIEF UPDATE ON RECENT ACTIVITIES IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

### AFRICA

#### CAMEROON

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##### *Yaoundé Sanitation Project*

The ILO's technical assistance to the Yaoundé Sanitation Project started in March 2007. ILO's intervention aims at promoting the community contracting tool in the implementation of urban projects as way of engaging more local people and resources and contributing towards reducing poverty in large urban areas such as Yaoundé. The assistance will include training in community contracting and labour based approaches; and awareness and sensitization of the local communities, quarter groups, NGO's, small contractors, municipal technical services, and ministries involved in the project. The project will demonstrate construction techniques on five kilometres of drainage using the labour-based approach, which will not only improve the living and working environment for the informal economy operators in Yaoundé but demonstrate the impact of this approach on reducing poverty in other urban areas. The four year project is funded by African Development Bank (AfDB). A recent visit by the President of AfDB and his delegation of specialists praised the project strategy and achievements, and raised the bar for their next visit in January 2008!

##### *Labour-based Rural Roads Maintenance Pilot Project*

A series of theoretical and practical training courses on the use of labour-based methods in Cameroon have been carried out by ILO under the framework of the Labour-based Rural Roads Maintenance Pilot Project during the months of February and March 2007. The training sessions mainly targeted senior staff of rural roads department, engineers and technicians of small-scale private construction and consultancy firms. The training involved 9 foremen, 14 site foremen, and 11 design and engineering supervisors. The practical training took place on a 1.2 km stretch of road in a rural municipality in the centre of Cameroon; this was followed by technical supervision of a 200 km rural road work site. Further training will be provided to rural road committees and technical teams of ten rural municipalities situated along the project road and road maintenance work on 800 km of rural roads commences in May 2007.

**Contact:** Claude Yao Kouame: [yaokouame@ilo.org](mailto:yaokouame@ilo.org)

#### CONGO

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A technical assistance agreement was signed between ILO and the Government of Congo in November 2006 under the framework of the project "Reinsertion of Vulnerable Groups". Under the project, which is financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), ILO is responsible for (i) training of enterprises and consultancy firms on labour-based technology design and engineering for concrete paving of roads; (ii) assisting local government agencies (mayors and the ministry in charge of decentralization) in the preparation of a national strategy (White Paper) on the use of labour-based approaches for infrastructure development and maintenance for improved poverty reduction; (iii) carrying out a feasibility study on the use of labour-based approaches for paving roads in Brazzaville, Pointe Noire and Dolisie, as a means to create more and decent jobs for urban young people; and (iv) supporting the National Project Team on specific tasks related to labour-based works.

ILO's assistance started on February 2007 and is expected to come to an end in June 2009.

**Contact:** Claude Yao Kouame: [yaokouame@ilo.org](mailto:yaokouame@ilo.org)

#### LIBERIA

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The ILO Liberia Programme is now fully operational with the arrival of the Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) Peter Hall in February, the Labour-based Training Engineer Henry Danso in April, and the appointment of a National Programme Coordinator for the Solid Waste Management component, Blamoh Sieh. The comprehensive programme approach covers three integrated components, namely labour-based infrastructure works, public-private partnerships (PPP) in solid waste management and support to ILO tripartite constituents, and capacity building of partners and existing institutions is be central to the approach. Prior to the arrival of the programme staff a number of advance activities were undertaken including: quick employment impact measures through clearing of solid waste backlog and street sweeping in Monrovia, labour-intensive spot improvements of roads in Grand Kru County and a study on "Employment Opportunities and Working Conditions for Rural and Peri-urban Youth in Liberia".

