



# Decent Work for All

Monthly news update • May 2011 • [www.ilo.org/manila](http://www.ilo.org/manila)



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## Ph unveils plan to achieve inclusive growth through decent and productive work

By Minette Rimando, Senior Communication and Public Information Assistant

With its goal of achieving inclusive growth and reducing poverty through decent and productive work, the Philippines through the Department of Labor and Employment unveiled the “Philippine Labor and Employment Plan (PLEP) 2011-2016: Inclusive Growth through Decent and Productive Work”. Over 350 economic leaders, policy makers, government officials, representatives of workers’ and employers’ organizations and heads of international organizations, civil society and academic institutions joined the launch on 27 April 2011. The launch was part of the National Summit on Labor and Employment held in Pasay City.

“We are glad to know that the PLEP is consistent with the Philippine Development Plan’s inclusive growth paradigm since it follows the decent and productive work framework. It affirms the principles that seek to increase employment, improve the quality of employment, expand access to opportunities and promote mechanisms for mutual and productive gains,” said Director-General Cayetano Paderanga, Jr. of

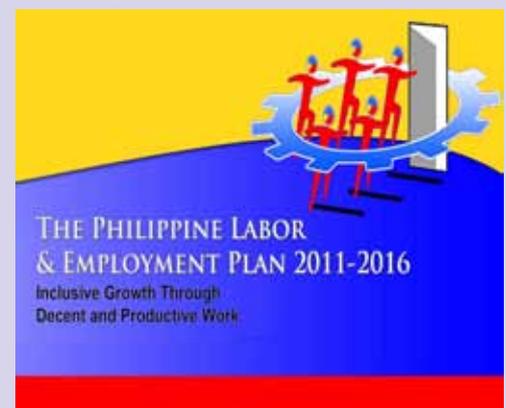
the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

According to Director-General Paderanga, the plan will effectively address poverty and create massive employment opportunities and achieve inclusive growth through high and sustained economic growth that provides productive and decent work opportunities; equal access to development opportunities for people, that ensures economic growth translates to poverty reduction; and implementation of effective and responsive social safety nets in order to assist those who will not be able to catch up by the character of the high economic expansion. This includes effects of climate change which stress the need for social safety nets to support vulnerable sectors and to help them emerge out of poverty.

The PLEP 2011-2016 sets the Philippines’ strategic directions in labour and employment over the next five years. “It is a product of multi-partite consultations. It is inspired by President Benigno Aquino III’s vision of a

Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz of the Department of Labor and Employment presents the Philippine Labor and Employment Plan 2011-2016 to Director-General Cayetano Paderanga of the National Economic and Development Authority (Photo by ILO/M. Rimando)

transformed, just, and righteous Philippines and represents the collective priorities of labour and employment stakeholders. It is based on the 22-point platform and policy pronouncements on labour and employment that has the overarching goal of investing in our human resource to make them more competitive and employable while promoting industrial peace based on social justice,” highlighted Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz of the Department of Labor and Employment as she officially turned over the plan to Director-General Paderanga of NEDA.



## New income streams for copra communities

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

Coconut farmers and women can now produce sugar, oil, soap and perfume products from coconut. This was after the Inter-agency Programme to Nurture Peace, Security and Decent Work through Local Development in Conflict Areas of the Philippines (Bondoc LED) and local government of San Narciso, Quezon conducted training in remote villages.

A total of 70 coconut farmers and 56 women joined the training held on 18-31 May 2011 in Quezon. Participants learned sequential harvesting of coconut for copra and sap collection to increase

productivity. Coconut-based products such as coconut sugar, virgin coconut oil, organic soap, and perfume were also produced.

The Bondoc LED-driven project strategy seeks to contribute in addressing the root causes of poverty and conflict through promotion of alternative livelihood strategies. In the past, productivity remains low as farmers are largely practicing mono-cropping system and 98 per cent are depending on copra as its major product. There was also a need to improve skills, technologies, tools and materials in order to convert coconut into other potentially higher value products.

## Stitching forward

By the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

They dreamt of sewing abroad but it was in their home country that their dreams started to unfold.

Margie Abarcan and Marivic Valenzuela both wanted to try their luck in Europe last 2008 as sewers. When they got to Romania they thought all will be well. As fate would have it, things didn't go as planned and after five and half months, the two friends soon found themselves bound for the Philippines.

But Fate had better plans for Margie and Maryvic, the two became part of the joint project of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the National Reintegration Center for Overseas Filipino Workers (NRCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

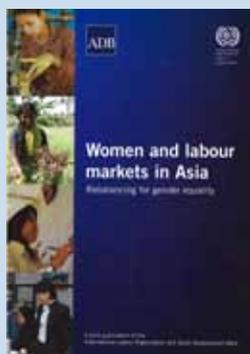
The project entitled "Going Back, Moving On: The Economic and Social Empowerment of Migrants, Including Victims of Trafficking, Returned from the European Union and Neighboring Countries" was created to help distressed overseas workers to overcome their ill experience and regain self-assurance to incorporate themselves as productive persons back in their community. The project provides a holistic package of reintegration services that addresses the psychosocial and economic needs of the worker upon her unplanned return.

What seemingly was another disaster became blessing in disguise.

The hitting of Typhoon Ondoy last 2009 in the country entitled each of them to a P10,000.00 calamity assistance from the OWWA. With that available amount, they bought two sewing machines and rented a space in Taytay, Rizal and started their sewing entrepreneurship. The partnership proved to be successful. Margie and Maryvic now hire four female sewers to meet the demands of their clients. They sub-contract making blouses and children's clothes that are sold in Metro Manila shopping malls. "Each of us earns between P1,000 to P1,500 a week, it's good income but we wish to earn more," said Margie, 37 years old. Forty-two years old Maryvic added, "We want to design our own clothing line and sell them to the big malls." The budding entrepreneurs plan on learning more skills in advance sewing and buying more sewing machines to creatively expand their business. "We'd like to thank OWWA, NRCO, DOLE and ILO and other agencies who made it possible for us to return and start a business. We hope that our sewing business will make it big in the near future". Both agreed that with determination, hard work and patience their dream will finally come true.

Europe may have held back her good fortune on Margie and Maryvic but Philippines is more than glad to open tremendous opportunities to her two daughters who fortunately returned home.

### Must reads



#### Women and Labour Markets in Asia: Rebalancing for Gender Equality

A joint undertaking by the Asian Development Bank and the ILO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, reflecting the high-level commitment of both organizations to gender equality in the region.

[www.ilo.org/asia](http://www.ilo.org/asia)

1-4 June 2011

14 June 2011

27-30 June 2011

### Calendar

**Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Contingency Planning**  
Bicol

**Philippine World Day Against Child Labour**  
Quezon City

**Training of Trainers on Social Dialogue**  
Subic Bay, Olongapo

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Decent Work for All is published monthly by the ILO Country Office for the Philippines. The electronic version can be accessed at [www.ilo.org/manila](http://www.ilo.org/manila). Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the ILO.

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