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

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Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia marks its 20th anniversary

A jubilee meeting of the General Council of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia devoted to the FITUR's 20th anniversary took place at Moscow's Pillar Hall of the House of Unions on September 18. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin attended the meeting and delivered a speech. Among the participants were also the President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Alexander Shokhin, representatives of



the legislative and executive power, business community and trade unionists.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev sent a telegramme of congratulation to the organization on the anniversary.

In his opening remarks Prime Minister Vladimir Putin expressed confidence over maintaining positive economic trends in the country.

The head of government noted that at the initiative of the FITUR the Russian legislation incorporated the requirements of the International Labour Organization and Russia has recently ratified another three ILO Conventions. In addition, eight ILO instruments are being considered for ratification.

Putin described the Labour Code adopted in 2001 as "a basic law for the whole area of labour relations."

Speaking about the key stages of the Federation's formation as Russia's largest public organization, FITUR chairman Mikhail Shmakov said the 2008-2009 economic crisis allowed trade unions to dem-

onstrate their real potential.

"Over the year amid crisis 5,500 new trade unions that unite over 1.5 million Russian workers were created," he said adding that at present the FITUR unites over 25 million workers.

At the modern stage of the country's development the direct result of the FITUR's successful activities is that despite a record high decline of the GDP Russia managed to avoid endemic unemployment and to keep most industrial productions effective.

The Director of the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Evgueni Davydov, read out a message from ILO Director-General Juan Somavia.

"This is an important event for both the trade union movement and Russian society as a whole. Both nationally and internationally, the FITUR is a strong protagonist of the Decent Work Agenda and the ILO's values," the message read.

"Today, at a time of profound global economic turbulence, the quest for decent work for all is particularly relevant. The ILO's 2008 *Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization* and the recently adopted *ILO Global Jobs Pact* are the embodiment of collective thinking in addressing the new challenges affecting the path to social justice in a globalized world. In practical terms, this is a strong call for worldwide change towards a sustainable and employment-oriented development paradigm, greater respect for workers' rights, fairer regulations and stronger public institutions,



as well as more transparent and balanced economic and financial policies supporting the real economy and the fair distribution of income. The ILO greatly values the support shown by the FITUR in pursuing these objectives. We have come a long way together, and I am sure that we will continue to work hand in hand in the future," ILO Director-General said in his message.

At the end of the special sitting several persons were awarded with the FITUR's honorary diplomas to mark their outstanding contribution to the development of the trade union movement in Russia. Among them was Kari Tapiola, who for many years had served as Executive Director of the International Labour Organization.

The FITUR was established in 1990. Today it is the country's largest trade union centre which unites 49 national trade unions, which membership is estimated at 25 million – around 95 percent of all trade unionists in Russia. There are 79 territorial associations of trade union organizations in Russian regions that are FITUR member organizations. ■

Sources: www.itar-tass.com, www.rian.ru, www.fnpr.ru, www.government.ru



Appointments



Evgueni Davydov appointed ILO Office Director



Evgueni Davydov has been appointed Director of the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia as of 1 August 2010.

Evgueni Davydov is a national of the Russian Federation. Born in 1948, Mr. Davydov holds a Diploma in international economic relations from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, and a Doctorate in economics from the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations of the Academy of Sciences. He is fluent in English and French.

Having joined the ILO in January 1991, Mr. Davydov served as Director of the ILO Branch Office and the ILO Area Office in Moscow till February 1998. Then he was assigned to the ILO Bureau for External Relations and Partnerships in Geneva (ILO

relations with the UN system and other international organizations). From 2002 till October 2007 he was Deputy Director in charge of the Bureau. From October 2007 to the end of July 2010 Mr. Davydov served as Senior Adviser at the Office of the ILO Director-General. His main areas of responsibility included ILO relations with Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and relations with the United Nations.

