

While on a short visit to Moscow (27-29.01.2000) the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan expressed his wish to have a meeting with the UN Moscow staff. The meeting took place on January 28, 2000, in the premises of the UN Information Centre in Moscow. Employees of all UN agencies, stationed in Russia, were invited. After a brief introductory speech the UN Secretary General had a conversation with the guests.

When Mr Annan learned that we (Torsten Bargfrede, Elena Amelina, Elena Morozova, Lyudmila Uskova, Alexandre Bondarenko, Vladimir Dekhtyarev and Ekaterina Ivanova) represented the ILO, he asked some questions on the Organization's activities in Russia and complemented us on good organization. He wished further success to the ILO in its praiseworthy activities in Russia and CIS countries. Then this historical photo was taken by James Windell.

By Vladimir Dekhtyarev



## MAIN TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE ILO OFFICE IN MOSCOW (1998-99)

Technical cooperation plays the pivotal role in agenda of the ILO Moscow Office. It is firmly based on the Organization's strategic objectives and priorities and response to the national needs.

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia the recent transition from centrally planned to market economies and to more democratic political systems has been a difficult one. As well as modernizing the economic infrastructure, the countries of the region have to develop appropriate labour market structures and align their legislation on labour and on occupational safety and health. They also need to develop more active social dialogue, improve their systems of social protection and better enforce provisions for equal opportunities.

The economic reforms in a number of countries have been less effective, and some of them have fallen into political and ethnic conflict. The main priority of ILO in these countries is to help them achieve economic recovery and social stability, to battle the growing poverty.

Below you can find the list of some activities carried out by the Office in the field of Organization's strategic objectives – promoting the employment, strengthening the social protection, intensification of the social dialogue and promoting the fundamental principles and rights. All the projects were conducted in the years 1998-1999 in 10 countries covered by the ILO Moscow Office. The full list will be soon available at ILO Moscow Website at <http://www.ilo.ru>.

(Note: The countries listed in alphabetical order)

### ARMENIA



During 1998-1999 with financial assistance from the UNDP, advisory services were provided to the State Statistical Agency for the improvement of the national system for collection and analysis of labour statistics.

A joint report prepared with the UNDP entitled "Labour Market Situation in Armenia" in July 1999. The ILO and

Armenia jointly identified the technical cooperation needs and developed a formal programme of cooperation covering the entire scope of ILO strategic objectives.

In July/September 1999 SME needs assessment mission conducted and project proposal to promote entrepreneurship development prepared.

In December 1999 ILO Moscow Office participated in UNDP Programme development meeting, microcredit schemes.

## AZERBAIJAN



During the entire period activities continued under the ILO/UNDP project “Training, Employment and Income Generation”. A series of International Labour Conventions was translated into the Azeri language.

In July 1998 a report “Preliminary Assessment of the Azeri Social Protection System” was presented to Government. In January 1999 ILO provided Comments on the draft Law on Labour Migration.

A series of seminars in Baku was conducted in spring 1999 – a tripartite seminar on the implementation of and reporting on International Labour Standards in March 1999, and a national seminar on improving the national labour inspection system, May 1999.

ILO Moscow representatives participated in ILO/Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation seminar “Women in Azerbaijan: Facing the challenges of tradition and transition, which took place in Baku in November 1999.

In September 1999 Officials of the Azeri Ministry of Labour received consultations from Geneva Headquarters concerning implementation of the new Labour Code.

The two-year period is finalized by seminar on strengthening national employers’ organizations, which was held in Baku in November 1999.

## BELARUS



In December 1998 a tripartite meeting was held in Minsk on “Tripartism, Social Protection, Law and International Labour Standards”.

In December 1998 the Organization and Belarus jointly identified the technical cooperation needs and developed a formal programme of cooperation covering the entire scope of ILO strategic objectives.

A tripartite seminar “Social Protection, Law and International Labour Standards” was held in Minsk in December 1998.

During 1998/99 a project on Development of Modular Training Systems was implemented with funding from Germany and additional RBTC funds.

Workshop on Socially Responsible Enterprise Restructuring was held in Minsk, February 1999.

A seminar was held on Occupational Safety and Health in

Small and Medium sized enterprises, May 1999. The similar event “Pension System Principles for Reform” was held in Minsk, September 1999.

