

ILO signs US\$ 700,000 partnership agreement with Korean Government

For immediate release: Thursday, 30 April 2009 (ROAP/09/16)

BANGKOK (ILO News): The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Government of the Republic of Korea will sign a US\$700,000 partnership agreement later today, funding ILO work in more than 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

The agreement will be signed in Bangkok on Thursday 30 April by Mr Sung-Ki Yi, Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Korea and Mrs Sachiko Yamamoto, Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The "Korea/ILO Partnership Programme Towards the Realization of the Asian Decent Work Decade" will fund technical cooperation work in countries across Asia and the Pacific including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam. ILO experts and eight Korean partner institutions will support the implementation of the programme.

The 2009 programme will focus on four areas of work: Competitiveness, Productivity and Jobs; Labour Market Governance and Social Protection; Labour Migration; and Research on Decent Work and Occupational Safety and Health.

The work plan for 2009 includes creating job opportunities for disabled persons and green jobs, developing a skills institution network and a Laos-Korea Training Centre, setting up a social insurance system, developing a promotional framework on occupational safety and health at work, improving industrial relations in transition economies, skills recognition of migrant workers and labour migration management.

"This valuable support by the Korean Government will contribute to achieving the goals of the Asian Decent Work Decade, including a response to the current financial crisis," said Mrs Yamamoto.

The Korean Government has supported the work of the ILO in Asia and the Pacific since 2002. In the last five years the Korean Government has provided almost US\$5 million in funding, as well as support from technical experts and specialists, and funding for meetings. The ILO - Korea Partnership Programme began in 2004. It works to support the aims of the Asian Decent Work Decade, namely the achievement of full, productive and decent employment for all in the region by 2015.

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