



Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Newsletter



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Dear All,

When we look back at the year 2006, we can proudly name some important achievements realized together with our tripartite constituents. We signed a Programme of Cooperation with the Russian Federation and Decent Work Country Programmes with the tripartite partners in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and implementation has already started.

These programmes will be roadmaps for our cooperation over the next three years. Moreover, they mark a qualitatively new stage of our cooperation, providing a coherent and integrated framework that enables countries to make progress towards achieving decent work for all.

I am confident that the coming year will see successful implementation of these Programmes, as well as new countries joining the process.

Let me wish a Happy New Year and peace and prosperity to all!

Werner Konrad Blenk
ILO Subregional Director
for Eastern Europe and
Central Asia

Three countries of the Subregion sign Decent Work Country Programmes

First DWCP signed in Azerbaijan

Improving employment policies, creating decent jobs, strengthening social dialogue, advancing implementation of international labour standards – these are priorities outlined in the Decent Work Country Programme of Azerbaijan for 2006-2009 signed in Geneva on November 16.

The programme has been developed jointly by the ILO and its tripartite constituents. It presents key strategies, outcomes and indicators required to achieve progress towards decent work in the country.

A priority issue in the programme is employment. Despite significant oil-related GDP growth of 26.2 %, Azer-



Labour Minister of Azerbaijan F. Alekperov (left), ILO Subregional Director W. Blenk (right)

baijan still faces severe employment challenges. In 2003 President Ilham Aliyev set up an ambitious goal – to create 600 000 new jobs in five years. As of today 475 000 jobs have been created, including 50% permanent jobs.

One of the most vulnerable groups



Director of ILO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia F. Buttler (left), F. Alekperov

are young people who represent two-thirds of the country's population and account for 61% of the total number of unemployed. In 2003 Azerbaijan joined the Youth Employment Network (YEN) – a global alliance among the United Nations, the World Bank and the ILO – and became one of its nineteen lead countries. With the technical assistance of the ILO, the republic has mainstreamed action for youth employment into its National Employment Strategy.

In accordance with the programme provisions, the ILO will also support creating a comprehensive labour market database system and developing decent work indicators; promote entrepreneurship education through its Start and Improve Your Business Programme (SIYB); assist national constituents in upgrading vocational training curricula using the modular employable skills methodology; help to improve national occupational safety and health system.

Kazakhstan adopts three-year DWCP

The Decent Work Country Programme for 2007-2009 was signed in the Labour and Social Protection Ministry of Kazakhstan on November 22.

The Programme has been developed within a broader context of approaches outlined in a variety of global development projects, including the Millennium Development Goals and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and based on national development strategies.

The document emphasises that the main goal of Kazakhstan's economic and social policy in 2007-2009 will be "the creation of favourable institutional and economic conditions to ensure that



Labour Minister of Kazakhstan, G. Karagusova (left), W. Blenk

Kazakhstan becomes one of the 50 leading competitive countries in the world and, at the same time, to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Within the programme the parties will focus on the three priorities: modernising the occupational safety and

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Three countries sign DWCPs

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health system; increasing employment opportunities for men and women; strengthening of social dialogue, further development of the collective bargaining system based on social partnership.

Moreover, the ILO and Kazakhstan outlined a plan for cooperation development in 2007-2009 taking into account the ILO experts' assessment of previous cooperation. "The programme's goal is to ensure deeper cooperation between the ILO and Kazakhstan and further promotion of the ILO's work in the country to help reach positive results," said Werner Blenk, ILO Subregional Director.

Kyrgyzstan joins DWCP process

On November 24, the ILO and Kyrgyzstan signed the Decent Work Country Programme for 2006-2009.

The programme's priorities are employment creation, skills and employability for women and men; improving the national occupational safety and health system; and reducing Decent



A handshake after the signing of the DWCP by Labour Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Y.Semenenko (right), W.Blenk

Work deficits in the informal economy.

The ILO will assist tripartite partners in developing their own policies and practices to address the existing challenges in the field of social protection, in particular, occupational safety and health and HIV/AIDS in the world of work.

