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World day against child labour— June 12

Education: the right response to child labour

Education is critical to breaking the cycle of child labour and poverty as well as eradicating child labour in its worst forms by 2016, the ILO reported.

ILO Director-General Juan Somavia said “We must work for every child’s right to education so no child has to work for survival. The goal is quality education for children and decent work for adults”.

The ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) published a new technical report on child labour and education based on surveys of child labour in 34 countries from all regions of the world. At the same time, as part of a new year-long campaign on “Gender equality at the heart of decent work”, the ILO Bureau for Gender Equality also highlighted combating child labour through education with the slogan “Formula for progress: Educate both girls

and boys!”

The report cites UNESCO statistics showing that some 75 million children of primary school age were out of school in 2006, a reduction from 103 million in 1999. The report also acknowledges that the number of children involved in economic activities has been falling. In 2004 it was estimated there were some 20 million fewer economically active children aged 5-14 than there had been four years earlier. However there remained 191 million children aged 5-14 engaged in some kind of economic activity. Of this number 165 million were involved in child labour.

“On this World Day Against Child Labour the focus is on: *Education - the right response to child labour*”, Mr. Somavia said. He called for an “educational dimension” in the struggle against child labour, saying “let us pledge to work together for

education for all children at least to the minimum age of employment...I urge you to lend your voice and action to the worldwide movement against child labour”.

As part of its efforts to strengthen action to tackle child labour by boosting access to education, the ILO is coordinating the work of an inter-agency partnership, the Global Task Force on Child Labour and Education for All, which brings together UN agencies, teachers, and civil society representatives, to strengthen measures to help child labourers.

In addition, 12 UN agencies through the UN Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights Education (UNIACC) have issued a joint Statement for World Day which can be found at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education>.

Street children in Russia: Back to school, back to life

The ILO has estimated that some 165 million children between the age of 5 and 14 are involved in child labour. Many of these children work long hours, often in dangerous conditions. Education provides a means through which economically and socially excluded children and youth can lift themselves out of poverty.

VYBORG, Russian Federation – How does it feel to be a working street child in today’s Russia?

Vanya, 14, from the city of Vyborg in the Leningrad region, knows the answer from first-hand experience. He is one of those children transporting and loading goods at the market, collecting bottles or other waste, washing cars etc. Some of these children are also involved in illicit activities.

Many of these children, like Vanya, have a tragic life story behind them.

Vanya’s father has left the family. He now lives in St. Petersburg and refuses to help his son. Vanya’s mother, a housewife, killed Vanya’s elder brother in a domestic quarrel and is now in prison. So the boy

found himself completely abandoned.

According to the recent ILO survey carried out in the city of St. Petersburg and the surrounding region, the main causal factors leading to child labour are economic, social, and family problems. The atmosphere in the family and the parents’ way of life can force children to leave home and turn to the street. In the Vyborg district three of every five children come from incomplete and so called ‘troubled families’. Children run away to the street not only to escape their negative family environment but also to find shelter and food.

To make a living Vanya worked at the local market transporting and loading goods, collecting bottles and cans. What happened then was typical for many working street children: he stopped going to school, stayed in the sixth form for the second year and finally dropped out of school.

The ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) estimates that only 66.8 per cent of working street children in the Leningrad region study regularly, while others drop out ei-



ther temporarily or for good. Vyborg district is no exception: among 609 children from the troubled families who live there, 107 are not enrolled in compulsory education.

The same study shows that among children involved in illicit activities and prostitution, the percentage of those regularly attending school decreases considerably – down to 30.7 per cent.

The fate of many children like Vanya is unfortunately quite predictable. However, everything changed when his aunt, who started an official adoption procedure, came to specialists of the ILO/IPEC rehabilitation project and received their assistance.

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Street children in Russia: Back to school, back to life

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This Finland-funded project started in the Vyborg district two years ago. It includes two components – a rehabilitation model for children and their families, and child labour monitoring at secondary schools.

Vanya started to attend psychological consultations together with his aunt and guardian. At first specialists noted his extreme suspicion and mistrust towards people around him – an attitude that is typical for street children. But several months later they could already talk about positive changes - the boy became more communicative; he returned to school, and made new

friends there. Teachers proposed additional separate classes to Vanya to help him catch up with the curriculum. As a result, he completed the academic year without low grades and was transferred to the next form.

The rehabilitation specialists are proud of him because he does not work any longer, he quit smoking, and he is happy in his new family – in other words, he started a new life.

