



International  
Labour  
Organization

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **National Green Jobs Conference to be held in Colombo, 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Colombo (ILO News): The International Labour Organization (ILO), in collaboration with the Ministries of Labour and Labour Relations and Productivity Promotion, is organizing a two-day National Conference on Green Jobs from 24-25 January 2011.

The conference, “Green Jobs: The Way Forward”, will discuss ways of supporting environmentally, economically and socially sustainable enterprises and development, and the creation of more green jobs.

Sri Lanka already advocates actively about climate change issues internationally. Moving the Sri Lankan economy onto an environmentally sustainable and low carbon development path will change the socio-economic structures of the country and trigger labour market shifts. This will include the creation of new job opportunities, creating demand for new skills and re-skilling programmes, as well as specific measures to facilitate a just transition for workers, employers and enterprises.

Key agenda issues will include the employment and labour market implications of environment-related measures, the potential for green jobs in Sri Lanka’s policy framework, the transition to more sustainable economic and social models, and sectoral discussions on renewable energy, waste management, eco-tourism and green manufacturing. More than 100 participants are expected, representing government departments and institutions, employers' and workers' organizations, private sector leaders, NGOs, and research institutes.

The conference also aims to identify existing government policies that could promote the creation of green jobs in Sri Lanka and facilitate a smooth transition to a low-carbon, environmentally-friendly economy for enterprises and workers.

The conference will also see the launch of the ILO’s new Green Jobs Project in Sri Lanka. The project seeks to deepen the commitment of ILO constituents to gender-sensitive green jobs opportunities and their understanding of a just transition for workers and employers to low-carbon, climate resilient, environmentally friendly development.

The green jobs initiative was established as a partnership between the ILO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in 2007. The International Organization of Employers joined in 2008. It is part of the ILO’s work to respond to climate change by realizing the potential for green jobs and supporting a positive labour market transition. Green jobs also contribute to low-carbon development and reducing the environmental impact of enterprises and economic activity, ultimately to levels that are sustainable.

The ILO's Green Jobs Project is being implemented in five countries in Asia (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines) between 2010–2012, with financial support from the Australian Government, under the ILO-Australia Partnership Programme. The project will contribute directly to national programmes and initiatives on climate change, the environment and recovery from the global economic and jobs crisis.

In Sri Lanka, the project will include research on linkages between the environment, employment and the economy; training and awareness-raising programmes to address the needs of social partners (employers and trade unions) and a demonstration project for the creation of green and decent jobs.

The ILO's tripartite constituents (governments, workers' and employers' organizations) are the key group targeted by the Project. Using social dialogue, the project will mainstream green jobs and related policies into Sri Lanka's Decent Work Country Programme. It will also target some specific economic sectors to shift to a climate-resilient economy, which would help accelerate job recovery, reduce social gaps, and realize decent work.

**For further information please contact:**

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