**Contact:** Peter Hall: [grandpapailo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:grandpapailo@yahoo.co.uk) or Tomas Stenstrom: [stenstrom@ilo.org](mailto:stenstrom@ilo.org)

## SOMALIA

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Sixteen engineers drawn from the whole of Somalia underwent a six week intensive training course on technical and management skills for employment-intensive approaches to public infrastructure works in February 2007. The course was organised by ILO's "Employment-Intensive Programme in Support of Peace – South and Central Somalia", which is funded by the European Commission and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The course was run by the Mt. Elgon Labour-based Training Centre of the Ministry of Works in Mbale, Uganda. The ILO Somalia Programme has been engaged in community employment projects to improve sanitation, access and infrastructure in Baidoa and Mogadishu. These projects act as an entry point for community mobilization and capacity building. However, local engineering skills and capacity crucial for such projects has been eroded by the years of conflict in Somalia. One of the strategic objectives of the Programme is therefore to build technical and management capacities. Through this training and other complimentary



initiatives, the Programme aims at developing a nucleus of trained Somali Engineers who can plan, manage and implement employment-intensive projects, so that they are in a position to play an active part in the future Reconstruction and Development Programme of Somalia.

**Contact:** Joseph Connolly: [info@ilosomalia.org](mailto:info@ilosomalia.org)

## ASIA

### CAMBODIA

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The ILO is working with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the "Mainstreaming Labour-based Road Maintenance Pilot Project", funded by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) and the Government of Cambodia. The project, which was launched in 2006, seeks to: (i) demonstrate how the application of labour-based road works technology in maintenance of public roads can increase the direct poverty reduction impact, and (ii) promote the efficient management of road maintenance funds through decentralised channels, essentially through the provincial authorities.

Since inception the project has carried out a series of training courses for local government staff and small-scale private contractors in the project area on periodic and routine road maintenance works. The training involved both classroom and on-the-job sessions carried out on full-scale training work sites. The main subjects covered were labour-based road works technology, road maintenance, quality assurance and material testing, and contract management.

The project has recently completed a base-line survey that will be used in future impact assessments. It has also carried out an extensive road condition survey in the three north-eastern provinces of the country as a basis for its road maintenance work programme.

The project will be seeking to establish sound practice for the application of low-cost bituminous surface sealing using innovative specifications that make efficient use of natural gravels as aggregate instead of more expensive crushed stone that is scarce and often has to be transported from long distances at high costs. The project recently constructed several trial sections applying "Otta Seal" technology using laterite with emulsions and varying specifications to study their performance compared to low-cost conventional surface dressings. Part of the project output will be the low cost bituminous surfacing of 160 km of secondary and tertiary gravel roads where traffic levels demand improved surface treatments.

**Contact:** ASIST Asia-Pacific: [asist-ap@ilo.org](mailto:asist-ap@ilo.org)

### INDONESIA

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ILO is implementing a "Local Resource-based Project" designed to provide five selected district governments in Aceh and Nias with financial and technical support to rehabilitate and maintain 130 km of district and village roads. Project activities are on-going and the project is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2008. From the outset it was acknowledged that the duration of two years is too short to effectively strengthen the capacity in the selected districts for effective management of the rural road network. The project may succeed in completing the planned rural road works but would need more time to strengthen institutions responsible for managing the rural road network and build their capacity for rural road maintenance and rehabilitation. An extension was implicitly anticipated in the design of this project. The ILO has prepared a proposal to extend and expand the project activities, which have been financed through a Multi-Donor Trust fund, with the funds for this project



coming from the World Bank. The tsunami and earthquake reconstruction agency on Nias Island (BRR Nias) made a request to the ILO Aceh-Nias Local Resource-based Project to develop and implement a local level participatory planning exercise. The project is introducing Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) as a way to strengthen the community development work that the Kecamatan Development Programme (KDP) – a nation-wide World Bank supported community development programme – was undertaking on the island. Activities have continued and a series of village and district workshops have taken place to identify investment priorities.

**Contact:** ASIST Asia-Pacific: [asist-ap@ilo.org](mailto:asist-ap@ilo.org)

## LAOS PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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ILO is continuing its technical assistance to the rural road component of an ADB-funded Smallholder Development Project in Southern Laos in the design, planning and implementation of rural road works. The project seeks to promote commercial smallholder agriculture and associated agribusiness, with the overall objectives of achieving sustained increase in rural income and long-term reduction in rural poverty. The project has a rural road component to improve market access.

