

Regional Skills and Employability Programme for Asia and the Pacific (SKILLS-AP)

FACT SHEET

SKILLS-AP is helping to provide solutions to the many skills development issues confronting countries in the Asia and Pacific region.

- Professional staff in SKILLS-AP provide support and technical advice about skills development to government, employer and worker organizations in 32 ILO member countries from Iran to Kiribati.
- The Regional and Sub-regional Offices are located in Bangkok, New Delhi and Manila. Pacific Island issues are managed from the ILO office in Fiji.
- SKILLS-AP provides on-going support for major skills development projects currently being carried out in Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Pakistan and Bangladesh
- On-going support is also provided for many other countries in the region seeking to improve skills development for both the formal and informal economies in Lao PDR, Mongolia, India, Afghanistan and many of the Pacific Island nations.
- SKILLS-AP has established a Regional Network of partner organisations which includes government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, NCVET, SEAMEO VOCTECH, the Colombo Plan Staff College and a number of training organizations and institutions.
- SKILLS-AP supports and promotes the sharing of resources and technical expertise together with its partner organizations. In April 2008, Regional Skills Network member countries made a commitment to share information and expertise through a range of practical activities and programmes through SKILLS-AP.
- Over the period 2005-2008, SKILLS-AP developed and supported the very successful Training for Rural Economic Empowerment (TREE) project in Pakistan and the Philippines.
- SKILLS-AP will be progressively implementing the resolutions of the 2008 International Labour Conference in relation to skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development.
- Over the period 2007-8, SKILLS-AP held workshops for member countries areas such as:
 - Skills development for economic empowerment and poverty reduction;
 - Developing national skills strategies;
 - Workplace learning;
 - Developing employability skills for young people; and
 - Skills recognition for migrant workers.

CURRENT SITUATION

- Skills Development is an area of vital importance to all countries in Asia and the Pacific.
- Many countries are finding it increasingly difficult to respond to the skills needs of their workforce in a time of increasing globalization, new technology and changing patterns of work.
- Some are just starting to establish national skills development systems and are seeking ways to make the training better match the needs of industry.
- Most have severe shortages of skilled labour due to the out-migration of skilled workers, an ageing workforce or simply the lack of capacity to provide training.

WHAT IS NEEDED

- Some of the other areas that assistance is sought relates to
 - Developing competency standards and qualification frameworks;
 - Capacity building and establishing centres of excellence;
 - Developing effective industry partnerships;
 - Skills strategies for people in the informal economy;
 - Identification of skills gaps of teachers and trainers;
 - Curriculum development;
 - Strategies for regional integration with groups such as Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) or the Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) or ASEAN.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ilo.org/skills-ap>

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