

## Support for People with Disabilities

### Regional Skills and Employability Programme for Asia and the Pacific (SKILLS-AP)

# FACT SHEET

- There are approximately 400 million disabled people in the Asia and Pacific region and 250 million of them are of working age (UNDP).
- 80 per cent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries and only 10 per cent of children with disabilities are likely to attend primary school in the region (UNESCO).
- Disabled people are often excluded from training and workplaces
- 70 to 80 per cent of disabled people live in rural areas and they most of these will be unemployed
- People with disabilities account for 20 per cent of the world's poor

The ILO's **Skills and Employability Program for Asia and the Pacific (SKILLS-AP)** is the regional focal point for supporting people with disabilities. Activities include:

- Supporting the inclusion of disabilities into mainstream skills development of TVET programs;
- Promoting the ILO Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Liaising with ILO disability specialists in Geneva and
- Liaising with disability organisations within the region;
- Managing a Korean-funded research project on inclusive vocational training - This includes a regional survey and case studies on the extent of inclusion.
- Maintaining the *AbilityAsia* website which includes a database on laws and other resources;
- support for technical projects in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. These projects included:
- Support for policy and legislative changes;
- Support and advice for government agencies, national and international NGOs and disabled persons organizations;
- Training to help people generate incomes;
- Training of trainers at local and national level;

Smaller support programs have also been managed in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Fiji and the Pacific Island countries.

### WHAT IS NEEDED

**In the Asia Pacific region, support is needed in many areas:**

- Appointment of technical specialists and disability experts to support projects within the region;
- Production and updating of resources to support skills development for people with disabilities;
- Ensuring that all funded projects are inclusive of disability issues;
- Development of indicators or targets to ensure inclusion is taking place at all levels;
- Capacity building for disabled person's organizations. This could include rights-based promotion, advocacy training and project management;
- Awareness-raising and advocacy for workers, employers and government agency about disability and effective strategies to support people with disabilities;
- Support for legislative change at the highest levels of government;
- Capacity building among those who are providing mainstream services;
- Train the trainer in areas such as using assistive technology or training approaches for disabled persons;
- Supporting exchanges of information and good practice between countries;
- Supporting innovative case studies and associated research;
- Support for the development of a formal sign language where required;
- Training programmes for instructors;
- Support for accident prevention and rehabilitation;
- Occupational health and safety for disabled persons in the workplace.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.ilo.org/abilityasia>

International Labour Organization  
 United Nations Building, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor Block A  
 Rajdamnern Nok Avenue,  
 Bangkok 10200 Thailand  
 Tel: +66 2 2882478 Fax: +66 2 2881086  
 Email: [bangkok@ilo.org](mailto:bangkok@ilo.org)

