

## National Forum

### Key information

Date: 9 November 2012

Place: Bangkok

### Background

As economies and societies face multiple challenges – from the global economic slowdown, to increasing pressures on scarce resources and environmental degradation, to persisting inequalities - it is increasingly clear that enterprises have a vital role to play in the shift towards more inclusive and environmentally-sound models of growth and development.

Such concerns are recognised by the International Labour Organization's tripartite constituents – trade unions, employers' organizations and governments - both at the regional and national levels. This emerges from the Conclusions of the 2011 Asia Pacific Regional Meeting, particularly those conclusions relating to 'Working to ensure that Decent Work and full employment are at the heart of policies for strong, sustainable and balanced growth and inclusive development' (Conclusion 31); 'Promoting greener growth and green jobs, consistent with maintaining economic and social sustainability' (Conclusion 51); and 'Making full use of social dialogue to anticipate and address labour market changes, including those that will come with the transition to low-carbon economies' (Conclusion 58).

In Thailand, similar concerns are embedded in the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan, which centers its strategies on achieving a just society and on moving towards sustainable production and environmentally friendly management of resources in a dynamic and competitive economy.

The world of work – enterprises, employers and workers - the government and supporting institutions all have a crucial role to face up to these challenges and transformations. These changes require dialogue among stakeholders to find equitable solutions to challenging problems; they require broad-based participation and assistance at the enterprise and institutional levels; they require innovative policies as well as practical initiatives that bring about concrete benefits in the environmental, social and economic performances of companies.

Supported by the Government of Japan, the Greener Business Asia (GBA) project of the ILO seeks to contribute to these compelling challenges by developing and disseminating practical training and knowledge resources to assist enterprises in becoming more sustainable and providing greener, safer and more productive workplaces, through mechanisms of worker-employer cooperation.

### Goals and themes

The Forum is organized under the Greener Business Asia project as a platform to discuss options and promising initiatives for promoting sustainable enterprises and greener jobs in Thailand.

The forum aims at:

- Discussing key support elements for enterprise sustainability, with a particular focus on skills and training needs of workers and enterprises
- Presenting a model of worker-employer cooperation for achieving greener and more sustainable enterprises developed by Greener Business Asia
- Highlighting the importance of dialogue and stakeholders' participation for the shift towards sustainable enterprises and greener jobs
- Examining sustainability issues through a sectoral perspective by looking at tourism

### Target participants

Representatives from the Ministry of Labour, Trade Unions, Employers' Organizations, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Ministry of Tourism, the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Development Authority, the Thai Tourism