The bidding process for local construction firms to be involved in the road construction works was completed and four local contractors have been mobilised and commenced works.

ASIST AP is continuing its support to the poverty reduction strategy of the Government and is collaborating with the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction (MCTPC) to build on the principles of a completed IRAP project and support the development and implementation of an integrated approach to reduce poverty and improve rural access at the district level. Workshops are now being conducted at district level to identify the “access gaps” and prioritize interventions to close these gaps. Selected interventions will include physical infrastructure works, improvement of services and capacity building.

**Contact:** ASIST Asia-Pacific: [asist-ap@ilo.org](mailto:asist-ap@ilo.org)

## NEPAL

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The Dutch Government has approved the “Employment Creation and Peace Building based on Local Economic Development” (EmpLED) project. The main objective of the project is to contribute to national peace building and poverty reduction in selected districts in Nepal applying ILO’s approach local economic development as an integrating framework for the creation of decent work at the local level. The comprehensive project approach, involving several ILO programmes and departments, will involve local stakeholders in the planning and implementing of local development strategies and ensure that women and men in the targeted communities will be effectively engaged in, and benefit from, improved access to decent and productive local employment and economic development opportunities. The project will have a community-based infrastructure component and will promote the use of local resource-based infrastructure development approaches in two districts in the country.

**Contact:** ASIST Asia-Pacific: [asist-ap@ilo.org](mailto:asist-ap@ilo.org)

## PAKISTAN

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In discussions between the Government of Azad Jammu Kashmir, the World Bank (WB) and the ILO, the parties have agreed to collaborate on specific technical assistance activities to support and facilitate the on-going implementation of a community infrastructure project. The main thrust of the collaboration has been identified as overall project management support, assistance in the procurement process related to civil works contracts, establishing appropriate technical guidelines for rehabilitating earthquake damaged buildings, and organisational and technical support in relation to mobilising communities for village access roads.

The projects to which these services are linked mainly consist of construction and rehabilitation of damaged/destroyed rural infrastructure, including primary schools, government office buildings and village access roads. The proposed ILO EIIP support is envisaged as an additional component over and above the management resources made available within the framework of the project. The WB has offered to finance these services through grant funding available to its Country Office in Pakistan.

**Contact:** ASIST Asia-Pacific: [asist-ap@ilo.org](mailto:asist-ap@ilo.org)

## SRI LANKA

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United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is implementing the Community Access Roads Programme (CAP) to establish sustainable access to basic amenities for the most vulnerable communities in Ampara through the planning and construction of durable access community roads in conformity with appropriate engineering standards. Communities will be actively involved in the prioritization of infrastructure investments and mobilized to

implement the works, enforce engineering standards and ensure durability of infrastructure. Wages earned by communities combined with increased levels of access will support primary livelihoods and overall household income, thereby supporting overall community development. ILO and UNOPS have agreed on the Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) component which will be implemented by ILO and utilised as the participatory infrastructure planning tool to determine the investment plans for construction and maintenance of roads to be implemented under the CAP.

In the aftermath of the Tsunami 2004 the ILO has been supporting the recovery process driven by a large number of local and international donors. ILO is providing advisory services to the Government of Sri Lanka to strengthen livelihood coordination and planning at the national and regional level. This work has a large infrastructure component. It is estimated that rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks will need to continue for the coming two to four years to fully restore livelihoods together with the related infrastructure and services. For this reason, the ILO has now prepared an outline for a follow-up programme “Work for Peace and Prosperity”, which will incorporate and build upon the income recovery support mechanisms set up and strengthened under the “Income Recovery Technical Assistance Programme” (IRTAP) currently implemented by ILO. It will expand this programme to fully cater for (i) the Tsunami affected population; (ii) the conflict affected population; and (iii) the population living below the poverty line.