“Under our project, 74 girls and 47 boys like Vanya have received medical and psychological assistance. They all stopped working and returned to school, says IPEC project coordinator Alexey Boukharov. “It means they received a chance for proper

education, safe life and decent work in the future”.

Now the project has shown that education and training can be a lifeline enabling street children to become fulfilled and productive adults and thereby break the cycle of poverty, the prospect for an extension of the project activities increases.

“The two-year project is being completed but we do not feel that it is coming to an end – first of all because its main objective has been achieved: prevention and rehabilitation models developed and tested in the Vyborg district may now be replicated by other social services”, concludes ILO child labour expert Klaus Guenther. ■



97th International Labour Conference concludes

The 97th annual Conference of the International Labour Organization concluded its work on June 13 after adopting a landmark Declaration designed to strengthen the promotion of Decent Work and develop new ways of responding to the growing challenges of globalization.

The annual International Labour Conference, which attracted more than 4,000 delegates representing governments, work-

ers and employers from the ILO's 182 member States, also held wide-ranging discussions on rural poverty reduction, and considered a number of issues regarding adherence to international labour standards. In addition, it hosted a high-level panel discussion on the global food crisis and marked the annual World Day Against Child Labour.

adoption of the “Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization”. On 6 June, the Conference Plenary discussed the ILO's new Global Report on freedom of association. During the last 10 years, the ILO has achieved a 50 per cent increase in ratifications of its eight fundamental Conventions on forced labour, child labour, discrimination, and freedom of association and collective bargaining, bringing universal ratification within reach.

The Committee on Rural Employment held an in-depth discussion on the promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction. The Committee underscored the central role of agriculture as an engine of growth and poverty reduction.

International labour standards

This year, the Conference Committee on Application of Standards marked the 60th anniversary of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No.87), the 50th anniversary of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No.111) and the 10th anniversary of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1998.

The Committee again held a special sitting on the application by Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), following up measures taken in the context of Article 33 of the ILO Constitution.

The Committee expressed its profound concern at the forced labour situation in Myanmar, as reflected in the observation of the Committee of Experts. It concluded that none of the recommendations of the

Commission of Inquiry had yet been implemented, and that forced labour continued to be widespread, including the recruitment of children into the armed forces. The Committee again urged the Government to fully implement all the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry which had been adopted by the Governing Body more than ten years ago.

In the case of Belarus, the Committee welcomed the information provided by the



government that it was not going forward with the draft trade union law in its current form. It however expressed its deep concern about new allegations of harassment and pressure directed toward independent trade unions. It also regretted once again that the key recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry had not yet been implemented. The Committee expected that the Governing Body would be in a position to note positive developments at its November 2008 session.

At the conclusion of the Conference, ILO Director-General said, “This Conference demonstrated again the vitality of tripartism at the heart of the Organization, now re-energized to fully discharge its mandate in the context of the challenges of today.” Mr. Somavia said the Conference had “placed decent work at the heart of the ILO's institutional system” through the

The Committee also referred to serious violations of the application by Bangladesh and Zimbabwe of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87). ■

Occupational safety and health in the region

Again this year, several pages of our Newsletter's June issue are devoted to the summing-up of the results of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work as well as the events our partners schedule in the subregion to mark the World Day.

Astana hosts international conference to ensure demographic stability

On April 24-25, on the eve of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work Kazakhstan's capital Astana hosted an international conference focusing on the improvement of working conditions as a means to promote demographic stability. This was Kazakhstan's first occupational safety and health (OSH) conference.

"From year to year Kazakhstan's industrial production as well as labour productivity grow at a high pace. This determines the growth of employed population as well as occupational injury risks. Thus, an occupational death toll increased from 315 in 2003 to 408 in 2007," said Kazakh Labour and Social Welfare Minister Berdybek Saparbayev.

"Moreover, the frequency rate of occupational fatalities exceeds by 2-2.5 times that of EU member-states. Every year from 400 to 500 occupational disease cases are registered in Kazakhstan. This is one of the reasons for the country's low life expectancy, which is lower by 4.5 years than that in Russia and by 17.5 years than that in Japan," he said.

"Kazakhstan is the only country in Central Asia that has prepared and updated the national OSH profile and approved a national OSH programme. These are the most important steps towards the ratification and imple-

mentation of ILO's Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (C187)," said senior OSH specialist of the ILO Moscow Office, Wiking Husberg.

