

ILO signs US\$ 1 million partnership agreement with Korean Government

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BANGKOK (ILO News): The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Government of the Republic of Korea have signed a US\$1,040,000 partnership agreement funding ILO work in more than 11 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

The agreement was signed in Geneva on 30 April by His Excellency. Mr Dong-Hee Chang, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and Deputy Permanent Representative, and Mrs Maria-Angelica Ducci, Executive Director of the ILO.

The "Korea/ILO Partnership Programme Towards the Realization of the Asian Decent Work Decade" will fund technical cooperation work in countries across the Asia Pacific region, including Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Eight Korean partner institutions will support the implementation of the programme in 2008.

The 2008 programme will focus on four areas of work: Competitiveness, Productivity and Jobs; Labour Market Governance and Social Protection; and Labour Migration, and Research on Decent Work and Occupational Safety and Health.

The work planned during 2008 includes dialogues between Governments, workers' and employers' organizations on policies relating to competitiveness, productivity and jobs in China, Indonesia and Viet Nam. There will also be workshops to improve national skills development in selected target countries, research into good practices for mainstreaming disabled persons in the workforce, training on work injury insurance, support for setting up a social security system in Cambodia, and further support for a regional competency standards tool that will help migrant workers use their skills in other countries.

The Korean Government has supported the work of the ILO in Asia and the Pacific since 2002. In the last five years the Korean Government has provided more than US\$4 million in funding, as well as support from technical experts and specialists, and funding for meetings. The ILO - Korea Partnership Programme began in 2004. It works to support the aims of the Asian Decent Work Decade, namely the achievement of full, productive and decent employment for all in the region by 2015.

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