**Contact:** ASIST Asia-Pacific: [asist-ap@ilo.org](mailto:asist-ap@ilo.org)

## TIMOR LESTE

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The “Cash for Conflict Reduction and Meeting Basic Needs” project successfully completed its activities and promoted peace and stability by providing short-term employment opportunities (cash-for-work) to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable members of society. The intention of this project was to provide employment to decrease unrest caused by unoccupied youth and thus improving the stability in the country.

In addition to this, ILO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have now signed an agreement for a new Project “Work for Peace” (Serbisu Ba Dame) that focuses on extending the successful current Cash-For-Work interventions both in terms of timeframe and geographical coverage, targeting primarily unemployed youth in rural areas.

The Work for Peace (Serbisu Ba Dame) Project will scale-up the level of current cash-for-work activities, by giving more priority to rural infrastructure rehabilitation, defined as small-scale infrastructure in rural areas including: rural roads, water supplies, irrigation systems, public facilities and markets. In particular, the national and district rural roads that have a high degree of deterioration and their repair or rehabilitation is a priority for the Timor-Leste Government. The rehabilitation of rural infrastructure creates direct and indirect opportunities for income generation and employment, improves access to basic needs and social and economic goods, and provides opportunities for private sector development, capacity building and community participation.

**Contact:** ASIST Asia-Pacific: [asist-ap@ilo.org](mailto:asist-ap@ilo.org)

## LATIN AMERICA

### GUATEMALA

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The services of the ILO expert in Employment Creation, co-financed by the ILO and UNDP, have been extended till the end of May. The objective of these services is to elaborate initiatives aimed at the development of employment creation policies, strategies and projects. The focus of the expert will be on employment-intensive investments, but also includes local economic development and the promotion of micro and small enterprises. Regarding the latter, at the request of the Ministry of Economy, a study was carried out aimed at strengthening the sector of micro and small enterprises (MSE) through the creation of decentralised Enterprise Development Service Centres (CSDE). The resulting project document foresees the creation or strengthening of eight CSDE with the objective of improving the supply side by activating the local market for enterprise development services, as well as responding to the demands of enterprises through technical assistance, training and market information. The CSDE will also act as observatories of the MSE sector. The project will be nationally executed with involvement from the Ministry of Economy, UNDP, ILO and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Similar initiatives are to be developed for other areas of employment creation.

**Contact:** Mito Tsukamoto: [tsukamoto@ilo.org](mailto:tsukamoto@ilo.org)

### HONDURAS

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The ILO has been involved in the preparation of the Rural Infrastructure Programme (PIR) of the World Bank that was recently initiated. The programme includes a labour-based component aimed at taking advantage of the employment creation potential of the infrastructure development foreseen in the programme. The ILO will possibly

be providing assistance to the implementation of this component in both the routine road maintenance and rehabilitation activities. The country has extensive experience with road maintenance micro-enterprises for the routine maintenance of the paved network, whereas in road rehabilitation the Ministry of Public Works (SOPTRAVI) has a department specialised in labour-based spot improvement activities through force account. The foreseen assistance from the ILO will support, complement and further develop the existing national capacity, transfer the existing maintenance model to the unpaved network, and develop a private sector implemented road rehabilitation system, ensuring improved competitiveness and quality of works through the use of minimal light equipment and improved organisation of the labour force.

**Contact:** Mito Tsukamoto: [tsukamoto@ilo.org](mailto:tsukamoto@ilo.org)

## NICARAGUA

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A proposal for a second phase of the successful Pro Empleo project, aimed at capacity building for the labour-based execution of public infrastructure projects, was discussed with the current donor. This proposal foresees three components: the replication of the municipal level capacity building efforts of the first phase in other municipalities, institutionalisation of project activities within public institutions at central level, and the mainstreaming of the approach through the development of supporting policies and strategies, including appropriate procurement legislation. The proposal has strong support from the newly elected Government, and is considered to be very much in line with current policies and strategies. Unfortunately the donor is not able to finance the entire project, and has requested the elaboration of a more component based proposal, where co-financing by other donors will be sought for the remaining components. A team consisting of the National Technical Institute (INATEC), the Municipal Capacity Building Institute (INIFOM), the Social Investment Fund (FISE) and the ILO are currently developing a new proposal for the institutionalization and mainstreaming of the approach, which will subsequently be presented to the donor.

