



Organisasi Perburuhan Internasional - Jakarta  
*International Labour Organization – Jakarta*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **National Children's Day: Call for children's right to education instead of child labour**

JAKARTA (Joint Press Release): To mark the National Children's Day, the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with its partners in six provinces will be organising activities to increase awareness of the need to tackle child labour and to improve the level of participation in education. These series of events are to highlight national efforts against child labour, particularly its worst forms.

This year's focus is in line with the findings of the ILO latest study on attitude to child labour and education. The study indicates that poorer families of around 19 percent of children below 15 years old cannot keep them in school and many are at risk of becoming child labourers. The costs of education are the main reason, with access to junior secondary education also important, particularly in remote areas.

The ILO study also suggested that many parents are not aware of the Government policy of nine years basic education. In addition many parents do not see the dangers of children below 15 working for four or five hours a day, despite strong evidence that long working hours put children at risk of dropping out of school.

"The ILO Project on prevention of child labour is now supporting more than 40 programmes across the country. The main emphasis of this work is to keep children in education and out of child labour. This year, the ILO together with its partners will focus on providing better access to education, particularly for children from poorer households, as a way to combat child labour," said Alan Boulton, Director of the ILO in Indonesia, commenting on the Day's activities.

The ILO's partners in Jakarta, East Java, West Java, North Sumatra, Aceh and East Kalimantan will organize a wide range of activities, ranging from public discussions, film festivals on child labour, media briefing to drawing competition, art shows and site visits.

Some of the Projects being supported by the ILO include efforts and assistance to improve local education provision so as to reduce school drop out rates; develop Open Junior High Schools and Children's Activity Centres; improve the work environment for children above 15; provide skills

training programmes; provide counselling and rehabilitation support for children who have been victims of trafficking, or have been involved in the production or trafficking of drugs; and develop a community radio project to raise awareness of child labour issues and importance of education.

“Our aim with these programmes is to develop experience and models of best practice which can be mainstreamed into ongoing programmes of our partners in Indonesia. In this way we can help to tackle the child labour problem and to ensure all children receive nine years basic education. Join us in working towards a world where no children will be deprived of a normal, healthy childhood, where parents can find decent jobs and children can go to school,” Alan concluded.