

ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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106th International Labour Conference

ILO ready to face world of work challenges resulting from crisis, labour migration and green transition

GENEVA (ILO News) – The 106th International Labour Conference (ILC) closed here on 16 June 2017 following two weeks of deliberations on key world of work issues, including the promotion of peace and stability in countries emerging from conflict, strengthening labour migration governance and greening the economy.

Guy Ryder:
“Tripartism does deliver
the goods”

The International Labour Conference adopted a new landmark standard, the Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205), which updates the guidance of an earlier ILO Recommendation adopted in 1944 to provide responses to contemporary crisis situations arising from conflicts and disasters.



The Conference also adopted a Resolution which requests the ILO Director-General to take a lead in strengthening partnerships at the international level to promote the new standard.



“The adoption of a new Recommendation is significant because it shows, unequivocally, that the ILO is ready and able to update its standards, making them robust and relevant. And significant because it is a vital answer from the world of work to have millions of people, affected by crisis, disaster, or displacement. Not only are we listening to them, we are acting for them and acting with them”, said ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder, in his closing remarks to the ILC.

The head of the ILO also reminded delegates of the ILO’s responsibilities in respect of labour migration. He called on the international community “to make no concessions to attitudes which are offensive to the ILO’s values and standards and to provide real guidance and leadership in the construction of governance systems (...) which allow the realization of the benefits of migration for all concerned.”

Ryder lauded the “valuable debate” and “many expressions of support for the Paris Agreement”, reminding his audience that there was not a “linear transition from brown to green”. He insisted on the value of social dialogue between governments and the social partners in this transition: “Tripartism does deliver the goods.”

A record 6,000 accredited delegates from 187 ILO member States attended the 106th ILC.

Delegates from our Region Addressing the Conference

Lyubov Yeltsova, Russian Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection:

“Implementing progressive, socially-oriented measures would be impossible without adequate integration of programmes aimed at social development and environmental protection, alongside efforts to ensure labour health and safety and promote decent work for all.

In the framework of the Paris Agreement, our country has been taking steps to prevent dangerous climate change and depletion of natural resources, both of which could negatively impact the quality of life for present and future generations; we have also been working on measures to ensure sustainable development of economy, social justice and environmental protection.

Above all, these measures focus on the regulatory environment, in particular the ratification by the Russian Federation of a number of ILO conventions, including the Convention concerning Safety in the Use of Asbestos, 1986 (No. 162), the Convention concerning Safety and Health in Mines, 1995 (No. 176), the Convention concerning Labour Inspection in Industry and Commerce 1947 (No. 81), and others.”



Salim Muslumov, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Azerbaijan:

“The sphere of labour is one of the most important policy areas for Azerbaijan today, and many related reforms are currently underway. This is due to the fact that we are a country with a young population: 27% of our people are aged between 14 and 29. It is a very large proportion of young people, resulting from high birth rates in the last thirteen years.

There is a direct relationship between birth rates and the country’s socioeconomic situation. Back in 2003, forty thousand marriages were registered in the country, and in 2012, the number of new marriages doubled to reach eighty thousand.” ■





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ILO World of Work Summit Calls for a Better Future for Women and Men

The International Labour Organization held a World of Work Summit on June 15, 2017, here to shape a better future for women at work. The unique format of the event included the visit of



three women Presidents and a high-level panel discussion bringing together the social partners and civil society representatives.

“We have to take it as a starting point that equality for women in the workplace will not happen unless bold choices are made, and courageous measures are taken. Women want to be in paid jobs, and these must be decent jobs – not undervalued, not taking place in an environment of discrimination, harassment or violence,” Ryder said.

The President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, rejoined the arguments of the head of the ILO and called on the global community to take urgent action on gender equality. “The global economy will continue to suffer greatly, if women continue to be excluded,” Marie-Louise

Coleiro Preca said at the ILO’s World of Work Summit.

The Summit was part of the ILO’s Women at Work Initiative, one of the Organization’s seven centenary initiatives, intended to shape a future that works for all.

Promoting Greening of the World of Work Globally

The Director-General of the ILO, Guy Ryder, has introduced his report to the ILC “Work in a changing climate: the Green Initiative” to the delegates. The report covers the consequences of the climate change to the labour market. The report’s authors expect large-scale job cuts in the industries which pollute the environment, as well as in energy-intensive and material-intensive sectors of the economy. Simultaneously, a significant number of employees in the world will have to adapt to the requirements of the green economy.

Azerbaijan Elected as Member of the ILO Governing Body

According to the results of the vote of the three electoral colleges which met on 12 June 2017 during the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, Azerbaijan was elected the member of the ILO Governing Body for the period 2017-20.

The Governing Body guides the work of the ILO between annual sessions of the International Labour Conference.

It comprises 28 government members, and 14 worker and 14 employer members. This executive council of the ILO meets three times a year in Geneva. ■

Photo gallery



The Russian delegation at the Palais des Nations, attending a plenary meeting of the 106th International Labour Conference in Geneva: Lyubov Yeltsova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection; Alexander Shokhin, President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; Mikhail Shmakov, Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions; and Boris Kravchenko, President of the Russian Labour Confederation



The tripartite delegation of Uzbekistan led by Tanzila Narbaeva, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairwoman of the Uzbekistan Women’s Committee (third from left), met with Corinne Vargha, Director of the ILO International Labour Standards Department (centre). ■

ILO, LUKOIL Extend Partnership on Youth Employment



On May, 23, 2017 in Moscow Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Guy Ryder, and Vagit Alekperov, President

of the Russian oil company LUKOIL, have signed an agreement here to continue cooperation on youth employment initiatives from 2018 to 2022.

