

THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

A CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCH
OF THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

Tuesday June 4, 2019

ILO Headquarters Room II

AGENDA

Honorary President: Louis Emmerij, Director of the WEP, 1971 to 1976

Co-Chairs: Michael Hopkins and Gerry Rodgers

09.30-10.30: PARTICIPANTS GATHER IN ILO DELEGATES LOUNGE

10.30-11.15: OPENING SESSION

- Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General (video message)
- Sukti Dasgupta (Employment Policy Department)
- Welcome from leading figures from the WEP

Michael Hopkins will make a presentation to Louis Emmerij, former Director, World Employment Programme, in honour of his leadership

- Opening remarks by Louis Emmerij

11.15-12.30: PANEL DISCUSSION. THE STRATEGIC DIMENSION OF WEP

What was the global and regional significance of the WEP? What was its impact on the ILO, the international system and national governments? Did it change perspectives on development? What was the contribution of the regional employment teams to solving the employment problem in Asia, Africa and Latin America? What are the lessons for the present and the future?

Speakers from WEP:

- Gus Edgren
- Eddy Lee

Speakers from the ILO today:

- Sukti Dasgupta
- Rafael Diez de Medina

Followed by discussion from the floor

Group photo

12.30-13.45 LUNCH BREAK (ILO CAFETERIA)

13.45-15.45 MEMORIES OF WEP

Anyone who worked in WEP can claim the floor for 5 minutes to highlight success, failure and fun.

15.45-16.15: COFFEE

16.15-17.45: KEY WEP ISSUES SEEN THROUGH A 2019 PRISM

WEP research and policy addressed many themes, including rural employment, income distribution, technology and employment, emergency employment schemes, gender equality, population and employment, basic needs, the informal sector, and structural adjustment.

A panel of former WEP staff will briefly highlight the work done in some of these areas. What was innovative, what worked, what endured, what failed?

Commentators: two current ILO staff members will comment on the lessons for today's employment agenda.

Followed by open discussion.

17.45-18.10: THE FUTURE OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE FUTURE OF WORK?

Summary of lessons learned from the day.

Speakers:

- Michael Hopkins
- Gerry Rodgers
- Sukti Dasgupta
- Sangheon Lee

Followed by open debate.

18.10-18.30: CLOSING REMARKS

Sir Richard Jolly (co-leader of the WEP Employment Mission to Kenya in 1971)

18.30-20.00: COCKTAIL/BUFFET