In 2009, with technical support from the ILO, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic was able to pass a Skills Development Decree to support the development and implementation of a skills strategy and standards, and ensure that the level and types of competencies available match the requirements of the labour market.

The formation and development of skills is important for socio-economic development. It is expected that the standards created will encourage skills development in the Lao workforce, and help to prepare for labour migration and integration resulting from the introduction of the ASEAN Economic Community 2015. Like other ASEAN member states, Lao People’s Democratic Republic has increased its efforts to create national skills standards that can support the mutual recognition of skills across the AEC.

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic continues to place a high priority on its National and Social Development Plan, and the need to build and develop skills. The Skills Development Decree provides the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare with a mandate to develop national skills standards within the priority sectors. This project aims to support the Lao People’s Democratic Republic’s commitment in skills development; work with the construction sector started in 2009 and expanded to the automotive and ICT (information and communications technology) sectors in 2011 and 2013, respectively.

The project also aims to contribute to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Decent Work Country Programme (2011–15) by increasing the number of men, women and youth who possess skills in line with labour market demands.
# Lao-Korea National Skills Standards Development in the Construction, Automotive & ICT Sectors

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

National skills standards are developed in the following priority areas in the construction sector: cabinet making, concrete skilled worker, cornice layer, electrical installation, glass & aluminum, masonry & plastering, building painting, plumbing, tiling, and welding.

The priority areas in automotive sector include: automotive engine, automotive electrical/electronic system, automotive chassis, automotive train and axles, autobody painting and refinishing, autobody repair, and autobody airconditioning.

The priority areas in the ICT sector include: computer installation & maintenance, mobile phone maintenance, web development, database development, computer network installation, software development.

Prior to the development of the national skills standards the following activities were undertaken to lay suitable foundations for the success of the project.

- Identification and selection of the priority skills standards.
- Drafting of the skills standards, with the help of Korean experts seconded to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.
- Validation of skills standards.
- Establishment of a taskforce or committee that meets regularly to monitor and evaluate progress, including the formation of an implementation plan for the skills standards and preparations for testing arrangements.
- Development of a database to provide baseline information on current demand for skills and future trends.
- Participation in relevant fellowship and training programmes in the Republic of Korea, in particular standards development, including the testing and certification system.
- Development of testing modules, including pilot testing and validation.
- Training of a group of assessors and officials to be key trainers.
- Publication and dissemination of the skills standards.

## PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Publishing the skills standards and testing modules for the construction, automotive and ICT sections, in both Lao and English.
- National implementation of the skills standards in all technical and vocational education and training programmes.
- Certifying workers who acquire the skills and pass the assessment.
- Strengthening the capability of MOLSW and the technical committee in skills standards development.
- Improving the ability of the technical committee to analyze technical content and identify the appropriate testing and assessment tools.
- Building the capacity of the Lao-Korea Vocational Training Centre to conduct the skills testing and certification process.
- Creating a database of skills standards for the three priority sectors.
- Increase the number of men and women with adequate skills for employment.

## Contact Information:

ILO/Korea Partnership Programme  
ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Ave  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand  

Tel. +66 2288 1234  
Fax. +66 2280 1735  
Email: BANGKOK@ilo.org  
Web site: www.ilo.org/asia