Innovative approaches will be used to support improving conditions in the agricultural informal sector based on social dialogue principles, as vast majority (almost 80 %) of informally employed are in the agricultural sector (close to 1.3 million persons). ■

International road transport at crossroads

Excessive border delays, inefficient or corrupt border officials and drivers' vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS put the international road transport sector at risk, according to a new report "*Labour and social issues arising from problems of cross-border mobility of international drivers in the road transport sector*" by the ILO prepared for a tripartite meeting in Geneva on 23-26 October.

"On the roads and border crossings of Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia, issues such as current visa policies are creating the primary stumbling block for drivers, including restrictions on their right to work", says ILO transport expert Marios Meletiou. "In many cases, increasing transportation costs also involve interruptions in manufacturing and delivery cycles".

The report examines the economic, labour and social issues arising from problems of cross-border mobility of international drivers in the road transport sector. It cites one example, based on a recent study showing how inadequate infrastructure capacity reportedly cost billions in estimated lost gross output and tens of thousands of jobs.

The president of the Russian Association of International Road Carriers, Yuri Sukhin, believes that the situation with the issuance of visas to professional drivers means the violation of human rights. "A driver is issued a six-month visa. After it expires, a driver should stay in long queues, wasting money and time," he said.

He sees the settlement of the problem in introducing the analogue of a seafarer's identity document and in stopping "equate drivers to tourists." Until the system of border checkpoints is drastically changed, this sector will have multi-billion losses.

"Over the past 15 years international transportations increased 15 times in Russia. Until all border services begin to help drivers, but continue to stop them and delay, road carriers will lose around 100 million U.S. dollar a year," Yuri Sukhin said.

While the official time period to obtain a Schengen visa valid in the European Union (EU) was on average four days in 2005, for example, actual time for professional drivers of buses and trucks from non-Schengen countries like Kazakhstan, Morocco, Ukraine and Turkey ranged from 1.5 days for a Turkish driver

to 31.5 days for a Kazakh driver during the same period.

According to the International Road Transport Union, excessive border delays have also been reported at border crossings in Europe. Some haulers reported waits of 12 to 48 hours at the border between Poland and Belarus, 20 to 48 hours at the border between Finland and the Russian Federation, and 12 to 72 hours at Latvia's borders with the Russian Federation and Belarus. Extremely long waiting



periods have also been recorded at border crossings with Asia, reaching up to 72 hours between Turkey and Iraq, and between the Russian Federation and Central Asian countries.

The head of the Russian Federal Customs Service, Andrei Belyaninov, said in his comments on kilometer-long queues of trucks on the border with Poland and Lithuania, that drivers themselves are to be blamed to a certain degree. "Road carriers are informed on traffic jams on the borders, while some other checkpoints are empty," he said.

What's more, unofficial payments and harassment represent a major issue for drivers, employers, governments and even consumers, the report says. Delays caused by customs procedures are often compounded by inadequate border facilities, including the lack of secure parking, accommodation, welfare and sanitation, food and beverage services and communication tools. The report also stresses the vulnerability of the workers in international road transport to sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS which has an impact on many more people throughout the areas where drivers live and work.

"We have to make sure that the living and working conditions of international drivers are constantly improving and that the sector continues to offer attractive employment opportunities for workers across the world," says Mr. Meletiou. ■

By information of the ILO, Kommersant Daily

ILO Governing Body concludes 297th session

GENEVA (ILO News) – On November 17, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office concluded its 297th session here following discussions on a range of issues including: follow-up activities to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) ministerial declaration on generating full and productive employment and decent work for all; respect of basic labour rights in Myanmar, Belarus and other countries; youth employment; and labour inspection.

The tripartite body also approved the 343rd Report of the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association, drawing special attention to the cases of Colombia, Eritrea, Guatemala and Zimbabwe because of their serious and urgent nature.

The meeting also considered the ILO response to the post-crisis situation in Lebanon, ILO activities in the field of youth employment and labour inspection, and new approaches to international chemicals management and ship breaking.

