



Republic of Korea ILO Cooperation

The Republic of Korea (RoK) has been a member State of the ILO since 1991 and has ratified a total of 29 ILO Conventions, including four of the eight fundamental Conventions, on discrimination and on child labour. The RoK was elected to chair the Government Group of the ILO during the 2017-2018 term.



FROM RECIPIENT TO DONOR: THE KOREAN SUCCESS STORY

The development of the Republic of Korea is one of the most successful stories in the history of international development. From 1945 to the late 1990s, Korea received USD 12 billion in foreign assistance and effectively used it as a catalyst for development.

As the first Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member emerging from the ranks of the least developed countries (LDCs), Korea attaches great importance to development as part of the nation's grand vision of a "Global Korea".

The Korean government is fully committed to fulfilling the pledge to increase its ODA volume to 0.30% of its GNI by 2030.

Korea's development cooperation priorities and partner countries

Korean development cooperation is defined by the following five principles: 1) reduce poverty in developing countries; 2) improve the human rights of women and children, and achieve gender equality; 3) realize sustainable development and humanitarianism; 4) promote cooperative economic relations with developing partners; and 5) pursue peace and prosperity in the international community.

Korea has 24 priority partner countries: **Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam**

KEY ILO PARTNERS FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The ILO's key partners for engagement with the RoK include:

- **Ministry of Employment and Labour (MoEL)**
- **Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOOF)**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)**

FACTS AND FIGURES ON KOREA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ILO

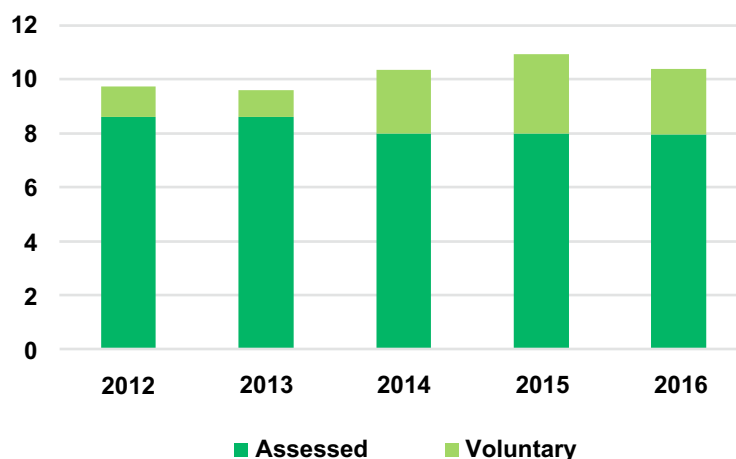
Korea funds the ILO through:

Assessed contributions, which are paid by all ILO Member States by virtue of their membership. Between 2012 and 2016, Korea provided more than USD 39 million to ILO's Regular Budget.

Voluntary contributions, in the form of earmarked project-specific funding: Overall voluntary contributions from Korea to the ILO in the period 2012-2016 amounted to USD 9.9 million.

Korea also contributes to the ILO through the **Junior Professional Officer Programme** and the **secondment of officials**.

Korea's overall contribution to the ILO (in USD million)



Korea-ILO Partnership promotes occupational safety and health (OSH)

In the framework of the Korea-ILO Partnership Programme 2015-2017, the MoEL is supporting ILO projects in the area of Social Protection, Skills, Employment and Labour Policy as well as two OSH projects.

With the support of the project on “Modernizing international networking in occupational safety and health knowledge and information”, a global survey on OSH knowledge agencies, institutions and organizations was conducted to constitute the first comprehensive knowledge base on their status, services and governance modalities as well as international networking practices. The project also supported the documentation and analysis of regional OSH networks from Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America. Results provide updated baseline information for policy development and for devising new action-oriented initiatives such as project proposals to mainstream OSH into technical vocational education and training (TVET) in sub-Saharan African countries; to strengthen regional OSH networking in Latin America; and to develop a global methodology for undertaking national needs assessment for qualifications, competencies and skills in OSH. The modernization provides new data and knowledge for stakeholders, networks and development partners to acquire and use OSH knowledge for prevention globally.

The project on “Supporting the Improvement of the Legal and Institutional Framework on Occupational Safety and Health in Myanmar” has been as-

sisting tripartite national stakeholders to formulate a new OSH law and OSH policy so as to reflect core principles of international labour standards on OSH and labour inspection. ILO provided a technical memorandum on the draft OSH law and gave technical comments and recommendations on the revised law and labour legislation. A tripartite consultation workshop with around 50 national stakeholders was organized to review the final draft of the new OSH law and to discuss its implementation and enforcement. The capacity of the OSH authority and its inspection system

to implement and enforce the OSH legal framework has been strengthened substantially by organizing several tripartite, technical workshops and Training of Trainer programmes. This has improved the capacity of close to 120 government officers and social partners related to OSH. The project further supports the road map for improving the reporting and collection of data on occupational accidents and the subsequent analysis. Furthermore, a study visit to Malaysia to learn about the Malaysian occupational accidents and diseases notification and data analysis system was organized.



Research on the Future of Work

Supported by the MoEL, the ILO is conducting research on Automation and the Future of Work as well as on New Forms of Work and Income Security.

