

The International Labour Organization (ILO) promotes a job-centred and rights-based approach to development. In doing so, the Organization emphasizes full and productive employment together with rights, representation and protection in the world of work as a means to reduce poverty. The ILO works in 185 member States in promoting employment and sustainable enterprises, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue.



International Labour Organization

# ILO COLOMBO e-newsletter



## New ILO Director-General Takes Office

ILO Director-General **Guy Ryder** took office on 1 October 2012. Guy Ryder sees the ILO as absolutely central to the questions of the day: jobs, social protection, the fight against poverty, and equality. For this reason, he wants to reinforce the ILO's place at the centre of international decision-making on issues that affect the world of work.

The Director-General wants the ILO to play a role in difficult global situations - such as economic crisis - and on the national agendas of countries undergoing change, especially where the world of work is at stake. To support these goals, Guy Ryder has started a process of internal reform to strengthen the ILO's technical capacity and improve its policy analysis.

Guy Ryder has some thirty years of experience in the world of work, most of it at the international level. During that time he has occupied positions of leadership at the global level and been called upon to manage complex processes of change and situations of considerable political sensitivity in all regions of the world.

Born in Liverpool (UK) in 1956, Guy Ryder was educated at the Universities of Cambridge and Liverpool.

## New ILO Regional Director for Asia Pacific takes up post



**Mr Yoshiteru Uramoto** (Japan) took up his post as Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, based in Bangkok, on 16 October 2012.

Until 2011, Mr Uramoto served as the Deputy to the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Vienna, Austria. He spent 27 years with UNICEF, and his last position was as Director

of the UNICEF Office for Japan and the Republic of Korea. He has also worked in New York and in the former Republic of Yugoslavia (Croatia), India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and Sudan.

## HE Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka launches the National Human Resources and Employment Policy



The National Human Resources and Employment Policy was officially launched by **His Excellency, Mahinda Rajapaksa**, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka at Temple Trees in Colombo on 30 October 2012.

**Hon.D.E.W. Gunasekera**, Senior Minister for Human Resources and other Hon. Ministers, **Mr Lalith Weeratunge**, Secretary to HE the President, **Mr Mahinda Madihahewa** CEO of the Senior Ministers' Secretariat, **Secretaries of Ministries**, **members of the diplomatic corps** and **ILO's tripartite constituents** were present at this event.

The National Human Resources and Employment Policy has the vision of "Sri Lanka – the 'Wonder of Asia' in which all persons of working age become globally competitive and multi-skilled, and enjoy full, decent and productive employment with higher incomes in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity." This vision clearly expresses the country's aspiration for inclusive and productive economic growth – i.e. economic development with social justice. The policy includes all the four pillars of Decent Work - promoting employment, rights at work, social protection, and social dialogue, as well as all the principles and aspirations of Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (no. 122).

The NHREP has the following policy components: Macroeconomic framework, Human resources planning, development and productivity - Education, Vocational skills and employability, Career guidance and counselling; Enhancing employability of the youth; Science, technology and innovative skills, Sectoral policies; Informal employment; Employment opportunities for vulnerable groups, disabled persons and those in under-developed regions; Foreign employment; Public service employment; Gender mainstreaming; Labour market information and employment services; Social dialogue institutions and labour relations; Wages; and Social protection.

The ILO has been providing technical support to the Senior Ministers Secretariat for the development of the NHREP for the last 2 years. The NHREP is a fruit of a series of extensive national consultations among a wide range of national stakeholders from the Ministry of Labour and Labour Relations, Ministry of Productivity Promotion, as well as various other ministries and employers' and workers' organizations.

The ILO will continue to provide technical support to the process of developing and implementing the Master Plan on National Human Resources and Employment Policy.

## The Maldives Ratifies 8 ILO Core Conventions

The Maldives Parliament approved the ratification of all 8 ILO core conventions in October 2012.

The ILO's eight core conventions are considered as fundamental principles and rights at work. It includes freedom of association (C87) and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining (C98); the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour (C29 and C105); the effective abolition of child labour (C138 and C182); and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation (C100 and C111).

The Maldives joined ILO in 2009 and since then the promotion for ratification of the core conventions has been a priority of the ILO Country Office for Sri Lanka and the Maldives. ILO Colombo will continue to assist the Government of Maldives in its initiatives to promote decent work in the country.

**A decent job is the best way out of poverty and it's also the way economies grow. Jobs mean development.**

Read the article here: <http://bit.ly/RNTlit>

## ILO goes SOCIAL

ILO is now present in a number of social media platforms. Check out the following links :



<http://www.facebook.com/ilo.org>



<http://www.twitter.com/ilonews>



<http://www.youtube.com/ilotv>



<http://iloblog.org>

## ILO presents prosecutors manual to the Attorney General

The ILO's Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Project developed a Training Manual for **Prosecutors and Legal Practitioners** in Sri Lanka on the '**Prosecution of Offences of Human Trafficking**'.



The manual was developed in close collaboration with the Attorney General's Department and contains both the international and national laws as well as selected case law pertaining to the subject. The Manual was presented to the Hon. Attorney General, **Mr. Palitha Fernando PC.** by **Mr. Donglin Li**, ILO Country Director for Sri Lanka & the Maldives on 20 November 2012 at the Office of the Attorney General. **Mr. Kapila Waidyaratne**, Deputy Solicitor General and **Ms. Chandrika Karunaratne**, ILO National Project Coordinator were also present.