Participants were unanimous in their opinion that the government, businesses and research organizations should pool their efforts to resolve OSH issues in a most effective way.



The conference concluded in signing a resolution with recommendations for the reduction of the occupational injury rate and OSH improvement. The resolution mainly recommends the introduction of the interstate GOST 12.0.230-2007 by all ministries of the republic and different economic facilities and enterprises under their jurisdiction. ■

Kazakhstan adopts new OSH profile

Kazakhstan's Labour and Social Protection Ministry presented a national Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) profile on March 19.

The profile analyzes the country's occupational safety and health situation and the level of occupational accidents and diseases and anticipates the drafting of new OSH laws and the upgrading of existing laws. It calls for the government as well as representative associations of employers and trade unions to be engaged.

The preparation of a national Occupational Safety and Health profile is an important step in the process of creating a realistic and effective national OSH programme.

The national profile describes Kazakhstan's social partnership mechanisms, including public occupational safety and health measures.

Kazakhstan is working out necessary standards related to the OSH management system. The Republic has established an occupational safety and health research institute as well as vocational training centres to train and retrain occupational safety specialists.

ILO's OSH project in North-West Russia enlarges scope

For several years the North-West Federal District continues to top the list of Russia's regions with high occupational accidents rates. Therefore, one of the key tasks of the second phase of the ILO project on improving the occupational safety and health system in North-West Russia that was launched in April, 2007 is to engage in systematic work to tackle this problem with regional labour institutions and social partners.

At present, all areas of cooperation have been defined and a five-year occupational accident analysis has been used to choose regions for the ILO project. Thus, the project is primarily aimed at improving working conditions in the Vologda, Leningrad, Murmansk regions and the Republic of Karelia.

The ILO Moscow Office and the pilot regions' labour inspections and committees

signed plans for cooperation within the project's framework. Another important instrument of the project is preparation of regional OSH profiles based on recommendations of the ILO Moscow Office, WHO Europe Office and the Finnish Institute for Occupational Health. The Murmansk region was the first in the North-West Russia to draft such a profile. By this October the Vologda and the Leningrad regions as well as the Republic of Karelia plan to complete their profiles.

The ILO Moscow Office together with its constituents organized practical workshops on occupational risk assessment and introduced the ILO methodology to calculate costs of economic losses from occupational accidents as well as adopt modern OSH management systems based on GOST 12.0.230-2007 identical to ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines.

"Experience of ILO's North-West Russia project attracts high attention in the country's other regions. The Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District and the Perm Territory that urge us to start the project in their territories can be cited as examples. In this respect other CIS member-states can also be mentioned. Thus, on April 22 - on the eve of the World Occupational Safety and Health Day - we held a workshop for Ukraine's employers' organizations," said Marat Rudakov, the project's coordinator.

The workshop was organized on the basis of the agreement between the ILO Moscow Office and the ILO Budapest Office, which covers Ukraine. Participants in the workshop welcomed the ILO Moscow Office's systematic approach and practical introduction of modern OSH management systems at enterprises. ■



Experts gather to discuss occupational health service systems in Russia

On May 28, Russia's Health and Social Development Ministry at the initiative of the Finnish Institute for Occupational Health and the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-Being (NDPHS) summoned an international conference to discuss the occupational health service system in Russia. The conference was organized in cooperation with the ILO, the World Health Organization, the International Commission on Occupational Health and the Russian Institute of Occupational Health.

The event brought together over 60 representatives of OSH services, labour inspection, the State Duma, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, international experts and observers from Belarus, Georgia and Kazakhstan.

The conference is an element of the Russian Federal Institute of Occupational Health's programme "Health of Russia's working population".

The Conference noted that Russian workers' health state raises high concerns.

The mortality rate of the able-bodied population due to accidents, poisonings and injuries exceeds by 2.5 times that of the developed countries and by 1.5 times – of the developing ones. According to the forecast, during 2006-2015 the loss of able-bodied population may exceed 10 million.



The Russian Ministry of Economics estimated the decrease of the active working population exceeds by 2,5 times the decrease of Russia's total population and this tendency will remain stable within 10-15 years. According to official statistics, one in six persons works in dangerous and hazard conditions, and in certain branches of economy – one in two-three workers.

