

ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and
Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

#3⁽⁷⁰⁾ September 2017

Formal Employment as a Condition for the Realisation of Social Rights – Conference in Baku



On 7 September 2017, a conference “Formal Employment as a Condition for the Realisation of Social Rights” took place in Baku.

The event, co-organized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Azerbaijan and the ILO, was attended by Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Commission on Regulation and Coordination of Labour Relations; Salim Muslumov, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Sattar Mehbaliyev, Chairman of the Azerbaijan Trade Unions Confederation and Member of Parliament; Mammad Musayev, President of the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers) of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Azita Berar Awad, Director of the ILO Employment Policy Department; Frédéric Lapeyre, Head of the Informal Economy Unit, ILO; representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations and international experts.



Addressing the conference, Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the Commission on Regulation and Coordination of Labour Relations, said that 100,000 new jobs should be created every year to avoid a decline in formal employment in the country.

Ahmadov also stressed that some 1.6 million new jobs have been created in Azerbaijan in recent years, lowering the unemployment rate to five percent.

“The main priority for the Government of Azerbaijan is to ensure employment and protect the social rights of those who are employed. Today, the government is working to implement large-scale projects aimed to safeguard social rights. In turn, the need to protect people’s rights brings the issue of formal versus informal employment to the fore. The Government’s priority is to provide people with employment, and once this problem is solved – and we can say that it has basically been solved by now – the status of employed population is our next priority. Therefore today, the government has been working to ensure a gradual transformation of informal employment into formal employment,” Ahmadov said.

Ali Ahmadov:
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“As of end-2016, the number of informally employed citizens stood at 805,000 to 900,000. In other words, we are facing an important objective of engaging 900,000 people in formal employment,” said Salim Muslumov, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Azerbaijan, addressing the conference. Minister Muslumov also noted that the Government of Azerbaijan has been taking steps to create

a legislative and regulatory framework for supporting people’s engagement in formal labour relations. “Providing formal employment will contribute to strengthening workers’ social rights,” he emphasised.

In her opening address, Azita Berar Awad, Director of the ILO Employment Policy Department, congratulated Azerbaijan for giving priority attention to formal employment as a

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Tenth European Regional ILO Meeting will be organized in Istanbul on 2–5 October 2017. The meeting will bring together government, employer and worker representatives of the 51 countries of the region to discuss creation of the future of work. ILO Director-General Guy Ryder will present the report “What Future for Decent Work in Europe and Central Asia: Opportunities and Challenges.”

“This Tenth European Regional Meeting provides a timely opportunity to look back to the Oslo Declaration adopted at our last Meeting four years ago, which called for the creation of positive pathways to overcome the negative economic, social and political consequences of the crisis and restore trust,” Guy Ryder said. ■





Continued from page 1

condition for the realisation of social rights and placing it high on the country's policy agenda. She welcomed the conference as an opportunity to examine the complexity of issues that result in informality and referred to numerous examples of countries showing that with dialogue and sustained efforts, tangible progress towards formalisation can be made.

Azita Berar Awad also mentioned a number of long-term joint projects between the ILO and the Government of Azerbaijan, such as a review of macroeconomic policy framework in Azerbaijan

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“We believe that applying the ILO Recommendation 204 concerning Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2015 and adapted to the realities in Azerbaijan will make a positive impact on progress in achieving SDGs in the republic”

and preparation of a new National Employment Strategy for the of period 2017 to 2030 paving

the ground for the realisation of the SDGs, in particular SDG 8 on full, productive employment and decent work and sustainable growth, as well as initiatives in the sphere of youth employment and formalisation.

