

DPI and ILO join in the Walking Rally on Labour Day in Bangkok



On May 1, the International Labor Day, Disabled Peoples' International Asia Pacific Regional Office (DPI/AP) mobilized the demonstration parade, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Council of Disabled People of Thailand (DPI-Thailand), as a part of mainstream labor movement.

At 12 O'clock under the blazing sunshine, about 60 people, including both people with disability (PWD) and non-disabled gathered at the Rama V Monument in Bangkok, Thailand.



After having lunch-box, PWD (mainly people with visual impairment, hearing impairment, and physical disability) started to walk to the Sanam Luang (the Royal Plaza), which is 2 kilometers ahead. They kept walking slowly for about 2 hours, demonstrating the following 4 demands:



1) Government should ratify the ILO Convention 159 on Vocational

Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) 1983

2) Government should review and amend/abolish 52 laws/regulations which discriminates PWDs in the field of employment.

3) The Ministry which is responsible for the Ministerial Regulation on Employment Promotion for PWDs should be shifted from the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to the Ministry of Labor.

4) Government should ensure more serious implementation of safety measure in workplaces in order to avoid increasing number of PWDs. For those who have become disabled at work, they should receive compensation and life-time medical service, not only 10 years under the present Social Security Act.



After the marching reached the destination, Mr. Topong Kulkhanchit, the Regional Development Officer for Asia-Pacific, submitted the petition with 4 demand directly to the Labor Minister, Mr. Somsak Thepsuthin. The Minister accepted the request quite sincerely and promised to work towards the each problem seriously.

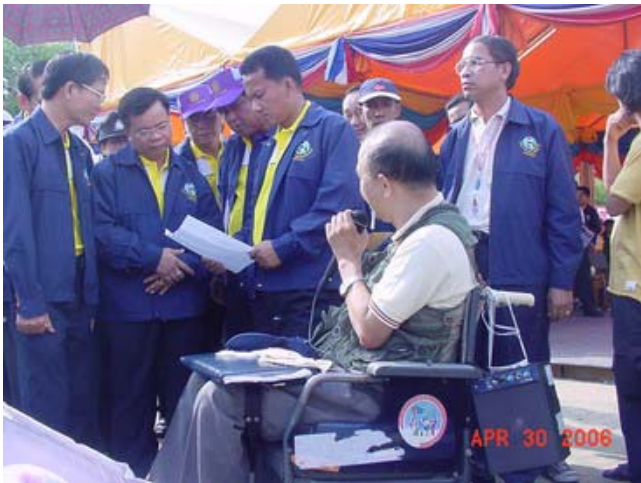
[\(See more photos\)](#)



The Council of Disabled People of Thailand (DPI-Thailand) actively joined Labour Day 2006 Campaign.



Staffs of ILO Sub-regional Office for South East Asia, based in Bangkok, also joined to promote Decent Work and ILO Convention 159.



Mr. Somsak Thepsuthin, Minister of Labour, responded positively toward DPI-Thailand's 4 demands. However, he reserved that other law-amendment and policy-related requests have to wait for the formation of a new parliament before anything can be considered and pushed forward.



Debra A. Perry, Senior Specialist in Vocational Rehabilitation, International Labour Office in Bangkok shared fresh water among disabled persons after long marching under heavy sunrise.



It has been proved strong determination and spirit of people with disabilities to expose themselves in a very hot day in Bangkok on Labour Day with the mainstream labour movement.