INTRODUCING OUR NEW ONLINE CHAT FUNCTION

AP-Skills has launched a new online chat function to allow our members to chat with each other while logged in and using the Skills and Employability portal. This development is part of our ongoing commitment to better connect with members and improve our network’s sharing capabilities. The chat function is now also available across all 5 ILO-sponsored communities of practice.

To see who else is online, log in to AP-Skills, click on ‘Online Users’ on the top right corner of your screen and start chatting!

SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT: NEW GLOBAL PUBLIC-PRIVATE KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM

"What works to bridge the world of education and training to the world of decent and productive work?" The new Knowledge Sharing Platform by the ILO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank provides resources to answer that question. The aim of the Platform is to encourage information exchange among institutions, enterprises and experts on how to improve employability and productivity. Skills for Employment contains relevant resources organized by knowledge product (such as research, statistical information, policy documents, case studies etc), by source of information, by issue, by country or region and by language (English, French or Spanish).

Access the Skills for Employment Knowledge Sharing Platform

A NEW ILO PROJECT SEeks TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE TVET SYSTEM IN BANGLADESH

The ILO has launched a new five-year skills development project Skills for Employment and Productivity in Bangladesh. The project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), aims to capitalize on earlier reform efforts and further improve the quality and relevance of the TVET system. The project focuses on five industries that have growth potential - pharmaceuticals, ceramics, furniture, agri-food processing and tourism.

The project builds on the existing successful efforts to develop the TVET system in Bangladesh, such as the EC-ILO TVET Reform Project. The new project will operate at both the policy and institutional level and will particularly focus on building engagement with employers and key industry bodies. Key activities will focus on enhancing the TVET and skills data system and building institutional capacity to coordinate and monitor the skills development system.

To strengthen industry engagement, one of the key elements is to establish Industry Skills Councils (ISCs) in the five target sectors and provide a more structured platform to engage employers on skills development. The project also intends to expand the availability of new competency-based training programmes, and develop workplace learning, apprenticeship and productivity enhancement programs in both the formal and informal elements of value chains in the target sectors.

The project also takes an inclusive approach by paying specific attention to increasing the access of disadvantaged groups, such as youth, women and persons with disabilities to training programmes and employment opportunities. In total, it is expected that several thousand people will benefit from improved training and employment opportunities over the five-year project period.
CONFLICT MEETING: TOWARDS A MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF SKILLS IN ASEAN

In 2007, the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, set a goal to establish an ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015 which would enable free movement of goods, services, investments, skilled labour, and freer flow of capital within the region. With regard to skilled labour, this entails not only facilitating the mobility of professionals and students but also developing core competencies in the service sectors, building the capacity of the member countries to promote skills, job placements, and develop labour market information networks, as well as taking steps towards an ASEAN skills recognition framework.

In preparation for the ASEAN skills recognition framework, the ILO carried out an assessment exercise to determine the status of activities in the ASEAN countries in relation to the goal of the free flow of skilled labour. The results of the study were shared in a consultation meeting “Towards a Mutual Recognition of Skills in ASEAN” organized in September in Bangkok, Thailand. Besides discussing the research report, the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the next steps to make the skills recognition framework a reality.

The meeting was attended by nine ASEAN Member states, the ASEAN Secretariat, the Chairperson of the ASEAN Task Force on the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and international organizations. During the meeting, each of the participating ASEAN Member states prepared a detailed action plan on the achievable skills recognition targets and activities to be carried out by 2015.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- In June, India established a National Skills Development Agency (NSDA). The new Agency will act as a coordinating body for both public and private skills development initiatives. The NSDA will also be responsible for overseeing the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) as well as managing the further development of a strengthened Labour Market Information System (LMIS) for skills anticipation.

- The province of Sindh in Pakistan has taken steps to reform the law on apprenticeship and the apprenticeship training system with ILO support. The proposed reforms will be further informed by national and international good practice examples and the findings of research into informal and formal apprenticeships in Pakistan. As part of the reform process, pilot apprenticeship programmes are also planned for 2014 in Punjab Province. These pilots will focus on some of the key issues related to apprenticeship training in Pakistan: how to formalise informal apprenticeships and expand apprenticeship to new sectors; how to strengthen public-private partnership in apprenticeships; how to make apprenticeships more flexible and how to increase the participation of groups disadvantaged in the labour market.

Click here for more news from the region on AP-Skills Network

FEATURED RESOURCES


This working paper by the ILO discusses key issues related to relevant core skills for employability. It also illustrates how to integrate employability skills into core academic content and vocational training.

More resources on AP-Skills Network

- Comparative analysis of national skills development policies: A guide for policy makers

This guide analyses national skills development policies of 12 countries from Africa, Asia and the Pacific. The Asian countries featured are Bangladesh, India, New Zealand and Sri Lanka.

- Education Policies to Make the Economy Work: A Case Study of Lifelong Learning and Employment Prospects in Hong Kong SAR, China

This UNESCO report documents the Hong Kong Case for UNESCO Bangkok’s Research Project on Lifelong Learning and Employment Prospects/Employability. It discusses the linkages between lifelong learning and employment in the Asia-Pacific region.

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