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The Future of Work We Want: Workers’ perspective in Europe and Central Asia



From 12 to 13 September 2017, the Bureau for Workers’ Activities (ACTRAV), with the support of the ILO Decent Work Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, organized a “The Future of Work We Want: Worker’s perspective in the Europe and Central Asia” forum in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The conference brought together workers’ leaders, voices from academia, governments and employers from across the region to discuss

the profound transformations and challenges faced by the world of work today and in the future. ILO was represented by Maria Helena Andre, Director of the ILO Bureau for Workers’ Activities (ACTRAV), Olga Koulaeva, Director, ILO DWT/CO Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Anna Biondi, Deputy Director of ACTRAV, Sergejus Glovackas, Desk Officer for Europe and Central Asia, ACTRAV, Gocha Aleksandria, Specialist in Workers’ Activities, Valentin Mocanu, Senior Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Specialist, ILO DW CO Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The conference was structured around the four “Centenary Conversations” proposed by the ILO Director-General for the Centenary Initiative: “Work and society”, “Decent jobs for all”, “The organizations of work and production”, “The governance of work”.

The conference became an important landmark and contributed to the Future of Work Centenary Initiative from a trade union perspective based on the unique issues faced by the member countries of Europe and Central Asia and discussing possible policy responses, both of governments and social partners, as a means to promoting and protecting the rights of working men and women. ■



Meeting at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs



On 12 July 2017, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP) hosted a meeting with ILO representatives led

by Vic van Vuuren, Director of the Enterprises Department at the ILO Headquarters. Vladimir Curovic, ILO Moscow Senior Specialist in Employers’ Activities also attended the meeting.

On behalf of the RSPP, Marina Moskvina, Managing Director for Labour Market and Social Partnership, and Elena Feoktistova, Managing Director for Corporate Responsibility, Sustainable Development, and Social Entrepreneurship, attended the meeting. Vic van Vuuren was visiting Russia at the invitation of the Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

The purpose of his visit was to introduce his Department and its key activities to Russian officials and social partners, such as RSPP and Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, and to discuss potential areas of cooperation. His visit focused on topics such as the green economy, creation of decent jobs, Decent Work and environmental sustainability.

During the meeting at the RSPP, Vic van Vuuren received information and materials describing the work of the RSPP Departments for Labour Market and Social Partnership and for Corporate Responsibility, Sustainable Development and Social Entrepreneurship.

The meeting resulted in a decision to engage in information sharing with support from the ILO



Office in Moscow and to consider ways to publicise RSPP’s best practices in the areas of corporate responsibility, sustainable development and social entrepreneurship both in the ILO’s publications and at various international venues. ■

3rd BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting

On July 26-27, 2017 Chongqing, China, hosted the 3rd BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting. The Russian delegation was headed by the Minister of Labour and Social Protection Maxim Topilin.

The first BRICS Labour Ministerial was organized by the Russian Federation during its Presidency in BRICS. It was held in Ufa on January 25-26 2016.

The weight and experience of BRICS countries is essential to addressing the major challenges faced by the global economy, said ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder, in his opening address at the 3rd BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting in Chongqing.

“The strategic position of the BRICS countries and their weight and dynamism in the global economy means that you are all addressing these challenges globally and nationally,” he said, stressing the importance of coordination and sharing of experience and good practice.

Guy Ryder:

“It is after all a fundamental desire of people across the world, that they can look forward and contribute to a better future of work”

Ryder underlined that the BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – represent 48 per cent of the global population and 21 per cent of the world's production. “The BRICS group – as it approaches its 10th anniversary – has established itself as a key actor on the international stage and in many areas of policy-making. It is of the highest significance that labour and employment policy seems now to be firmly established as one of its priorities,” he said.



“It was under the Presidency of the Government of Brazil that the Fortaleza Leaders' Summit in 2014 gave the initial impulse to this track of work. Since then, Russia under the leadership of Minister Topilin who hosted the first Ministerial in Ufa in 2016, and then India under Minister Dattatreya who took the process forward last year, and now China thanks to Minister Yin Weimin have brought us to the very impressive level that has been reached today, here in Chongqing.

The ILO Director-General commended the steps the five nations have taken to promote social security cooperation and to establish a network of labour research institutes. In

addition, he expressed “particular appreciation” for the role and presence of the BRICS social partners who are “vital to the work we do and that we will continue to do together”.

Ryder noted that the agenda of the Chongqing meeting is strongly aligned with two crucial global processes: The United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the ILO Centenary Initiative on the Future of Work.