Guy Ryder: “We have the unique opportunity to partner in order to scale-up action on youth employment and tackle this crisis head on”

The document was signed at the Government House in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Olga Golodets, the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation, Lyubov Eltsova, President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Alexander Shokhin, and Chairman

of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, Mikhail Shmakov.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Guy Ryder said: “The youth employment crisis reflects a huge decent work deficit in societies worldwide and one of the main challenges of our time. We have the unique opportunity to partner in order to scale-up action on youth employment and tackle this crisis head on.”

The main objective of the second phase of the project “Partnerships for youth employment in the CIS” is to further improve the effectiveness of policies and programmes promoting decent jobs for young people, based on broad and sustainable partnerships, and informed and integral policy frameworks.

Project is coordinated by ILO Decent Work Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The project is implemented in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan. In the Russian Federation, six



pilot regions have been selected: Astrakhan Region, Kaliningrad Region, the Republic of Komi, Republic of Kalmykia, Perm Territory, and Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region.

At the strategic level, the project activities addressing youth unemployment will feed directly into the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda. The project will correlate with the implementation of the UN Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, adopted by the UN in 2016, through integrating the Initiative’s key elements into the youth employment promotion policies in the Commonwealth of Independent States. ■

28 April – World Day for Safety and Health at Work

“Countries that have good data will be better placed to fulfil their commitment to implement and report on the global plan of action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all under the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” ■

From the statement of ILO Director-General Guy Ryder on World Day for Safety and Health at Work.



ILO: Health and Safety of Workers to Be Firmly Embedded in Sustainable Development Agenda



SOCHI, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (ILO News) – The ILO seeks to create worldwide awareness of the dimensions and consequences of work-

related injuries and diseases, to ensure that the health and safety of all workers is firmly embedded in the sustainable development agenda, and to support sustainable action on OSH at all levels, said Nancy Leppink, Chief of the ILO's Labour Administration, Labour Inspection, and Occupational Safety and Health Branch. She spoke at the plenary session of the annual All-Russian OSH Week that brought together more than 11.5 thousand occupational safety and health practitioners, experts, scientists and private sector representatives from Russia and abroad.

This year for World Day for Safety and Health at Work (28 April), the ILO takes aim at the critical need for countries to improve their capacity to collect and use reliable occupational safety and health data. The collection of OSH

data that provides the capacity for both setting priorities and measuring progress is foundational to strong OSH systems at the national and enterprise level. It is indispensable for the detection of new hazards and emerging risks, measuring worker exposures to hazards, the development of preventive measures, as well as the implementation of policies, systems and programmes.

Nancy Leppink:
“The safety and health of workers must be at the forefront on the road to economic prosperity and must be integrated into every step along the way”

Finally, accurate data is indispensable for countries to fulfil their commitment to implement and report on the Sustainable Development Goal



8, “inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”

“The safety and health of workers must be at the forefront on the road to economic prosperity and must be integrated into every step along the way. We are on this road together, and the ILO is committed to taking each step with you, as we strive to achieve social justice and decent work for all working women and men,” Nancy Leppink concluded. ■

Conference of the Regional Alliance of Labour Inspections



Day one of the All-Russian OSH Week-2017 featured a conference of the Regional Alliance of Labour Inspections (RALI) of CIS and

Mongolia. The participants discussed their countries' best practices of state supervision and control, including those in the OSH sphere.

“It's a great honour for me to open this conference,” said Vsevolod Vukolov, Head of the Russian Federal Service for Labour and Employment. “It addresses the real challenges that we are facing today, and the more we share our lessons learned and effective solutions, the sooner we will achieve our key objective of reducing the number of deaths and injuries in the workplace.”

The conference speakers and participants agreed that any efforts to improve the legislative framework and project implementation must be based on active tripartite engagement.

Such coordination is essential to ensure adequate implementation of decisions taken. As to the role



of labour inspectors in this dialogue, they should be able to bring the situation ‘in the field’ to the attention of policymakers.

“Underinvestment is the most urgent issue on the OSH agenda,” said Nancy Leppink, Chief of Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and OSH Branch at the ILO Office in Geneva. She stressed the inverse correlation, observed by the global community of labour inspectors, between investment in OSH and the rates of workplace injuries and deaths. In addition to this, underinvestment in OSH is associated with the high cost of diseases and accidents

and employer losses from employee disability, absenteeism, etc. Therefore, according to Nancy Leppink, one needs to seriously consider the choice between investing in OSH and investing in other aspects of company operation.

She also spoke about the effectiveness of labour inspections: “Penalties far from always lead to positive changes. It is also necessary to motivate employers and employees and facilitate negotiations. A tripartite engagement is exactly what can produce the greatest effect in finding solutions which benefit everyone.”

“One of the main strategic goals for the Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is to preserve the human capital,” said Valery Korzh, Head of Labour Conditions and OSH Department at the Ministry. According to Valery Korzh, the key approach to achieving this goal is a consistent integration of legal norms helping the labour inspection to switch from the outdated, Soviet-era mode of reacting to incidents to a new prevention-based model. ■



Uzbekistan: Federation of Trade Unions Hosts Round Table to Mark World Day for Safety and Health at Work



On 28 April 2017, the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan held a round-table meeting to mark the World Day for Safety

and Health at Work.