The 60th World Health Assembly held on May 23, 2007 adopted the resolution and approved the Global plan of action on workers' health for 2008-2017 that state that workers health is a necessary condition for higher productivity and economic development. Thus, one of the most essential components aimed at the preservation of workers' health is the creation of an occupational health service system.

The Conference recommended the Health and Social Development Ministry to study the EU experience as well as ILO and WHO's recommendations and develop the model of health services for enterprises, improve the working population's health to increase labour productivity and resolve demographic problems.

At the federal level it was recommended to adopt policies and strategies to develop occupational health services and introduce the WHO/ILO/ICOH Basic Occupational Health Service model. Moreover, regions should prepare regional profiles and conduct regular training of OSH specialists, labour inspectors as well as employers and employees. ■



Korea hosts World OSH Congress

Over 4,000 industry leaders, policy-makers and specialists attended the largest international event on occupational safety and health, the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work that took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on June 29-July 2. Jointly organized every three years by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Social Security Association (ISSA), it aims at contributing to the development of a 'preventative safety and health culture' through the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences. The XVIII World Congress was hosted by the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), under the theme "Safety and health at work: A societal responsibility".

The ILO released its new report, "Beyond deaths and injuries: The ILO's role in promoting safe and healthy jobs".

"The plateau in efforts to turn the objective of decent, safe and healthy working conditions into a reality must be overcome", said Mr. Assane Diop, Executive Director of the ILO Social Protection Sector.

According to the ILO report, efforts to tackle OSH issues are often dispersed and fragmented and fail to achieve a progressive reduction of work-related fatalities, accidents

and diseases. The integration of OSH principles and requirements into national and international action is urgent to address the consequences of a continuous adaptation to a rapidly changing world of work, the ILO says.

The ILO called for a preventative safety and health culture during the World Congress, and recommend that it become an integral part of wider societal culture and economic development. In addition, the ILO urged further ratification and application of the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention No.187 adopted by the ILO member States at its International Labour Conference in 2006.

The ILO Moscow Office was represented by a group of experts led by senior OSH specialist Wiking Husberg. They shared OSH experience and said that eleven CIS countries approved in 2007 the new inter-state standard GOST 12.0.230-2007 identical to the ILO-OSH 2001. Several CIS countries, such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, have included modernisation of their OSH systems in their tripartite Decent Work Country Programmes with ILO.

The Summit adopted an unprecedented Declaration on Safety and Health at Work. ■

St Petersburg discusses risk management for maritime transport

On June 4-5, St Petersburg hosted the first training course on risk assessment and management for maritime transport specialists. The event was organized by the ILO Moscow Office in cooperation with the OSH maritime transport centre of the Russian Central Marine Research and Design Institute.

Taking part in the course were specialists of maritime companies and ports from all over Russia, representatives of the Russian federal ports agency - Rosmorport, the State Labour Protection Inspection, seafarers' trade unions, the Russian Maritime Register of Shipping and experts of educational institutions.

"The OSH improvement mechanisms are Russia's priority to adjust working conditions on Russian ships in compliance with the New ILO Consolidated Maritime Labour Convention it strives to ratify within years to come. The introduction of new approaches in risk management and occupational disease and accident prevention will raise the efficiency of work in this area," said Roman Litvyakov, the project's coordinator.

New occupational safety and health publications



Safety and health at work is everyone's concern - It's good for you, it's good for business (Risk assessment essentials)

The brochure was prepared by the European Occupational Safety Agency and is distributed in EU member-states. The Russian edition is a joint work of the Russian Health and Social Development Ministry and the ILO Moscow Office. It contains the basics of occupational risk assessment and provides five key steps to assess risks at a workplace as well as practical recommendations and easy examples of how to manage risk assessment at different firms. The brochure's easy-format text is adopted for a wide circle of readers – from employers to occupational safety specialists.

How to manage occupational safety and health at enterprises - Guidelines for employers

The brochure is prepared in Russian and in English by the ILO Moscow Office within the framework of the ILO project on improving occupational safety and health system in North-West Russia. It contains brief and easy-to-understand information for employers and describes advantages of the OSH systematic approach at an enterprise. The brochure provides practical recommendations for creating the OSH management systems based on GOST 12.0.230-2007 that fully corresponds to ILO-OSH 2001 Guidelines and was adopted by the CIS states.



