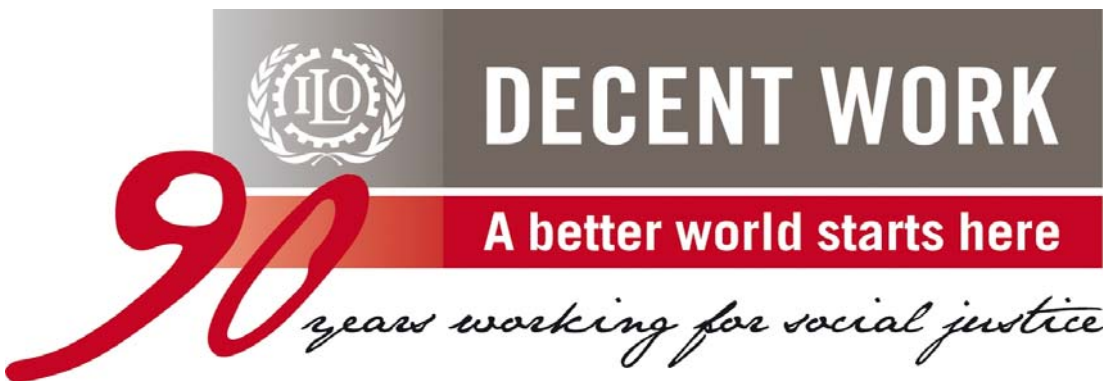


The International Labour Organization marked its 90th anniversary with a series of events and activities held around the world by governments, workers' and employers' organizations representing its 183 member states. Beginning the week of 21 April, over a hundred events throughout the world were tied to this commemorative occasion under the theme "90 years working for social justice", including radio and TV programmes, workshops, exhibitions, job fairs, and high-level tripartite discussions. Partners in our region also held anniversary events,

bringing together tripartite constituents as well as NGOs, the general public, parliamentarians and academics. These events provided national and regional platforms for highlighting the role of the ILO in addressing key contemporary issues.

This is a brief report on the main regional events.



## ILO90 campaign starts in St. Petersburg

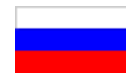
**ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIAN FEDERATION** -

On April 8 as part of the national ILO90 campaign the St. Petersburg Humanitarian Trade Union University organized a conference with the participation of the university management, professors, students and post-graduates. Sten Toft Petersen, ILO Moscow senior specialist on workers activities, made a presentation entitled "90 years working for social justice". He gave an overview of the history of the ILO and its role in the current situation, starting with the background for the founding of the Organization up to the ILO's role in promoting a fair globalization.

After the presentation there was a Q&A session that lasted for more than an hour.



Students' questions were very much focused on the challenges of the economic crisis and issues linked to globalization. The questions showed that the students had a good understanding of the ILO mandate and its role in addressing challenges of the 21st century.



## Honorary diploma from Russian Health and Social Development Ministry

**MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION** - On April 24, an official meeting to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Labour Organization and World Day for Safety and Health at Work took place in Moscow.

At the meeting the ILO Subregional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Martina Lubyova, was awarded a diploma of the Russian Health and Social Development Ministry signed by minister Tatiana Golikova.

The diploma was granted "on the occasion of the ILO 90th Anniversary and for the ILO's creative contribution to the development of occupational safety and health in Russia and its adjustment to international labour standards".



## Kazakhstan marks ILO anniversary with dialogue on child labour

**ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN** - On May 5-6, the ILO and its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) organized in Almaty a national seminar «Kazakhstan: Activities of National Partners within the framework of the ILO-IPEC project in 2005-2008». It was dedicated to the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ILO and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first ILO child labour convention. The event was held in cooperation with the Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights under Kazakhstan's Ministry of Education and Science and the Union of Women of Intellectual Labour public association.

The goal of the seminar was to assess results of activities of national partners who have been working on child labour issues in Kazakhstan over the past years. The event brought together representatives of the presi-

dent's administration, parliamentarians, officials of all regional departments for the protection of children's rights, key ministries and governmental agencies dealing with social and law-enforcement issues, NGOs, and international organizations (OSCE and the UN Agencies).

One of the main conclusions made at the seminar was that partners significantly raised their capacity in the elimination of child labour, and already started to finance certain activities.

The presence of ILO-IPEC gives a strong ground in terms of rendering real technical consultations on a range of issues related to children's protection. Participants expressed the hope for maintaining this strong and productive cooperation in the future.