Guy Ryder said: “It is after all a fundamental desire of people across the world, above all in this period of transformative change and sometimes of uncertainty, that they can look forward and contribute to a better future of work – one with social justice and prosperity and decent work for all.” ■



Azerbaijan Adopts Law on Compulsory Unemployment Insurance



On 5 August 2017, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev signed into effect a new Law on Compulsory Unemployment Insurance allowing people who have lost a job to access financial assistance from funds formed by contributions made by both employers and employees.

According to Idris Isayev, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection, the new law incorporates the principles and provisions of the relevant ILO Conventions. “In designing the new system, we studied the relevant experience of 14 other countries. Today, unemployment insurance in one form or another exists in 72 countries,” the Deputy Minister noted. “The enactment of

the Law on Compulsory Unemployment Insurance aims to provide assistance to those who have lost their jobs and to encourage them to search for new employment.”

Azerbaijan's new system of unemployment insurance seeks first to ensure financial

protection of the unemployed and second to offer them a number of training courses to facilitate their return to the labour market.

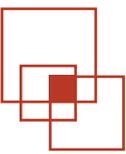
Idris Isayev:

“The enactment of the Law on Compulsory Unemployment Insurance aims to provide assistance to those who have lost their jobs and encourage them to search for new employment”

Should an insured event occur – such as closure of an enterprise or mass layoffs – the amount of payment will depend on the duration of insurance contributions.

The Law on Compulsory Unemployment Insurance will become effective on 1 January 2018. ■





Start and Improve Your Business Programme Relevant for Our Region



Advanced Business Skills Course Completed by 129 Trainers in Russia



Between 14 August and 2 September 2017, teams of participants in the *You Are an Entrepreneur* programme in five Russian regions,

including Moscow, St. Petersburg, Stavropol, Novosibirsk and Samara, attended the ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) courses. SIYB offers training in strategies aimed at creating more and better jobs through SME startup and development and business management skills.

You Are an Entrepreneur is a federal programme in Russia implemented by the Federal Youth Agency

(Rosmolodezh) in cooperation with the ILO.

Any aspiring entrepreneur can develop the skills needed to start and manage their small business using methods and knowledge provided by SIYB courses. In addition to this, SIYB supports initiatives to create a better policy framework for setting up, improving and expanding small enterprise, and works to offer a wide range of financial and business planning services to entrepreneurs.



In Stavropol, the training course organised by the ILO in cooperation with the Russian Centre for Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship, was hosted by the Stavropol State Agrarian University. 24 people from Stavropol, Krasnodar Region, Chechnya, Dagestan, Karachaevo-Cherkessia, Kalmykia and Astrakhan Region, including ten faculty members of the University, attended the course in entrepreneurship.

A total of 129 trainers upgraded their skills and qualifications and received SIYB trainer certificates. ■



Results and Plans for SIYB in Azerbaijan



Azerbaijan has launched its Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme in 2016. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of

Azerbaijan, jointly with the State Employment Service, began to offer training to aspiring entrepreneurs lacking start-up capital, relevant skills and access to subsidies.

The country joined forces with the ILO to help build the capacity of future entrepreneurs.

As part of the Partnerships for Youth Employment in the CIS Project, the ILO has assisted the Azerbaijan Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in training 136 business trainers for the SIYB Programme. First, business trainers explained the programme objectives, potential challenges and solutions to the participants. Then, each programme participant presented his or her business plan to the selection board.

A few statistics can illustrate the scale and intensity of the effort involved. Of the 1,819 admitted applicants, 1,644 aspiring entrepreneurs from 84 cities and

districts were allowed to present their business plans and 1,385 business plans were selected. Of all winning business plans, 84% are in agriculture, mainly in livestock and poultry farming, 9.4% are in the services sector, such as beauty and hair salons, computer salons, dressmaking, car washes and repairs, and 6.6% are in the manufacturing sector.

