



Regional Workshop on Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work in Asia

**28-30 June 2010
Bangkok, Thailand**

Provisional Information Note

Background

Decent work is central to efforts to reduce poverty and is a means for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, provides security in the workplace and social protection for workers and their families, and gives people the freedom to express their concerns, to organize and to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

In this regard, monitoring and assessing progress towards decent work is a longstanding concern for the ILO and its constituents. The 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization details that member States may consider “the establishment of appropriate indicators or statistics, if necessary with the assistance of the ILO, to monitor and evaluate the progress made” (Paragraph II.B.ii). In September 2008, the ILO convened an international Tripartite Meeting of Experts (TME) on the Measurement of Decent Work, and subsequently, adopted a framework of Decent Work Indicators based on technical guidance provided by the TME.

In the context of the global financial and economic crisis and the need for a sustainable recovery, the importance of monitoring and assessing progress on decent work has been magnified. In June 2009, the International Labour Conference adopted the Global Jobs Pact which offers a series of crisis response measures to get people working again, mitigate the effects of unemployment and promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The ILO is providing support to various member States to give effect to the Global Jobs Pact, and monitoring its implementation will be critical to enhance its impact.

In the past, countries have called for the ILO to support their efforts to monitor and assess progress towards decent work. Now, with funding from the European Union, the project “Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work (MAP)” works with Government agencies, Workers’ and Employers’ organisations and research institutions to strengthen the capacity to self-monitor and self-assess progress towards decent work. The MAP project covers ten countries globally, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and an additional fourth country in the Asia region.

The 2.5-day technical seminar is one of the key regional activities under the MAP project. It will provide an opportunity for policymakers and statisticians to exchange country experiences on the measurement of decent work under specific substantive areas of the Decent Work Agenda and the application of decent work indicators in designing, monitoring and evaluating national development policies.

Aims and expected outcomes of the Workshop

The Workshop will provide a platform for policymakers, statisticians and representatives of workers’ and employers’ organizations in Asia to:

- Discuss the ILO's framework for monitoring decent work and the related benefits and challenges;
- Identify data sources for decent work indicators, the existing availability and gaps in national statistical systems and priority areas for follow-up action;
- Learn about global and regional trends of key employment and poverty indicators used for monitoring the MDG target 1b and how to compile working poverty indicators;
- Explore concepts and definitions of decent work indicators on wages and share country experiences in the collection and analysis of wage data for designing wage policies;
- Consider key issues and challenges in the management of labour migration in the region and the various indicators that can be considered in the monitoring of migration trends;
- Share experience to-date on the implementation of the MAP project in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Indonesia, while strengthening the regional knowledge network on the measurement of decent work.

Format and technical themes of the Workshop

A number of technical themes will be discussed in plenary sessions and during parallel working groups, including:

- The ILO framework for measuring decent work;
- Data sources for decent work indicators;
- Initiatives on the measurement of informal employment; and
- Decent work indicators on wages, employment and working poverty, among others.

Discussions and group work will be facilitated by technical specialists on the respective topics. In addition, participants will be asked to prepare presentations, in advance of the meeting, in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience on different areas of measuring decent work.

Participants

The technical meeting will include policymakers from the ministries of labour and statisticians from national statistical offices of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. In addition, participants will include one workers' representative and one employers' representative from each of the MAP project countries of Bangladesh, Cambodia and Indonesia.

The Regional Workshop on Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work in Asia is carried out with funding from the European Union under the ILO/EC Project "Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work" (MAP).