**Contact:** Mito Tsukamoto: [tsukamoto@ilo.org](mailto:tsukamoto@ilo.org)

## PARAGUAY

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A study was carried out on the legal aspects regarding the access of micro and small enterprises (MSE) and community based organizations (CBO) to public procurement contracts, as part of the overall strategy of employment creation in public investments. The study identified a number of legal constraints, impeding effective participation of MSE's and CBO's in public contracts. The principal constraint is the fact that the national legislation does not allow for targeted procurement by either limiting the target group or giving them certain preferentiality. A second major constraint is that there is little differentiation between the contracting procedures for different contract sums, resulting in technical and financial requisites that are beyond the scope of MSE's, CBO's and petty contracts. The only existing mechanism that allows these constraints to be overcome and permits local contracting is the direct transfer of public funds to local non-profit organizations. This has been widely used by municipalities, the social investment fund (PROPAIS) and the Ministry of Public Works for contracting communities, local contractors and service providers. However, it has also been widely abused in order to circumvent the public procurement legislation. As a consequence the Budget Law for 2007 that legislates this mechanism, now requires the application of all the regulations relevant to public procurement which severely constrains MSE and CBO involvement. This has led to problems for many social and poverty oriented programmes and projects of the Government, including the programmes for routine road maintenance of the World Bank and the Inter American Development Bank (IADB), currently under development.

A presentation on the legal study was well received at the Social Cabinet Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007, with the various heads of ministries including Education, Justice and Labour, Health and Agriculture; the Technical Secretariat of Planning and the Social Action Secretariat; as well as the Director General of Public Contracts (DGCP). The ILO has been requested to provide technical assistance to the DGCP and to explore further the possibilities of promoting community contracting through MSEs and other social transfer mechanisms.

**Contact:** Mito Tsukamoto: [tsukamoto@ilo.org](mailto:tsukamoto@ilo.org)

## RESEARCH AND STUDIES

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### **Development of Methodologies, Guidelines and Training Materials for Assessing the Employment Impact of Public Investment Programme**

EIIP has initiated research work to analyse existing impact assessment methodologies with a view to develop an easily applied and adaptable tool to provide sound and practical policy advice on avenues for job creation. EIIP has carried out a number of ad hoc studies and project evaluations with a view to evaluating the actual and/or potential impact of public investment budgets, programmes and projects on employment creation. Furthermore, the EIIP, in

both its analytical and operational work, has focused on both the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of decent work. However, greater attention is required for developing simplified and standardised, yet rigorous, methodologies to assess the employment and decent work impact of investment programmes. Such studies, when combined with micro-level project data from developing countries demonstrating the technical, financial and economic feasibility of labour-based approaches for certain categories of infrastructure development, provide policy makers and decision makers with a concrete means to identify new opportunities for job creation, often within the limits of already-existing resources. This research will develop new and easily applied methodologies and guidelines for undertaking employment impact studies of public investment programmes and studies.

**Contact:** Steve Miller: [miller@ilo.org](mailto:miller@ilo.org)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

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### **Rural road maintenance – Sustaining the benefits of improved access. SETP 19. By Chris Donnges, Bjorn Johannessen, Geoff Edmonds. 2007. ILO ASIST AP.**

The ASIST AP programme of the ILO has been involved with rural road maintenance as part of its overall programme of work on local resource based approaches to rural infrastructure development. The work has been both in the assessment and evaluation of rural road maintenance systems and in the practical application of sustainable maintenance systems in the Asian region. This publication is intended to serve two purposes. First, to provide a more considered assessment of the rural road maintenance problem. Most people involved in the road sector are aware that there is a problem; however, without a more reasoned analysis of the situation it is difficult to propose solutions. The second is to provide some suggestions on how the situation can be improved. It draws on published work on the subject but also from the practical experience of the ILO in the region and the detailed studies carried out by ASIST AP.