## ILO receives congratulation from Russian trade unions

**MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION** – ILO 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary was the first item on the agenda of the FITUR General Council meeting held in Moscow on 22 April.

Mikhail Shmakov, Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITUR) made a report entitled “ILO 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary: ILO Conventions and Recommendations and their impact on social and labour relations in Russia”.

Today, at the time of the global financial and economic crisis that threatens to escalate into a social crisis, Russian trade unions are concerned about the “insufficient implementation of the international labour standards” in the country, Shmakov said.

As a timely measure he suggested a discussion on how to utilize the ILO potential to the full extent in order to improve the national labour and social legislation.

Shmakov made a brief overview of the ILO history and its main achievements over the past ninety years. He spoke highly of the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda. Decent work ideas have formed the basis of the FITUR

policy documents and are reflected in the programme of the United Russia party, Shmakov said.

Having discussed the report, the FITUR General Council adopted a resolution. The resolution stated that FITUR views the ILO as the foundation for its work. The federation considers its priority to increase the role of international standards in the trade unions law drafting and human rights activities. The General Council will continue to develop its fruitful cooperation with the ILO, ACTRAV and the ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

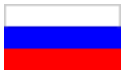
ILO Subregional Director Martina Lubyova made a presentation at the meeting.

The General Council meeting was attended at the highest level. The Government



Mikhail Shmakov, Tatiana Golikova and Andrey Isayev at the General Council meeting

was represented by Tatiana Golikova, health and social development minister, and the State Duma, the lower house of Russian parliament, by Andrey Isayev, chairman of the labour and social policy committee.



## ILO90 special event at the Moscow State University



ILO90 video with Russian titles was shown at the anniversary event

**MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION** - Lomonosov readings are well known among the Russian and international academic community. This authoritative conference, named after Mikhail Lomonosov, the illustrious Russian scientist, poet and one of the founders of Moscow State University, is annually hosted by the School of Economics, MSU.

This year a special session at the readings was devoted to the ILO 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In his opening statement Professor Vassily Kolesov, dean of the economics school, noted that the school’s history has been always closely linked with the ILO. Professor Kolesov recalled that in 1992 Michel Hansenne, the then ILO Director General, actively supported the creation of the faculty’s employment and labour depart-

ment.

The School of Economics is an active promoter of the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda. Among its most visible initiatives is a roundtable on Decent Work in the 21st Century that already back in 2004 opened up a broad national and regional discussion around this important issue.

Martina Lubyova, ILO Subregional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, underlined the role of the School of Economics in promoting Decent Work Agenda among students - future decision makers. Among the School of Economics graduates are prime ministers and ministers, business and political leaders, prominent economists of Russia and the CIS.



Prof. Vassily Kolesov and the ILO Subregional Director Martina Lubyova

The ILO Subregional Director was presented with an anniversary letter on behalf of the School of Economics.

For the anniversary event the ILO organized an exhibition of its publications. They will supplement the School of Economics library that already contains a rich collection of the ILO books.



## ILO 90th anniversary campaign in Moscow metro



**MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION** - ILO's colorful billboards appeared on April 17 at the central metro stations in Moscow as part of the ILO 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign.

The posters were jointly designed by ILO Moscow and the Department of Com-

munication in Geneva.

Metro is the main public transport in the Russian capital. It carries about 8.5 million passengers each working day and up to 4 million passengers on weekends.

The anniversary billboards were displayed in the metro for one month, inviting millions of its passengers to join the ILO 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.



## Social dialogue on ILO90 event agenda



**BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN** - On April 28, ILO constituents in Kyrgyzstan gathered together in Bishkek to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the ILO. National Project Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan Bolotbek Orokov made a celebration speech followed by a video film on ILO's 90 years of social justice.

After this constituents discussed presentations made by a team of international and national independent consultants analysing the status of social dialogue in the country. They stressed the importance of strengthening social dialogue.

ILO expert Ludek Rychly called for bringing all forces and best practices together to maintain social justice even amid the crisis.



## ILO90 event - Regional conference for Central Asian countries

**ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN** - On April 22-23 the capital of Kazakhstan hosted a conference to mark the ILO 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The conference, that was initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, became a regional event as it brought together the ILO constituents from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as the representatives of ministries, social partners, parliamentarians and international organizations.

Sten Petersen, senior workers activities specialist made an overview of the history of the ILO.

The participants spoke highly of the assistance provided by the ILO to Kazakhstan in the improvement of its labour legisla-



The ILO90 conference received wide media coverage. Senior OSH specialist Wiking Husberg gives an interview to the press.

tion, in particular the labor code, employment law and legal acts on targeted social assistance.