Prior to joining the ILO Mr. Davydov started his professional career as Research Officer at the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations of the Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

From 1975 to 1991 he served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, occupying various ILO-related positions in Moscow and at the Permanent Mission to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva (two assignments). His last assignment before joining the ILO was Senior Counsellor for ILO Affairs at the Permanent Mission. ■



Armenia



On June 28, Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan signed a decree to appoint Arthur Grigoryan as new Minister of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia.

Grigoryan was born in the village of Bjni, Armenia's Kotayk region, on September 20, 1969.

In 1995 he graduated from the Department of Law of the Yerevan State University.

In 1992-1999 he served as court inspector at the Hrazdan town court.

Since 1999 Grigoryan had headed the Kotayk Regional Service for Compulsory Enforcement of Judicial Orders.

In 2007-2010 he was the head of the legal department, the Control Chamber of Armenia.

Grigoryan is Lieutenant Colonel of Justice.

He is married with two sons. ■



Kyrgyz Republic



At its 21st Congress the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan elected Kanatbek Osmonov as new chairman.

Kanatbek Osmonov was born in 1953.

In 1975 he graduated from the Ukrainian Agricultural Academy, where he studied forestry engineering.

In 1983 he underwent advanced training courses for labour inspectors at the Higher School of Trade Union Movement in Moscow.

From 1983 to 1992 he was a chief labour inspector at the republican trade union central committee.

From 1992 to 2002 he worked as chief technical labour inspector at the central committee of the union of forestry, paper and timber processing industry workers.

Since 2002 he was the deputy chairman of the forestry workers' union and since 2004 he chaired the union.

Osmonov is married with six children. ■



Tajikistan



Mahmadamin Mahmadaminov was appointed Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Tajikistan.

He was born in 1964.

He graduated from the faculty of philology of the Tajik State

University and holds PhD in Economics from the Tajik Technical University.

From 1988 he followed his career in the Young Communist League (Komsomol) at the Tajik State University serving as secretary of the Central Komsomol committee of Tajikistan until 1993.

In 1993-2003 he was the General Manager of the Mountain Communities Development Support Programme of the Aga Khan Foundation.

In 2003-2005 he served as deputy director and first deputy director of Orionbank.

From 2005 to 2010 he was the chairman of Tajikistan's State Saving Bank "Amonatbank".

He has command of Russian, English, Farsi, Arabic and Dutch. ■



Georgia



On September 10, Andria Urushadze was appointed Georgia's Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs.

He was born in 1968.

He graduated from the Tbilisi State Medical Institute (University) and the School of Government.

In 1993-1995 Urushadze served as Vice-President of the Georgian Youth International Foundation.

In 1995-1997 he headed the International Programmes Implementation Bureau of the State Chancellery of Georgia.

In 1997-2005 he was Executive Director of Insurance Company ALDAGI.

In 2005 he started his work at the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, occupying different leading posts.

In 2007 he was appointed as Director of the Social Service Agency.

In August 2010 he took the position of the Deputy Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs.

Married with two children. ■



MIBF

ILO takes part in Moscow International Book Fair



The International Labour Organisation along with other nine UN agencies for the sixth year running took part in the 23d International Book Fair that took place in Moscow on September 1-6 and brought together publishers from 50 countries.

The ILO contributed to the UN joint

stand 2,500 copies of different publications, including posters, on different issues such as occupational safety and health, HIV/AIDS, child labour, promotion of gender equality and decent work, indigenous people's rights and employment of disabled persons. Most popular were such ILO publications as "ABC of women worker's rights and gender equality" and "Promoting decent work in Eastern Europe and Central Asia".

Sergei, a student of the Moscow Social Humanitarian Institute, is very happy, he found among the ILO publications a book on social protection that he will use while writing a thesis. "My groupmates advised me to visit the exhibition. Last year they took many good books here."

Marina, housewife, lives in Moscow, she

visited the UN stand just out of curiosity. She took one of our posters with her. "It is very colourful and bright, my kids will like it!"

