



Skills and Employability Network Updates

Asian Decent Work Decade Knowledge Network

September 2014, Issue #17

Dear Skills & Employability Network Members,

This newsletter - in a new format - brings you the latest news and resources from the Asia Pacific region. Let us know what you think of it! This edition includes information about China Ministerial visit to Cambodia for ILO/China collaboration; ILO Regional Skills Programme's new Roadmap; meeting on the ASEAN Mutual Recognition of Skills, and more.

Kind regards, the Skills and Employability team

China Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security visits Cambodia for ILO/China collaborative project

The ILO/China South-South Cooperation Project to Expand Employment Services and Enhance Labour Market Information marks the first collaboration between the People's Republic of China and the ILO. The project is implemented in Cambodia and Lao PDR. The People's Republic of China's provides support to the initiative both through financial resources and a wide range of knowledge exchange initiatives.

H.E. Mr. Xin Changxing, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, People's Republic of China made a visit to Cambodia during 8-10 September 2014. During the visit, the Vice Minister participated in the National Project Steering Committee meeting for the Project. This Committee is the decision-making authority that sets policies and direction for the Project. The Vice Minister also met with the beneficiaries at the Phnom Penh Job Centre. The visit concluded with an inaugural ceremony of the Siem Reap Provincial Job Fair on the morning of the 10th of September.

The High Level visit by the Vice Minister, and delegates, cements the support and commitment from the People's Republic of China to the first collaborative effort with the ILO. Central to this cooperation is the technical assistance, advisory services and sharing of

good practices and experiences by the People's Republic of China with both Cambodia and Lao PDR.



H.E. Mr. Xin Changxing, Vice Minister, participates in the Second National Project Steering Committee on 8 September 2014.



Siem Reap Provincial Career Fair, 10-11 September 2014.

Skills & Employability Network Member Survey Results

Thank you to everybody who participated in our member survey! Take a look at the [summary of the results here](#). The survey was conducted during May - June 2014 with the aim of improving our services to the members.

ILO-DFID Partnership Programme provides training for women and girls in Nepal to prevent trafficking into domestic labour

The ILO in partnership with the Nepal Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) is implementing a programme on "**Fair Recruitment and Decent Work for Women Migrant Workers in South Asia and the Middle East**" known as **Work in Freedom**, funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). This five-year, inter-regional technical cooperation programme takes a targeted approach to prevent the trafficking of women and girls into domestic labour and the garment sector in South Asia and the Middle East. The programme in Nepal plans to reach approximately 25,000 women throughout the project period (2013 - 2018). This is done by engaging governments, trade unions, employers' organizations, and civil society around 3 specific objectives:

- To provide reliable information on overseas employment opportunities, and build capacity for matching qualified job seekers with the demand from foreign employers.
- To reduce migration costs and recruitment abuses in countries of origin and destination by improving recruitment services; and increase protection of migrant

workers during employment.

- To enhance training, portability of skills for outgoing and returning migrant workers, and to promote the development impact of migration.

The Foreign Employment Promotion Board, with technical support from the ILO, plans to work on pre-departure information and improving skills of women migrant workers for domestic work through improving existing curriculum and training manuals based on learning from the best practices followed in other countries.

For further information, contact Bharati Pokharel: bharatis@ilo.org

ILO Regional Skills Programme Taking Stock and Mapping the Way Forward

The ILO Regional Skills Programme's meeting ***Taking Stock and Mapping the Way Forward*** took place in Bangkok, Thailand, on the 24 and 25 July 2014. The tripartite meeting brought together 19 participants representing government, employers' and workers' organizations from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Over the course of the two days, the participants discussed challenges and priorities, and exchanged experiences in the area of skills development. The discussion was lively and the participatory sessions resulted in a consolidated plan on skills development for the Asia Pacific region for 2014- 2015. The plan outlines the priority areas of work and priority products and services to be delivered by the Regional Skills Programme.

The following are the priority areas of work identified:

- Youth Employment;
- Regional Model Competency Standards, Competency Based Training and Migration;
- Skills for Green Jobs;
- Skills for Rural Development; and
- Skills Anticipation and Labour Market Information Systems (LMIS)

The cross-cutting priority areas of work identified were:

- Gender Equality
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Labour Market Information Systems

The Regional Skills Team thanks the participants for their active participation and valuable

inputs! Access [the meeting report, including the new Roadmap, presentations and further information to the meeting here.](#)



Upcoming: Study Tour in China on Employment Services

The ***ILO/China South-South Cooperation Project to Expand Employment Services and Enhance Labour Market Information*** will organize a study tour on ***Employment Services, Job Immersion and Introduction to Labour Market Information*** in China in October 2014. Some 26 participants from Cambodia and Lao PDR, with tripartite representation, will embark on a three week long comprehensive study tour that combines practical training with lectures and theory as well as visits to job centres in Beijing, Jiu Jiang and Shanghai.