The ILO group considered two reports concerning developments in **Myanmar** with respect to the continued practice of forced labour.

Delegates expressed great frustration

that the country's authorities had not been able to agree on a mechanism to deal with complaints of forced labour. They requested that the government conclude with the ILO such an agreement as a matter of utmost urgency and decided to place on the agenda of its March 2007 session a specific item to enable it to move on legal options, including involving the International Court of Justice.

Regarding trade union rights in Belarus, the Governing Body considered what measures could be taken to promote the implementation of recommendations of the 2004 Commission of Inquiry.

In light of the discussions which the government of **Belarus** had recently engaged in with the ILO, the Governing Body decided to return to the item in March 2007. In the meanwhile, the government was requested to cooperate, as a matter of urgency, with the ILO so that legislative changes which it was planning would serve the implementation of those recommendations and be in line with the ILO Conventions on Freedom of Association and the Right to Collective Bargaining. The Governing Body would look again at the situation

in March in the light of further developments and the assessments made by the ILO supervisory bodies.

The Committee on Employment and Social Policy examined how the quantity and quality of labour inspections worldwide can be improved through an integrated labour inspection system. It also discussed resolutions on technical cooperation, the employment relationship and on asbestos adopted by the International Labour Conference last June, and progress in the implementation of decent work country programmes in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia and the Arab states.

The Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization discussed follow-up activities to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) ministerial declaration on generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, the High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence, and potential areas for further study on the changing patterns in the world of work. ■



Moscow hosts 10th jubilee exhibition Occupational Safety and Health-2006

On December 5-8, the tenth jubilee international exhibition Occupational Safety and Health-2006 and the fourth international congress Occupational Safety and Health-2006 were held at the All-Russia Exhibition Centre. The exhibition's organizers are the Russian Health and Social Development Ministry, the Association of designers, manufacturers and providers of personal protective equipment. The government, the State Duma, the Fund of Social Insurance and the ILO provided assistance.

This exhibition that has no analogue in Russia or the CIS has become an important tool for creating the Russian market of personal protection means and brought together all leading Russian and foreign companies from all over the world.

The head of the national occupational safety and health centre, Nikolai Pashin, said this international exhibition, where 250 Russian and 35 foreign companies producing personal protec-

tion means was organized to reduce occupational traumatism.

"Any employer can study the occupational safety standards here and buy any protection means. It's good to see a lot of innovations at the exhibition – safety ropes, gloves, respirators, masks and even skin protection creams, not to mention special fireproof overalls that simply did not exist before," he said.

According to the Russian Health and Social Development Ministry, every year Russia has two and a half times more occupational injuries and deaths than any other European country. Almost 25 percent of workplaces do not meet sanitary and hygienic standards.

"Risk assessment is an important question, which is now widely discussed in Russia. It is necessary to define, who shall do the risk assessment at enterprises; the employer or a qualified external specialist. Secondly, for what purpose is the risk assessment

done - to make technical improvements of the working conditions, or to decide who should receive compensation," Wiking Husberg, senior occupational safety and health specialist of the ILO Moscow Office, said.

"These two answers will define, will risk assessment be done also at small enterprises with the aim to improve working conditions, or is it an exercise for big companies? Russia will decide on its own model, and the ILO is ready to provide assistance and exchange experience," he said.

The ILO Moscow Office has been successfully promoting advanced experience and knowledge of occupational safety and health in Russia's North-West in cooperation with the Finnish ministries and social partners for several years. It has been implementing the project on introduction of the OSH management systems ILO-OSH-2001 at several pilot enterprises of the region. ■



News from International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour

This year IPEC completed a second phase of the project "Working Street Children of St. Petersburg: from Exploitation to Education" aimed at the creation of preventive and rehabilitative models of social work.

Within the project's framework representatives of IPEC, St. Petersburg government, law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations and social partners met to discuss the results. The participants pointed to useful, innovative and progressive character of practical models developed in St. Petersburg as well as the need to integrate new rehabilitative and preventative methods to support working street children and at-risk children (e.g. a Comprehensive Model for Rehabilitation of Working Street Children; and Family Self-Help Groups) into the social protection systems.