Code of practice on safety and health in underground mines (in Russian)

This code of practice is based on principles established in international instruments relevant to the protection of workers' safety and health. It addresses various hazards that commonly exist in the production of coal from underground mines - from dust, explosions, fires and water inrushes to electrical hazards, machinery and hazards on the surface; describes hazards, assesses risk and provides guidance on eliminating or controlling risk. The Code is addressed to governmental and public authorities, employers and workers and their organizations.



Appointments



On June 2, Armenia's President Serzh Sarkisyan appointed Arsen Hambarzumyan as Labour and Social Affairs Minister.

Arsen Hambarzumyan was born in Yerevan in 1973. He graduated from the Yerevan State University with a major in history and holds a postgraduate master's degree from the university's department of the Armenian history.

In 1998-1999 he served as a senior official of the youth policy department of the Armenian Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Ministry.

In 1999-2005 he worked as a senior specialist of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation's parliamentary section.

In 2005-2008 he coordinated a state credit project of the social welfare administration. ■

New gender publication: ***ABC of women workers' rights and gender equality***



Women's rights and gender equality have gained growing attention over the

past decades, at both international and national levels. In order to promote equality between women and men in the world of work, international labour standards and national legislation have been adopted on a wide range of related issues. However, workers are often unaware of their rights derived from these standards – a fact that has been increasingly identified as a major obstacle to their effective use.

Based on the ILO's Conventions and Recommendations, this revised and expanded Russian edition of ABC focuses on States' or employers' obligations, and workers' rights, in relation to gender equality in the world of work.

Arranged alphabetically, each entry provides a clear, succinct definition or description, and directs a reader to relevant ILO instruments, and to related topics in the ABC.



Regional project to support Georgia and Armenia's anti-trafficking efforts

Armenia's recruitment agencies against human trafficking

It is estimated that most trafficked victims leave their country through their own social networks or criminal intermediaries, often linked to organised crime. There is evidence, however, that private employment agencies, if left unregulated, can become part of the modus operandi of the trafficking crime, including agencies that recruit under disguise, alleging that they are providing jobs such as travel, entertainment, modeling or other agencies. Law abiding private employment agencies can play a key role in facilitating legal migration, but they often have to compete against illegitimate recruiters.

These problems were discussed at the workshop entitled "Recruitment agencies in the context of addressing labour migration, trafficking in human beings, and forced labour" organized in Armenia on March 25 within the framework of the regional project "Development of Comprehensive Anti-trafficking Response in South Caucasus" conducted by the ILO, OSCE and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Armenian First Deputy Labour and Social Affairs Minister Arak Petrosyan opened the workshop. ILO's tripartite partners and international experts discussed a draft report on assessment of the recruitment industry in

Armenia. They also analyzed problems of the Republic's private recruitment industry, gaps in legislation and monitoring.

An ILO expert made a focus on the future development of Armenia's recruitment industry and made a presentation of the Russian version of ILO's Guide to Private Employment Agencies Regulation.

Armenia's Employers Organization urged the creation of a business association of private employment agencies, which may become a branch of the organization. ■

Georgia's government to draft action plan to combat human trafficking

On May 29, the ILO in cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Georgia and the ICMPD organized a workshop in Tbilisi to help Georgia's government prepare a new national action plan to combat trafficking in human beings in the country for 2009-2010.

The workshop was carried out within the framework of the EC-funded regional project on the development of comprehensive anti-trafficking response in the South Caucasus.

"Although over the past several years Georgia has made impressive progress in combating trafficking in human beings, this terrible crime is flexible and ever-evolving. The only way to address the problem effectively is to pool stakeholders' efforts and



take into account all forms, root-causes and dimension of human trafficking," said Zsolt Dudas, ILO Project Chief Technical Adviser in the South Caucasus.

"Trafficking in human beings is not only a hateful crime but also the violation of human rights and human dignity. The OSCE Mission has been actively supporting Georgia's authorities in the development and implementation of anti-trafficking policies and programmes in compliance with the OSCE standards," said Guillaume Siemien-ski, Head of the Human Dimension Office of the OSCE Mission to Georgia.

Among attendees were representatives of different state agencies, international organizations and NGOs, including the ministries of foreign affairs, internal affairs and justice, as well as the International Organization of Migration and the European Commission. ■

ILO launches new labour migration studies in Russia

Within the framework of the EU-financed project "Towards Sustainable Partnerships for the Effective Governance of Labour Migration in the Russian Federation, the Caucasus and Central Asia", the ILO with the assistance of international and national experts has prepared two sets of studies concerning Russia.