The Ministry has procured and handed over the required assets to be used by 825 participants in a number of cities and regions to support the implementation of their business plans. The new

businesses will be monitored for a year, and then those which meet the established requirements and standards will become full owners of the state-provided assets. ■



Minister of Labour and Social Protection Salim Muslumov, ILO Regional Director Heinz Koller and DWT/CO Moscow Deputy Director Shurenchimeg Zokhiolt visited a vocational education centre in Baku and attended the awarding ceremony for trainers of the ILO's the Start and Improve Your Business SIYB Programme. (ILO Newsletter #3, 2016)



In 2017, ILO Moscow focused on translating SIYB guides and preparing their publication in Russian. The SIYB project, implemented with financial support from the Partnerships for Youth Employment in the CIS Project, is coordinated by Fredy Guayacan, ILO Moscow Enterprise Specialist. Today we are happy to announce that the first guides are available electronically and will soon be published in hard copies. For more information about the SIYB guides in Russian, see Publications, page 7. ■

Two Training Courses in **Maternity Protection** Held in Tajikistan



Between 12 to 16 September 2017, Tajikistan's cities of Kurgan-Tube and Kalaihum (Darvaz) hosted training courses

in "Maternity Protection in the Social Security Dimension" as part of constituents' capacity building in dealing with social protection



issues. The training sessions were organised by the ILO in cooperation with the Federation of Independent Trade Unions (FITU) of Tajikistan. First Deputy Chair of the FITU Ismoil Sharifzoda and the Deputy Chair Ismoil Faizizoda opened the trainings.

The training sessions were attended by 35 representatives of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions, including legal and technical inspectors and high-level trade union officials – two national-level and 12 regional leaders. The sessions focused on issues such as the key differences between ILO Convention No.103 (ratified by Tajikistan) and ILO Convention No.183 (non-ratified) and the latter's five main elements, namely duration of the maternity leave, non-discrimination before and after employment, health care, cash benefits and breastfeeding at workplace. Also, the participants learned about the roles of social



partners and about how to promote maternity protection standards and defend workers' rights in maternity protection cases. The training sessions were interactive, encouraging trainee engagement.

According to Artiom Sici, ILO Social Protection Officer in Tajikistan, the training sessions contributed to building the knowledge and capacity of FITU organisations in Tajikistan. ■

Towards a Future of **Work** without Child Labour and Forced Labour in Europe and Central Asia



The ILO's Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) organised a two-day regional conference on the role of trade unions in Europe

in the fight against child labour and forced labour from 19 to 20 July 2017 in Kyrgyzstan.

In her opening remarks, ACTRAV Director Maria Helena André stressed the key role played by trade unions in eradicating child labour and forced labour in the region. Maria Helena André encouraged participants to intensify their efforts and speed up their actions to eliminate child labour in all its forms by 2025 and forced labour by 2030

in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals' target 8.7.

Addressing the conference, Kyrgyzstan's Minister of Labour and Social Development Taalaikul Isakunova reiterated the government's commitment

to the fight against child labour in cooperation with social partners and the ILO through the country project supported by the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch.

With the support of ACTRAV, unions will prepare strategies and coordinate their policies to combat child labour and forced labour in the region.



The two-day meeting brought together participants from 15 countries in the region, international trade union organisations and ILO specialists. It is part of a range of regional meetings in preparation for the upcoming IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour which will be held in Buenos Aires from 14 to 16 November 2017. ■

Discussion of ILO Programmes to **Combat Child Labour** in Kyrgyzstan



On 8 August 2017, Osh, Kyrgyzstan, Vice Mayor Nurbek Kadyrov met with Tino Clemens of the German Federal

Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

They discussed workplans under the ongoing ILO programmes in the Kyrgyz Republic, in particular, ILO Project Combating child labour in Central Asia: Commitment becomes Action (PROACT CAR), and others.

According to Vice Mayor Nurbek Kadyrov, the Government of Germany has been supporting a number of projects in Kyrgyzstan, including those

implemented in Osh in partnership with the ILO, such as PROACT CAR and a project for promoting and strengthening the child labour monitoring (CLM) system as part of social protection in Osh.

Vice Mayor Kadyrov said, "Work is underway to introduce sustainable mechanisms for identifying

Nurbek Kadyrov:
"Work is underway to introduce sustainable mechanisms for identifying children in child labour and providing them with social support and access to school and vocational education"

[children in child labour] and providing them with social support and access to school and vocational education." In particular, the Vice Mayor mentioned the Mol-bulak Rehabilitation Centre working to help children affected by child labour and facing difficult life circumstances return to school for proper education and social integration.

