

Support for People with Disabilities

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

FACT SHEET

- There are approximately 400 million disabled people in the Asia and Pacific region and 250 million of them are of working age (UNDP).
- 80 per cent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries and only 10 per cent of children with disabilities are likely to attend primary school in the region (UNESCO).
- Disabled people are often excluded from training and workplaces
- 70 to 80 per cent of disabled people live in rural areas and they most of these will be unemployed
- People with disabilities account for 20 per cent of the world's poor

The ILO's **Skills and Employability Program for Asia and the Pacific (SKILLS-AP)** is the regional focal point for supporting people with disabilities. Activities include:

- Supporting the inclusion of disabilities into mainstream skills development of TVET programs;
- Promoting the ILO Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Liaising with ILO disability specialists in Geneva and
- Liaising with disability organisations within the region;
- Managing a Korean-funded research project on inclusive vocational training - This includes a regional survey and case studies on the extent of inclusion.
- Maintaining the *AbilityAsia* website which includes a database on laws and other resources;
- support for technical projects in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. These projects included:
- Support for policy and legislative changes;
- Support and advice for government agencies, national and international NGOs and disabled persons organizations;
- Training to help people generate incomes;
- Training of trainers at local and national level;

Smaller support programs have also been managed in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Fiji and the Pacific Island countries.

WHAT IS NEEDED

In the Asia Pacific region, support is needed in many areas:

- Appointment of technical specialists and disability experts to support projects within the region;
- Production and updating of resources to support skills development for people with disabilities;
- Ensuring that all funded projects are inclusive of disability issues;
- Development of indicators or targets to ensure inclusion is taking place at all levels;
- Capacity building for disabled person's organizations. This could include rights-based promotion, advocacy training and project management;
- Awareness-raising and advocacy for workers, employers and government agency about disability and effective strategies to support people with disabilities;
- Support for legislative change at the highest levels of government;
- Capacity building among those who are providing mainstream services;
- Train the trainer in areas such as using assistive technology or training approaches for disabled persons;
- Supporting exchanges of information and good practice between countries;
- Supporting innovative case studies and associated research;
- Support for the development of a formal sign language where required;
- Training programmes for instructors;
- Support for accident prevention and rehabilitation;
- Occupational health and safety for disabled persons in the workplace.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ilo.org/abilityasia>

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