The objective of the first set of studies is to help develop practical methods for assessing and forecasting labour market requirements with a view to improving migration governance. The objectives of the second set of studies are to help develop recommendations for a system of earned regularization and sound regularization policy and procedures as well as policy recommendations for the discouragement of employment of irregular migrants.

The presence of large populations of irregular workers is symptomatic of the need for better policies, not least because there are pressing concerns about the human and labour rights of the workers themselves. The migration authorities of the Russian Federa-

tion adopted new laws aimed at facilitating the registration and legal employment of foreigners and reducing the number of irregular immigrants on Russian territory that entered into force in January 2007. The effectiveness of the design and implementation of the new laws is vital for the regularisation of the pool of irregular workers making a major contribution to the Russian economy as well as reducing future irregular migration.

The purpose of the *national workshop on effective governance of labour migration in the Russian Federation* that Moscow hosted on May 30 was to discuss the studies, with a view to developing joint conclusions and recommendations as well as modalities for their implementation.

The event brought together ILO tripartite partners, representatives of the Federal Migration Service, the State Duma and the Federation Council, the Moscow city authorities, researchers, experts of international organizations and embassies, and the media. ■

In May the ILO in cooperation with the All-Russian Life-Support Workers' Union - a member of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the Russian Federation - launched a *four-month survey of migrant workers from Central Asia employed in Moscow's public utilities sector*.

The study is aimed to increase the knowledge base on employment of migrant workers, particularly on recruitment and living conditions, illegal employment, trade union membership, role in the utilities sector development, remittance patterns, migrants' right to residency and return. Moreover, it will analyze the influence of migrants' employment on labour market in the public utilities sector (particularly, on employment terms of non-migrant workers). During the study migrants from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan working in the city's public utilities sector as well as policy-makers, employers and trade unions will be interviewed.

As a result joint recommendations addressing recruitment, employment and rights of migrant workers will be made.



ILO takes steps to promote HIV/AIDS policies in the region

Moscow hosts HIV/AIDS

Regional Learning Event

The ILO held an HIV/AIDS Regional Learning Event in Moscow on April 8-10. The event brought together representatives of the ILO/AIDS Programme (ILO Headquarters, Geneva), ILO specialists, national country coordinators and project staff from 16 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The participants analyzed global and regional trends of HIV/AIDS epidemic, its impact on the world of work and implications for the tripartite partners of the ILO – governments, employers' and workers' organizations.

An estimated 150 000 people were newly infected with HIV in 2007 bringing the number of people living with HIV in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia to 1.6 million (average) compared to 630 000 (average) in 2001, a 150% increase over that time period. Nearly 90% of newly reported HIV diagnoses in the region in 2006 were from two countries: the Russian Federation (66%) and Ukraine (21%). Elsewhere, the annual numbers of newly reported HIV diagnoses are also rising in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan which now has the largest epidemic in Central Asia. (source: UNAIDS report).

The socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS is immense given that the age range for the most affected is between 15 and 49 years – the most economically productive age group. The social and economic effects of AIDS are not uniform across countries or even societies – the impact is felt at various levels and to varying degrees. The impact is compounded by in-

sufficient public awareness, frequent stigmatization of people living with HIV.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has a direct impact on the world of work and the achievement of the ILO strategic objectives, first of all on ensuring decent work for all. That is why the Regional Learning Event focused on the role of the ILO and the tripartite partners in addressing HIV/AIDS at workplaces.

The preparation of the ILO Recommendation on HIV/AIDS to be discussed by the International Labour Conference in 2009 actualizes the importance of organizing such meetings as this regional workshop.

The event gave an opportunity to share experiences and best practices gained by Russia, Ukraine and Moldova - pilot countries for ILO projects on HIV/AIDS and world of work.

The meeting developed a set of recommendations and identified future steps for including HIV/AIDS and the world of work issues in the agenda of the ILO constituents. ■

ILO-UNDP training of trainers on HIV/AIDS and the world of work held in Bishkek

On March 18-20, Bishkek hosted the ILO-UNDP training of trainers on HIV/AIDS and the world of work. Both agencies provided trainer support.

The event was aimed to train Kyrgyz trainers on HIV/AIDS prevention in the world of work and to ensure the ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work become a part of HIV/AIDS prevention in Kyrgyzstan.

Among participants were trainers from trade unions, non-governmental organizations, UNDP, representatives of the Vocational Education Ministry, Labour Ministry and the Employers' Confederation.

