



Organisasi Perburuhan Internasional - Jakarta
International Labour Organization – Jakarta

Monday, 13 June 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Bogor Provincial Government to tackle child labour by improving education

BOGOR (ILO News): In an effort to find ways of tackling child labour by improving access to education, key representatives of governments and other stakeholders will participate in a workshop, <name of the workshop>, in Bogor, West Java, on Tuesday, 14 June. The workshop is organized by the Provincial Development Planning Board (Bappeda) in collaboration with the ILO through its International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour.

The main objectives of the workshop are to build linkages between the embryonic District Action Committee on the worst forms of child labour and local education stakeholders; to help identify ways in which local education policies can best support the needs of poorer families whose children are at risk of dropping out of school; and to consider the education needs of children who may have already dropped out and begun work

As part of the discussion, the ILO will release findings regarding attitudes to child labour and education. The study was conducted by the ILO in collaboration with a leading market research company, TNS, from January to March 2005. The study covered East Java, West Java, North Sumatra, East Kalimantan and South Sulawesi.

According to this latest study, the level of school drop out in Ciomas, Bogor, was the highest of six areas which were surveyed in Java, Sumatra, Sulawesi and Kalimantan. Around 70% of 12-15 year olds in Ciomas were found to be in school as compared to an average of 81% for the six areas surveyed.

The main findings revealed that around 65% of households whose children had dropped out of school suggested that costs of education were the main factor. Only 54% of the surveyed households in Ciomas knew that the Government policy required children to complete nine years basic education. Around 39% thought children only have to complete six years elementary education.

The study also suggested that households in Ciomas do not perceive it as hazardous for children to work long hours. When asked how many hours a day it would be acceptable for a child below 15 to work, more than half said 4 hours or more, with 29% saying 5 hours or more is acceptable. (Research indicates that children who work more than three hours a day are more likely to drop out of school)

“It is clear from the data collected both by the ILO and others that there are a number of key factors which lead to children dropping out of school and entering the workforce: cost, distance and quality of education,” said Chief Technical Adviser of the ILO’s Child Labour Project, Patrick Quinn, commenting the initiatives.

According to Patrick, for many poor families the costs of education and other associated costs, such as transport and uniforms, are a real barrier to education. For a family with one child in elementary school and one in junior secondary school, the costs of keeping children in school can be two or three times the monthly minimum wage.

In terms of distance, in some areas the distance a child must travel to reach a junior secondary school is so far that it makes the journey impractical for reasons of time or cost. Therefore, there is an urgent need to find ways of providing accessible schooling for those aged 13-15.

The quality of education also plays an important role in increasing the participation of children in school. Parents and children need to believe that by participating in education, they will improve their chances of securing a better job following their education.

“We hope that the workshop today will help to strengthen the discussion about how to tackle school drop out, which is a vital first step in tackling child labour,” added Patrick.

Menara Thamrin, Level 22
Jl. M.H. Thamrin Kav. 3, Jakarta 10250
P.O. Box 1075, Jakarta 10010
INDONESIA

Phone: (62 21) 391 3112
Fax.: (62 21) 310 0766
Email: jakarta@ilo.org
Website: www.ilo.org/jakarta