The event was attended by members of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, officials of the Sanoatgeocontechnazorat State Inspectorate affiliated with the Cabinet of Ministers, relevant ministries and departments, the Institute of Sanitation, Hygiene and Occupational Diseases, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, employers, partner organizations, and ILO experts.

The adoption of the amended Law on Labour Protection played an important role in enhancing employer and worker responsibility for ensuring safety and health at work

The round table participants noted in particular that the adoption of the amended Law on Labour Protection played an important role in enhancing employer and worker responsibility for ensuring safety and health at work and improving the performance of relevant services.



ILO experts Gocha Aleksandria, Specialist in Workers' Activities at the ILO Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Anton Hausen, Chief Technical Adviser of the Support to the Implementation of the DWC Programme in Uzbekistan addressed the meeting.

The round table also focused on specific health and safety-related topics, such as prevention of occupational injuries and diseases – one of the priorities for the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan. Trade unions have been actively involved in drafting the regulations on occupational safety and health; a network of OSH commissioners now operate in grassroots labour union organizations and training seminars have been offered at enterprises.

The General Agreement on social and economic issues signed by the Cabinet of Ministers, the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan serves as a key instrument underlying local and industry-based OSH agreements and relevant clauses in collective bargaining



agreements, reflecting updated health and safety standards.

The round table also addressed the need to improve the aspect of prevention in the context of occupational safety and health. The participants shared and discussed relevant domestic and international experience.

Similar events dedicated to the World Day for Safety and Health at Work were held simultaneously in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, constituent regions and grassroots trade union organizations of Uzbekistan. ■

Training of Labour Inspectors in Georgia



On 20-21 April 2017, a two-day training seminar for employees of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs was held in Georgia. The

trainees were 25 future labour inspectors from the Labour Conditions Inspection Department of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs.

The seminar was organized with support from the ILO project "Improved Compliance with Labour Laws in Georgia" and the Fair Labour Association and hosted at the facilities of the Georgian Employers' Association.

The agenda covered topics such as planning and conducting workplace visits; planning, implementing and documenting worker interview; assessing the safety of electrical equipment, pressure vessels; production risks, etc. The training sessions were led by five trainers from the Fair Labour Association and Adidas, Puma, Nike and New Balance companies.

The ILO was represented by Lejo Sibbel, Senior International Labour Standards and Labour Law Specialist of the ILO Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

In their highly positive feedback on the training, the participants appreciated the opportunity to significantly upgrade their professional skills. ■

World Day for Safety and Health at Work Celebrated in Armenia



On 28 April 2017, Yerevan hosted a discussion seminar to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work. Organised on the

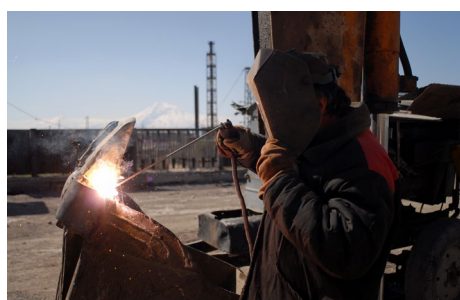
initiative of the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Healthcare-affiliated State Health Inspectorate, the event was attended by more than 50 representatives of Armenian employers and workers.

The ILO Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia was represented by Valentin Mocanu, Senior Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health Specialist, and Lejo Sibbel, Senior International Labour Standards and Labour Law Specialist.

Ara Mkrtchyan, Head of OSH Department of the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Healthcare-affiliated State Health Inspectorate, opened the meeting. He emphasised that the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, held under the auspices of the ILO, aims to raise broad public awareness

about occupational health and safety issues. Ara Mkrtchyan also highlighted the fact that according to OSH statistics published by the ILO, most workplace accidents, including fatalities, tend to be caused by employers' attempts to cut production costs at the expense of compliance with OSH rules.

In their remarks, Gagik Makaryan, Chairman of the Republic of Armenia Union of Employers, and Boris Kharatyan, Deputy Chairman of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia, highlighted the need to ensure safety, health and decent workplace conditions for all workers. ■



27 June is Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day



Entrepreneurship Programme Launched in Kalmykia, Russian Federation



The ILO supports the Ministry of Social Development, Labour and Employment of the Republic of Kalmykia in building capacities

of its staff all over the Republic to deliver entrepreneurship training to the job seekers in all the employment centers across Kalmykia. For that purpose, the ILO implements its “Start and Improve Your Business” (SIYB) programme, the largest entrepreneurship-training programme of its kind; present in more than 100 countries around the world and having generated more than 9 million jobs.

The Republic of Kalmykia is one of the target regions of the Russian Federation within the ILO Project “Partnerships for Youth Employment in the CIS” implemented by the ILO Moscow team with support of the “LUKOIL” Oil Company.



With the ILO support, three youth employment partnerships have been established in Kalmykia involving regional authorities, social partners, private companies and educational institutions. This mechanism allows consultations and discussions among various actors who put together their strengths and comparative advantages to address in practical terms the issue of quantity and quality of youth employment in the region.