Igor Ivanovich is an engineer of one of Tyumen's enterprises. He came to the UN stand with a certain goal – to take publications on occupational safety and health. "I want to show these books to my colleagues, we have not so much information about international experience in this sector and these books will be very useful."

All publications were handed over to visitors free of charge as usual. During a six-day exhibition over 5,000 people visited the UN joint stand. We distributed 10,000 copies of 300 UN publications, including reports, reviews, magazines, newsletters and posters.

The Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communications announced that the next Moscow International Book Fair will take place on September 7-12, 2011. ■



ILO urges stronger partnerships for preventing HIV/AIDS

The ILO launched the implementation phase of the newly adopted Recommendation concerning HIV and AIDS and the World of Work at the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna in July 2010.

The new labour standard is the first human rights instrument to focus on HIV and AIDS in the world of work, and was adopted by governments, employers' and workers' representatives from ILO member states at the International Labour Conference in June 2010.



On 17 July, on the eve of the XVIII International AIDS Conference, the ILO convened a workplace partners' forum to explore how best to achieve greater coordination and harmonization in taking a rights-based approach to address HIV in the world of work.

Attracting high-level participation, the forum brought together delegates from UNAIDS and its ten cosponsors, HIV workplace implementers, workers, employers, donors and networks of people living with HIV.

Dr Sophia Kisting, Director of the ILO Programme on HIV and AIDS and the Workplace said: "Now is the time for implementation and the International AIDS Conference provides an excellent forum to launch this next phase of building stronger partnerships for the development and implementation of HIV and AIDS policies and programmes in the world of work, with an emphasis on the reduction of stigma and discrimination, the protection of human rights and greater access to prevention, treatment, care and support through the world of work."

Representatives of the governments from Russia and Ukraine also actively participated in the work of the conference and of the workplace partners' forum. According to Elena Kudriavtseva, ILO Moscow Office focal point for HIV/AIDS and world of work, the forum would help to generate creative ideas on how countries can increase the work on preventing HIV/AIDS in the workplace. ■



This year's International Youth Day was a particularly important day for youth around the world. In December 2009, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/64/134 proclaiming the Year commencing this International Youth Day (12

August 2010) as the International Year of Youth. In line with the theme for the International Year, the theme for this year's International Youth Day was "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding".

The Year will aim at encouraging dialogue and understanding across generations. It will promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and freedoms, as well as solidarity.

The ILO issued its new report *ILO Global Employment Trends for Youth 2010* to coincide with the launch of the UN International Youth Year on 12 August.

The report says that of some 620 million economically active youth aged 15 to 24 years, 81 million were unemployed at the end of 2009 -- the highest number ever. This is 7.8 million more than the global number in 2007. The youth unemployment rate increased from 11.9 percent in 2007 to 13.0 percent in 2009. According to the ILO projections, the global youth unemployment rate is expected to continue its increase through 2010, to 13.1 per cent, followed by a moderate decline in 2011. ■



Russia, Azerbaijan ratify ILO Conventions



Russia presents ILO ratification documents in Geneva

On September 6, Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN Office and other International Organisations at Geneva, Valery Loshchinin, delivered to ILO Director-General Juan Somavia the instruments of ratification by the Russian Federation of the ILO Conventions - Holidays with Pay Convention (Revised), 1970 (No. 132), Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135) and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154).

Holidays with Pay Convention, 1970 (No. 132) stipulates that an employee's leave cannot be shorter than three weeks every year. In its ratification, the Russian Federation specified a minimum of four weeks. A minimum period of service may be required for entitlement to any annual holiday with pay. The length of any such qualifying period shall be determined by the competent authority or through the appropriate machinery in the country concerned but shall not exceed six months.

Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154) regulates the promotion of collective bargaining in all sectors of the economy, while allowing special modalities of application to the public service.

