

### **What - Strategy**

The project promotes decent and gainful employment for young women and men. The project has interventions in respect of education, entrepreneurship, vocational training, employment services, career guidance, occupational safety and health and corporate social responsibility.

### **Who - Beneficiaries**

The unemployed, underemployed, working poor and discouraged youth in the province of Sabaragamuwa and its two districts of Ratnapura and Kegalle are the direct beneficiaries of project interventions.

### **Where - Project Sites**

The project is active in plantations, adjacent villages and other localities where youth are particularly at risk for labour market exclusion.

### **How - Interventions**

The project offers technical assistance to labour market institutions, other training institutions and ILO constituents involved in a) non-formal and remedial education, b) life skills and career guidance, c) vocational and technical skills.

### **With Whom - Development Partners**

The project's key Government counterpart is the Ministry of Youth Affairs but it links with all relevant line ministries, local authorities, labour market institution and organizations in the province.

### **Background - Youth Employment**

Unemployment and underemployment seriously affects youth in Sri Lanka. Young women and men make up 40 % of the unemployed on the island. The problem of unemployment and the poverty it produces is caused by several factors: a) poor economic infrastructure, b) constraining features of labour market institutions, c) mismatch between available human resources and the needs of business, d) unrealistic expectations of young women and men in respect of employment and training prospects and also e) discrimination on the basis of geography, class, ethnicity and gender. The project contributes to and aligns itself with the implementation of the National Action Plan for Youth Employment in Sri Lanka. Project interventions also match the National Plan of Action for Social Development of the Plantation Community.

### **Funding - Japan**

The ILO has secured funding from the Government of Japan for a four year period starting 2007. The project is under development into a full fledged programme covering more provinces.

**“The YE NAP is prepared to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work...Young people have the potential to make a positive and vital contribution to the social and economic development of Sri Lanka”**

*GoSL Cabinet Memorandum,*

*Serial No: 2006/15, Min.of Skills Dev. & Public Ent.Reform*

**“...In terms of employment, the expected inflow of young people into the labour market, rather than being viewed as a problem, should be recognized as presenting an enormous opportunity and potential for economic and social development.”**

*Juan Somavia, Director-General, ILO*

**"We cannot always build the future of our youth, but we can build our youth for the future"**

*Franklin D Roosevelt (1882-1945)*

**“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul, than the way it treats its...young people.”**

*Nelson Mandela*

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**ILO SRI LANKA  
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT  
(ILO/JAPAN)**