“The Republic of Kalmykia is mostly a rural region where there is a need to promote entrepreneurship, especially among youth, as entrepreneurship plays a key role in achieving job-intensive economic growth in the region”, - says Elza Nakhatinova, Deputy Minister of Social Development, Labour and Employment of the Republic of Kalmykia.

Through the implementation of a Training of Trainers (ToT), the staff of the Public Employment Service acquire the knowledge and tools to work with young job-seekers as part of a pilot phase. Throughout the SIYB training process, the ILO will provide permanent technical support to both the Public Employment Service, the new trainers and the new young entrepreneurs. The programme will be monitored and assessed, and key inputs will be provided to scale-up the programme and fine-tune the design and implementation of employment policies, particularly those related to self-employment and entrepreneurship promotion ■

Workshop on Labour Rights in the Global Economy Held in Moscow



On April 13, 2017 a workshop on “Labour rights in the global economy: International standards and implementation

challenges” was held in the premises of Higher School of Economics in Moscow.

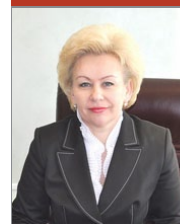
The workshop was attended by more than 40 students of an on-line training course “Labour rights in the global economy”, students of the master’s programme “HR legal coverage”, as well as all interested students, graduates, postgraduates and colleagues.



ILO DWT CO Moscow experts took part in the workshop. Lejo Sibbel, Senior Specialist on International Labour Standards and Labour Law (on the photo above), made a presentation on the ILO origins and an introduction to the ILS. ILO ILS implementation in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Nicolas Studer, Senior Specialist on Wages, made a presentation on the Gender pay gap: Causes and policy responses in Russia and other countries. ■



Appointments



On 14 March 2017, Irina Kostevich was appointed Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus.

Born in 1967 in Minsk, Irina Kostevich graduated from the

Kuibyshev State Institute of National Economy and the Presidential Academy of Management in Belarus.

She was employed as a design engineer at the R&D Department of the ‘Centrsystem’ Research and Production Complex in Minsk and as an economist at the Main Computing Centre of the Belarus State Statistics Committee. She then held the positions of Chief Economist of the State Statistics Committee’s Material Resources Unit and Head of Statistical Planning and Monitoring Unit of the Belarus Ministry of Statistics and Analysis.

Between 2006 and 2008, Irina Kostevich served as Deputy Minister of Statistics and Analysis, and between 2008 and 2015, as First Deputy Chair of the National Statistics Committee of Belarus. In January 2015, she was appointed Deputy Minister of Economy of Belarus. ■



June 12 – World Day Against Child Labour

“Children in areas affected by conflict and disasters are among the most vulnerable. No child must be left behind. We are emphasizing the plight of children caught up in conflicts and disasters, and who are at particular risk of child labour.”

In areas affected by conflict and disaster, homes and schools are often destroyed. Many families lose their means to earn a living. Family and social protection systems break down and increase the risk of child labour. Child refugees and migrants, particularly those on the move who are separated from their families, are especially vulnerable and can easily fall prey to trafficking and child labour.

Those who stay – or are left – behind are especially vulnerable to the worst forms child labour, including in

mining or scavenging for metal and minerals in war-torn areas, clearing rubble, or working in the streets.

All children have the right to be protected from child labour. Yet, around the world, there are still 168 million children in child labour. Eighty-five million of them are engaged in hazardous work.

Under Target 8.7 of the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, all countries have committed to eliminating all forms of child labour by 2025. This target can only be achieved if no child is left behind – no matter how difficult and challenging the circumstances.

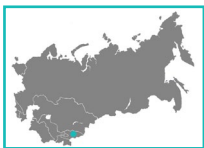
The ILO’s Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) have now been ratified by 169 and 180 member

States respectively. Tomorrow I will have the honour of receiving India’s ratification of both Conventions. That great step forward towards universal ratification will mean that almost all children in the world will be covered by Convention 182; and that coverage of Convention 138 will leap from sixty per cent to eighty per cent.

In September 2016, the ILO, with its partners, launched Alliance 8.7, a global partnership to end child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking by concrete action, as established in target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” ■

Extracts from the statement of ILO Director-General Guy Ryder on World Day Against Child Labour

Know and Uphold Labour Rights: Ten-day Campaign against Child Labour in Kyrgyzstan



A ten-day campaign against child labour was held on 2 to 12 June 2017 in Kyrgyzstan, leading up to the World Day against Child

Labour. Bishkek, Osh and Karakol hosted a series of events attended by public officials, local self-government representatives, labour unions, employers, civil society organisations and members of the public.

The ten-day campaign initiated by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Labour and Social Development and supported by the ILO aimed to raise public awareness in Kyrgyzstan about the situation with child labour and prevent the involvement of children and adolescents in its worst forms.

In particular, the campaign featured a broad discussion of the country’s engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of Alliance 8.7 in mobilising the global efforts under SDG Target 8.7 to end child labour, human trafficking and forced labour.



On June 2 and 7, intensive consultations with local authorities were held in Osh and Karakol to develop mechanisms designed to step up coordination and effectiveness of central government and local authorities’ collaboration in providing assistance to families and children in difficult life circumstances, including working children.

“Children and youth are our future. Young people under 18 can and should be engaged in productive work, but their labour potential must be utilised without negative consequences for their health, education and overall development,” stressed Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Development Jyldyz Polotova during her meeting with students of Vocational Lyceum No. 5 in Bishkek.

