



**Asia-Pacific Regional High-Level Meeting on
Socially-Inclusive Strategies to Extend
Social Security Coverage
Draft programme**

New Delhi, India, 19 –20 May 2008

Sunday 18 May 2008

16.00 – 18.00	Registration
19.30 – 21:00	Meetings/Informal Discussions of Employers' and Workers' Groups

Monday 19 May 2008

08:00 - 09:30	Registration (continued)
09.30 - 10.30	<p>Opening Session: Presentation of Bouquets Lightning of Lamp and Invocation Welcome Address by Ms. Sachiko Yamamoto, Regional Director ILO, Asia and the Pacific Video Message from Mr. Juan Somavia, Director General ILO Address by Mr. J.M. Salazar – Xirinachs, Executive Director, Employment Sector Address by Mr. Oscar Fernandes, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Labour and Employment, India</p>
10.30- 10.45	<p>Scene-setting: Introduction on the objectives and key issues the meeting will cover, including a brief introduction on the various panel and thematic sessions that will follow; Mr. A. Diop, Executive Director, Social Protection, ILO</p>
10.45- 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15- 13.00	<p>High Level round-table on the Extension of Social Protection</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta <i>Overview presentation:</i> Poverty, Economic and Social Development and the Right to Social Security Within the Global Decent Work Debate. Mr. M. Cichon, Director of the Social Security Department, ILO Geneva</p> <p>The Panel will highlight the key opportunities and challenges facing the region in the area of social security extension. Panel members may be briefed / prepared to raise or be ready to address questions on critical cross-cutting issues including the gender dimension of social security and the rapidly-increasing number of migrant workers moving within the region. A specific target should be to distil new collaborative mechanisms that can better contribute to the progressive extension of social security to all.</p> <p><i>Panel presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers and high-level presentations: Sri Lanka, Singapore, Bangladesh and India <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Honourable Athauda Seneviratne, Minister of Labour Relations and Manpower, Sri Lanka 2. Mr. Hawaza Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Member of Parliament, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Bangladesh 4. Ms. Sudha Pillai, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISSA Perspectives and International Experience Ms. C. de la Paz, President of ISSA • Employers' Perspectives and International Experience Mr. Toshio Suzuki, Member of the ILO's Governing Body and Regional Vice President of the International Organization of Employers (IOE) • Workers' Perspectives and International Experience Mr. Noriyuki Suzuki, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation – Asia Pacific (ITUC –AP)
<p>13.00-14.30 14:30- 16:00</p>	<p><i>Discussion</i> Lunch <i>Panel on Social Security and the Right to Work; perspectives linking protection and employment</i> <i>Moderator:</i> Mr. Guy Thijs, Deputy Regional Director ILO, Asia and the Pacific</p>
	<p>Social security and its development stands at the heart of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. In the absence of a framework of Decent Work, sustainable long-term national social and economic development is impossible; social security systems are essential to the quality of the lives and the jobs of workers and their families. Well managed, such systems represent, moreover, a prerequisite for a productive workforce and therefore a significant factor in economic development. However, the picture in almost all developing countries is one in which effective social protection for the workforce is lacking. While many of these countries have made a significant start on implementing social security systems, there is a clear need to build, or rebuild, the existing schemes, keeping in view the urgent priorities of: providing: access to essential health care for all; child benefits that keep children in school rather than at work; social assistance (at a modest level, and administered flexibly) to meet the basic income support needs of the working-age population; and a minimum level of income security for the elderly and the disabled. All of these will contribute, not only to the imperatives of alleviating poverty, vulnerability and inequality, but also on a broad basis to the enhancement of work and enterprise.</p> <p><i>Panel presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. K.P. Kannan, Member of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector, India • Ms. Amita Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, India • Mr. J.M. Salazar – Xirinachs, Executive Director, Employment Sector, ILO • Mr. A. Diop, Executive Director, Social Protection, ILO • Mr. Emmanuel Reynaud, Senior Advisor on Informal Economy, Social Protection, ILO • Ms. Judy See, Vice-President, Social Security System (SSS), Philippines
<p>16:00-16.30 16: 30-17:30</p>	<p><i>Discussion</i> Coffee break Workers' and Employers' groups discussions</p>

