

SKILLS-AP and Support for People with Disabilities

Regional Skills and Employability Programme for Asia and the Pacific (SKILLS-AP)

FACT SHEET

SKILLS-AP'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SKILLS-AP is the regional focal point for supporting people with disabilities. Activities include:

- Supporting the inclusion of disabilities into mainstream skills development or TVET programs;
- Promoting the ILO Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Liaising with ILO disability specialists in Geneva and
- Liaising with disability organisations within the region;
- Managing a Korean-funded research project on inclusive vocational training - This includes a regional survey and case studies on the extent of inclusion.
- Maintaining the *AbilityAsia* website which includes a database on laws and other resources;

Technical staffs were appointed to disability support projects in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. These projects included:

- Support for policy and legislative changes;
- Support and advice for government agencies, national and international NGOs and disabled persons organizations;
- Training to help people generate incomes;
- Training of trainers at local and national level;

Smaller support programs have been managed in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Fiji and the Pacific Island countries.

Publications include:

- Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities.
- Moving Forward – Towards Decent Work for People with Disabilities
- Resource Guide for Inclusive Vocational Training (in production)
- Trainers and Users Guide for Job Seekers with Disabilities (in production)

WHAT IS NEEDED

In the Asia Pacific region, support is needed in many areas:

- Appointment of technical specialists and disability experts to support projects within the region;
- Production and updating of resources to support skills development for people with disabilities;
- Ensuring that all funded projects are inclusive of disability issues;
- Development of indicators or targets to ensure Inclusion is taking place at all levels;
- Capacity building for disabled person's organizations. This could include rights-based promotion, advocacy training and project management;
- Awareness-raising and advocacy for workers, employers and government agency about disability and effective strategies to support people with disabilities;
- Support for legislative change at the highest levels of government;
- Capacity building among those who are providing mainstream services;
- Train the trainer in areas such as using assistive technology or training approaches for disabled persons;
- Supporting exchanges of information and good practice between countries;
- Supporting innovative case studies and associated research;
- Support for the development of a formal sign language where required;
- Training programmes for instructors;
- Support for accident prevention and rehabilitation;
- Occupational health and safety for disabled persons in the workplace.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ilo.org/abilityasia>

International Labour Organization
United Nations Building, 11th Floor Block A
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue,
Bangkok 10200 Thailand
Tel: +66 2 2882478 Fax: +66 2 2881086
Email: bangkok@ilo.org

