

International Conference on South-South Cooperation- Innovations in Public Employment Programmes for Sustainable Inclusive Growth 01st-03rd March 2012, New Delhi

Press Release

The International Conference on South-South Cooperation on "Innovations in Public Employment Programmes and Sustainable Inclusive Growth" is being held in New Delhi, India from 1-3 March 2012 under the aegis of IBSA. The Conference is being organized by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India in collaboration with the Ministries of Rural Development and External Affairs, with the technical collaboration of the International Labour Organization. The main objective of the Workshop is to share knowledge between countries to ensure better cohesion for overall inclusive growth with equity. 36 delegates from 18 countries from Asia, Africa and South America participated in the Conference. It was also attended by representatives, officials and experts from Central Ministries, State Governments, ILO, UN Agencies, Workers' and Employers' Organizations and others.

In his inaugural address, Union Minister for Labour & Employment emphasized that collaboration between emerging economies through South-South Cooperation is going to be an important feature of Global Economic Development in the current century. It was stated that coming together of the countries of South-South will lead to exchange of high quality information, better understanding of the best practices prevailing in these countries and development of effective technical cooperation programmes. He expressed that the conference will help at building meaningful partnerships and exchange of information. He concluded by stating that the conference will help build capacity and facilitate sharing of knowledge between developing countries.

During the High Level Panel Discussion for Labour Ministers, Shri Kharge mentioned that as developing countries, we are facing similar problems in many aspects of employment and social protection. He mentioned about the key features and roadmap of cooperation under IBSA more particularly in the areas of employment and social protection. He underlined the need for deepening and widening South-South Cooperation will create synergy which will be mutually beneficial to all. He stated that public employment programmes, skill development initiative and social protection are some of the areas where we can share our expertise, experience, practices and ideas for promoting, developing, designing and implementing schemes and programmes which will further lead to innovations. He also re-affirmed the commitment of Government of India in promoting South-South Cooperation for achieving sustainable inclusive growth that benefits all and the vulnerable sections of the society, but cautioned that sustainable inclusive growth through innovations in public employment programmes will be more effective in a world where there are no trade barriers and no restrictions in the movement of labour.

In his welcome address, Dr. Mrutyunjay Sarangi, Hon'ble Secretary to the Government of India, Minister for Labour & Employment stated that South-South cooperation has been historically used to describe the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries, also known as countries of the global South. He mentioned that South-South Cooperation has been successful in decreasing dependence on the aid programs of developed countries and in creating a shift in the international balance of power. He concluded by stating that we must make efforts to ensure sustainable economic growth and creation of qualitative employment opportunities so that future generations will thank today's leaders for having used this opportunity to create progressively better jobs that will bring higher standards of living.
