

Foundation Training on Green Jobs for ILO Constituents in the Philippines

19-21 July 2011 | CSB Hotel, Manila

Green Jobs in Asia and Greener Business Asia

Background

It is widely acknowledged that unsustainable use of resources, high levels of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and the deterioration of natural capital in general pose severe threats to today's economies and societies across national borders. They threaten the very basis of growth and development and endanger livelihood security for millions of people who are dependent on those resources or potentially affected by climate change. At the same time policy measures aimed at supporting a shift to more sustainable growth and development trajectories have far-reaching implications for employment and labour market dynamics in many countries and economic sectors.

The importance of concerted efforts and joint actions to address such challenges is well recognised by governments, trade unions and employers organisations, and has been reiterated in several forums, including discussions during the ILO Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalisation in November 2007.

As part of these efforts, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Organization of Employers came together in the Green Jobs initiative with the goal of promoting environmentally sustainable jobs in a climate-challenged world. The initiative seeks to enhance dialogue and strengthen collaborations, build the capacity of ILO constituents, fill knowledge gaps, facilitate a 'just' transition to environmentally sound economies, and support policies to achieve the sustainability of jobs and enterprises.

It is in this context that the projects Green Jobs in Asia (GJ in Asia) and Greener Business Asia (GBA) were launched in several countries in the region, including the Philippines. GJA and GBA are two technical cooperation initiatives which share the broad common goal to assist ILO's constituents and partners to address environmental and climate-related challenges and to contribute to sustainable development.

In support of this goal, Green Jobs in Asia seeks to deepen ILO constituents understanding and commitments for the promotion of gender sensitive green jobs opportunities and a just transition for workers and employers towards a low-carbon, climate resilient, environmentally friendly development. In order to achieve this objective the project strategy focuses on : (a) Promoting the capacity of ILO constituents to engage in dialogue on green jobs through increased access to reliable sources of data and information on green jobs and training, including on the employment impacts of environment-related policies and good practices on green jobs; (b) Green jobs being mainstreamed in national labour and social policy of participating countries; (c) Green Jobs demonstration programs which respond to the different needs of women and men, implemented in key sectors selected on the basis of research and consultations.

Greener Business Asia adds emphasis to the enterprise dimension of the transition to a greener economy, building on workers' and employers' collaboration at the workplace to promote improvements in terms of enterprise competitiveness, and labour and environmental practices. In particular, it revolves around the specific objectives of: a) increasing tripartite bodies' understanding of challenges and opportunities in developing response strategies to environmental pressures at the workplace, b) strengthen the capacity of employers' organizations and other relevant institutions to support response strategies to environmental pressures based on bipartite cooperation at the enterprise level, including activities in model enterprises as demonstration, c) enhance knowledge and awareness at the national level of good models of practice of bipartite cooperation in response strategies to environmental pressures.

The strategies of the two projects rest strongly on capacity building, which include training activities for constituents and partners. Following a training and information needs assessment, a common foundation training package for ILO constituents and partners will be developed and delivered.

Objectives

Through the training, participants will be introduced to the conceptual framework that provides the foundation for initiatives promoting green jobs and principles of a just transition. They will gain a better understanding of key issues, challenges and responses being developed to address climate change and broader environmental challenges at the national and international levels, and their relations to employment and labour dynamics. The training will be based on the training framework that is being developed at the regional level while reflecting country-specific settings and priorities. It will draw upon ILO materials, particularly those being utilized for the training Green Jobs, Greener Business for Thai Constituents, as well as the established ITC Training Programme on "Climate Change and linking the world of work.", and the ACTRAV training on green jobs as well other relevant training materials.

The main aim of the training is to strengthen understanding of constituents and partners on the following:

1. Key concepts of climate change and environmental issues
2. Linkages to employment and the world of work – core notions of green jobs and just transition
3. National context and policy framework for climate change and links to employment and skills
4. Potential roles and contributions of constituents in the promotion of green jobs, green businesses and a just transition given the current frame conditions, and possible scenarios in the mid-term (3-5 years).

It is expected that that the enhanced understanding of such issues gained through the training will place constituents in a better position to engage in dialogue related to green jobs and the links between environmental and employment issues. The training aims to strengthen tripartism and social dialogue on the promotion of green jobs and just transition, to capacitate constituents to address green jobs in their strategies and institutional capabilities. It is also expected that this training will provide a basis for social partners to identify potential areas where they may require further capacity building and support to promote the green jobs agenda.

Workshop Structure & Content:

Kindly refer to the training outline appended, with the detailed program pre-training reference materials to follow by next week. At the broad level, the subject areas covered in the training will include the following:

- Concepts related to climate change, principles of sustainable development and green jobs
 - Key concepts (e.g. mitigation, adaptation)
 - Institutional framework
 - Employment and social aspects - notions of green jobs and just transition
- ILO Green Jobs Initiative
- Climate change and environmental challenges in the Philippines
- National policy framework (e.g. Philippine Development Plan (in particular the Environment and Natural Resource Management), Philippine Labour and Employment Plan, the Climate Change Framework and Action Plan, , including other relevant ENR & sectoral policies, laws and issuances in the Philippines)
- International and national policies and initiatives leading to creation of green jobs/greening of jobs and just transition measures to facilitate them (focus on examples where constituents had an active role)
- Opportunities and challenges of just transition to Green Jobs in the Philippines
- Skills for Green Jobs
- Discussion on experiences of constituents and relevance and role of constituents
- Next steps and further capacity building requirements

The foundational part of the training will have a duration of two (2) days. During the Day 2 concluding session, discussing roles of constituents, would involve the presence of decisions makers from the constituents and partners, to ensure buy-in and strategic support.

There will be a third day of training focused on greening enterprises and industries, to be led by the Greener Business Asia (GBA) project. This will present concepts of greener business, sustainable production & consumption, links between workplace conditions, relations and environmental practices, relevant ILO experiences and interactive discussions between constituents on these topics.

As this foundation training will form a basis of further capacity building of constituents, under the Green Jobs in Asia (GJA) project, meetings and discussions will be set by the Green Jobs team to prepare and gather inputs from constituents, on their proposed role and current activities in addressing climate change / environmental challenges or other related green issues.

An active learning methodology will be employed through the workshop, which will encourage the participants to fully involve themselves in all aspects of the training.

Participants:

The training participants will be comprised of a maximum of 50 persons, composed of technical persons from ILO constituents and national partner organizations. The following organizations have been identified and will be asked to nominate participants:

Constituents:

- a. DOLE
- b. ECOP
- c. TUCP
- d. FFW
- e. APL

Other Organisations:

- a. Relevant government agencies
- b. Enterprise and sector representatives from pilot projects of GBA and GJA
- c. Other ILO project partners