

## Background Note

### Visioning Event on Managing Skills and Employability for Decent Work through Building a Community of Practice and a Roadmap for the Regional Skills Programme Bangkok, Thailand, 22 - 24 May 2012

#### Background

The ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific developed the 'Regional Skills Programme' (RSP) which is drawn from skills development priorities under the Decent Work Country Programmes of member States and supported by resources from the ILO and selected donors like the Government of Korea and the Government of Japan. The Regional Skills Programme builds upon the invaluable earlier work of both the Asia and Pacific Skills Development Programme (APSDEP) and the Regional Skills and Employability Programme (SKILLS-AP).

#### *Regional Skills Network (RSN)*

The **RSP is an overarching framework** under which the 'Regional Skills Network' (RSN) and the 'Community of Practice' (CoP) operate in reaching out to partners and constituents. The RSN was inaugurated in 2005 based on the demand from the member States of the Asia and the Pacific region for a common platform for better cooperation and services to them on skills and employability issues. This is because many countries in this region are finding it increasingly difficult to respond to the skills needs of their workforce in a time of increasing globalization, new technology and changing patterns of work. Evidently, there are also severe shortages of skills labour due to the out-migration of skilled workers, an aging workforce or simply the lack of capacity to provide quality training. It is found that investing in education and skills helps economies to achieve dynamic growth with quality jobs.

**RSN is a platform to exchange and share knowledge and experiences** on how to strengthen training delivery mechanism, how to include industry and private sector participation and how to ensure assessment, regulation and quality of training provision so that training outcomes are optimized. The workforce becomes well-equipped and productively contributes to and responds to the labour markets.

#### *Community of Practice (CoP)*

At the 2006 Asian Regional Meeting, broad support was expressed by the constituents for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Knowledge Network on Decent Work. The 2007 Asian Forum noted that ILO needs "to ensure that tripartite constituents, partners, stakeholders and other significant actors have easy access to the knowledge products, expertise, services and tools they need to effectively contribute to the implementation of the Asian Decent Work Decade".

The Skills and Employability's Community of Practice seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- deliver quality results on skills development;
- provide easy access to recent knowledge products, expertise, service and tools;
- provide a forum for discussion and dialogue;
- identify and understand the needs of constituents and stakeholders; and
- connect people and their experiences to each other through building communities of practice.

In conclusion, the CoP builds on the RSN to further expand the network to provide an interactive network of committed professionals bound by a "common interest" in various subject areas, in this case Skills and Employability. **CoP is a web-based tool that supports the RSP and complements the RSN**

by providing a virtual platform and instant access to members. The ultimate motive of the CoP initiative would be to continue to better serve the ILO's constituents and member States in realizing the Decent Work Agenda through an overarching framework referred to as the RSP.

## **Objectives of the Event**

The Visioning Event aims to solicit the contributions from the participating countries to reflect and discuss the key skills challenges and priority areas for the RSP and examine how the various Skills and Employability platforms will play a role in assisting the constituents to better address these challenges and priorities through knowledge sharing and utilization.

All of the Skills and Employability platforms (i.e. RSN and CoP) seek to provide to committed professionals to share and leverage technical and practical knowledge on skills development, to encourage debate and discussions for better understanding, and strengthen a common agenda for skills development for decent work in Asia and the Pacific.

- Catalyze new thinking and approaches on Skills and Employability in Asia and the Pacific region.
- Access to ILO policy research, technical manuals and tools, training programmes other resources related to Skills and Employability.
- Access to other organizations' and partners' resources.
- Strengthen the capacity of skills institutions in Asia and the Pacific region on cooperation exchange of information and expertise with a view to improve skills development among members.
- Identification of focal point in each country .
- Development of action plan and priorities to reaffirm vision.

## **Participants**

Tripartite representatives will be invited from the following countries:

- India
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- Viet Nam

Observers from the Government of Korea and the Government of Japan will participate in this event including academes and specialists.

In light of the above objective, the following participants are encouraged to be nominated:

- 1) the participant needs to be directly responsible for skills and employability issues and show a strong commitment to skills development;
- 2) the participant needs to be ready and have knowledge about how to share expertise and information through internet;
- 3) the participant should have good writing skills in English; and
- 4) the participants should be able to commit time to learning and sharing of information.

### **Survey**

A pre-workshop online survey will be dispatched to all the RSN and CoP members to solicitate their views. Discussion and analysis of survey results will be held at the Event.

### **Country Presentation**

Nominated participants may be asked to prepare country specific presentations.