The parties expressed their confidence that reviewing the effect of currently supported activities will bring good results and highlight priority areas for cooperation.

Bolotbek Orokov, national coordinator for Kyrgyzstan and Amina Kurbanova, national project coordinator in Kyrgyzstan participated in the working meetings. ■



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This Concerns Everyone



A two-day seminar on strengthening the HIV and AIDS prevention in the workplace was held with ILO support in the

Ordzhonikidzevsky District of the Sverdlovsk Region. The seminar brought together representatives of major local employers for a detailed discussion of the current situation and future outlook. In addition to this, a rapid testing facility has recently been opened, offering everyone an opportunity to learn their HIV status.



Vyacheslav Trapeznikov, Head of the District, was one of the first to take the rapid HIV test

Sverdlovsk Region is the first in Russia to pilot this unique health promotion project. Its Ordzhonikidzevsky District has previously hosted new initiatives in this sphere; in 2014, it was the first to open a mobile testing site run by the Sverdlovsk Regional AIDS Prevention and Control Centre.

The challenging and vital matters discussed at the seminar left no one indifferent. In particular, the discussion focused on lifting the stigma which currently affects people living with HIV and raising public awareness of the importance of prevention. While HIV and AIDS are not a death sentence, ignorance and denial of the problem pose a real threat to society.



Members of the Ordzhonikidzevsky District Administration have been actively involved in the project and many of them used the opportunity to access a specialist consultation in the workplace: Vyacheslav Trapeznikov, Head of the District, was one of the first to take the rapid HIV test. ■

The seminar agenda featured a discussion designed to refine and update the participants' knowledge about HIV and AIDS, a detailed consultation on HIV testing, an overview of the current situation in the city and region, and a discussion of pressing issues such as discrimination in the workplace and solutions for adapting the project to specific enterprises.



Stories of People Living with HIV

Video clips about how people with HIV live are being filmed within the framework of ILO project in Yekaterinburg.



A role play is being arranged at the seminar on HIV/AIDS programme at the work place in Yekaterinburg. Polina Rodimkina (right) who has lived with HIV for more than 15 years plays the role of the plant director implementing HIV prevention programme.



Statistical Support to SDGs in Kyrgyzstan



On 21 and 22 September 2017, Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, hosted the ILO seminar "The role of labour market

information. Improving the system of labour market indicators". It was organized in cooperation with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic and was opened by the Deputy Chair of the said Committee Ljuksina Tekeyeva. The seminar participants explored various aspects

related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for decent work, including a methodology for measuring any mismatch between employee skills and the work performed, and for measuring labour productivity. This workshop is the first in a series of planned activities focusing on the SDGs. The event was held as part of the ILO project «From the Crisis towards Decent and Safe Jobs in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Phase II», implemented with support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. ■



Our PUBLICATIONS

All publications can be found at our website www.ilo.ru



Collective Bargaining. A policy guide

In Russian

This is a Russian translation of a publication produced by the International Labour Office in Geneva.

This policy guide is aimed at public authorities tasked with establishing or improving the effectiveness of policies and institutions that promote collective bargaining. It provides guidance in respect of the essential elements of a policy to promote collective bargaining, the process by which such a policy might be formulated and some considerations for enhancing the inclusiveness of collective bargaining institutions. It can be used in a variety of institutional contexts and national traditions. It supports the development of policies to promote collective bargaining through tripartite social dialogue.



Start and Improve Your Business. Achieve sustainable and inclusive growth.

In Russian

This is a Russian translation of a publication produced by the International Labour Office in Geneva.

SIYB is one of the largest global business management training programmes. It helps small-scale entrepreneurs to start and grow their business, as a strategy to create more and better employment for women and men.



Start and Improve Your Business. Implementation Guide

In Russian

This is a Russian translation of a publication produced by the International Labour Office in Geneva.