In July 1999 the ILO provided comments on the draft Act on Social Partnership.

In 1999 a tripartite consultative group on social protection issues was established and recommendations made for improvement of national social protection systems.

A seminar on “Strengthening Employers Organizations” was held in Minsk, June 1999.

Under the auspices of the Luxembourg-funded project “Promotion of Social Dialogue”, a seminar was held in Minsk in November 1999.

An advisory mission by the Bureau of Statistics was undertaken to advise the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Statistics and Analysis on the improvement of labour market information systems (November 1999).

Two studies were conducted by Belarus national consultant – on wage issues and on defining the poverty line in the Republic, which resulted into a survey in December 1999.

## GEORGIA



In 1998-99 the ILO with financial assistance from the UNDP provided technical inputs to the State Statistical Agency for the improvement of the national system for collection and analysis of labour statistics.

In February 1999 the Organization and Georgia jointly identified the technical cooperation needs and developed a formal programme of cooperation covering the entire scope of ILO strategic objectives.

Technical assistance for the development of a national child labour inquiry was provided.

A tripartite seminar on the implementation and reporting on International Labour Standards was held in Tbilisi in April 1999.

A seminar on Socially Responsible Enterprise Restructuring was held in Tbilisi in May 1999.

In July 1999 ILO provided Comments on migration-related aspects of the Employment Law.

During fall 1999 a two-week Training of Trainers seminar on workers’ education was held, with 16 local follow-up seminars held in collaboration with Confederation of Georgian Trade Unions.

## KAZAKHSTAN



In March 1998 the ILO and Kazakhstan jointly identified the technical cooperation needs and developed a formal pro-

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<http://www.ilo.ru>

programme of cooperation covering the entire scope of ILO strategic objectives.

In 1997-99 the Luxembourg-funded project “Start and Improve Your Business in Kazakhstan” was implemented, focusing on developing a network of national trainers and institutions using the SIYB methodology. Materials were adapted to Russian-language context, and over 1500 potential entrepreneurs were trained under the auspices of the project.

ILO provided comments on the draft labour code. In March 1998 comments on a proposed Employment law were provided.

During 1999 a survey of employment and labour issues among 500 industrial enterprises was conducted. A seminar “Enterprise Restructuring in Kazakhstan Enterprises” based on the results of the survey was held in Astana in July 1999.

A survey of the service needs of members of Kazakh Employers’ Organizations was conducted in November 1999.

The joint ILO/UNDP project on anti-poverty strategies at the local and regional levels was developed and approved in September 1999.

#### KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



A project proposal “Enhancing Women’s Employment and Equality in Economic Transition” was prepared by December 1998.

In March 1999 the Organization and Kyrgyz Republic jointly identified the technical cooperation needs and developed a formal programme of cooperation covering the entire scope of ILO strategic objectives.

A seminar on the implementation of and reporting on international labour standards was held in Bishkek in May 1999.

In September 1999 an advisory mission on child labour was undertaken to identify priority areas of action. A project proposal is being formulated.

The pilot project “Start and Improve Your Business in Kyrgyzstan” with 25 trainers trained in SIYB methodology was implemented jointly with the Kazakhstan SIYB Project Office providing guidance and other support.

#### RUSSIAN FEDERATION



A Conference on Occupational Safety and health in Small and Medium Size enterprises was held in Moscow, February 1998.

In March 1998 a Country programme covering all strategic objectives was elaborated and signed for the years 1998-99.

With funding from Norway, a wide range of worker education training activities was conducted during 1998-1999. The pro-

gramme included more than 140 seminars, a regional and national conference on employment strategies, two study tours and a variety of publications.

In August 1998 ILO Moscow Office and representatives from Geneva Bureau participated in the Seminar “Employment Promotion in the Extreme North”, Yakutia.

During 1998-99 training materials on socially responsible enterprise restructuring were developed and tested at a series of training seminars in four regions of Russia.

In 1998-99 the Flemish-funded programme in St. Petersburg on Modular Skills Training systems continued activities in training and re-training.

In 1998 a tripartite conference was held and various publications developed on the practice of social dialogue at the company, regional and national level.

A conference on trade unions and trans-national companies was held in May 1999.

Workshops to assist Employers’ Organizations in managing under conditions of economic crisis were held in Yakutia, Kirov and Moscow in the Q2 1999.

