



**N°22, December 2012**

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Global Wage Report 2012/13: Workers getting a smaller slice of the pie



Workers' share of national income has been shrinking in most countries, causing public dissatisfaction and increasing the risk of social unrest, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has said in a report. "It has affected perceptions of what is fair, particularly given the huge payments some company executives have been getting," said Patrick Belser, a co-author of the Global Wage Report 2012/13. Simply put, more of the national pie has been going to profits, and less to workers. This has in many cases hurt the economy by

suppressing demand or causing unsustainable household debts. [Read more...](#)

## INTERVIEW

### 21 million trapped in modern slavery



Modern slavery, forced labour, still traps more than 20 million people around the world in different forms including debt bondage, forced begging, or trafficking. According to Beate Andrees, Head of the ILO's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour, one of the main problems in the fight against modern slavery is how to identify victims of this crime. [Read more...](#)

## FOCUS

### Labour market gender gap: Two steps forward, one step back



The gender gap in global labour markets showed some convergence in the earlier part of the last decade but increased after the crisis erupted in 2007, according to an ILO report produced in collaboration with UN Women. The picture varies considerably among regions. [Read more...](#)

### Wanted: Local workers for the oil and gas industry



Global demand for crude oil and natural gas has escalated in recent years, leading to a surge in investments and, consequently, increasing shortages of qualified workers. Global energy demand will increase by 35 per cent from 2010 to 2035, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). [Read more...](#)

# International Labour Standards

## Three countries ratify ILO Conventions



Honduras, Mauritius, and Portugal have ratified a series of ILO Conventions in November 2012. [Read more...](#)

## EUROPE

### Moscow Decent Work conference opens with calls for growth and jobs



Collective international action is needed for economic recovery, says ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder, at a landmark ILO-Russia Decent Work conference. “The challenge facing the G20 is to build a programme of action for growth and jobs to which each country is committed because it meets a domestic priority, and which also contributes to collective international action that sets off a virtuous circle of recovery,” Guy Ryder said. [Read more...](#)

### Competitiveness and employment: Trying to square the circle



The global economic crisis has led several European countries to introduce measures to lower costs for enterprises. The aim is to give a cost advantage to exporting enterprises over competitors in other countries. Before the common currency was introduced in 1999, countries in Europe with large trade deficits would change their currency exchange rates. Today, that is not possible, since they all share the same currency. [Read more...](#)

### Guy Ryder: 'ILO and EU have a shared responsibility of realizing decent work for all'



For the 10th time in a row, and in the presence of the ILO Director-General Guy Ryder, the ILO and the European Commission held their annual high-level meeting defining the focus of their cooperation for the next year. At this meeting, Guy Ryder honored the historical partnership between both institutions and looked at the common challenges in the face of the global crisis. [Read more...](#)

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

### An interview with Mr Yoshiteru Uramoto, Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



After his first few weeks in the post Mr Yoshiteru Uramoto, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, talks about his impressions of the region and his priorities. [Read more...](#)

### Wages in Asia outperform other regions - new ILO report



Wages in Asia have outperformed those in most other parts of the world, including the Western economies, according to a new report from the ILO. Between 2000 and 2011 wages in Asia almost doubled. Globally real average monthly wages grew by just under a quarter in the same period, while in the developed world the increase was only around 5 per cent over the entire period. [Read more...](#)

## **Thailand: ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder meets workers' representatives and receives a petition**



Mr Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General met representatives of Thai workers' organizations at the United Nations on 14 December 2012 in Bangkok. The workers requested the ILO to encourage the Government to ratify the ILO Conventions concerning freedom of association and collective bargaining. He also received a petition regarding a dismissal and seeking reinstatement.

[Read more...](#)

## **ILO Director-General arrives in Philippines, extends sympathies to typhoon survivors**



The Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Mr Guy Ryder, arrives in Manila for a two-day visit and extends his sympathies to those who lost their loved-ones a year ago in Washi (Sendong) and more recently by Typhoon Bopha (Pablo). [Read more...](#)

## **ARAB STATES**

### **US\$2.5 million to improve labour migration governance in the MiddleEast**



Low skilled migrants in Middle East can look forward to better labour migration governance and improved protection mechanisms, the objectives of a major regional project launched by the ILO this month, and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). [Read more...](#)

## **Migrant workers in Jordan are making their voices heard**



Jordan's foreign workforce is large and growing fast. Around half a million migrants, most from Asian and Arab countries, toil long hours under sometimes difficult conditions. For years, migrants who were over-worked, underpaid or abused in other ways, had no bargaining power as they were barred from joining trade unions. [Read more...](#)

## **AFRICA**

### **ILO and AU to scale up AU's workplace policy on HIV and AIDS**



The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the African Union Commission (AUC) signed a Letter of Intent marking the beginning of a collaboration to scale up the HIV and AIDS response programme in AU's workplace. [Read more...](#)

## **African Development Bank President spells out agenda for job creation**



"While there is no silver bullet to create the millions of jobs that Africa needs and to make sure nobody is left behind, opportunities now abound, provided we get the basics right," African Development Bank President Dr Donald Kaberuka said in a speech at the ILO. [Read more...](#)

## **Liberia: Waging war on youth unemployment**



Tackling youth unemployment is a complex task in this West African nation and starts with improving access to basic education. [Read more...](#)

## AMERICAS

### Latin America, Caribbean unemployment continues falling



The urban unemployment rate in Latin America and the Caribbean fell to 6.4 per cent in 2012 and is expected to continue its downward trend to drop to 6.2 per cent in 2013, according to the International Labour Organization's Panorama Laboral. [Read more...](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Global Wage Report 2012-13



The new report entitled "Global Wage Report 2012/13: Wages and Equitable Growth" looks at differences in wages around the globe and how they have been influenced by the economic crisis. It includes global and regional wage trends and statistics, as well as policy recommendations. [Read more...](#)

### 'The ILO and the EU, partners for decent work and social justice. Impact of ten years of cooperation'



The ILO and the EU have considerably intensified their cooperation, both within and outside the EU. While their cooperation dates back to 1958, during the last decade it has evolved into a genuine partnership involving concrete operations in the field. By engaging with the ILO in technical cooperation, including evidence based policy development, the EU contributes to the realization of decent work in practice. [Read more...](#)

#### For more Information, contact:

Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV)  
4, route des Morillons  
1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland  
Tel.: +41 22 799.70.21  
Fax: +41 22 799.65.70  
Email: [actrav\[at\]ilo.org](mailto:actrav[at]ilo.org)

Follow us on



[You Tube](#)



[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

Edited by: Mamadou Kaba Souare, Email: [souare\[at\]ilo.org](mailto:souare[at]ilo.org)

*If you wish to discontinue receiving this Newsletter, please click [Unsubscribe](#)*