

# GREEN JOBS IN CHINA

## Background

As a rapidly developing country with a large population and a fragile eco-environment, China is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Global warming threatens both the ecosystems as well as the economic and social development of the country. The Green Jobs strategy offers a win-win solution to the pursuit of growth, job creation, employment security and environmental protection. The ILO supports the Chinese government and its social partners in their efforts to pursue these goals. The main objective of the ILO green jobs programme in China is to help the country realize its potential for green jobs. The programme also aims to help China make a positive labour market transition in the face of climate change.

## ACTION IN CHINA

The national counterparts MOHRSS, CEC and ACFTU are implementing green job activities with support from ILO under two initiatives:

- **ILO RBSA Green Jobs Initiative (2008–2009)**
- **China Climate Change Partnership Framework MDG-F programme (2008–2010)**

The green jobs activities in China include:

- Assessing the impact of climate change on employment, and the potential of creating more green jobs;
- Supporting policy formulation for green employment promotion;
- Developing training programmes to support the setting up of new green businesses;
- Demonstrating good practices for the enterprises in transition;
- Building capacity of government, employers organizations, workers organizations and other partners;
- Promoting inter-agency dialogue, and facilitating consultation at the national level;
- Integrating green jobs into post-disaster reconstruction in Sichuan

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## Policy and research

1. **Low carbon economy and employment – empirical analysis in China:** the research project quantifies the number of jobs created and lost during China's transition to a low carbon economy. Research results include medium-term projections (up to 2020) for future trends in selected industries.
2. **Green jobs in China:** the research project analyses current employment patterns and skills profiles in the green industries and the restructuring brown industries. The potential of job creation in selected sub-sectors is also assessed using a value chain assessment methodology. The project will make policy recommendations for green employment promotion in China.
3. Meetings are organized to facilitate international and national experience sharing and interagency consultations for defining a way forward for green jobs promotion in China.

## Practice

1. Setting up of new green businesses is supported through development and implementation of the **Green Business Options (GBO)** training module. The GBO module complements the existing business start-up training programmes already implemented throughout China (i.e. SIYB, GYB). GBO training courses will be piloted in 20 training institutions targeting mainly young college graduates.
2. Practical measures to facilitate enterprise transition into cleaner production and improved employment practices are piloted through the **Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises project (SCORE)**.

# GREEN JOBS INITIATIVE

## A GLOBAL INITIATIVE

The Green Jobs Initiative is a partnership established in 2007 between the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Trade Union Confederation. The International Organization of Employers joined in 2008.

The initiative was launched to promote opportunity, equity and a just transition process and to encourage governments, employers and workers to collaborate on coherent policies and effective programmes that will support a green economy, with green jobs and decent work for all.

What are green jobs?

Green jobs reduce the environmental impact of enterprises and economic sectors, ultimately to levels that are sustainable, while also meeting the standards required of 'decent work'.

Areas of work that could respond to the challenges of climate change and other environmental problems include:

- Building and construction
- Mass and private transportation
- Agriculture, food production and forestry
- Manufacturing and supply chain management
- Energy supply and efficiency
- Research and development
- Pollution control, recycling and waste management

Activities of the global Green Jobs Initiative currently include:

- Assessing the labour market impact of climate change
- Developing tools to measure the effect of renewable energy on employment and incomes
- Collecting good practices on energy efficiency in buildings in developed and developing countries and emerging economies
- Developing methodologies to help policy makers include employment issues in their responses to climate change and other environmental problems

## ACTION IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC

The environmental costs of rapid development and industrialisation in this region are increasingly apparent. Small island states such as those in the Pacific are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Among the Green Jobs Initiative activities in the Asia-Pacific region are:

- Pilot programmes in Bangladesh, China and India that support sustainable development by creating green jobs that reduce poverty and lower greenhouse gas emissions
- Working with governments on legislation to support green jobs
- Developing training materials
- Engaging with workers, employers, governments and the general public on the importance of green jobs and the need to adapt
- Research into the impact of climate change and other environmental problems on employment
- Arranging forums to discuss policy-making and labour market adaptation
- Working with the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Asian Development Bank on key projects, such as the "State of the Environment" report
- Building a knowledge-sharing network

[Learn more about Green Jobs:](#)

### Key publication

Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable Low Carbon World: report by the World Watch Institute

### ILO Green Jobs web page

<http://www.ilo.org/greenjobs>

### Training course, ILO International Training Centre, Turin

Green Jobs: Linking Environment, Climate Change and the World of Work

<http://greenjobs.itcilo.org/>

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