



# Decent Work for All

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Achieving the Millennium Development Goals requires work. **Decent Work.**

## Birthing station breaks ground in Bondoc

By Reinero Flores, Inter-agency Programme to Nurture Peace, Security and Decent Work through Local Development in Conflict Areas of the Philippines (Bondoc LED) Project Coordinator

Bondoc Peninsula is a province in the southern part of Luzon, Philippines where almost half of the population depend on subsistence farming and fishing earning less than a dollar a day. “Life is hard in our village. We do not have money. We have little food. We decided to move to the roadside, closer to the market for me to have a source of income,” said Larry Alebia.

The “Inter-agency Programme to Nurture Peace, Security and Decent Work through Local Development in Conflict Areas of the Philippines” or Bondoc-LED project aims to address poverty and inequality in the province. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) jointly implement the project, which is funded by the Government of Japan through the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security.

The project together with local communities will build birthing stations. The official ground breaking of the first of at least four birthing stations was held

on 25 April 2011. The construction will help create local employment, enhance construction skills and strengthen participation through the community contracting scheme. The project will also assist in providing facilities and modules on maternal and child health care in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The inclusion of maternal and child health care was identified as a support component to pursue and ensure long-term economic productivity in Bondoc Peninsula. The local government estimated that around 70 per cent of their existing Barangay Health Centers require upgrading of physical structure and facilities. It was also underlined that local health workers also need training to help reduce child mortality and improve maternal health care.

“Local economic development can only be achieved and sustained if we address health and educational issues alongside economic growth and stability as part of

Members of the community work together to build the Mulanay Birthing Station to help improve maternal and child health care in Bondoc Peninsula. (Photo by ILO)

the decent work initiative. Without healthy educated individuals, communities can never have a healthy workforce, the people will remain vulnerable - and therefore, it will be difficult if not impossible to attain sustainable, inclusive and greener growth that will help families and communities thrive,” said Director Lawrence Jeff Johnson of the ILO Country Office for the Philippines.

Communities are now part of various local economic project planning and implementation processes. This approach has resulted to upgraded livelihood skills and tools, improved farming and fishing technologies, enhanced entrepreneurship skills and market knowledge- all leading to economic productivity and better family incomes. Likewise, risks reduction management interventions such as vulnerability mapping and disaster preparedness planning were also integrated to enhance the resiliency of communities against natural hazards. With two more years to go, the project seeks to expand its reach and enhance institutional partnerships for greater impact and sustainability.

# ECOP upholds tripartism in national confab

By Karen Lapitan, ILO Communication Intern

Tripartism took center stage in the 32nd National Conference of Employers organized by Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) held on 4-5 May 2011 in Pasay City. Tripartism is reflected in the structure of the ILO, where governments, employers and workers act as equal partners.

With the theme "Tripartism and Employment: The Only Way", the conference promoted the importance of partnership among stakeholders.

Vice President Jejomar Binay, who served as a guest speaker of the event, recognized the need for an environment favorable to job creation that would benefit both workers and employers. Using the context of the International Labour Organization (ILO), he also cited the concept of decent work as a crucial factor in employment creation where employees can work in the conditions of "freedom,

equity, security and human dignity."

Meanwhile, Lawrence Jeff Johnson, Director of the ILO Country Office for the Philippines, said "Tripartism is a process, a structure and an output."

"Tripartism has the ability, when carried out in an open, transparent and mutually inclusive manner to contribute to industrial peace, which promotes competitiveness of enterprises," Mr Johnson added.

Highlights of the national conference included plenary sessions with the following topics: "Sustaining Growth and Employment", "Growth through Labor and Market Reforms", "Emerging Global Best Practices" and "Business Development and Bureaucracy".

ECOP holds a national conference every year to discuss relevant issues and come up with comprehensive plans and positions.

# ILO knowledge corner opens in Luzon

By Julita Yap, Library/Documentation Assistant

The International Labour Organization (ILO) opened knowledge corners in schools, universities and public libraries in the Philippines. Through a partnership with the ILO and the Ifugao State University (IFSU), the first provincial knowledge corner was established on 18 May 2011 in the northern region of the Philippines.

IFSU officials namely Dr Florencio Dimog, Main Campus Director, Dr Camilo Pimentel, Vice President for Finance and Administration, Dr Faith B. Basilio, Vice President for Academics, Mr Telesforo Pugong, Vice President for Planning and Development together with Ms Ma. Concepcion Sardaqa, ILO Senior Programme Officer and Ms Lorraine Villacorta, Project Manager of the MDG-F

Climate Change Adaptation witnessed the turn-over of special library collections, publications, information materials, and a computer donated for access of ILO statistics and databases.

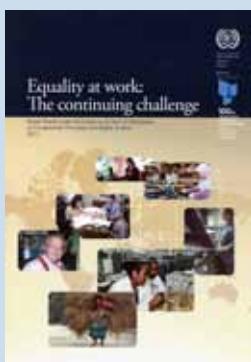
The ILO-IFSU knowledge corner is located at the College Library for wider and easier access to users. Ms Emily Sungduan, College Librarian maintains and coordinates related request. With this partnership, the ILO now has the opportunity to share its programmes, services and tools with leading educators and academe in the region. University students, faculty, and researchers will have wider access to ILO statistics and databases, labour standards, publications, videos and information products.

# Philippine World Day against Child Labour

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is to mark this year's World Day against Child Labour (June 12) with events in more than 50 countries, along with a new report on children in hazardous work. In the Philippines, the National Child Labor Committee's Sub-Committee on Mainstreaming and Advocacy spearheads the World Day against Child Labour, which aims to increase public awareness

on the issue of child labour and on the need to scale up programmes towards the goal of preventing and eliminating the worst forms of child labour. The Philippine World Day against Child Labour will also build strong action and commitment to promote decent and productive work, recognizing that hazardous work is part of the larger child labour problem.

## Must reads



### Equality at work: The continuing challenge

The report noted that in spite of continuous positive advances in anti-discrimination legislation, the global economic and social crisis has led to a higher risk of discrimination against certain groups such as migrant labour.  
[www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)

11-14 July 2011

## Calendar

**Training on Inspection in the Application of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006**  
Subic Bay, Olongapo

18-29 July 2011

**Diagnostic Tool on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining in the Philippine Export Processing Sector**  
Makati, Laguna, and Cavite

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