

News Round-up

[ILO Global Employment Trends 2010](#)

On 27 January the ILO launched its annual report on Global Employment Trends which forecasts unemployment rates for Asia and the Pacific ranging from 4.3% - 5.6% across the region this year. Worldwide, 2009 recorded the highest unemployment rates on record - with an increase of 34 million jobs compared to 2007, and the eve of the global crisis -- reaching a high of 212 million in 2009. While the jobless rate is slowing, and even declining, youth unemployment remains a great concern. [Click for more.](#)

New ILO Indonesia and Sri Lanka web sites

ILO Indonesia (www.ilo.org/jakarta) and ILO Sri Lanka (www.ilo.org/colombo) launched their new web sites in December 2009. Asia and the Pacific is the first region to roll out the new ILO global web site system - beginning with the Regional web site (www.ilo.org/asia), followed by ILO Bangladesh (www.ilo.org/dhaka), ILO Myanmar (www.ilo.org/yangon) and now also Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Skills-AP Community of Practice

ILO Skills-Asia Pacific launched its Community of Practice providing one-stop access to resources, training programmes, events and news on different aspects of skills development, and a workspace to discuss ideas, share experiences and collaborate on projects. Persons interested in skills development in Asia and the Pacific are invited to join at <http://skills-ap.ilobkk.or.th>

Persons with disabilities' right to work

A forum on the "Right to Work of Persons with Disabilities" was held in Manila to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December). The Access to Livelihood: Economic Empowerment Programme of the Philippine Council of Cheshire Homes for the Disabled was launched to ensure recognition of the right to work of persons with disabilities and to improve their lives economically. [Click for more.](#)



Sri Lanka youth job bazaar

134 youth were employed on the spot at a job bazaar in Ratnapura District, east of Colombo on 11 December. Some received guidance or signed up for vocational training with training providers, while others sought employment overseas. Some 600 youth took part in the bazaar organized with support from the ILO/Japan Youth Employment Project. [Click for more.](#)

Union leaders express concern at ASEAN's approach

Trade union leaders from the ten ASEAN member States met from 14 to 16 December in Bangkok to discuss the ASEAN Charter and its implications for workers in South-East Asia. The event was jointly organized by the ILO, the International Trade Union Confederation Asia-Pacific and the ASEAN Trade Union Council. [Click for more.](#)

Cambodian garment sector

The **23rd Synthesis Report on Working Conditions in Cambodia's Garment Sector**, which assesses garment factories' compliance with Cambodian labour law and international labour standards, was released by ILO Better Factories Cambodia on 16 December in Phnom Penh. [Click for more.](#)

ILO Better Factories Cambodia and Radio Mohanokor FM93.5 launched a **radio competition for garment workers** to compete using their knowledge on Cambodia's labour law on 22 December in Phnom Penh. [Click for more.](#)

Employment legislation for people with disabilities

Representatives of government agencies, workers, employers and persons with disabilities participated in a consultation workshop on the employment legislation for people with disabilities, held in Do Son, Hai Phong, Viet Nam 25-26 January. Participants finalized the draft bill on employment and vocational training for people with disabilities and recommended specific regulations for Government Decrees. [Click for more.](#)

Domestic workers' campaign

A booklet: **Domestic Work – Decent Work, A 'Smart Guide' for Domestic Workers in Thailand** providing guidance to domestic workers (foreigners and Thai) on how to work and travel safely in Thailand, how to avoid abusive agents and employers and where to go for help was launched in Bangkok on 28 January. It is published in Burmese, English, Karen (Po and Sakaw), Laotian, Shan and Thai. [Click for more.](#)

India's National Domestic Workers' Forum held a peace march in Delhi on 9 January to observe Domestic Workers' Day. The aim is to raise awareness on the need for decent working conditions for domestic workers, create opportunities for skills building and professionalize domestic work. [Click for more.](#)

Viet Nam Employment Trends report

The first Viet Nam Employment Trends report was launched on 29 January in Hanoi. Based on key labour market indicators covering the period of 1997-2007, the report highlights gains with respect to employment and unemployment indicators in line with recent economic growth rates in Viet Nam. [Click for more.](#)

Feature

Rebuilding lives: From despair to determination



By Neelam Agnihorti, Communication and Information Officer, ILO Subregional Office for South Asia