The ten-day campaign also included consultations with representatives of vocational and general schools, social welfare services, labour unions, local authorities, employers, civil society and international organisations to discuss ways to improve access to vocational training for vulnerable youth. On June 12, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science Agency of Primary and Secondary Vocational Education, in partnership

with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, hosted a round table “Expanding Access to Primary Vocational Education: Towards Decent Youth Employment.”

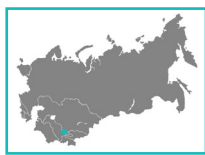
“I am certain that the recommendations developed today for improving access to vocational training can inform the creation of effective tools and mechanisms for preventing involvement in the worst forms of child labour,” said Gulnura Mamyrova, Head of the Agency’s Department for Analysis and International Relations. ■

India Ratifies Both Fundamental ILO Conventions on Child Labour

GENEVA (ILO News) – On 13 June 2017, the Government of India deposited with the International Labour Office the instruments of ratification of the two fundamental ILO Conventions concerning the elimination of child labour, the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). Historic move confirms India’s “commitment to a child labour free society”. Ratification means that almost all children in the world are covered by Convention No. 182, while coverage of Convention No. 138 jumps to 80 per cent of the world’s children. ■



“No to Child Labour, Yes to Education” – World Day against Child Labour Marked in Uzbekistan



The World Day Against Child Labour on June 12, 2017 in Uzbekistan was celebrated at a special event held under the slogan “No to child labour, Yes to education.” The event hosted by the youth summer recreation camp

“Youth” at Yusofhona village 70 km from Tashkent was attended by 450 children and featured an award ceremony for children’s drawing contest dedicated to the theme of child labour, and a concert.

At the official opening, the audience was greeted by Anton Hausen, Chief Technical

Adviser of the ILO’s DWC Programme in Uzbekistan, and Bakhtiyor Makhmalaliev, Deputy Chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan. In his opening address, Anton Hausen emphasised every child’s right to a childhood with enough time for attending school and doing homework, as well as for recreation and spending time with friends. ■



Workshop on DWCP Development in Armenia



On 27 June, the workshop on Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) development was organized in Armenia, with participation of 35 representatives from tripartite constituents and the ILO Moscow team. This was for the first time that the DWT-CO Moscow Director, all specialists, CTA of the biggest ILO technical cooperation project in the Country, SKILLS project and Programme Officer have come to a country for DWCP development workshop.

Prior to the workshop Olga Koulaeva, the ILO DWT/CO Director met with Artem Asatryan, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Armenia. The parties discussed the ILO-Armenia on-going cooperation and the issues of mutual interest.

The objectives of the workshop were three-fold: to review the key results of implementation of the Decent Work agenda in Armenia in 2014-2017; to present to constituents the ILO policy and approach in relation to programming and DWCP development; to agree on the priorities and outcomes of a new DWCP 2018-2020.

The workshop was addressed by Araik Petrosyan, First Deputy Minister, and Olga Koulaeva, Director of the DWT-CO Moscow. In his speech, Araik Petrosyan has mentioned that a tripartite working group was established for DWCP development. While defining the new DWCP priorities and outcomes, the Working Group has



taken into account the ILO policies to promote Decent Work agenda, as well as the ILO Director-General’s report on the Future of Work. He also noted that the newly adopted Constitution of the RA and the recent reforms in the labour sphere have laid the ground for the new DWCP. Promoting sustainable employment, improving labour relations and strengthening social dialogue which are proposed by the constituents as key targets for the new Decent Work Country Programme – are fully in line with the main objectives of a new Programme of the Government for 2017-2022. Olga Koulaeva has stressed that the workshop provided a unique opportunity to define together DWCP priorities and outcomes, contribute to the discussions of the specific technical areas and share valuable ILO experience in tripartism and social dialogue with the Armenian constituents.

After presentations by the Confederation of Trade Unions

of Armenia (CTUA) and the Republican Union of Employers of Armenia (RUEA) on the role of workers and employers in implementing the DW agenda in Armenia in the last few years, there was a round of interventions by the ILO specialists related to the ILO support to constituents in their respective technical areas.

The following formulations have been agreed upon for the new DWCP:

Priority 1: Improve the mechanisms of regulating labour relations

Priority 2: Improve employment policy and enhance employability of women and men

Priority 3: Strengthen social dialogue and collective bargaining

The draft Programme based on the workshop results will be prepared and sent for the constituents’ consideration by September. The Programme is expected to be signed by the end of 2017. ■



Telling serious things with humour: Mobile theater in



Two years ago the International Labour Conference adopted the Recommendation concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy (No.204). Since then a global campaign has started in different parts of the world to formalize the informal economy. In Tajikistan, trade unions are using theatrics to illustrate the consequences of informal employment.

Watch an extract from the show here:

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_557091/lang--en/index.htm?ssSourceSiteId=moscow



DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (ILO News) - The area in front of the KhimMash factory in Dushanbe is crowded.

Passers-by stop and look with curiosity at a minibus decorated with a slogan, "Step out of the shadow! Work formally!" A stream of people take leaflets before entering the clubhouse.