During the training participants worked out a planning and education technology on HIV/AIDS prevention as well as an information technology on consequences of the infection for the economically active population.

Participants expressed readiness to hold a similar event in the future to exchange experience in promoting the issue of HIV/AIDS in the world of work. ■

ILO helps Tajikistan to define strategies to counteract HIV/AIDS in the world of work

On May 16, a roundtable meeting in Dushanbe brought together ILO's tripartite constituents as well as experts of the UNAIDS, international organizations and Tajikistan's National AIDS Center to define strategies to counteract HIV/AIDS in the world of work.

Earlier, the ILO conducted two studies in the Central Asian republic – the research on HIV/AIDS related sickness and temporary disability among medical workers of the Republic of Tajikistan and the review of Tajikistan's current laws with regard to HIV/AIDS.

Participants in the meeting discussed these studies as well as actions to implement the 2007-2011 National Strategic Programme to counteract HIV/AIDS counteraction in the Republic of Tajikistan. ■

In Brief

■ On April 4, Uzbek President Islam Karimov signed a law to ratify *ILO's Minimum Age Convention* (C138, 1973) and on April 18 – a law to ratify *the Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor* (C182, 1999). The Minimum Age Convention calls for the effective abolition of child labour and to raise progressively the minimum age for admission to employment or work to a level consistent with the fullest physical and mental development of young persons. In compliance with the Conven-

tion Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor the Central Asian republic shall take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency.

■ On 12 May, a *workshop on human trafficking in Baku* brought together national judges and prosecutors, experts of the ILO, OSCE, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the International Organization for Migration and the national centre for legal assistance to migrants. The ILO was represented by ILO Chief Technical Adviser in the South Caucasus, Zsolt Dudas. Participants in the

event discussed the ratification and implementation of ILO's conventions on forced labour and human trafficking.

■ On May 12, *the director of the ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Elaine Fultz visited Yerevan*. During her visit she met with Armenia's Labour and Social Affairs Minister Agvan Vardanyan, the deputy foreign minister, heads of the Trade Unions' Confederation and the Employers' Union. The Labour and Social Affairs Ministry described progress in the implementation of the DWCP main components – employment, social partnership and occupational

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In Brief

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safety and health. Ms. Fultz hailed ILO-Armenia cooperation and stressed that the ILO will further support Armenia's actions in OSH, employment and pension reform as well as the development of a collective agreement, legal migration mechanisms and the fight against human trafficking.

■ On May 13, Baku hosted a *capacity-building workshop on gender mainstreaming* organized by the ILO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). ILO expert Marina Baskakova described ILO's approach to gender equality in the world of work and gender equality conventions – Convention on workers with family responsibilities (C156) and Convention on maternity protection (C183). National expert

Rena Mirza-zade focused on gender segregation in employment. Participants in the workshop discussed gender problems at the national level as well as a possibility for the ratification of ILO's gender conventions.

■ On May 14, a *workshop on wage policy was organized in Yerevan* within the framework of the ILO Labour Administration project. Taking part in the event were representatives of the governmental institutions, trade unionists, employers. The ILO experts participating in the workshop included the director of the ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Elaine Fultz, senior international labour standards specialist Alain Pelce, senior research officer for the conditions of work and employment Sangheon Lee and ILO's national coordinator in Armenia Nune Hovhannisyan. Participants discussed a

survey on the labour administration in Armenia and wage policy development.

■ On May 21-23 Moscow's All-Russian exhibition centre hosted *an exhibition on occupational safety and health entitled 'OSH in Moscow-2008'*. Visitors could see OSH technologies developed by the capital's research and industrial organizations and means of personal and collective protection.

■ On May 24, Bishkek hosted *the first congress of the Confederation of Employers of Kyrgyzstan*. The congress adopted a resolution containing delegates' proposals. Among basic provisions were transition of the Confederation into a nation-wide organization, and admission to the International Employers' Organization.



World day against child labour— June 12 Education: the right response to child labour

Unfortunately, child labour remains a widespread phenomenon in the countries of the subregion as well as all over the world, which is proved by the photos recently taken in Central Asian countries. Look at these children's faces. We hope that one day child labour will turn for them into a matter of the past.



Many children still work on cotton and tobacco fields in Central Asia.



Grain drying is also toilsome labour.



Children have to work on local markets in Tajikistan.



A boy transports and loads goods on a local market in Kurgantyube, Tajikistan.



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