



# Decent Work for All

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## ILO and the Embassy of Finland increase support to indigenous peoples in Ph

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Embassy of Finland in Manila agreed to increase support to indigenous peoples in the Philippines, mainly the T'boli and Ubo tribes in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

The agreement, signed on 27 February 2012 by H.E. Heikki Hannikainen, Ambassador of the Embassy of Finland and Mr Lawrence Jeff Johnson, Director of the ILO Country Office for the Philippines, is aimed at sustaining initiatives and responding to the needs of indigenous peoples.

The ILO's partnership with the Embassy of Finland started in 2000 covering several areas in the Philippines. Through the partnership, a community-based micro-enterprise was built in Palawan to process wild honey, cashew nuts, rice and corn. Indigenous people working in the enterprise identified and implemented projects, which included water systems, agricultural development and food production.

In Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, the T'boli tribe learned about their rights as

indigenous peoples. Tribal houses were built to display and sell their products and to host traditional ceremonies, meetings and even as a place to settle conflicts and disputes.

Moreover, indigenous peoples in Lake Sebu learned to read, write and count in their own dialect. They were able to vote for candidates of their own choice during elections. A number of indigenous communities also acquired land through the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title.

The ILO and the Embassy of Finland partnership also supported a microfinance facility. Due to poverty and weak links to local and international markets, indigenous peoples are often forced to sell their products at a very low price.

"Our people were not merely treated as beneficiaries. They were involved in planning and identifying their needs, even in implementing the project. The project helped us to develop our community", said Datu Ponciano Bandalan, tribal leader of Barangay Bakdulong, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. Datu is a royal title conferred to respected leaders or members of royal

Indigenous peoples of Lake Sebu melt plastic and form beads. The beads are sold through the Cooperative of Women for Health and Development, a partner of the ILO and Embassy of Finland. (Photo by ILO/A. Barredo)

families.

The ILO and Embassy of Finland partnership will continue to use the community-driven participatory approach, which provides indigenous peoples with the opportunity to take the "driver's seat" in the process of their own advancement and sustainable management of their ancestral domains. The approach is consistent with the basic principles of the ILO Convention (No. 169) on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), which embodies the national policy of the Philippines on indigenous peoples.

Under the newly signed agreement, the Embassy of Finland will provide funds for indigenous peoples' community projects through its local development co-operation facility, while the ILO will give technical support to project implementation. In providing technical support, the ILO will draw lessons of good practice from its partnership with indigenous peoples in the Philippines since the early 1990s.

## International Women's Day 2012: UN photo exhibit at SM Supermalls

The ILO, as the Chair of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Technical Working Group, has partnered with the SM Cares Women's Committee for a photo exhibit on indigenous women.

The week-long photo exhibit will be launched on 8 March 2012 at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City in celebration of International Women's Day 2012. The photo exhibit will then be moved to other SM Supermalls nationwide.

Invited to speak during the launch and to express their support to promote indigenous women's role in development are:

- Hon. Congresswoman Nancy Catamco, Representative of the North Cotabato, 2nd District and Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Natural Cultural Communities
- Hon. Rosalinda Baldoz, Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment
- Hon. Zenaida Brigida Hamada Pawid, Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
- Hon. Remedios Rikken of the Philippine Commission on Women

- Ms Annie Garcia, President of SM Supermalls
- Mr Lawrence Jeff Johnson, Director of International Labour Organization Country Office for the Philippines and Chairperson of the United Nations Technical Working Group on Indigenous Peoples
- Ms Ugochi Daniels, Country Representative of the United Nations Population Fund and Chairperson of the United Nations Gender Mainstreaming Committee
- Mr Renaud Meyer, Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme



## Promoting youth employment through local economic development

By Roche Angon, MDG Fund Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth Project Coordinator

Local governments play a pivotal role to strengthen local economic development in the context of promoting youth employment. They serve as channels to establish and strengthen partnerships with private sector, non-government organizations, financial institutions and other government organizations to create employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for the youth.

Funded by the Government of Spain, the Millennium Development Goal Fund (MDG F) Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Work for Filipino Youth through the International Labour Organization is implementing a capacity building programme on local economic development in Masbate, Antique, Maguindanao and Agusan del Sur. The programme aims to enhance capacities of local government units on local economic development strategies, tools and approaches to design gender-responsive programmes and projects on youth employment. It also aims to develop sustainability schemes and partnerships to replicate and upscale local economic development initiatives at the municipal, city, province and national levels.

In collaboration with the Ateneo School of Government, a series of training on local economic development has been conducted since January and will end in May. This included empowering leaders in local economic development; policy development and analysis; project management; public finance management and resource generation; and entrepreneurship development for youth. The first four training activities have been completed, which highlighted the importance of decent and productive work in local economic development.

After the training, each province is expected to establish a local economic development team, craft policy paper and legislation on local economic development, incorporate programmes and projects on youth employment in local development plans and create a plan to improve the business environment.

Representatives of local government units, private sector, non-government organizations, national government agencies and youth organizations form part of the training activities. The Ateneo School of Government has on-going coaching and mentoring activities until July 2012 for those who participated in the training activities.

### Must reads



#### Domestic workers in the Philippines: profile and working conditions

This Factsheet presents the profile of domestic workers and their employers in the Philippines, and provides an insight into two important aspects of domestic work, namely, wages and working hours.

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

20-21 March 2012

27 March 2012

29 March 2012

### Calendar

**Tripartite validation workshop of the Philippine decent work country profile**  
Manila

**Going Back, Moving On Final Project Conference**  
Manila

**Youth employment forum**  
Manila

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#### ILO Country Office for the Philippines

19th Floor, Yuchengco Tower RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue  
1200 Makati City, Philippines • Tel: +63 2 580 9900 • Fax: +63 2 856 7597  
Email: [manila@ilo.org](mailto:manila@ilo.org) • Website: [www.ilo.org/manila](http://www.ilo.org/manila)