Suresh's life came to a standstill when he learnt of his HIV+ status three years back. A well-educated young man in his early thirties, Suresh had a well-paying corporate job. He was married and had the dreams and aspirations of any young man his age. Life was good and he had a great future ahead--till one day when he fell ill and was diagnosed with TB. He was shocked when further investigations revealed he was HIV positive. [Click for more.](#)

Look Ahead

Skills training in the workplace

An Asia-Pacific regional meeting and study programme on Skills Training in the Workplace, organized by the ILO/SKILLS-AP/JAPAN project will be held in Chiba, Japan, 1-5 February. [Click for more.](#)

India celebrates ILO's 90th anniversary

Representatives of the Government, workers and employers will participate at the event "Nine Decades of ILO – Retrospect and the Way Forward" in Delhi on 4 February to share their ideas on how to work towards decent work for all. [Click for more.](#)

Education to reduce child labour in Cambodia

The role of Conditional Cash Transfers in the context of education and child labour will be the focus of discussion in Phnom Penh on 4 February. The outcome of the ILO IPEC seminar will be a strategy paper which outlines potential conditionality and enforcement mechanisms. [Click for more.](#)

Decent work for sustainable development in the Pacific

Representatives of governments, workers and employers of the Pacific island countries will meet in Port Vila, Vanuatu 8-9 February to discuss a plan for promoting and accelerating the implementation of ILO Decent Work Country Programmes by identifying constraints and opportunities. [Click for more](#)

ASEAN occupational safety and health management

A workshop on occupational safety and health management systems (OSHMS) in ASEAN will be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, 9-11 February 2010. [Click for more.](#)

Occupational safety and health inspection course

A safety and health inspection training course for countries in Asia and the Pacific will be held in Singapore from 22 to 26 February. It is jointly organized by Singapore's Ministry of Manpower and the ILO.

[Click for more.](#)

Calendar
<u>ILO/SKILLS-AP/JAPAN Technical Workshop and Study Programme on Skills Training in the Workplace</u> 1-5 February 2010, Chiba, Japan
<u>Sri Lanka's Tripartite Review and Planning meeting for 2010-2011</u> 2 February, Colombo, Sri Lanka
<u>2nd Regional Seminar on Industrial Relations in the ASEAN Region</u> 3-4 February, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<u>Cambodian Trade Unions – ILO Strategic Planning Workshop</u> 4 February, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
<u>Workshop on Conditional Cash Transfers as a Means of Promoting Education, Reducing Child Labour and Eliminating Its Worst Forms</u> 4 February, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
<u>National Workshop on the Ratification of Conventions 105 and 144</u> 4-5 February, Vientiane, Lao PDR
<u>ASEAN occupational safety and health management systems (OSHMS) workshop</u> 9-11 February 2010, Vientiane, Lao PDR
<u>Cambodian TUs - ILO Strategic Planning workshop</u> 10 February, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
<u>MTUC-ILO Workshop on Decent Work in the IE: Sharing Organizing Experiences and Strategies</u> 22 February, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<u>ILO Public Seminar on "Green Jobs"</u> 22 February, Tokyo, Japan
<u>Stakeholder Workshop on the Report of Decent Work Country Programme Review in Lao PDR, 2006-2009</u> 23 February, Vientiane, Lao PDR
<u>ILO/Japan Multi-bi Regional Meeting on Green Jobs</u> 23-24 February, Tokyo
<u>Occupational safety and health inspection course</u> 22-26 February 2010, Singapore
<u>LFTU-ILO Workshop on Collective Bargaining Practices</u> 3 March, Vientiane, Lao PDR
<u>CMTU-ILO Workshop on Decent Work in the Informal Economy</u> 23 March, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Bookshelf

[Domestic workers in Thailand: the way forward](#)

Bangkok: ILO January 2010, 30 pp.

This report reviews and analyses the situation of both Thai and non-Thai domestic workers in Thailand, in particular those working in private households, by identifying key issues and making recommendations.

[Youth enterprise in Asia: policies and programmes](#)

Jakarta: ILO, 2009, 25 pp.

The study examines a range of international, regional and national youth entrepreneurship initiatives with a focus on ASEAN member countries.



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