The St. Petersburg government addressed the Finnish government as a donor with a request to maintain support to the IPEC project.

The St. Petersburg government's activities and its cooperation with the ILO are far beyond concrete projects and aimed at initiating the start of the time-bound programme, in line with the global goal to develop TBP against the worst forms of child labour by 2008.

Research of trafficking in children between Russia and Moldova launched

The Russian non-profit public policy research institute – the Institute for Urban Economics – has begun to implement the project on researching the market of trafficking in children between Moldova and Russia. The project is initiated by ILO/IPEC.

According to the Institute for Urban Economics, the research is being conducted within the framework of PROTECT CEE or the PROject of Technical assistance against the labour and sexual Exploitation of Children, including Trafficking, in countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

ILO/IPEC experts say that trafficking in children from Moldova to Russia has already been institutionalized for more than 10 years, and in the beginning of the 21st century it reached an alarming scale.

The project is aimed at studying the market of trafficking in children in Moldova and Russia, analyzing the legislative base and modern practices of struggle in the two countries and studying the experience of adaptation of children – trafficking victims in a donor country.

Social policy experts will conduct a poll of the two countries' representatives of government, non-governmental organizations,



Participants in contest Stop Child Labour!

researchers and specialists in charge of counteracting trafficking in children.

In Moldova, children-victims of human trafficking will be interviewed. Mass media content analysis will be conducted in this area to study push and pull factors in receiving and sending countries. The two countries' specialists will work out recommendations to optimize the two countries' cooperation in identifying and returning Moldovan children back.

Stop child labour!

On November 20, Universal Children's Day, the office of the Volgograd regional administration was full of children's voices. Here the results of children's painting, drawing and photography contest Stop Child Labour! that began in Volgograd on June were summed up.

The contest was organized by the regional administration in cooperation with ILO/IPEC. Two nominations (drawing and painting; and photography) were announced in three age groups: 7-10 years, 11-13 years, 14-17 years.

After a long discussion the jury chose 18 winners in two nominations and three age groups.

The deputy governor on social issues, Galina Khorosheva, opened the prize ceremony. The ILO/IPEC handed in special prizes to all winners.

This event was broadcast by three regional TV channels and several newspapers. ■



Elena Gnedkova, 16



Anna Korotkova, 16



Polina Zhiltsova, 11

New ILO study says youth unemployment rising

The number of unemployed youth aged 15 to 24 rose over the past decade, while hundreds of millions more are working but living in poverty, according to a new report by the International Labour Office.

While the number of young unemployed increased from 74 million to 85 million, or by 14.8 percent between 1995 and 2005, more than 300 million youth, or approximately 25 per cent of the youth population, were working but still living below the US \$2 per day poverty line.

The report also cited a "worrisome" increase in the number of young people

who are neither in employment nor in education. Using limited country-level data, the report estimated that Central and Eastern Europe has the highest share of youth who are neither in employment nor education – up to 34 per cent. Four countries in the CIS region – Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, saw a decrease in the enrolment ratio in higher education while youth inactivity rates increased at the same time, the report says.

The report calls for targeted and integrated national policies and programmes, fostered by international aid, to reach the

most vulnerable youth and to bring them back into the fold of a civil society that can benefit from their participation.

OPINION: Martina Lubyova, ILO Moscow senior employment specialist: "I believe that this report will attract attention of employment experts and our constituents, because youth employment is a pressing problem in the region. The report contains valuable statistics and describes employment trends on the labour market. We've already begun to translate this report into the Russian language." ■



December 1 – World AIDS Day

This year the events within the framework of the World AIDS Day-2006 were held under the slogan “Stop AIDS. Keep the promise.”

The ILO/US Department of Labour HIV/AIDS Workplace Education Programme shared its experience at a regular Business and Health group meeting of the International Business Leaders' Forum in Moscow on December 5. The meeting was attended by over 30 representatives of Russian and foreign companies, as well as NGOs and international organizations.

