

ILO regional seminar on the Role of Trade unions in facilitating the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy

3-5 August 2016
Mount Lavinia Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Programme

Time	Sessions	Presenters/moderators
	Day 1 (3 August)	
08:30– 09:00	Registration	
09:00– 10:00	Opening Remarks ▪ Mr Donglin Li, Director, ILO Colombo ▪ Mr. Linus Jayatilaka, GS, National Association for Trade Union Research and Education (NATURE) ▪ Mr P. Haridasan, Representative from ITUC-AP ▪ Ms SUN Yin, Director of General Office of Int'l Dept., All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) ▪ Mr Gotabhaya Jayaratne, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Trade Union Relations	Pong-Sul Ahn, ILO RO, BKK
10:00-10:30	Group photo and tea break	
10:30-10:50	• Introduction of the seminar objectives and self-introduction of the participants - ILO	
10:50-12:10	Technical session 1: Introduction of ILO Recommendation No. 204 on the transition from the informal to the formal economy - <i>Pong-Sul Ahn, ILO Bangkok</i> The outcome of the ILC discussions on GSCs and its relevance to future of work - <i>Magnus Berge, ILO New Delhi</i> <i>This session will introduce the outline of ILO R. No.204, which gives policy guidance to ILO member states in areas of labour standards, entrepreneurship development, social protection, tax incentives, date collection and tripartite consultation.</i> Q & A	Pong-Sul/ Magnus
12:10-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15.00	Technical session 2: The employment in the informal economy in Sri Lanka: Government policies for facilitating the transition for formality and legislation protecting informal workers – <i>Mr A Wimalaweera, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Trade Union Relations.</i> - Commented by NATURE and SLEF	Pong-Sul

	<i>This session will discuss the characteristics of informal economy in Sri Lanka, the legislation and the government's policy for improving working conditions and protecting informal workers. The representatives of trade unions and the employers will also respond to the government's presentation, while sharing their own experience in facilitating formality by various methods.</i> Q&A	
15:00-15:20	Tea break	
15:20-16:50	Technical session 3: The challenges of the informal economy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Trade union experience in the organising representation and protection of informal workers: The role of social dialog in the transition from informal to formal employment - Sergeyus Glovackas, Senior Workers Activity Specialist, Moscow <i>This session will introduce the experience of trade unions in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in facilitating the transition. It will focus on union organising practices in the informal economy.</i> Q&A	Philippines
16:50-17:00	Closing of the day	
18.30	Reception – hosted by Mr Donglin Li, ILO Country Director for Sri Lanka & Maldives	
	Day 2 (4 August)	
08:45-09:00	Recap of the 1 st day and introduction of 2 nd programme	Sergeyus/ Magnus
09:00-10:00	ITUC-AP policy facilitating formality of the informal economy: Organising and promotion of labour rights for informal workers - P. Haridasan, Director, ITUC-AP	Pong-Sul
10:00-10:20	Tea break	
10:20–11:20	Technical session 4: Employment structure, policies and legislation in protecting informal workers in India: Trade union experience for facilitating the transition for formality – jointly by HMS, INTUC, CITU, AITUC and BMS <i>This session will discuss the characteristics of informal economy, the legislation and the government's policy for protecting informal workers in India. It will highlight the role of trade unions in facilitating formality by various methods like organising, social protection, wage rises and so.</i> Q&A	India

11:20–12:20	Technical session 5: Employment structure, policies and legislation in protecting informal workers in Bangladesh: Trade union experience for facilitating the transition for formality – Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, Assistant GS and representing DWRN; presenting in coordination with BJSD, BLF and JSL <i>This session will discuss the characteristics of informal economy, the legislation and the government's policy for protecting informal workers in Bangladesh. It will highlight the role of trade unions in facilitating formality by various methods like organising, social protection, wage rises and so.</i> Q & A	Bangladesh
12:20-13:40	Lunch	
13:40-15:10	Technical session 6: Employment structure, policies and legislation in protecting informal workers in in Nepal: Trade union experience for facilitating the transition for formality – jointly by GEFONT, ANTUF and NTUC The challenges of the informal economy in Pakistan: Trade union experience for facilitating the transition for formality – PWF <i>This session will discuss the characteristics of informal economy, the legislation and the government's policy for protecting informal workers in Nepal and Pakistan, respectively. It will highlight the role of trade unions in facilitating formality by various methods like organising, social protection, wage rises and so.</i> Q & A	Nepal
15:10-15:30	Tea break	
15:30-16:50	Technical session 7: The challenge, success and strategies of organising domestic workers in India and elsewhere - Nalini Nayak, responsible for organizing domestic workers in SEWA and representing IDWF <i>This session will share the experience and lessons of SEWA as a member of IDWF in organising domestic workers in India. The representative of IDWF will also address its campaign strategies for the ratification of ILO C.189 on Domestic Workers.</i> Q & A	Maldives
16:50-17:00	Closing of the 2 nd day	

	Day 3 (5 August)	
08:30-08:40	Recap of the 2 nd day discussions and introduction of the 3 rd day programme	Sandra Yu/ Aya
08:40-09:40	Technical session 8: The challenges of the informal economy and experiences of selected countries in facilitating the transition - <i>Sandra Yu, Local Strategies for Decent Work Specialist, ILO DWT, BKK</i> <i>This session will share the experience and lessons from member states in Asia and other continents in facilitating the transition to formality. It will also introduce the outcome of recent ASEAN technical team meeting on decent work and informal economy held in Vientiane in April 2016.</i> Q & A	Indonesia
09:40-10:00	Tea break	
10:00-11:20	Technical session 9: Key strategies for facilitating Formalization of Informal Economy in South Asia and lessons learned from the project - <i>Aya Matsuura, CTA, ILO Multilateral Programme for Way Out of Informality:</i> Challenges in the informal economy in South Asia: The policy of SARTUC for the transition for formality - <i>SARTUC</i> <i>This session will introduce the project strategies in facilitating the transition as well as the national level action plan adopted under the guidance of the project. The project is being implemented in Nepal, Bangladesh and India. It will also introduce the policy and action plan of SARTUC in facilitating the transition.</i> Q & A	Sergeyus
11:20-12:20	Group work 1: Validation of an ACTRAV guide: Transition from the informal to the formal economy (draft) ▪ Are the sections outlining the views of the Workers' Group ('Key points for workers' organizations') sufficiently clear? ▪ Are the examples useful and relevant? Do they have additional examples to share? ▪ Are the recommendations useful? Do they have additional recommendations to share? Presentations	Magnus & other ILO colleagues
12:20-13:40	Lunch break	
13:40-14:10	Presentations of the group work results	

14:10-16:00	Group work 2: Developing union action plans for identifying the role of trade unions for facilitating the transition ▪ Organizing ▪ Revision or enact of legal frameworks ▪ employment policies (national employment policy/strategy) ▪ coverage of social protection ▪ compliance and enforcement, freedom of association ▪ social dialogue ▪ research (data collection and monitoring, and implementation measures) <i>The participants will be divided into group work will be four groups and fill a template to be provided.</i> Presentation	Pong-Sul and other ILO colleagues
16:00-16:30	Closing of the seminar - Mr. Mr Kathan Marimuttu, Vice-President, CWC - Mr Laxman Basnet, SARTUC - Ms SUN Yin, ACFTU - Mr Pong-Sul Ahn, ILO	