

## **Knowledge Sharing initiatives in AFRICA**

### **Regional Employment Forum (REF)**

The Ministerial Statement adopted at the end of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission/Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Ouagadougou, May 2006) recommended that the ECA, in collaboration with ILO and African regional institutions establish a regional employment forum of technical experts and policy facilitators to assist member States in developing capacity and facilitate learning and sharing of country-specific experiences. The ILO Africa Regional Office is hosting the secretariat of REF. A technical task force comprising the AU, the ECA and the ILO are working on the next steps to launch REF which should serve as a network of specialists, academics, policy makers, research institutes, employers' organizations, workers' organizations, employment focused NGOs, regional bodies and international agencies with a strong interest in promoting productive employment and decent work.

### **Decent Work Country Programme peer review for the Quality Assurance Mechanism (QAM) in the Region of Africa**

An Africa based Regional Support Group (RSG) for the QAM is now operative. This group composed of all field experts review the DWCPs elaborated by their colleagues and submit their comments to the QAM template on the intranet. Thus experts in the Harare SRO reviewed Ethiopia's DWCP; while experts in Yaoundé SRO reviewed Mali's DWCP. The peer review system has the effect of sharing knowledge among teams and unifying the Region in its efforts to deliver Decent Work to the constituents.

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### **Decent Work and Gender Equality: A knowledge sharing and training workshop**

This workshop held in Addis Ababa in July convened specialists associated with the NICP programmes in Liberia, Mozambique, Yemen, Cameroon and Ethiopia, the Gender network, representatives from various department in Head Quarters and other field specialists, to share information on projects and gender mainstreaming methodologies within the framework of the DWCP.

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## **Quarterly Updates on Youth Employment and Decent Work in the Region**

The Youth Employment specialist provides quarterly updates on regional activities, in a web based publications entitled **Youth Employment in Africa: Views and News**. This concise newsletter provides updates on ILO activities, national programmes and policies as well as international conferences to all Africa as well as Head Quarters.

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