

**Workshop on
Decent Work and People with Disabilities: Policies and Directions for Sri Lanka**

Organized by ILO, Colombo Area Office

To be held on
17-18th February 2005
at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo

**Draft Agenda
(01 February 2005)**

Purpose of the Workshop:

The workshop will analyze the current situation of people with disabilities in the context of decent work related policy issues from national, regional and international perspectives. It will identify sectoral actions that will lead to significant improvements in the situation.

Specifically it will discuss ILO Convention 159 and related recommendations, and its ratification and adoption by Sri Lanka. It will discuss the status of policy development and gaps in implementation. Recommendations and specific actions to be taken by relevant sectors to promote and facilitate decent work opportunities for people with disabilities will be determined.

Day One: Thursday 17th February

Objectives: To provide participants with knowledge and increase their awareness about the situation of people with disabilities and decent work related policy issues from national, regional and international perspectives. The programme will focus on ILO principles and the National Policy on Disability for Sri Lanka and the Draft National Employment Policy. It answers the questions: “What is recommended?” and “What is being done?” and also encourages participants to begin to analyze the current situation in preparation for tomorrow.

8.30 Registration

9:00 Opening

9:45 Break

10:00 Meeting Overview and Objectives

10:15 People with Disabilities in Sri Lanka: Status and barriers to accessing training and employment: Padmani Mendis

- 10:45 Response Panel on situation analysis: (to address very briefly issues raised in terms of the status of disabled persons in Sri Lanka and barriers they face to training and employment).
Questions and Answers; Discussion
- 11:15 International and Regional Policy Perspectives: Debra Perry
Situation and barriers, review ILO C.159 and recommendations, Code of Practice, Biwako Millennium Framework, new ILO recommendation on HR and ILO principles; international trends affecting policy and practices of vocational rehabilitation; disability rights related to training and employment.
Questions and Answers: Discussion
- 12:00 Translating Principles into Practice: Coen Kompier
ILO Convention 159. Why ratify? Translating principles into practice. Experience of other countries and challenges/gaps they have faced in implementing the Convention.
Questions and Answers: Discussion
- 12:45 Lunch
- 2:00 The Status of Policy Development with regard to Disability Issues in Sri Lanka including roles for Government ministries and other sectors:
National Disability Policy - Padmani Mendis
Draft National Employment Policy (with particular emphasis on reference to disability inclusion) - Secretary Ministry of Labour Relations and Foreign Employment.
- 2:45 Response Panel and Comments - Perspectives on the Status of Disability Policies in Sri Lanka:
Responses to the morning and afternoon presentations. Report any policy developments and identify further strategies and regulations needed to implement policy.
- 3:30 Plenary Discussion with targeted questions to raise key issues.
- 4:00 Break
- 4:15 Small Group Activities to address issues raised
- 4:45 Small Group Reports
- 5:15 Summary and closing comments
- 5:30 Closing

Day Two: Friday 18th February

Objectives: Participants will learn about and review the services that are in place to implement policies, identify gaps and make commitments and recommendations to move the disability agenda forward (both policy and services) by identifying scopes of work for each Ministry and sector. They will develop personal plans of action, and identify some overall meeting recommendations. Day 2's programme will answer the questions: "What is being done to implement policies?" and "What still needs to be done and who will do it?"

9:00 Summary of Day One

Introduction to objectives and purpose of the day: Debra Perry

9:15 Panel: Employment and Training Services available for people with disabilities
Questions and Answers: Discussion

10:45 Break

11:00 Small Group Activities

What gaps/barriers remain related to the training and employment of people with disabilities? In particular address the issue of inclusion of people with disabilities in mainstream training and employment services. The activities will focus on What needs to be done/by whom?

11:45 Reports

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Panel: What needs to be done next?

Purpose: The purpose of this panel is to synthesize what has been discussed and prepare for the final activities that relate to commitments, actions and recommendations. Comments should be brief and targeted. Only 5 minutes each.
Discussion

2:30 Small Groups (Sector Specific)

Considering the morning's small group feedback, ILO Convention principles and the Sri Lanka Policy respond to the following:

1. What should your sector do to improve the situation of people with disabilities? Identify scope of work that specifically addresses areas of the Sri Lankan policy framework and perhaps gaps that were noted.
2. Complete the steps group should take to move the actions forward---specifically noting what you can do that is within your power.
3. Recommendations: Make three recommendations about what you think needs to be done in general to improve the situation of people with disabilities in Sri Lanka. These can be global and general statements but must be measurable.

(Break is incorporated into this small group work.)

4:00 Small group feedback

4:45 Discussion and Consensus regarding recommendations

5:15 Closing Comments

5:30 Closure
