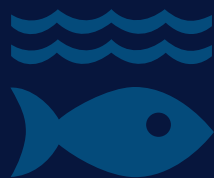




International
Labour
Organization



THE ILO IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC PROMOTING DECENT WORK FOR ALL



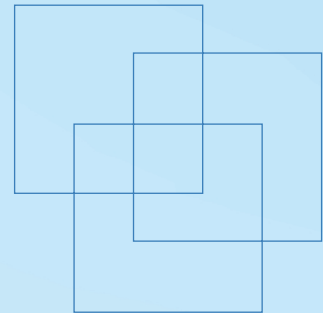
The International Labour Organization

The [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO) is the UN specialized agency dealing with work and workplace issues and related rights and standards. Its overarching goal is to achieve decent work for all, so everyone benefits from working conditions that offer freedom, equity, security and human dignity.

In working towards this goal the ILO has [four principal strategic objectives](#):

- Promoting standards, fundamental principles and rights at work.
- Creating greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment.
- Enhancing the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all.
- Strengthening the relationship between workers, employers and governments, and encouraging social dialogue.

Uniquely in the UN system, workers, employers and governments act as equal partners in the ILO, making its decisions representative of the real economy. This tripartite structure is reflected in the symbol of three interlocking squares that appears on ILO publications.



Founded in 1919, the ILO is the only surviving major creation of the Treaty of Versailles, which established the League of Nations. In 1946 it became the first specialized agency of the United Nations. In 1969 the ILO received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work promoting social justice.

Since its foundation, the ILO's membership has unanimously adopted three major statements of principles. The [Declaration of Philadelphia](#) (in 1944) laid out – among other precepts – that labour is not a commodity and that poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere.

The 1998 [Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#) committed all ILO member States to respect and promote four categories of principles on: freedom of association and collective bargaining; discrimination; forced labour; and child labour.

The [Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization](#) (2008) reaffirmed the relevance of the ILO's mandate and the need for globalization to be fair and based on the principles of decent work.



How We Work

To create a framework for their national development ILO member States should develop national Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs), which define priorities for development and provide a structure for ILO assistance. The ILO supports these DWCPs with a wide range of technical support, focusing on both specific, short-term needs as well as longer-term policy and structural development. These areas of work include:

- Child labour
- Employment promotion
- Equality and discrimination
- Forced labour
- Green jobs
- Informal economy
- International labour standards
- Labour market governance and working conditions
- Labour migration
- Safety and health at work
- Skills and employability
- Social protection
- Support for workers' and employers' organizations
- Youth employment

This growing portfolio of technical cooperation work takes place within the context of the promotion of internationally recognized work-related norms and standards – Conventions and Recommendations – and the embodiment of these standards in national laws and practices.

In addition, the ILO supports the collection of labour market data and analyses economic and social indicators, so that policies and programmes can respond to emerging and evolving labour market trends.

The ILO's work in the region has been strengthened by a growing number of formal partnership arrangements, which makes additional work possible on topics where more impact is required, be it at regional, national or local level. These partners include Australia, the EU, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the USA, as well as a number of multi-lateral organizations such as the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, and other parts of the UN system.



Promoting Social Justice in Asia and the Pacific

In recent decades Asia and the Pacific has been the fastest growing region of the world. Its economic performance has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of absolute poverty thanks to a structural transition from agriculture to industry and services, massive inflows of Foreign Direct Investment, an export boom based on low wages and rapid productivity growth, and strengthening links between markets within and beyond the region.

These changes also imposed economic and social strains, and have forced countries to make decisions about future development at unprecedented speed. Policy-makers face a range of challenges, including uneven economic growth, growing informality and inequality, changing demographics, persistent vulnerability, and inadequate recognition of work-related rights. Together, these pose a threat to the region's long-term, equitable and sustainable social and economic development, as well as to the achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Other pressing concerns in the region focus on the status of particular groups, including migrant workers, indigenous peoples, displaced and disabled workers, and those exposed to human trafficking, forced and child labour.

The ILO works with countries to help them address such labour and employment-related issues, and create more productive, decent, employment opportunities. Strong institution building, sound labour market governance, basic social protection, respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, and healthy social dialogue help to create the conditions for sustainable, equitable development and advance social and economic progress.



Working in Asia and the Pacific

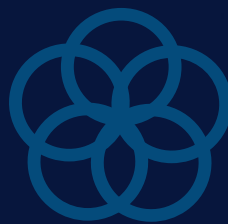
The ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is based in one of the most diverse regions of the world – ethnically, culturally, religiously and economically. The population, of around four billion, includes some of the wealthiest people on earth as well as two-thirds of the world's poor.

The ILO has offices in Bangkok (covering Thailand, Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic), Beijing (covering China and Mongolia), Colombo (for Sri Lanka and the Maldives), Dhaka, Hanoi, Islamabad, Jakarta, Kathmandu, Manila, New Delhi, Suva (for Fiji and the Pacific Island countries) and Tokyo. There are also liaison or project offices in Apia, Dili, Kabul, Phnom Penh, Port Moresby, Ulaanbaatar, Vientiane and Yangon, among others.

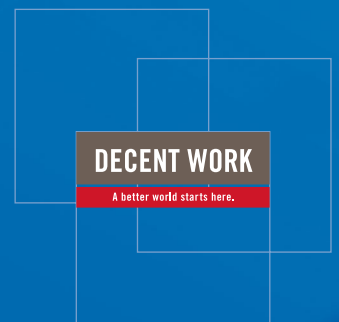
Two teams of Decent Work specialists, based in Bangkok and New Delhi, offer a range of expertise and technical services that underpin work in more than 35 member countries in the region and support the ILO's constituents - Governments, workers' and employers' organizations.

ILO member States in Asia and the Pacific





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