The hall, which can seat up to 300 people, is full. Workers in their uniforms sit alongside government officials and trade union activists. The audience also includes people from the street, who had begged to be allowed to see the show. Everyone in the audience is either employed informally or has an informal worker in their immediate family, or among their friends.

Informal employment in Tajikistan is widespread. According to the Labour Force Survey (2009), 49 per cent of workers were in the informal economy. The most affected sectors are agriculture, construction and services. Sixty-nine per cent of young people aged 15 to 29 work informally.



Emin Sanginzoda: "One of the Comprehensive Programme's for Reducing Informal Employment in Tajikistan for 2015-2017 priorities is to raise awareness in society about the consequences of informal employment"

"The grey economy is found everywhere in the world, and Tajikistan is no exception," says Emin Sanginzoda, First Deputy Minister of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population. "Recognizing the acuteness of the problem for our country, the Government has adopted the Comprehensive Programme

for Reducing Informal Employment in Tajikistan for 2015-2017. One of the Programme's priorities is to raise awareness in society about the consequences of informal employment."

Not surprisingly, trade unions have taken the lead in the national awareness campaign. "Informal workers come to us every day for assistance and advice, and we at the trade unions probably know better than anybody else how heavily informal employment can affect people's lives. I am talking about the denial of rights at work, inadequate social protection, often poor working conditions, a lack of social dialogue – to name only a few consequences associated with informal employment," explains Qodiri Qosim, Chairperson of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Tajikistan. "Trade unions are also best positioned to talk to workers right at their workplaces."



Qodiri Qosim: "The denial of rights at work, inadequate social protection, often poor working conditions, a lack of social dialogue – to name only a few consequences associated with informal employment"

Tajikistan campaigns against the informal economy

Shodi Salikhov: “The mobile theater is deeply rooted in our traditions, its language is concise and metaphorical, it has minimum stage props, it can come to every workplace”

“Why mobile theater? It is deeply rooted in our traditions, its language is concise and metaphorical, it has minimum stage props, it tells serious things with humour, and, finally, it can come to every workplace,” says Shodi Salikhov, artistic director of the mobile theater and People’s Artist of Tajikistan.

The success of the performance has exceeded expectations. Four episodes shown at the first



The mobile theater is supported by the ILO’s Finnish-funded project From the Crisis towards Decent and Safe Jobs that has already supported production of the informal economy cartoons in neighboring Kyrgyzstan.

Gocha Aleksandria: “The mobile theater in Tajikistan is an example of a creative approach and one more excellent contribution to the global campaign against informality”

Gocha Aleksandria, Specialist in Workers’ Activities at the ILO Decent Work Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, welcomes the Tajik trade union initiative: “Two years ago the International Labour Conference (ILC) adopted the Recommendation concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy (No.204) . The mobile theater in Tajikistan is an example of a creative approach and one more excellent contribution to the global campaign against informality.” ■

show were an excellent combination of good humour and serious, even sad moments, like the episode about an accident at work, when many viewers literally had tears in their eyes.

After each episode, there was an interactive discussion moderated by the trade union representative. He explained the provisions of national legislation, the advantages of formal employment and called on workers to join trade unions.

A brief ‘exit poll’ after the show confirmed its strong impact on the viewers. Workers mentioned that it “made them think about the way they work” and said “they will discuss it with friends and relatives.” Other comments included that they will “come to see it again and invite colleagues” and would “consider joining a trade union.”

The Dushanbe performance was special in a sense that it was held indoors. For the rest of

the project, when the mobile theater goes to the regions of Tajikistan, actors will perform directly in the farms, local markets, construction sites, where their contact with the audience will be even closer.





Baku Hosts Training Course on Strengthening Public Employment Service



On 30 May - 2 June 2017 Baku hosted the second training in a series of capacity building activities aimed at strengthening the

Public Employment Service (PES) in Azerbaijan. The first event was conducted on 27 February – 1 March 2017, for directors of employment centers. The second training focused on improving skills of the PES officials working directly with job seekers. The event brought together more than 70 PES staff from all districts of Azerbaijan.

“Stronger PES will help the Government of Azerbaijan to couple economic diversification with inclusive labour market policies providing more and better opportunities for decent and productive work to job seekers and vulnerable groups,” said Mikhail Pouchkin, Senior Employment Specialist of the ILO Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Senior officials and representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, the Trade Unions Confederation (ATUC), the National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers’) Organisations (ASK), State Employment Agency, and the International Labour Organization (ILO), as well as external experts, participated in the event.



In his welcoming address, Matin Karimli, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population, emphasized that strengthening PES and implementation of the new Employment Strategy, developed with the ILO support, are among the priorities of the 2016–2020 Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP). “Policy dialogue between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the ILO covers a range of issues, including improving legislation and capacity building. This cooperation contributed to the development of the State Employment Policy aimed at efficient use of human resources, building inclusive labour market and promoting decent and productive jobs. One of important elements of the policy is strengthening capacities and skills of the PES staff. That is why this is so important.”

This course covered a broad range of topics, such as an overview of PES, its key services and functions; passive and active labour market programmes, including those targeting youth and vulnerable groups; labour market information system, career guidance and other relevant issues.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) experts covered Issues of rural employment and entrepreneurship. It was the first

such training organized by the ILO in cooperation with the UNDP in Azerbaijan. That inter-agency cooperation is a prerequisite for an effective support of national constituents in achieving UN SDGs where productive employment and decent work for all is one of the goals.