The current financial and economic crisis, its consequences in the labour and social sphere and the role of the ILO in addressing these challenges were high on the conference's agenda.

Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Kazakhstan Birzhan Nurymbetov noted that at present, the creation of employment is a national priority in the country. Significant resources have been allocated to stabilize the labour market and to implement the employment strategy. The government together with the federation of trade unions and the organizations of employers initiated the conclusion of collective agreements and memoranda with major companies to retain jobs and avert mass layoffs in order to soften the impact of the financial crisis.

The participants in the conference also focused on occupational safety and health issues, in particular on the preparation of national OSH profiles and national pro-



grammes to create national OSH systems in the Central Asia.

This year Kazakhstan will successfully complete the Decent Work Country Programme that started in 2007. Its priorities were the improvement of the OSH system, further development of a collective bargaining mechanism and the development of the employment strategy. As it was noted at the conference, taking into account the current state of the world economy and the anti-crisis policy of Kazakhstan, the new Decent Work Country Programme between the ILO and Kazakhstan will be focused on post-crisis development.



## ILO study room opened at the Academy of Labour in Moscow



Distinguished guests were invited for a few minutes to become students and to sit at the classroom desks.

### MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION –

On April 29, the event to mark the ILO90 anniversary created a festive atmosphere at the Russian Academy of Labour and Social Relations.

A few weeks earlier, on March 26, the academy also marked its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As the academy rector Professor Alexei Shulus noted, that was a symbolic coincidence: the

academy is not only of the same age with the ILO, it also fully shares and actively promotes the ILO values.

Alena Nesporova, ILO Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, sounded the keynote for the discussion. She made a presentation entitled 'ILO: 90 years working for social justice'.

Mikhail Shmakov, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, stressed the need to further promote the ratification and implementation of the international labour standards.

Marina Moskvina of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs dwelled upon the role of tripartism and social dialogue. She described the recent initiative of the Russian Tripartite Commission to hold hearings on the most important social and labour issues, such as a national employment strategy or private company policies amid the

crisis.

A lively and informal moment during the anniversary celebration was the opening of the ILO study room at the academy. The ILO officials and other distinguished guests were invited for a few minutes to become students and to sit at the classroom desks. Alena Nesporova was given an honourable

The ILO classroom is equipped with modern computers that have Internet access. It also has a rich collection of ILO publications presented by the ILO Moscow Office.



Alena Nesporova was given an honourable duty to click on the professor's computer – and the ILO website appeared on the screen.



## Child labour monitoring unit created in Tajik capital



**DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN** - On April 28, the 90th anniversary of the ILO, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Tajikistan officially launched a Child Labour Monitoring Unit created at the ministry with the technical support of ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

The Ministry chose the ILO anniversary day for the opening ceremony because combating child labour is one of the most important issues in today's Tajikistan.

The unit will focus on monitoring, identifying and removing girls and boys from the worst forms of child labour in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe. Its staff will regularly check the places where girls and boys may work in order to identify child laborers and determine risks to which they are exposed.

After the completion of this IPEC pilot

programme, the unit will continue its monitoring work. Similar units are expected to be created at other affiliates of the ministry in the regions.



## ILO anniversary and World OSH Day in Azerbaijan

**BAKU, AZERBAIJAN** - A joint conference to mark the ILO 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the World Day for Safety and Health at Work was held in Baku on 28 April. It brought together over 300 participants – representatives of the authorities, social partners and enterprises.

The government officials gave a comprehensive summary of the work of the Azerbaijani labour inspection, focusing on high-risk sectors, such as construction.

OSH senior specialist of the ILO Moscow Office, Wiking Husberg, made a presentation on the ILO systematic approach to OSH, which is being implemented in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan plans to start a World Bank-funded project to upgrade the OSH legislation and introduce the OSH management systems based on ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines.



## ILO90 event in Uzbekistan

**TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN** - On April 28, on the day of ILO 90th Anniversary (and the World OSH Day), a tripartite roundtable was held in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

After opening remarks by the tripartite representatives, Mariko Ouchi, Social Security Specialist of ILO Moscow Office, delivered a short speech followed by the ILO anniversary video.

The topic of the second part of the roundtable discussion was the implementation of a new law on occupational accidents and diseases insurance.

The special day was celebrated by all participants and strengthening cooperation between the ILO and Uzbekistan was further confirmed on this occasion.

