

YOUTH DAY EXPOSITION

The ILO Lusaka Office's WEDGE Programme participated in the one of the Youth Week commemoration activities held on 3rd and 4th March 2008.

The activity which was in form of an exposition was held at American Dome in the Lusaka show grounds.

The annual event, organized by the Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development, aims at according youths involved in various income generating activities, an opportunity to showcase their different produce as well as learn from each other on how to enhance their activities.

The theme for the 2008 Youth Day, was '*Promoting partnership between the youth and various stake holders for national development*'. It is for this reason that the ILO saw it fitting to participate in the exposition as a way of showing support, both as a stakeholder and partner in youth affairs, with the view to fostering national development.

Employment creation and empowerment is one of the ILO's major areas of operational activities, making the ILO's presence even more valuable as youth unemployment is a major source of concern for many Zambians, both young and old.

The event was officially opened by the Minister of Science Technology and Vocational Training, Peter Daka, who began by touring the stands. He expressed happiness at the various innovations of the youth and called on various stakeholders to support them, and called on those that are already on board to continue aiding government efforts in finding a lasting solution to the various problems facing the youth.

The event was well attended, with a number of people coming in to view the stands. The ILO exhibited in the category of advocacy and information dissemination. A number of people expressed interest in what the ILO was exhibiting and wanted to know what the ILO had to offer to the youth and the general citizenry. The ILO delegation was on hand to explain the operations of the ILO and its various projects and programmes.

On display were several publications and documents from the various ILO projects and programmes, some of which were handed to the visitors and other exhibitors alike.

Visitors particularly showed interest in the small business training under the WEDGE programme, and a number wanted to know more about ILO's activities relating to child labour child labour and HIV and AIDS in the work place.

The ILO's team explained how they could access the training and advised them to visit the ILO Lusaka office for more information on the various topics they were interested in.

The event ended on 4th March, and was officially closed by the Deputy Minister of Youth, Sport and Child Development, Ms Angela Cifire, who was accompanied by a number of Government officials. The Minister encouraged the youths to be innovative and come up with ideas that can be transformed into tangible business ventures. Ms Cifire further said that resources without ideas on how to utilize them are useless.

The Ministry of Youth expressed deep appreciation for the ILO's participation in the event and hoped that the Sport and Child Development Organization will continue as partners, to support the youths in the country and help foster national development.