The training was delivered within the framework of the ILO’s Technical Cooperation Project “Partnerships for Youth Employment in the CIS” supported by the LUKOIL oil company and implemented by the ILO Moscow Office. Next training session for PES staff is scheduled for autumn 2017. ■

Appointments



Gocha Aleksandria is appointed Specialist in Worker’s Activities at the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia as of May 3, 2017.

Gocha Aleksandria has served as Vice-president of the Georgian Trade Union Confederation since 2013 and a Substitute Member of the ILO Governing Body in Georgia since 2014.

He served on the National Tripartite Social Dialogue Commission of Georgia in 2010-2016 and as National Project Coordinator of the ILO projects “From the Crisis towards Decent and Safe Jobs” in 2011 – 2013 and “Increasing the Protection of Migrant Workers in the Russian Federation and Enhancing the Development Impact of Migration in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia” in 2009 – 2011.

His other positions included Vice-President of the Georgian Trade Union Confederation in 2005-2009, Vice-President of the Public Services, Local and Municipal Industry Workers’ Trade Union of Georgia in 2004 – 2005, and Head of the international department, Georgian Trade Union Confederation in 2001-2004.

Gocha Aleksandria completed his graduate and postgraduate training at the Georgian State Technical University in 1994 and 1998. He also took courses in labour movement, labour standards, industrial relations and leadership at schools such as Histadrut International Institute, Kvar Saba, Israel; ILO Turin Centre, Italy; Japanese International Labour Foundation, Tokyo, Japan; and Ruskin College, Oxford, UK.

His main areas of responsibility included international cooperation, assistance in collective bargaining negotiations, advocacy for union and worker rights and for legislative changes, union activist training, and others. ■

ILO-FITUR Conference in Krasnoyarsk



On 24-25 May 2017, Krasnoyarsk hosted an ILO-FITUR Conference “International Guarantees of Trade Unions’ Human Rights Activities’ and a

seminar on trade unions’ human rights work in the Siberian and Ural Federal Districts.

Mikhail Shmakov:
“All trade unions work is essentially human rights activities”

The participants of this two-day meeting discussed international legal norms, various aspects of trade unions’ work to defend worker rights, the effectiveness of supervisory bodies, and trade unions’ cooperation with the International Labour Organisation. The conference was attended by Mikhail Shmakov, Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITUR), the ILO, territorial trade union organisations of Siberia and the Urals, leaders

of industry unions, and representatives of the region’s government and supervisory authorities.

In addressing the conference, FITUR Chairman Mikhail Shmakov focused on some of the key aspects of union work. These include addressing the issues such as wages, their size and regular payment, promoting a balanced supply of jobs in the country, workplace safety and access to all social guarantees stipulated by law – these are the key areas of trade unions’ work and all of them are essentially human rights activities.

Sergey Glovackas, Desk Officer for Europe and Central Asia of the Bureau for Workers’ Activities (ILO Geneva), noted in his address that this was the first such meeting held as part of the new ILO-Russia Programme of Cooperation. Signed last year, the programme focuses on four priority areas for Russia. The Krasnoyarsk Conference launched joint work in one of the areas, namely on promoting international labour standards, social partnership and collective bargaining. ■

Assessment-Based National Dialogue on Social Protection Floors in the Republic of Tajikistan



The 1st Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) on Social Protection Floors (SPFs) in the Republic of Tajikistan

was held on 25-27 April 2017. The key objectives of the 1st ABND were to identify policy gaps in the country's social protection system and make recommendations for its improvement.

Artiom Sici, ILO Social Protection Officer in the Republic of Tajikistan, opened the meeting

by providing an overview of Tajikistan's social protection system.

The ILO facilitated a half-day workshop 'Basics of social protection and insurance' as part of the broader event. The workshop led by Grigori Degtiarev, ILO consultant, Senior Researcher of the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Doctor of Economics, was designed to build the ABND working group's capacity in addressing SPF-related issues.

The meeting participants, including some 45 key government stakeholders, workers' and

employers' representatives, UN officials, NGOs, and members of the academia, worked in groups to address in-depth a range of issues such as 'Healthcare for all', 'Social protection for children', 'Social protection for working age persons' and 'Social protection for older persons'.

At the conclusion of this active and productive meeting, the working group agreed on a first draft of the assessment matrix, which will be presented at the 2nd ABND for further elaboration and approval. ■

Our PUBLICATIONS

All publications can be found at our website www.ilo.ru



ILO Information Leaflet

In Russian

This publication is devoted to the ILO which is the oldest UN agency and has 187 member States. The leaflet shows the goals and priorities of the organization today.

This information leaflet is now available in Russian.



Decent Work, the Key to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In Russian

Decent work puts money in the pockets of individuals and families that they can spend in the local economy. Their purchasing power fuels the growth and development of sustainable enterprises, especially smaller businesses, which in turn are able to hire more workers and improve their pay and conditions. It increases tax revenues for governments, who can then fund social measures to protect those who cannot find, or are unable to work.

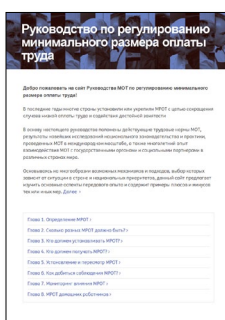
Promoting jobs and enterprise, guaranteeing rights at work, extending social protection and promoting social dialogue are the four pillars of the ILO Decent Work Agenda with gender as a cross-cutting theme. These are crucial to advancing the entire sustainable development agenda.