The ILO's Employment Policy Department is examining possible employment implications of the increased use of robots and ITC-enabled automation in manufacturing and service sectors, focusing on apparel, footwear and electronic assembly in manufacturing and retail and aspects of BPOs in services, including implications for the global division of labour. The research exam-

ines these issues through searches of the business press and industry and engineering associations as well as qualitative interviews with key informants identified initially through desk research. The research will be complemented by an econometric analysis of the impact of automation on employment in developed and developing countries for workers at different skill levels.

The ILO's Research Department is focusing on the gig economy which is increasingly gaining popularity globally and is emblematic of a significant

change within non-standard forms of employment. Though crowd work is considered as a positive development in the world of work for its high flexibility and capacity to meet individuals' needs, it also raises some concerns with regard to living wages and social security benefits, caring for workers' satisfaction and the de-responsibility of the firms in providing training. The project looks at the income and work insecurities faced by the workers based on a survey of workers across the globe in five online platforms.



Mutual recognition of skills in ASEAN and skills for the future

In close collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, the ILO has initiated the implementation of Mutual Recognition of Skills (MRS) to assist ASEAN Member States (AMS) in preparing themselves for a region with a free flow of skilled labour. MRS was initiated as a key mobility tool for technical/vocational skilled workers within the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQR). The AQR aims to smooth out the path in the negotiation between nations and facilitate the free movement and employment of qualified, certified personnel.

Through the Korea-ILO Partnership Programme, the implementation of MRS has facilitated the sharing of knowledge and experience, and enhanced technical cooperation among AMS. A significant

contribution has been made particularly in two areas: capacity-building in developing mechanisms necessary for MRS in pilot countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar (CLM)), and development of an effective mechanism for regional dialogue on TVET.

The capacity-building work has included the development of Regional Model Competency Standards (RMCS) for selected sectors; national competency standards for selected priority occupations in CLM countries; and benchmarking of those standards against the AQR. The Korea-ILO Partnership Programme has also contributed to formalizing and broadening the scope of a regional skills network, previously organized by the ILO with skills focal points from AMS, as

the Regional Skills Technical Working Group in 2015. By 2017, this Group has grown to be an effective mechanism to discuss, review and provide strategic direction where necessary on issues that are pertinent to MRS, AQR-TVET and other common skills concerns.

In addition to the MRS work, the Korea-ILO Partnership Programme extended to kick start a regional debate on skills and the future of work, with the Korea-ILO TVET Forum on Skills for the Future: the Perspectives and Experiences from Asia and the Pacific in October 2016. This Forum highlighted the main reform initiatives taken by AMS and development of partners to make skills systems ready to meet future skills demands, and urged AMS to take critical actions.

Strengthening skills development and knowledge sharing

A country's skills workforce is fundamental to its prosperity and well-being. Since 2015, the MoFA and KOICA have supported country- and global-level initiatives of the ILO under the G20 Training Strategy to promote skills development and knowledge sharing in low-income countries (LICs). The USD 4 million project has three components, two of which provide for specific country-level work in targeted areas.

In Mozambique, the northern province of Cabo Delgado ranks among the country's poorest regions. With support from Korea, the ILO works closely with the National Institute for Employment and Vocational Training to implement a community-based approach to skills development in the country's rural areas. Key steps in the process involve identifying local employment and income generating potential and delivering practical training

to create critical skills. Training in professional areas such as carpentry, fisheries, photovoltaic energy and crafts is being delivered to 1,100 young women and men. A key feature of the approach is the use of local professionals/crafts persons as trainers. For example, Assane Mussa Mpana, a professional with 15 years of experience in fishing, who delivered practical training to some 25 young trainees in fishing in the community of Bagala, says, *"I have more technical knowledge, learned a lot of things to improve my activity and I also have more respect and recognition by my own community and others."*

In Nepal, more than 500,000 young women and men enter the labour market every year. The ILO works closely with the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Department of Labour to strengthen the capacity of public employment

service centres (ESCs) to improve job matching and promote the employment of youth and disadvantaged groups. In recent months, ESCs with support from the ILO are helping to bridge the gap between job seekers and employment through workplace training opportunities. *"This collaboration is a great experience for us as we are getting trained human resources as per our industry needs,"* says Shrestha Man Shrestha, Production Manager at Nepal Dairy Pvt. Ltd.

These and many other stories can be found on the Global Skills for Employment Knowledge Sharing Platform. The platform and cross-regional workshops are effective tools for helping countries learn from each other how to develop policies, share lessons learned and improve data gathering to promote the development of skills for decent and productive work.

Improving safety and working conditions of port workers

With support from the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, the ILO launched the Portworker Development Program in Bulk Terminals (PDP II) in 2014 and developed training material for port workers handling major bulk cargoes (iron ore, coal and fertilizer). Training material for two more cargoes, grain and bauxite/alumina, is being developed in 2017. The ultimate beneficiaries of the Program are the over 300,000 workers that work at more than 1,500 terminals worldwide and often do not have access to adequate training opportunities. The goal of the Program is to improve the safety and working conditions of port workers, leading to an overall increase in the cargo handling performance of ports and terminals. To ensure that all port workers can benefit from the training material, the ILO has changed the PDP licence policy to open access. In collaboration with the port training institutes around the world, ILO will continue to promote training for port workers.



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