Free
18:00--

Reception and dinner

Tuesday, 20 May 2008

09.30- 11.15

Thematic Topic I: Income Security for the Elderly and Not-so-Elderly in the Countries of the Asia-Pacific Region

Moderator: Mr. J.M. Salazar – Xirinachs, Executive Director, Employment Sector
Overview presenter: Mr. J. Woodall, Department of Social Security, ILO, Geneva

Despite impressive levels of economic growth in a range of countries, employment growth has generally failed to keep pace, resulting in increasing unemployment and informalization. As, in addition, many economies enter a transitional, “reform” phase, and with formal jobs becoming less secure, the informal economy is seen to play a role as a natural “shock absorber”. Since workers must therefore deal with “new” uncertainties in addition to those which they have always faced on daily basis, the need for efficient income security measures has dramatically increased. At the same time, the ageing of the population in many countries, with consequent social needs of the expanding elderly segment of the population, together with a failure – inter alia - to meet the range of maternity protection needs of poor and vulnerable women, is reflected in a decline in health indicators with a potentially far-reaching impact on future generations. Accordingly the meeting is invited to review the topical experiences of Asian countries in the effective and efficient provision of income security benefits to larger proportions of their populations, with a view to sharing experiences and facilitating the commitment to the achievement of the social security element of DW objectives in their own countries.

Panel presentation:

- Country presentations- China, Indonesia, Viet-Nam, Fiji
- Social Security in an Ageing World: Mr. Brooks Dodge, Regional Programme Manager, HelpAge International (HAI) – Asia/Pacific
- Comments by Employers’ and Worker’s representatives

Discussions

11.15-11.45

Coffee break

11.45 13.00

Thematic Topic II: Extending Social Health Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region: Progress and Challenges

Moderator: Mr. A. Diop, Executive Director, Social Protection, ILO
Overview presenter: Dr. Ravi Rannan-Eliya, Institute for Health Policy, Sri Lanka.

While being at the core of the MDGs, achieving universal access to essential health services remains a daunting challenge in many Asian countries. While direct public spending on health has remained at (or fallen to) low levels in such countries, and access through private arrangements remains far beyond the reach of the vast majority, most workers in the informal economy now face further vulnerability and, perhaps, deprivation. The growing prevalence of casual and self-employment presents further impediments to enrolment, on the scale needed, into appropriate and efficient systems of health security financing. In this emerging context, there is a consensus that a broad mix of approaches must be mobilized in the drive to attain universal coverage. It is envisaged, accordingly, that the meeting may review the various strategies and programmes – representing both innovative and longer-established approaches - implemented by Asian countries, and the lessons they offer. Such evidence-based knowledge will allow participants to share ideas aimed at moving ahead the social health security agenda in different country-

<p>13.00-14.30 14.30 – 16:00</p> <p>16.00-16.30 16.30- 17.15</p>	<p>specific situations.</p> <p><i>Panel presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country presentations- Cambodia, India, Republic of Korea, Thailand • Health Protection: WHO's Perspective: Dr. Kumara Rai, Director, Department of Health Systems Development, Regional Office for South-East Asia, WHO (SEARO) • Comments by Employers' and Worker's representatives <p><i>Discussions</i></p> <p>Lunch</p> <p><i>General discussions on the conclusions that can be drawn from the thematic papers on the way forward</i></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. M. Cichon, Director of the Social Security Department, ILO Geneva</p> <p>Coffee</p> <p>Towards an ongoing consensual agenda for social security in Asia</p> <p>Final comments from: Summary of conclusions by ILO: Mr. Thijs and Mr. Diop Comments by Governments', Employers' and Workers' representatives</p>
<p>17.15-17.45</p>	<p>Closing ceremony</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Government of India (<i>to be confirmed</i>) • Ms. Guy Thijs, Deputy Regional Director of ILO Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

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