**Download:** <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/setp/setp19.pdf>

### **Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning in Mongolia. RATP 15. By Chloe Pearse. 2006. ILO ASIST AP.**

Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) is a local-level planning process for improving access in rural areas through a participatory and bottom-up approach. IRAP provides an objective basis for local development planning and facilitates a needs-based project identification and prioritisation approach to infrastructure investment and development. As an area based planning tool IRAP focuses on the identification of the real access needs of communities and prioritises interventions and projects on a social and economic basis, planning individual projects that improve the accessibility of rural people. This publication is the final output of the collaboration between the ILO's ASIST AP Programme and the Informal Economy, Poverty and Employment project (IE) in Mongolia, to develop appropriate participatory local level planning tools to help in the identification small scale infrastructure development and improvement projects.

**Download:** <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/ratp/ratp15.pdf>

### **Philippines infrastructure for rural productivity enhancement – Tools for identifying rural infrastructure investment priorities RATP 14. By Chris Donnges, Martha España, Nori Palarca. 2006. ILO ASIST AP**

This booklet describes tools which can be used and modified for broader application in the Philippines or elsewhere to increase the impact of investments on agriculture development, poverty reduction and employment creation. The tools have been developed by the ILO and its ASIST AP Programme in co-operation with the Philippines Department of Agriculture in the context of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) supported Infrastructure for Productivity Enhancement Sector Project (InfRES). Technical tools to identify, prioritise and plan and evaluate impact of rural infrastructure investments, with the objective of addressing poverty alleviation by strengthening local level infrastructure planning and applying labour-based technology in construction and maintenance are described.

**Download:** <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/download/ratp/ratp14.pdf>

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- Alternatively send your requests to [asist@ilo.org](mailto:asist@ilo.org)

**Interregional workshop on local resource based approaches to rural infrastructure development and service delivery, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007, ILO Regional Office Bangkok, Thailand**

ILO ASIST Asia Pacific and the ILO International Training Centre in Turin jointly organized a training course on "Employment, Poverty Reduction and Local Development - An introduction to Local Resource-based Approaches to Rural Infrastructure Development and Service Delivery" in Bangkok in April. Thirty-five participants from local institutions representing eleven Asian countries participated in the course and learned about the constraints and good practices in conceiving and executing local resource-based programmes in rural infrastructure in the Asia Pacific region. By the end of the course, the participants had acquired notions and tools to develop, implement and upscale these types of programmes for the benefit of the poor. The response and feedback from the course clearly demonstrated that the range of tools and products of the EIIP programme are in high demand. Participants suggested that EIIP should develop similar courses adapted for conducting at country level.

**Contact:** ASIST – Asia Pacific [asist-ap@ilo.org](mailto:asist-ap@ilo.org)

**Launch of the Kenya Roads 2000 Roads Maintenance Strategy – Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007, Nairobi, Kenya**

The Roads 2000 Roads Maintenance Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010 was launched for national implementation on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 by the Minister of Roads and Public Works. The Roads 2000 is a flagship programme within the Kenyan Economic Recovery Strategy to revitalise the economy through infrastructure rehabilitation and employment creation. The programme focuses on local resource based, employment-intensive approaches for the maintenance of the road network as promoted by the EIIP. EIIP has worked with the government and its development partners in the roads sector for several years from demonstration through pilot labour-based road works projects in the 80's, to capacity building, to policy reform

and integrating employment-intensive approaches into national development and sectoral policy and now operationalisation of policy through supporting the national implementation of the Roads 2000 maintenance strategy. The key objectives of the Roads 2000 strategy are cost effective maintenance of the classified road network of the country to an economic level of serviceability using local resources and labour-based methods wherever these are cost effective. The plan includes the routine maintenance of 20,000 kilometres of unpaved roads in the first year, rising to 37,000 kilometres of unpaved roads in the fifth year; the partial rehabilitation and spot improvement of 18,000 kilometres of unpaved roads, and ultimately seeks to reduce transportation costs. Over 1250 local small scale contractors will be trained and an estimated 150,000 jobs are expected to be created.