The participants will receive first-hand information on China's achievements in the area of public employment services (PES) and dissemination of quality labour market information. The study tour aims to strengthen the capacity of the participants on employment services and labour market information through exposure to good practices and practical experience.



China's modernized public employment services centres offering an array of services through modern technology.

Meeting on the Implementation of Mutual Recognition of Skills in ASEAN countries

High-level representatives from ASEAN member countries met in Jakarta in September to deliberate on the cross-border recognition of skills in the view of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

The three-day meeting, from 24-26 September, set out to discuss the mutual recognition of skills, once the AEC comes into effect in 2015, and develop action plans through discussions. The meeting was well supported by the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration (MOMT), ASEAN SECRETARIAT and active participants from government, workers' and employers' organizations.

In-depth technical discussions were held on the role and process of ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework (AQRF), a translation device to enable existing frameworks, the Regional Model Competency Standards (RMCS), and training systems at national level for comparability in order to facilitate better labour market mobility within the region. It was also reaffirmed that the mutual recognition of skills (MRS) is a critical component of the AQRF in recognizing the skilled migrant labour among the ASEAN member states. To implement the MRS, the participating countries further identified specific priority occupations in response to countries and region's needs such as bricklaying, tilling, plastering, domestic work, housekeeping, and committed a series of follow-up actions with targeted collaborating countries for further bilateral/ multilateral recognition.



The meeting placed a specific focus on the CLM member states (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar) by commencing one full day dedicated to assisting them firm up their action plans. All the three countries consolidated country action plans were developed with focus on training of trainers and assessors, national consultation and capacity building workshops, curriculum development for identified occupations.

Thailand played the key role this the meeting as a collaborating ASEAN member state and also committed to provide training programme to CLM countries.

Regional Training on Employment Services

The ILO Regional Training on Employment Services was jointly organized by the ILO's Regional Skills Programme (RSP) for Asia and the Pacific, the ILO SKILLS headquarter, in collaboration with the ILO's International Training Centre in Turin.

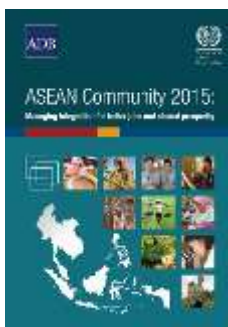
The training, held from 11 to 15 August 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, brought together the total of 17 representatives of governments, employers' and workers' organizations from Cambodia, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. It was designed to provide opportunities for participating countries to improve their knowledge and strengthen their capacities on the operations and functioning of their public employment services as well as to expand their network to provide jobseekers with better opportunities for domestic and overseas employment.

The training included a field visit to the Thai Ministry of Labour and one of its Bangkok employment offices, with the support of the Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand. At the end of the training, the country action plan to develop employment services was produced.

Press release: http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/WCMS_300209/lang--en/index.htm



Featured Publications



[ASEAN Community 2015: Managing integration for better jobs and shared prosperity](#)

This ADB/ILO report examines the impact of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) on labour markets and gives recommendations for better jobs and equitable growth, including enhancing skills. Chapter 4 deals specifically with the issue of skills development.



[The road to the ASEAN economic community 2015: the challenges and opportunities for enterprises and their representative organizations](#)

This ILO paper examines the challenges and opportunities for businesses brought about by the ASEAN Economic Community integration. The report highlights skills as a major policy concern for enterprises, and makes recommendations for national employers and business organizations to this end.



[Assessment of the readiness of ASEAN Member States for implementation of the commitment to the free flow of skilled labour within the ASEAN Economic Community from 2015](#)

This report, prepared under the ILO ASEAN TRIANGLE Project, assesses activities in ASEAN countries related to the mutual recognition agreements and core competencies developed for job/occupations in priority

sectors, in preparation for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

More [Resources on the Skills & Employability Network Platform](#)

News from the Region

- [Skills fair to help disabled increase their employability](#)
- [Quality apprenticeships “gold standard” to get youth into decent jobs](#)
- [Philippines: TVET system is ASEAN 2015-ready](#)
- [India: Govt readies database on labour market](#)
- [Thailand: Skilled workers tool up for AEC entry](#)

More [News on the Skills & Employability Network Platform](#)