In September 1999 an advisory mission on the monitoring of poverty in the Russian Federation was undertaken and recommendations for improvement of data collection systems were provided.

A competition for a Fellowship programme for young Russian academics was held during fall 1999.

The International Conference on Overcoming the Adverse Consequences of Transition in the Russian Federation was held in October 1999. The Conference resulted in major policy-related recommendations in the areas of employment, wages, social protection and social dialogue. More about Conference please read in Issue #5 of the Newsletter or on the ILO Moscow Website at <http://www.ilo.ru>.

A consultancy on the proposed reform of the Labour law was conducted in February 1999.

Within the framework of an UNDP-funded programme, a series of technical papers and interventions were made during 1999, focusing on enterprise development and employment promotion.

During the entire period several needs assessment missions, consultations and development of project proposals concerning child labour were conducted.

A pilot project on street children in St Petersburg with funding from Finland started in December 1999.

A workshop was held in Moscow in November 1999 for Russian Employers Organizations on Collective Bargaining.

A public school curriculum in field of cooperatives was devel-

oped for integration into the national school system in December 1999.

## TAJIKISTAN



In April 1998 a Tajik official was trained in Astana, Kazakhstan, on SYIB methodology.

Under the auspices of an UNDP-funded project, a local economic needs assessment survey in four regions was conducted, with the results presented in July 1998 at the Workshop on Local Employment Promotion, which took place in Dushanbe.

In September 1998 an employment promotion project proposal was elaborated for donor consideration.

In November — December 1999 an advisory mission was undertaken for the development for a national public infrastructure programme.

The STEP representative from Almaty takes part in national micro-credit seminar in Tajikistan in November 1999.

## TURKMENISTAN



A report on social sector reform is submitted to UNDP Ashgabad in March 1998.

Initial plans for ILO activities within the UN Common Country Assessment were developed during mission to Ashgabat in, November 1999.

## UZBEKISTAN



Under the framework of an UNDP-funded Project, during 1998-99 resident technical expertise provided in the establishment of national small investment and micro-finance fund.

Comprehensive consultations with the Ministry of Labour, social partners and UNDP concerning future joint cooperation were held in November 1999.

In December 1999 a series of studies by Uzbek national consultants were finalized. The research focused on employment services, occupational safety and health, and social protection and poverty alleviation.

## SUB-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

A Russian-language Internet website and network was developed and maintained during 1998-99.

In July 1998 ILO Moscow and Geneva Headquarters representatives participated in the UNDP-sponsored sub-regional conference “Central Asia 2010: Prospects for Economic

Growth and Social Development”.

A sub-regional seminar on the role of Trade Unions in multinational enterprises was held in Astana in October 1999.

In May 1999 a subregional Seminar (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) on Strengthening Employers’ Organizations held in Tbilisi. A similar event in Central Asia subregion (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan) was held in Almaty in November 1999.

In November 1999 ILO Moscow and Geneva Headquarters representatives participated in Regional Symposium on Socio-Economic Policies in Transition Economies, Ashgabat.

ILO Moscow Office launched the project of translation into Russian of the International Encyclopedia on Occupational Safety and Health. The Encyclopaedia will also be published in Internet. Publication and CD-ROM version expected in 2000.

Development of Russian-language inter-CIS information network on Occupational Safety and Health was launched in 1999. OSH materials are now available via Internet and mail.

A tripartite sub-regional conference on the International Labour Standards and their application was held in St. Petersburg in December 1999.

In June 1999 ILO Moscow and Geneva Headquarters representatives took part in an Inter-Agency Central Asian Seminar on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities, which took place in Bukhara (Uzbekistan).

ILO Moscow Office together with the Council of Trade Unions Federation of Uzbekistan took part in organizing sub-regional seminar “Women, Society-Trade Unions” (participated by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan). The seminar took place in Tashkent in May 1999.

ILO Moscow participated in an international Conference on Individual accounts in public pension schemes in economies in transition, which took place in Kiev in June 1999.

Series of technical publications in Russian language in labour and social issues was launched in March 1998. In total, 7 volumes published over 1998/99.

New Russian version of International Labour Standards prepared on CD-ROM in December 1999.

Sub-regional seminar on Trade Unions and Gender issues was organized in Baku, November 1999.