Irina Sinelina, National Project Coordinator, provided background information on the project approach and methodology, while the representative of one of the pilot enterprises - the Murmansk commercial seaport - Andrey Zelenin - spotlighted major events and activities with the involvement of port workers.

According to Mr. Zelenin, who chairs the local workers' union, "the participation in the project will protect health, ensure the rights of all workers,



Worker of a pilot enterprise in Serpoukhov writes 'a letter of promise' to fight HIV/AIDS

including those who are affected by HIV/AIDS, and will help to mitigate potential negative impacts of the epidemic on the workforce."

Within the framework of this programme the ILO Moscow Office held workshops with participation of tripartite partners at the pilot enterprises in the Moscow and Murmansk regions. It also organized photo exhibitions and showed a documentary film HIV: Myths and

Reality issued within the framework of the TV-marathon It's Time to Live! This marathon is aimed at attracting people's attention to the problem of HIV/AIDS transmission and telling about real facts of the epidemic in Russia's regions. All workers of the pilot enterprises were given "human AIDS ribbons" as a symbol of solidarity with the fight against AIDS and as a reminder of their promise they gave in their letters.

All participants were presented with 2007 calendar that had been specially designed for workers of the pilot enterprises and contained advocacy materials, photos and slogans, as well as leaflets containing basic information about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

In Geneva, a new report "HIV/AIDS and work: global estimates, impact on children and youth and response-2006" was published. It analyzes the HIV/AIDS situation in 60 countries of the world mostly affected by the epidemic (see at www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inf/event/aidsday06/index.htm.) ■



Youth Employment Network news

Since a National Employment Strategy (NES) was approved and signed by the President of Azerbaijan in October, 2005, an Action Plan has been developed to implement the NES. The ILO and the UNDP both contributed to the development of this Plan. Within the framework of this overall Employment Action Plan, the Government is committed to give youth issues a specific focus, and will develop a National Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAPYE).

Moreover, the Government of Azerbaijan has committed to host the Fourth Global Youth Employment Summit (YES) in 2008.

As we wrote in the recent issue of the Newsletter the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) financed the placement of eight Canadian interns or associates of the Youth Employment Network (a partnership between the UN, the World Bank and the ILO) in eight YEN Lead countries, including Azerbaijan.

At present, YEN Associate Trafton Koenig is helping NAP developments through the drafting of a report on youth employment in Azerbaijan. He is also involved in consulting with NAP partner organizations, preparing meetings with stakeholders, and determining other experts within the UN system that can offer their expertise in youth employment issues. ■

ILO urges joint efforts in fight against HIV/AIDS in the workplace

Over 5,000 HIV-infected in the Volgograd region (overwhelming majority – 80 percent) are able-bodied citizens aged between 20-39. years Last year, 327,000 HIV-infected were registered and 4,000 died of AIDS in Russia. Experts say this statistics does not reflect real state of affairs. These figures should be multiplied from four to ten times, they say.

These figures were announced at a roundtable meeting in Volgograd on November 3 that had been initiated by the International Labour Organization. Partakers noted that the spread of HIV/AIDS was a potential threat to the national economy. Over the past 20 years the society recognized the epidemic as a serious threat to social development and progress. It takes many lives and makes economically active people disabled. The way to address this problem is to pursue a strategy of fighting the epidemic in the workplace.

According to the focal point for HIV/AIDS and the World of Work of the ILO Moscow Office, Elena Kudryavtseva, this strategy is based on several key principles - recognition of HIV/AIDS as a problem of each workplace, measures against discrimination in employment, confidentiality, social dialogue, prevention and support. The ILO has developed an important tool to pursue this strategy - the Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work.

"An example of cooperation between the

ILO and the Volgograd region guarantees that joint efforts and a constructive dialogue will help find approaches to resolve such a pressing problem of our time as HIV/AIDS," Kudryavtseva said.