This Guide is intended as a practical tool to support the implementation of the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) programme. It provides step-by-step guidance for the successful introduction of SIYB in a given context, from carrying out an initial market assessment to planning for sustainability.



A Rough Guide to Value Chain Development. How to create employment and improve working conditions in targeted sectors

In Russian

This is a Russian translation of a publication produced by the International Labour Office in Geneva.

This “Rough Guide to Value Chain Development” has been developed for development practitioners, governments and private sector initiatives to give a simplified overview of the Value Chain Development approach as applied by the International Labour Organization..

News in BRIEF

ILO Week in Georgia

In early July 2017, Georgia hosted three major events in Batumi, Adjara, organised on the ILO initiative and attended by representatives of the ILO, government, labour unions, as well as legal professionals and members of academia. The week of 11 to 15 July 2017 in Georgia can be described as the ILO Week.

A Strategic Tripartite Workshop on Social Dialogue was held in Adjara as well as ILO facilitated a two-day training session on the international labour standards (IIS) for members of the Georgian Bar Association (GBA) and its Adjara branch. Also the ILO, in cooperation with the High School of Justice (HSJ) and the GBA, held the first local Bench-Bar type of event, attended by judges and legal practitioners from all parts of Georgia.

Lejo Sibbel, Senior International Labour Standards and Labour Law Specialist, ILO Moscow, participated in the event.

New Large-Scale Global Research

New research developed jointly by the ILO and the Walk Free Foundation in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), has revealed the true scale of modern slavery around the world. The data, released during the United Nations General Assembly, shows that more than 40 million people around the world were victims of modern slavery in 2016. The ILO have also released a companion estimate of child labour, which confirms that about 152 million children, aged between 5 and 17, were subject to child labour.

The new global estimates are a collective effort from members of Alliance 8.7, the global partnership to

end forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour that brings together key partners representing governments, UN organisations, the private sector, workers' and employers' organizations and civil society in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7.

Second Phase of the Project “Applying the G20 Training Strategy” Discussed in Moscow

On 30 June, 2017, ILO officials and senior representatives of the Ministries of Education and Science, Finance, Labour and Social Protection, Foreign Affairs, employers and workers' organizations and other key stakeholders involved in Skills Development met in Moscow to discuss the second phase of the Project, which represents a continued response of the Russian Federation and the ILO to support the application of the G20 Training Strategy.

The project represents a sustained commitment of the Government of the Russian Federation to strengthen regional and global efforts on Skills Development to support productivity, competitiveness and growth. It is aimed at strengthening national Skills Development systems, policies and strategies so that to improve employability of both women and men in the six countries: Armenia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Vietnam and five Regions of the Russian Federation.

Kazakhstan: ILO calls for implementation of Labour Standards

From 26 to 28 September, two representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO) visited Kazakhstan to discuss the implementation of ILO Conventions and Recommendations by the government and the situation of trade unions in the country.

Sergeyus Glovackas, Desk Officer for Europe and Central Asia of the ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities (Geneva, ACTRAV) and Gocha Alexandria, Senior Specialist for the Workers' Activities in the ILO Moscow office, met with representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Kazakhstan and other state bodies. They also met with representatives of the Kazakh trade unions to discuss challenges and opportunities for the development of trade unions in Kazakhstan.

Together with the Unions Federations (the Federation of Trade Unions of Kazakhstan and the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Kazakhstan), the ILO representatives discussed the ongoing legislative changes in the social and labour sphere, including the need of improving the compliance with the ratified ILO Conventions to which the ILO supervisory bodies have drawn the attention of the Government of Kazakhstan at the last International Labour Conference.

XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Singapore

The new figures pointing to a growing body of evidence demonstrating the global cost of failing to adequately address existing and emerging occupational safety and health (OSH) concerns, and to the importance of OSH to sustainable development were presented by ILO at the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, which was organized in Singapore from 3 to 6 September, 2017.

Youth and OSH was a key theme at the XXI World Congress and central to ILO's flagship Occupational Safety and Health-Global Action for Prevention Programme.

The ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia was represented by Valentin Mocanu, Senior Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health Specialist.

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