**Contact:** ASIST – Africa: [asist@ilo.org](mailto:asist@ilo.org)

**The Future of Urban Employment Roundtable Discussion, 28<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007, Geneva, Switzerland**

This informal round table discussion brought together a number of partners working on urban development and employment. The meeting was hosted by the International Labour Organisation at the Headquarters in Geneva in collaboration with the Cities Alliances, with participation from World Bank, Department for International Development (DFID-UK), the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and UN-Habitat. It was held as a follow up to the Cities Alliance Consultative Group meeting held in December 2006 during which members of the group expressed the need to more effectively integrate employment into urban development strategies and programmes; and to find ways to better design technical cooperation and explore external funding modalities to facilitate job creation. The roundtable discussion sought to come up with different strategies which build on the comparative advantage of cities, including cities within fragile states, for employment creation. As a result of the talks, a core group (Sida, DFID, UN-Habitat, World Bank and ILO) was set up to assess urban cooperation programmes on job creation, with the expectation that this group will strengthen and expand. Group members also discussed evaluating the impacts of their bilateral or multilateral development and infrastructure investment funding for job creation. With the findings, the ILO, with support from the Cities Alliance, will lead group efforts in preparing a concept note policy paper on local development and urban employment, and developing a joint work programme. Both will be presented by ILO at the Cities Alliance annual meetings in Manila, 5-9 November 2007.

**Contact:** Steve Miller: Email: [miller@ilo.org](mailto:miller@ilo.org)

### **National high-level training course – Putting employment in the centre of the public investment strategy and reduction of poverty in a reconstruction context, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

This course was organized on the initiative of the "Programa de Reconstrucción del Hábitat Productivo", which is involved in post hurricane Stan housing reconstruction, in cooperation with the ILO International Training Centre (ITC) in Turin and the Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP), Geneva. The training was implemented as part of the UNDP/ILO framework aiming at the adaptation and effective implementation of policies that favour the optimal use of manual labour and other locally available resources in public investments, with the objective of poverty reduction through employment creation and skills development. The course objective was to expand knowledge of the principal issues and operational aspects of employment-intensive investment strategies, as well as to present guides and other available tools that facilitate the creation and implementation of policies aimed at the development of such strategies. Participants included high level policy makers.

**Contact:** Mito Tsukamoto: [tsukamoto@ilo.org](mailto:tsukamoto@ilo.org)

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING COURSES**

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### **Public-private partnerships (PPP) for decent jobs and better services in the urban context – Interregional training and knowledge sharing workshop 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007, ILO International Training Centre, Turin Italy**

This training is organized by the ILO International Training Centre, Turin, Italy in collaboration with the ILO Office in Geneva, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/PPP Programme and UN-HABITAT. The workshop will focus on PPP approaches applied at municipal level for improving the life of slum dwellers and other urban poor. It will deal with the differences and commonalities of the various approaches, and look at some critical issues for establishing effective, sustainable and replicable partnerships. The workshop is targeted at local politicians, senior municipal staff, private companies in infrastructure and municipal service delivery, NGOs, civil society, workers and employers organizations, chambers of commerce and other business groups or associations, senior officers and managers of urban development programmes, local development agencies.