"It is necessary to upgrade the mechanism regulating activities of social partners – regional authorities, trade unions and employers – in resolving issues pertaining to HIV in the workplace. Only our joint efforts can settle this acute problem," the secretary of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, Igor Shanin, said.

The chief doctor of the regional center for the prevention and fight against HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases, Nadezhda Gorshkova said: "Earlier the virus circulated in the risk groups, but now all groups of population are affected. Over the past five years, the situation with the spread of HIV-infection in the Volgograd region changed. In 2001, 95 percent of all HIV-infected were users of injected drugs. At present, one in two persons living with HIV/AIDS has been infected through sexual transmission. Therefore, social characteristic of the infected also changed in this respect."

Participants in the roundtable meeting confirmed that the problem of HIV/AIDS in the world of work is very up-to-date and requires urgent response. ■

By information of Inter-Press news agency



Russia ratifies Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention



On November 27, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the ratification of ILO's revised Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (C185). The law was adopted by the State Duma

on November 3 and the Federation Council – on November 15.

Convention No 185 was adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Office in June 2004 to replace the 1958 Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (C108). It came into force on February 9, 2005. The convention was developed due to G8's initiative to pool efforts in ensuring transport security.

The Governing Body of the ILO approved in March 2004 a biometric verification system, which provides a more rigorous response to the need for increased security in the maritime industry.

The new identity document for seafarers allows for the use of a "biometric

template" to turn two fingerprints of a seafarer into an internationally standardized 2-D barcode on the Seafarer's Identity Document (SID).

All countries ratifying Convention No.185 will be able to issue new SIDs that conform to the requirements specified in ILO's standards.

Convention No. 185 has been hailed as a major step toward strengthening security measures on the high seas and in the world's ports. At the same time, it is also designed to ensure the rights and freedoms of maritime workers and facilitate mobility in the exercise of their profession—for example when they board their ships to work, take shore leave or return home.

The accompanying documents say the lack of new identity documents for seafarers in Russia will seriously aggravate and even make impossible work of Russian seafarers at foreign shipping companies' vessels. As a result, 40,000 seafarers may go unemployed.

This will also have serious economic consequences as for Russia ship owners, but also for Russian economy in general, the documents say.

To implement this Convention Russia has to create an automated identification system of seafarers' identity documents that should contain biometric features of their owners. It will be also necessary to create a protected electronic database of the issued identity documents and a permanent coordinating centre to check up identity documents at the request of migration services and other competent services of foreign countries.

Russia has to introduce amendments to the effective legislation as the Convention's provision says that a seafarer's identity document should contain biometric features – the fingerprints.

The State Duma international affairs committee concluded that the Convention fully meets Russia's interests and will help increase security of maritime shipping and guarantees of seafarers' rights.

At present, the Convention is ratified by France, Jordan, Nigeria and Hungary. ■

By information of ITAR-TASS, Ria-Novosti news agencies

New publications



The ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) issued two DVD disks of promotional materials for trade unions entitled *Workers of All Countries, Demand Decent Work!*

The DVDs' title speaks for itself: the disks contain films and songs created for trade unionists' promoting and training activities.

Most trade unionists in our region already know and use in their union organizing such films as *Your Choice*, *McDonald's: Smile on the Conveyor* and trade union songs from the album *Join a Real Trade Union!*

In 2005, trade unionists had an opportunity to see the Russian version of *Bread and Roses* - a film by famous British film director Ken Loach.

All materials were created with ILO's assistance and now they are collected on two DVDs and can be easily used.

Delegates of the sixth congress of the Federation of Trade Unions of Russia were the first to get these DVDs on November 14-15.

A *new ILO calendar for 2007* was issued in Geneva. It provides information about ILO's main areas of work.

The initiative of the ILO Moscow Office to include the Russian language captions in the calendar has been supported and now our constituents can easily use this version of the calendar.

