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PRESS RELEASE

The First Job Fair and Entrepreneur Expo: A peaceful Aceh starts with decent work

BANDA ACEH (Joint Press Release): The first Job Fair and Entrepreneur Expo was organized in Banda Aceh on November 24-26, 2010. This event was jointly organized by various partners i.e the Government of Aceh, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Small-Medium Enterprises (UKM) Centre of University of Syiah Kuala, Yayasan Nusantara Indah (NGO), and private sector company Biro Psikologi Dinamika and IT Centre. This event was officially opened by the Governor of Aceh, HE. Irwandi Jusuf, on November 24, 2010.

In his statement, the Governor of Aceh shared his concern over the large number of unemployed persons in Aceh (165,000 persons, or 8.7 per cent of the labour force). He considered the job fair and entrepreneur expo as an alternative solution to reduce the unemployment rate, and avoid future armed conflict. "Aceh has enjoyed a peaceful environment for the last five years after the 2005 Helsinki Peace Accord, and tackling unemployment and promoting decent work is a Government priority to ensure lasting peace," he said.

Appreciating the public enthusiasm for the job fair and entrepreneur expo, he also committed the Government of Aceh to jointly organize a Job Fair and Entrepreneur Expo every year, together with international organizations, NGOs and private sector partners. ILO, as a tripartite organization with a mandate to promote decent work and social justice, will continue to provide technical support to this initiative. It will also document it as a good practice of Public-Private-Partnership to be replicated in other provinces.

More than 2,000 jobs were offered by 35 small and large companies in this job fair, including banks, airline companies, mining, electrical power, etc. 35 micro enterprises also participated in the entrepreneur expo showing their products and sharing their success stories.

This three days event was visited by approximately 20,000 visitors. About 7,000 CVs of applicants were received by the organizing committee and will be processed by participating companies in the job fair. The organizing committee decided to keep receiving CVs of applicants through its web www.jobs.aceh.net.

In the entrepreneur expo, Aceh's young entrepreneurs actively dialogued with successful business people, ILO and bankers. This activity will be followed by the establishment of a young entrepreneur forum in Aceh in which young entrepreneurs could share their views, build a business network, sell their products and so forth through a website www.entrepreneur.aceh.net.

The ILO through its Education and Skills Training for Youth Employment (EAST) Project, the IT Centre, the Provincial Manpower Office in Aceh, and UKM Centre of University of Syiah Kuala will collaborate in this joint effort.

The Job Fair and Entrepreneur Expo 2010 in Aceh was a unique forum in which job seekers, job providers and job creators (entrepreneurs) gathered to respond to a joint challenge – unemployment.

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