**Contact:** Valter Nebuloni, Email: [V.Nebuloni@itcilo.it](mailto:V.Nebuloni@itcilo.it) Telephone +39 011 693 6432, Fax: +39 011 693 6451

### **Putting employment at the centre of public investment and poverty reduction strategies. Inter-regional Workshop on Employment-intensive investment policies and practices**

L'emploi en point de mire des investissements publics et des processus de réduction de la pauvreté. Atelier sur les politiques et programmes d'investissements à forte intensité d'emplois

**English Course: 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2007, ILO, International Training Centre, Turin, Italy**

**French Course: 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007, ILO, International Training Centre, Turin, Italy**

This training course focuses on how to conceive and implement employment-intensive programmes, as well as on how to mainstream the employment-intensive approaches into national policies and poverty reduction strategies, with a particular view to the existing decentralisation processes. Pertinent concepts will be shared and good practice will illustrate and guide future work in this area. The workshop is organised by the ILO Employment and Skills Development Programme of the International Training Centre (ITC) in collaboration with the Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) Programme.

**Contact:** Valter Nebuloni, Email: [V.Nebuloni@itcilo.it](mailto:V.Nebuloni@itcilo.it) Telephone: +39 011 693 6432 and fax: +39 011 693 6451

**Website:** [http://www.itcilo.org/pub/page\\_main.php?VersionID=2&ContentTypeID=3](http://www.itcilo.org/pub/page_main.php?VersionID=2&ContentTypeID=3)

### **12th Regional Seminar for Labour-Based Practitioners, 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Durban, South Africa. The theme: Prioritising Employment in Government Policies and Investments in Infrastructure Programmes**

This seminar will be hosted by the Government of South Africa in collaboration with ILO. The Seminar will focus on key development issues that increase the impact of investments and government programmes on employment creation. Investments, public and private, domestic and foreign direct, drive employment creation directly and indirectly. The 12th Regional Seminar will provide the opportunity to link development and political commitments in the fields of employment, investment and infrastructure to three concrete areas of action which form the sub-themes:

1. Assessing the impact of investment policies and government programmes on employment creation;
2. Linking social protection, basic income guarantees and job creation through productive and high-quality infrastructure development; and

3. Taking new strides in favour of private sector support to employment creation, both through small-scale domestic enterprise development and through integrating employment creation into the economic and financial strategies of those offering and receiving foreign direct investment.

**Contact:** [nonkolo.mohajane@dpw.gov.za](mailto:nonkolo.mohajane@dpw.gov.za) or [asist@ilo.org](mailto:asist@ilo.org)

**Website:** <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/news/workshop.htm>

**World Road Association PIARC 23rd World Road Congress: Paris 2007 - The Choice for Sustainable Development, 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2007, PIARC, Paris, France**

**Website:** <http://www.paris2007-route.fr/index.php?lang=en>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- **Call for papers for the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Seminar for Labour-based Practitioners, 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007, Durban, South Africa**

Seminar theme: **Prioritising Employment in Government Policies and Investments in Infrastructure Programmes.** Abstracts are invited on the sub-themes indicated under the description of the seminar above. For further information:

**Contact:** [nonkolo.mohajane@dpw.gov.za](mailto:nonkolo.mohajane@dpw.gov.za) or [asist@ilo.org](mailto:asist@ilo.org)

**Website:** <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/recon/eiip/news/workshop.htm>

- **Job opportunities** may be found at the ILO website:  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/pers/index.htm>
- **New Telephone Contacts for ASIST Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**Telephone:** +263 4 369 805 - 12 or 369822-3  
**Fax:** +263 4 369 813 - 4

## ABOUT EIIP

*International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (EIIP) supports member states optimise employment and local resource utilisation in public infrastructure investments.*

*The Programme provides technical advisory support on:*

- *Policy and strategy development and operationalisation;*
- *Programme and project conceptualization, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation;*
  - *Capacity building programming and implementation;*
- *Knowledge management (KM), synthesis and dissemination, and KM capacity building.*

### CONTACT US

*ILO, Employment-Intensive Investment Programme*

*4 route des Morillons*

*CH-1211 Geneva 22*

*Switzerland*

*Email: [eiip@ilo.org](mailto:eiip@ilo.org)*

*Tel: +41-22-799 6546; Fax: +41-22-799 8422*

*Web site: <http://www.ilo.org/eiip>*

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