And finally, we are pleased to announce the release of the ILO Moscow Office's three working papers - *Assessment of Social Assistance Scheme in the Kyrgyz Republic: its importance in relation to employment and poverty alleviation* in the Russian and English languages and *Report of the School-to-Work Transition Survey in Kyrgyzstan* in English. ■

Labour migration again high on agenda

On the eve of the International Migrants Day Moscow hosted a workshop on establishing labour migration policy in the CIS. The event was organized by the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The workshop's goal was to discuss how particular policies presented in "*Handbook on establishing labour migration policies in countries of origin and destination*" might be adapted or developed to suit specific migration management situations in the CIS countries. The partakers were provided with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with effective practices carried out in other countries, and also to identify key steps to be undertaken by their respective governments to address specific labour migration needs.

"This workshop, as well as the Handbook on the issue published earlier in the year, is the outcome of a well functioning partnership between the OSCE, the IOM and the ILO," said Alexey Stukalo, Deputy Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Representing the 2006 OSCE Chairmanship, the Belgian Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Vincent Mertens de Wilmars, said "strengthening regular migration management is an important step to address irregular migration, and enhancing regional and international cooperation between countries and international organizations is essential."

Viatcheslav Postavnin, Deputy Head of Russia's Federal Migration Service, added that migration was an international issue, which no country can address alone.

The Ambassador of Slovenia to the Russian Federation, Andrej Benedejcic, said that migration was also a comprehensive security issue with clear links to border management, sustainable development as well as tolerance and human rights.

Werner Blenk, Director of the ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, stressed that "Sound migration policy and practice require adhering to fundamental labour standards, addressing labour market needs and composition, thus ensuring decent work opportunities for all."

Mark Getchell, Chief of Mission of the IOM in Moscow said that effective management of international labour migration helped achieve a "win-win-win" situation for countries of origin and destination as well as migrants workers.

The workshop brought together over 80 representatives of the CIS interior ministries and labour ministries, workers' and employers' organizations, migrant associations as well as independent experts and ILO, IOM and OSCE experts.

New project on migration launched

The ILO with EU's financial assistance launched large-scale three-year project "*Towards sustainable partnerships for the effective governance of labour migration in the Russian Federation, the Caucasus and Central Asia.*"

The proposed project aims to promote a sustainable, participative and equitable approach to the governance of labour migration in the Russian Federation, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. It will promote national and regional dialogue on more effective forms of migration governance, integrating initiatives

of governments, trade unions, employers' associations, civil society, the ILO and other organizations in the region. This will be supported by close examination of changing labour market conditions.

Although there are important variations between the project countries, in the next decade they will all be confronted with a reduction in native labour forces because of a decline in fertility rates. In the Russian Federation, for example, it is estimated that up to 1.5 million workers per year are being lost to the labour market through demographic transitions. Although each of these countries currently has significant unemployment levels, in the medium term labour market demand will outstrip labour supply and undermine potential economic growth across the region. Labour migration is an important element in a suite of policies required to address this challenge.

The presence of large populations of irregular workers, especially in certain key sectors of the Russian Federation, is symptomatic of the need for better policies.

Most migrants in the region move to the Russian Federation – it is estimated for example that there are currently some 1.5 million Armenians and 412,000 Tajiks in the Russian Federation. It is important to note that at the same time there is significant migration from the Russian Federation, particularly of the educated and skilled, at the estimated scale of some 50,000 per year. In this context all countries in the region face the challenge of maximising the benefits of migration for both origin and destination countries, while minimizing its potentially negative consequences. ■

New project on boosting youth employment to start in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan in 2007

In January 2007 ILO Moscow Office will launch a large scale project "*Boosting youth employment using an integrated approach in the framework of DWCPs in Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan.*"

The project capitalizes on achievements of previous employment-related projects in these countries and is intended to contribute to promoting the application of policies and instruments to expand youth employment in the context of ILO Youth Employment Programme and Youth Employment Network.

Multiple and varied actions are foreseen to continue stepping up labour mar-

ket interventions at both supply side (improvement of employable skills and entrepreneurial abilities of young women and men) and demand side (supporting conducive labour market policies and environment for job creation), accompanied by better labour market monitoring and dissemination of labour market information. Boosting employment is viewed by the tripartite constituents of these countries as a decisive factor for economic growth and poverty reduction, and boosting youth employment in particular is viewed as one of the priorities in these countries where demographic pressures are strong and labour markets are facing

increasing cohorts of young entrants in the coming years.