## Reviving the Northern Province Cooperative Movement

The cooperative movement has been historically strong in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. In the 1970s, when Sri Lanka had a closed economy, it flourished and was involved in almost every aspect of the economy. From the mid-1980s, as the civil war escalated, the cooperative movement became involved as a contractor for humanitarian organizations involved in food distribution and other humanitarian aid. In many ways it was forced to walk a tight rope between maintaining some form of cooperative independence and ethos, meeting the demands of the warring parties, the demands of humanitarian agencies and the need to earn revenue and stay in business during this very challenging and complex period. In the aftermath of the war, the cooperative movement was badly affected, their assets were lost or displaced and they lost most of their membership.

Despite a slow recovery since June 2009, cooperatives have revived their core businesses. However, current challenges include an erosion of democratic values in cooperative management, lack of business acumen and assets and little success in reclaiming their lost membership. It now faces a different operational environment, more competitive and challenging, but also with potential new market opportunities throughout the entire island and abroad.

In October 2012 the ILO helped the cooperative movement to respond to the new business environment. ILO's support through its **Australian Government-funded Local Empowerment through Economic Development Project** has enabled cooperatives to rebuild not only the physical infrastructure and organization, but also the cooperative ethos, which may have been lost or diminished. To that end, at the invitation of the Ministry of Cooperatives Development and Internal Trade and the Department of Cooperative Development, the ILO has facilitated the drafting of a situation analysis and the development of a roadmap for cooperative development in the country, with a special focus on the Northern Province. Capacity building and knowledge sharing sessions on the findings and on good practices, especially on the **ILO Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193)**, were organized for the staff of the Ministry as well as for cooperative managers and committees both at national level and in the field.

## Tuk-Tuk awareness raising campaign on sexual harassment in the workplace



Under its **Joint UN Programme on Prevention of and Response to Gender-based Violence in Sri Lanka**, ILO Colombo embarked on month-long below the line campaign on making the public aware of actions that constitute sexual harassment in the workplace and its legal implications. Sexual harassment is a criminal offence in Sri Lanka and it carries a punishment with or without hard labour for any period up to five years.

Towards that end, ILO put a sticker on more than 100 tuk-tuks (a popular mode of transport in Sri Lanka) stationed between the busiest points in Colombo, Sri Lanka's commercial capital.

It is estimated that these points yields over five million impressions each month. Compared to electronic and print media, the reach of this campaign is significantly greater given the mobility of the trishaws, often traveling all around Colombo, and sometimes even further than that.

This medium allowed the ILO to target multiple demographics, be it low-income earners traveling via Bus, or higher income earners traveling in private vehicles, not to mention the tuk-drivers themselves.

## Product Exhibition of Graduates of Technical Training

The ILO's **Empowering Conflict-Affected Communities (ECAC) Project** funded the technical training of advance sewing and candle making for 40 women of Chettikulam DS Division in Vavuniya District. The training was facilitated by Industries Officer, Science and Technology Officer and Women Development Officer attached to DS Office. At the end of the training on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012, the graduates organized an exhibition of their products made during training. The exhibition was well received by the public and made the women more confident to enter into entrepreneurship.



## ILO participates in Skills, Innovations and Education Exhibition



The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development organized the above exhibition from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November at the BMICH in Colombo. The exhibition targeted more than 400,000 students with an objective of engaging their interest in considering vocational training as an alternate education stream. The Cabinet Minister of Economic Development, **Hon. Basil Rajapaksa** graced the occasion as the Chief Guest together with the Cabinet Minister for Youth Affairs and Skills Development, **Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma** and Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, **Hon. Duminda Dissanayake**.

**Mr. Donglin Li**, Country Director ILO accompanied the Ministers to see the ILO stall and briefed them on the ILO's employable skill training programmes in the country.

## Workshop on Public Employment Services held in Colombo

A three day workshop on Public Employment Services was held by the ILO in collaboration with the Ministry of Productivity Promotion from 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in Colombo. More than 70 participants, including officials from the **Ministry of Productivity Promotion, Ministry of Labour and Labour Relations, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare, employers and workers organizations and ILO staff**, involved in employment services at the district-level participated at this workshop. The workshop also hosted **three participants from Pakistan**.



The workshop was designed to provide opportunities for participants to improve their knowledge and strengthen their capacities on the operations and functioning of Employment Service Centres as well to share experiences and to expand the network to provide job-seekers with opportunities in domestic and overseas areas.

The workshop consisted of a number of technical sessions and group work sessions which were facilitated by **Mr. Paul Comyn**, Senior Vocational Training & Skills Development Specialist, ILO Decent Work Team – New Delhi, **Ms. Donna Koeltz**, Senior Specialist in Employment Services, ILO Geneva and **Ms. Naoko Otake**, Senior Specialist in Employment, ILO Geneva.

**ILO Country Office for Sri Lanka and the Maldives**  
202 – 204, Baudhaloka Mawatha  
Colombo 7.

Tel: +94 11 2592525, 2580691 | Fax: +94 11 2500865 |  
E-mail: [colombo@ilo.org](mailto:colombo@ilo.org) | Web: [www.ilo.org/colombo](http://www.ilo.org/colombo)