

News Round-up

World Day for Safety and Health at Work

The 2012 World Day for Safety and Health at Work, 28 April, focused on promoting occupational safety and health (OSH) in a green economy. A [new report](#) and a [statement from the ILO's Director General](#) were published to highlight some of the issues. Activities were held throughout Asia and the Pacific including in [Cambodia](#), [Japan](#), [Sri Lanka](#) and [Viet Nam](#). [Click for more.](#)

New database on national responses to global economic crisis

A comprehensive [new database](#) which lists and examines national policy responses to the financial and economic crisis has been launched by the ILO and the World Bank. [Click for more.](#)

Child labour in Papua New Guinea

The first comprehensive child labour report for Papua New Guinea looks at the commercial sexual exploitation of children and children working on the streets. [Click for more.](#)

Youth Employment

In preparation for the global [Youth Employment Forum](#) to be held in Geneva, 23-25 May, events continued to be held throughout Asia-Pacific to gather inputs from young people on [youth employment](#) issues, including in [Bangladesh](#), [China](#), [India](#), [Indonesia](#), [Pakistan](#), [Philippines](#), [Sri Lanka](#), [Thailand](#), [Timor Leste](#) and [Viet Nam](#). In the Philippines a number of projects are supporting youth employment through [local economic development](#), [entrepreneurship](#) and [local partnerships](#).

**APYN Podcast on Youth Employment**

The sixth [APYouthNet](#) podcast discussed some of the outcomes of Youth Employment Month in Asia Pacific. [Click to listen to the show.](#)

ILO Governing Body

The 313st session of the ILO's Governing Body was held 15-30 March in Geneva. Items on the agenda included the situation in [Myanmar](#) and hearings of the [appointment of the next ILO Director General](#). [Click for more.](#)

Latest newsletters

The April 2012 edition of the [Asia-Pacific Labour Market Update](#) provides a snapshot of recent economic and labour market trends in a number of countries in Asia and the Pacific. The [March ILO Better Factories Cambodia newsletter](#) gives the latest news about the developments in the garment sector.

Other Recent Events

[Public Validation Workshop on the National Human Resources and Employment Policy](#)
5 April, Colombo, Sri Lanka

[Improving Recruitment Practices of Employment Agencies Recruiting Migrant Workers](#)
9 April, Colombo, Sri Lanka

[Forum on Information on Inbound Migration Policy, Administration and Measures on the Management of Irregular Migrant Workers from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar](#)
10 April, Bangkok, Thailand

[Fellowship Training Programme on the Management of Training Institutions for Managers and Administrators of Technical/Vocational Training Institutions at HRD Korea](#)
15-28 April, Bangkok, Thailand

Training for Commune and District Level Authorities and Social Organization Staff on Law, Policies and Counselling on Overseas Employment, in Thanh Hoa and Quang Ngai
16-28 April, Quang Ngai, Viet Nam

Forum to Address Labour Exploitation and Trafficking
25 April, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Training Workshop on Work Adjustment for Recycling and Management of Waste
27 April, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Lao Job Fair
27-29 April, Champasak, Lao PDR

Feature

Eight blocks for building better working lives



By Tim De Meyer, Senior Specialist on International Labour Standards and Labour Law, ILO Decent Work Team, Bangkok

May 1st is marked globally as Labour Day, a time to reflect on the near-universal experience of work, its quality and quantity. One ILO initiative is seeking to achieve 100 per cent ratification of the eight ILO Conventions covering fundamental labour standards by 2015. The ILO's Specialist on Labour Standard explains why these instruments are important and how they are linked to relieving poverty and improving lives. [Click for more.](#)

Look Ahead

Preparatory regional meeting for the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians

Experts in labour statistics from throughout the region will meet in Bangkok 2-4 May to review standards and the development of measures on labour underutilization, in preparation for the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), being convened by the ILO in Geneva, October 2013. [Click for more.](#)

Viet Nam photo competition to fight child labour

A national photo competition under the theme: "Child Protection – Let's end child labour!" is being organized by the ILO with the Bureau of Child Protection and Care, the Viet Nam Professional Photographers Association, and the media. Entries are open until 30 May. [Click for more.](#)

Social protection training in Thailand

Methods and strategies for costing, financing and monitoring social protection schemes will be discussed at a three-day training course to be held from 15 to 17 May at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. [Click for more.](#)

Calendar

Launch of the Vermicomposting Project
7 May, Quezon, Philippines

Start and Improve Your Business Training of Trainers (SIYB-ToT) Post Evaluation Workshop
10 May, Quezon, Philippines

A Regional Consultative Forum on the Welfare & Protection of Migrant Workers
13-15 May, Amman, Jordan

Training Programme on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons for Taxi Drivers
15-20 May, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Community-Based Pilot Training
21-23 May, Quezon, Philippines

Malaysian Ministry of Human Resources/ILO Training Course on the Labour
Dimensions of Trafficking in Persons
21-23 May, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Training Programme on Trafficking in Persons for Immigration Officers
22-24 May, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Visioning Event on Managing Skills and Employability for Decent Work through
Building a Community of Practice and a Roadmap for the Regional Skills Programme
22-24 May, Bangkok, Thailand

Training Programme on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, for Recruitment Agents
28 May, Colombo, Sri Lanka

101st International Labour Conference
30 May-15 June, Geneva, Switzerland

Bookshelf

Equality and non-discrimination at work in East and South-East Asia: Guide – [pdf]

ILO: Bangkok, 2012, 146 pp.

This guide introduces concepts and approaches for the elimination of discrimination and promotion of equality at work in the fields of law, economics, employment, social policy, enterprise development and workers' rights.

Reports on returned migrants to the Philippines and Thailand From Asia to Europe and Back – [pdf]

ILO: Bangkok, 2012, 46 pp.

The Philippines and Return Migration – [pdf]

ILO: Manila, 2012, 29 pp.

These reports provide information on migrant workers from Thailand and the Philippines who went to Europe, particularly those who were trafficked or suffered labour exploitation. The papers also look at the reintegration services available in the returning countries, as well as regional cooperation and agreements on migrant workers.



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