The project is oriented to strengthening the capacities of social partners to develop their approaches to youth employment, and use social dialogue as an effective instrument to address the existing employment-related challenges. The ultimate goal is to combine job creation with decent and safe working conditions to boost productivity.

The support to the ILO constituents under the project will be provided through building knowledge, advocacy and technical assistance. The project will be implemented through 2009. ■

In Brief

■ On October 20 the Kazakhstan National Technical University hosted the eighth international scientific conference on the innovations in life safety and occupational safety and health. The conference was organized by the ILO, the Kazakh Education and Science Ministry, Labour and Social Protection Ministry, Emergencies Ministry and the Kazakhstan National Technical University. Taking part in the conference were scientists and researchers, senior specialists of industrial enterprise, representatives of ministries and departments and entrepreneurs.

■ On November 23-24, a roundtable meeting on Russia's ratification of the ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No 169 was held in Moscow. The meeting was chaired by Russian Regional Development Minister Vladimir Yakovlev. It was organized

by the Association of Indigenous People of the North, Siberia and Far East under assistance of the State Duma committee on ethnic affairs, the Federation Council committee for affairs of the North and indigenous people, the Regional Development Ministry and the Public Chamber.

Taking part in the meeting were ILO, UN experts, representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, governments and indigenous people of Norway, Denmark, Mexico and Guatemala that had ratified this convention and already reported on its implementation. Representatives of federal and regional administrations leaders of organizations of indigenous people of the North, Siberia and Far East, and scientists also attended. The ILO was represented by senior advisor on human rights Lee Swepston and our colleague from the ILO Moscow Office Natalia Shcherbakova.

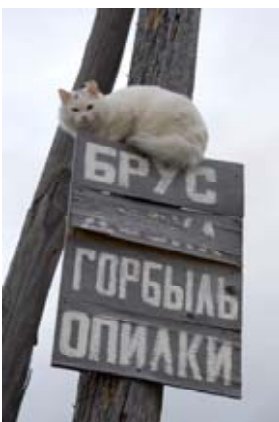
■ President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev signed a decree on implementation of the law on gender equality. Under the document, the state committee for family, women and children's affairs will be in charge of the law's implementation.

■ On December 10-12 an international trade union seminar on social dialogue in public utilities that brought together tripartite partners from Central Asian countries and experts of non-governmental organizations was held in Astana, Kazakhstan. Senior specialist for workers' activities of the ILO Moscow Office Sten Petersen reported on the issue. The seminar was organized by the ILO Moscow Office, the information and training centre of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kazakhstan and the trade union of workers of Kazakhstan's public utilities and services sector.

Russia's northern city of Murmansk



As we had reported in our previous issue, photographer of the ILO Department of Communication in Geneva, Marcel Crozet, was on a seven-day trip to Moscow and Murmansk.



His pictures – of ports and mines, agricultural enterprises and factories for workers with disabilities, street children and migrants – provide a moving

portrait of Russia. His photo report was published in the latest issue of The World of Work magazine of the ILO.



Lovozero mining and processing plant was founded in 1956 in the tundra close to the Arctic circle. Today one of its two mines has been closed and most of 30 km long galleries have been abandoned. But

Lovozero still provides jobs for 470 miners who work day and night to extract titanium, niobium and tantalum.

The cascade of Tulomsky hydropower plants in Murmashi near Murmansk was built in 1937. In 1975 it became a part of the energy system of the North-West of Russia. Now it is fitted with advanced diagnostic equipment. The fact that only 37 specialists manage one of the two plants in this cascade speaks for itself.

The Murmansk commercial seaport is



the fourth largest in cargo turnover in Russia and the second largest in the country's North-West. The port's annual throughput reaches 14.5 million tonnes. The main cargo shipped via this port to foreign countries is Kuzbass coal.



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