

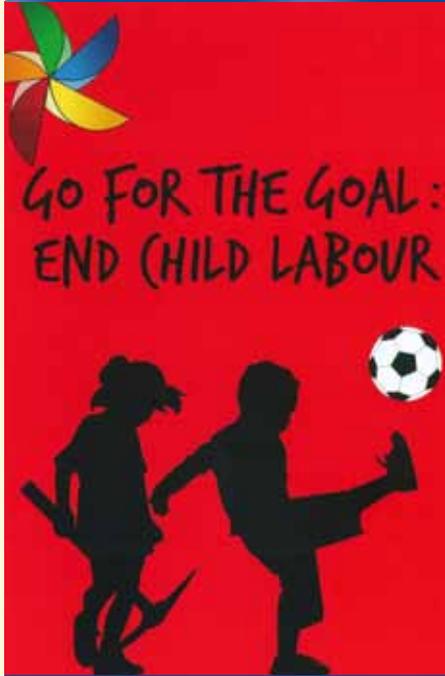


Decent Work for All

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International
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Organization



Building a better nation requires work. **Decent Work.**

The fight against child labour in PHL

By Jodelen Mitra, ILO-IPEC Programme Officer for Monitoring and Evaluation

Any fight is difficult to win, and to win a war a strong army is needed. The same is true with eliminating child labour.

Armed with commitment and fresh mandates, representatives of government and non-government organizations in four provinces met together, crying out that enough was enough; child labour had to be brought to an end. They saw the need to form provincial bodies that would oversee efforts to eliminate child labour, a major threat to the future of their children and youth, a major threat to the future of their people. Provincial Child Labor Committees (PCLC) were formally organized in the provinces of Quezon, Bukidnon, Northern Samar and Masbate in October 2010.

Governor Paul Daza issued an Executive Order to establish the Committee in Northern Samar, an official provincial body. The Governors of the other provinces committed to finalizing similar Executive Orders in coming months. The ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), pledged support to enable the PCLCs to reach goals to eradicate the Worst Forms

of Child Labor (WFCL) that they had set for their respective provinces.

At the central level, the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) has built capacity to achieve the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) goal of a 75 per cent reduction in the incidence of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2015. Part of the programme is to improve coordination and collaboration between the national committee and PCLCs.

IPEC, with funding support from the US Department of Labor, is implementing Phase 2 of a "Time-Bound Programme" on the elimination of WFCL. The Project pursues intervention at the national and local levels with direct services for 9,350 children. These services will withdraw 5,500 children from worst forms of labour, and prevent 3,350 'at-risk' children from joining the workforce. An additional 500 working children, aged 15-17, will be reached by intervention that protect their safety and welfare.

These goals are within reach with the strengthening of Child Labor Committees, but we cannot be complacent. The war continues, the war against child labour, with ambitious goals to be reached by 2015.

The World Day Against Child Labour 2010 theme is "Go for the Goal". On June 12, many football personalities from around the world expressed their support to end child labour. In the Philippines, the National Child Labor Committee had a football clinic for former child labourers. The event is in partnership with the Philippine Miracle Team and the Don Bosco Youth Center. (Photo by M. Rimando/ILO)

Child labour 2010 facts:



- Child labour continues to decline, but only modestly - a three per cent reduction in the four year period covered by the new estimates (2004-2008).
- The global number of child labourers stands at 215 million, only seven million less than in 2004.
- Most child labourers continue to work in agriculture (60 per cent). Only one in five working children is in paid employment. The overwhelming majority are unpaid family workers.
- There are still 115 million children in hazardous work.

SOURCE: *Accelerating action against Child Labour*, ILO Global Report.

Education subsidy awarded under the MDG F Joint Programme

By Ruth Georget, MDG-YEM Joint Programme Coordinator

Seventy-two disadvantaged high school students in public secondary schools in Agusan del Sur recently received education subsidies to cover transportation, meals and miscellaneous expenses.

The education subsidy scheme aims to keep up to 250 youth in secondary school across Masbate, Antique, Agusan Del Sur and Maguindanao in school over the next two school years, who would have otherwise dropped out or not enrolled for “financial reasons”.

Present during the award ceremony was Agusan del Sur Vice Governor,

Santiago Cane who shared his own story of overcoming poverty to pursue an education and finish his schooling.

Drawing from his own experiences, the Vice Governor advised students who received education subsidy not to use poverty as an excuse for not completing their studies, and appealed to their parents to see education as an investment. “Education is an instrument that serves to empower individuals in breaking the shackles of poverty,” he added.

Agusan del Sur has one of the highest secondary school drop-out rates in the Caraga Region, estimated at 10 per cent.

The national secondary school drop out rate in the Philippines is close to 8 per cent and is usually attributed to poverty, an inability to pay school fees and pressure to contribute to the family income.

The initiative is part of a Joint Programme “Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth” supported by the Spanish-funded MDG Achievement Fund and implemented jointly by International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Children’s Fund and United Nations Population Fund with the Department of Labor and Employment as lead implementing partner.

The 11th National Convention on Statistics

By April Carmela Lacson, Programme Assistant

The National Statistical Coordination Board held its 11th National Convention, “Towards a Philippine Statistical System Responsive to Emerging National and Global Challenges,” in October. The convention brought together practitioners, theoreticians, academe, government and the private sector.

Convention sessions covered topics from Education, Poverty, Gender, Climate Change, and Health Statistics to the Millennium Development Goals, Econometric Modeling, Analysis and Statistical Approaches. A Session on Statistics on Labour, Employment and the MDGs was sponsored by ILO CO-Manila, the Policy Integration Department and the Royal Norwegian Government.

Two papers were presented during the session. Dr Emmanuel Esguerra of the School of Economics of the University of the Philippines spoke on “What Do Recent Employment Statistics Tell Us,” while ILO Country Director Lawrence Jeff Johnson presented a paper on “The New Employment Indicators of the MDGs”.

The new MDG indicators on decent and productive work emphasize the role that employment plays in reducing poverty. It also gives policymakers insight into the quality of employment currently being provided, which in some countries like the Philippines, may be the more pressing problem than unemployment.

What does decent work mean to you?

- “Fairness and equality in the workplace.” Atty. Cesar Borje, Lawyer
- “Job that makes me happy and fulfilled; where it may support the needs of my family and help my community as well” - Jennet Sanchez, Manager

Illustrator: Gill Button



Must reads

World of Work Report 2010: From one crisis to the next?

The report by the ILO’s International Institute for Labour Studies says a long “labour market recession” is worsening the social outlook in many countries. The report also warns that “despite significant gains...new clouds have emerged on the employment horizon and the prospects have worsened significantly in many countries”.

22-26 November 2010

25-26 November 2010

23 November to
to 18 December 2010

Calendar

Training of Trainers on Generate Your Business Idea/Start Your Business for Local Partner Organizations (Masbate)

Orientation on Local Economic Development Tools (Manila)

San Narciso Community-based Skills Training (Quezon)



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