Promoting Labour Market Mobility in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation

In Russian and English

This report focuses on labour market mobility in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, in particular mobility that entails a transition from one region to another within the countries. Publication examines how labour market programmes (LMPs) should be designed to promote mobility. In order to identify relevant possibilities, Kazakhstan and Russia have been compared to three Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. The central idea that the report seeks to communicate is that the two countries can develop their existing labour market policies to create an infrastructure of programmes and measures that facilitate and reinforce labour market mobility.



Russian edition of the ILO Minimum Wage Policy Guide Released

In Russian

The Minimum Wage Policy Guide is based on existing ILO standards and the diversity of international practice. It has been published in the ILO main website, in English, to provide information on key questions of good practice and highlight different choices that can be made depending on national preferences and country circumstances.

Given the fact, that wage issues are high on the Decent Work agenda in the sub-region, ILO Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia has translated the Minimum Wage Policy Guide into Russian as part of the support provided to our constituents.

The Russian edition is available on the ILO DWT-CO website from June 2017 on. Main messages are that an efficient wage-setting mechanism should take into account empirical evidence that social dialogue can help find the balance between the legitimate needs of both workers and enterprises and that special attention should be paid to coverage and compliance issues in order to make sure that no one is left behind.

News in BRIEF

Progresses with promotion and implementation of SDGs in Kyrgyzstan

On 6-7 May 2017, the ILO jointly with UNDP, UNFPA and the UN RC Office in Kyrgyzstan supported ENACTUS Youth Organisation in conducting the National ENACTUS Competition of innovative business projects aimed at attaining the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

ENACTUS Kyrgyzstan is a non-profit youth organization that works with leaders in business and higher education institutions to mobilize university students to make a difference for their communities. The national competition brought together about 600 students in 30 teams representing 27 higher educational institutions in seven regions of Kyrgyzstan and about 45 representatives of business, academia and government.

VCT@WORK Campaign at the All-Russia OSH Week

For the second time, the National OSH Week featured a number of events initiated by the Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and addressing HIV and AIDS in the workplace. Among them was the four-day campaign of the ILO Global Initiative “Voluntary and Confidential HIV Counselling and Testing at Work” (VCT@WORK) run by specialists of the Krasnodar Regional AIDS Centre with support from the Russian Ministry of Health.

Nancy Leppink, Chief of the ILO Labour Administration, Labour Inspection, and Occupational Safety and Health Branch, and Valentin Mocanu, Senior Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health Specialist of the ILO DWT/CO Moscow, used the opportunity to take part in the VCT@WORK event alongside

other 392 participants of the National OSE Week, including leaders of Russia's trade union movement, such as Boris Kravchenko, President of the Russian Confederation of Labour, Yuri Sukhorukov, Chairperson of the Russian Union of Seafarers, and Igor Kovalchuk, First Deputy Chairperson of the Russian Union of Seafarers, who took the HIV test and accessed pre- and post-test counselling.

Olga Golodets, Vice Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, attended the VCT@WORK site as a part of her visit to the exhibition of the National OSH Week.

Meeting of National Tripartite Committee for Decent Work in Tajikistan

On 14 April 2017, Dushanbe hosted the second meeting of the National Tripartite Committee for Decent Work in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Sobir Aminov, ILO National Coordinator in Tajikistan, started the meeting with the report “Progress with the implementation of the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) of cooperation between the tripartite constituents in the Republic of Tajikistan and the ILO for 2015-2017.”

An important part of the meeting agenda was an independent review of the Programme implementation scheduled to take place between May and July 2017.

The Committee members also discussed in detail the schedule of the upcoming ILO events to be held as part of the DWCP and the ILO Technical Cooperation Projects for 2017.

The final item on the agenda was a discussion of upcoming international events to take place under the aegis of the ILO, such as the International Labour Conference in Geneva in June 2017, the 10th ILO European Regional Meeting on 2 to 5 October 2017, and various events to be held as part of the Future of Work Centenary Initiative.

Developing Winter Tourism in Kyrgyzstan to Create More and Better Jobs

An ILO mission to conduct a SECO-funded assessment of prospects for winter tourism in Kyrgyzstan took place in Kyrgyzstan on 29 May – 9 June, 2017. SECO, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, is the Swiss federal government's centre of excellence for all core issues relating to economic and labour market policy. The Market systems development for decent work – ‘the Lab’ – is a 3.5-year programme funded by SECO and based in the Small and Medium Enterprises unit (SME Unit) of the ILO Enterprises Department.

Using a market systems approach, the aim of this project will be to promote inclusive and sustainable growth of winter tourism in Kyrgyzstan, with the ultimate objective of creating more and better jobs.

Issues of Wage System and Professional Standards Discussed in Dushanbe

A training seminar on Work Quota Setting in the Organization, which also covered issues of wage system and professional standards, was held in Dushanbe on May, 26, 2017.

It was organized by the ILO in cooperation with the State Research Institute of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The seminar was conducted by two experts of the Institute of Labour and by Nicolas Studer, ILO Moscow Wages Specialist.

The said event was carried out within the framework of the ILO project “From the Crisis towards Decent and Safe Jobs”, which is implemented with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

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