**Microinsurance for low income Filipinos**
The ILO announced a US$100,000 grant to the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) on 25 August as part of the Microinsurance Innovation Facility. The ILO supports RBAP members in partnering with insurance companies to offer microinsurance to low-income clients in rural areas. The partnership aims to give more than one million rural people access to microinsurances. [Click for more](#).

**ILO to launch cash for work project for Pakistanis affected by the flood**
Mr Donglin Li, ILO Country Director for Pakistan, visited people affected by the floods in Sukkur, Pakistan on 23 August and met the Federal Labour Minister and Federal Labour Secretary. He announced that the ILO will soon launch a cash-for-work project which will provide quick employment opportunities to people affected by the flood and help them overcome the trauma. [Click for more](#).

**Regional Director’s visit to Laos**
Ms Sachiko Yamamoto, ILO Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, paid an official visit to Lao PDR from 17-18 August, to promote the Decent Work Agenda. She met H.E. Mrs Onechanh Thammavong, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, senior government officials, the ILO’s tripartite constituents, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Country Team members. [Click for more](#).

**Strengthening India’s labour inspection capacity**
A workshop to strengthen India’s capacity in labour inspection was held in Patna, Bihar from 16-20 August. The Training-of-Trainers’ Workshop on Labour Inspection was designed to assist with the creation of modern and effective labour inspection systems. [Click for more](#).

**Youth unemployment at highest recorded level**
The latest ILO report on youth unemployment reveals that more than 36 million young people in Asia and the Pacific are unemployed and could become a “lost generation”. The global unemployment rate for young people has risen to its highest recorded level and is expected to continue increasing until the end of 2010. [Click for more](#).

**International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples**
The International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples was observed on 10 August in Quezon City, the Philippines, with the theme “Reaffirming the Indigenous Peoples’ Development Framework under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act through Convergence”. Those attending included indigenous peoples from the Philippines, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and members of the UN Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Indigenous Peoples. [Click for more](#).

**ILO Pakistan’s new web site**
The ILO Country Office in Pakistan has launched its new web site: [www.ilo.org/islamabad](http://www.ilo.org/islamabad). They join other ILO country offices in the region that have recently rolled out new web sites: Bangladesh ([www.ilo.org/dhaka](http://www.ilo.org/dhaka)), India ([www.ilo.org/newdelhi](http://www.ilo.org/newdelhi)), Indonesia and Timor-Leste ([www.ilo.org/jakarta](http://www.ilo.org/jakarta)), Myanmar ([www.ilo.org/yangon](http://www.ilo.org/yangon)), Nepal ([www.ilo.org/kathmandu](http://www.ilo.org/kathmandu)), Philippines ([www.ilo.org/manila](http://www.ilo.org/manila)), Sri Lanka ([www.ilo.org/colombo](http://www.ilo.org/colombo)), as well as the regional Asia Pacific site ([www.ilo.org/asia](http://www.ilo.org/asia)).

**APYouthNet discussion on labour markets and youth**
The conclusions of the 5th Asia Pacific YouthNet online discussion forum, that looked at active labour market
policies for young people, can be viewed at: [http://ap-youthnet.ilobkk.or.th/resources/apyouthnet-knowledge-products-1](http://ap-youthnet.ilobkk.or.th/resources/apyouthnet-knowledge-products-1). Moderated by Professor Niall O'Higgins of Salerno University, Italy, the online discussion forum took place from 19-31 July.

**Feature**

**Youth unemployment a challenge in Asia and the Pacific**

*By Kee Beom Kim, Labour Economist, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific*

How are Asian young women and men faring in their search for work? The question was examined in the report, *ILO Global Employment Trends for Youth, August 2010: Special issue on the impact of the global economic crisis on youth*, which was released in August to coincide with the launch of the United Nation’s International Youth Year. This article explores the issue by looking in detail at data from four countries in Asia and the Pacific; Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. [Click for more](#).

**Look Ahead**

**Launch of Disability Championship Programme**

Representatives of four Thai trade unions will compete in a Disability Championship Programme by submitting proposals for activities to improve the management of disabilities in the workplace. The programme will be launched on 3 September at the Labour Museum, Bangkok and the winners will become “Disability Champions” and receive grants at an award ceremony in February 2011. [Click for more](#).

**Regional Training Workshop on Skills Assessment of Returning Migrant Workers**

Senior officials from national vocational training organizations concerned with skills standards and assessments will take part in a workshop on how sending countries organize and manage the recognition of the skills of their returning workers. The countries represented at the event, on 15-16 September in Bangkok, will include Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. [Click for more](#).

**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thai Youth Forum on Migration and Human Trafficking</strong></td>
<td>30 August-3 September</td>
<td>Khao Yai, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5th China International Forum on Work Safety</strong></td>
<td>31 August-2 September</td>
<td>Beijing, China</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workshop on Employment Service Providers</strong></td>
<td>3 September</td>
<td>Ratnapura, Sri Lanka</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Singapore Workplace Safety and Health Conference 2010</strong></td>
<td>15-16 September</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation of Viet Nam’s Mural on Tripartism and Decent Work</strong></td>
<td>24 September</td>
<td>Hanoi, Viet Nam</td>
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<td><strong>Communicating Labour Rights</strong>: a training course for media professionals in Asia</td>
<td>4-8 October</td>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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<td><strong>Regional Training Programme for Trade Unionists on Child Labour</strong></td>
<td>11-13 October</td>
<td>Colombo, Sri Lanka</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Role of Trade Unions in Youth Employment</strong></td>
<td>19-21 October</td>
<td>Colombo, Sri Lanka</td>
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**Gender mainstreaming strategies in decent work promotion: Programming tools; GEMS toolkit**


**GEMS toolkit in brief**

Twelve practical programming tools designed to facilitate the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies throughout organizations, as well as specific policies, programmes and projects. It includes quick reference guides, checklists and tips for integrating gender equality in decent work promotion. The GEMS Toolkit in Brief is a desk calendar displaying the main tools and gender pointers.

**The growth and decline of political unionism in India: The need for a paradigm shift**


This report analyses the weaknesses of political unionism in India. It proposes a paradigm shift towards “service-based unionism” that will respond to the needs of the new working environment being shaped by changing employment patterns and industrial relations. This, it says, will better serve the interests of workers, particularly those in the informal economy.

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