Under Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135) workers' representatives

in the undertaking shall enjoy effective protection against any act prejudicial to them. Such facilities in the undertaking shall be afforded to workers' representatives as may be appropriate in order to enable them to carry out their functions promptly and efficiently. The granting of such facilities shall not impair the efficient operation of the undertaking concerned.

Russia's ratification of several major ILO international instruments is in line with the policy of the Russian government to build a rule of law state and enhance international labour and social standards.

ILO Director-General Juan Somavia stressed that the accession of Russia to the three highly important ILO Conventions all at once is a testimony of the country's commitment to the ideals of decent work and to increased cooperation with the International Labour Organisation. ■

Source: www.mid.ru, www.itar-tass.com

Azerbaijan's president signs law on ratifying two ILO Conventions



Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev signed a federal law on ratification of the ILO's Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156) and Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183).

At present, these conventions are ratified

by 40 and 18 countries respectively.

ILO Convention No. 156 provides for the principles of non-discrimination against workers with family responsibilities. The Convention covers both men and women.

Under Convention No. 156 family responsibilities are responsibilities in relation to dependent children and other members of workers' immediate family who clearly need their care and support.

Another ILO Convention – Convention on Maternity Protection, 2000 (No. 183) which replaces Convention No. 103, earlier ratified by the country – is aimed at providing opportunities for women workers to combine childbearing with work and eliminate occupational inequality due to their childbearing function. It includes health protection during pregnancy and breastfeeding, maternity leaves and accompanying leaves and grants.

Convention No. 183 applies to all women employed in formal and informal economies irrespective of the type of work, enterprise and contract relationship, including those involved in atypical forms of dependent work.

Benefits for workers resulting from the Conventions are obvious. They allow workers to live a fulfilling private life with a stable income and career prospects.

The ILO Conventions enter into force one year after the instrument of ratification is registered by the Director-General of the ILO. ■

Employers from South Caucasus discuss strategies against human trafficking and forced labour



On September 23-24 Batumi hosted a regional workshop for employers' organisations

from the South Caucasus and destination countries on strategies against human trafficking and forced labour.

The workshop took place within the framework ILO's regional project "Strengthening of comprehensive anti-trafficking response in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia" funded by the EU.

The three countries of the South Caucasus cannot and should not be seen in isolation of a larger regional picture. Migration flows, demographic and economic pressures, labour market reforms all bear influence over the pull and push factors of migration and corresponding risks and vulnerabilities to trafficking in human beings and forced labour.

It is therefore imperative that the three countries albeit all three are predominantly source/origin countries attempt to place their efforts to address trafficking in human beings and forced labour within a larger regional

context.

The conference brought together around 40 participants from the region as well as representatives of employers' organizations from neighboring and destination countries, namely Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Greece, Turkey, Austria, Germany, Spain and the Baltic States.

Participants shared challenges to effective action as well as good practices related to the elimination of human trafficking and forced labour practices.

They developed recommendations and agreed to increase networking between international and national stakeholders and developed an interactive forum for cooperation between employers in the Caucasus and destination countries, as a contribution to the ILO's Global Business Alliance against Forced Labour and Trafficking. ■



How to prevent child labour Roundtable meeting in Kazakhstan

How to protect labour migrants' rights and prevent child labour? These issues topped the agenda of a roundtable meeting focusing on working conditions of migrants employed in agriculture in the Almaty region.

The event took place on August 13 and was organized by Kazakhstan's Labour and Social Protection Ministry together with the Union of Commodity Producers and Exporters. The discussion also brought together trade unionists, employers and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

Experts say infringement on the rights of migrants employed in tobacco-growing plantations was registered in the Almaty region. Although a quota on migrant workers in agriculture has already been cancelled in Kazakhstan for two years, residents of neighbouring republics go to Kazakhstan with guest visas and work without any proper documents. Migrants' children come with their parents and also work on tobacco fields and other agricultural farms.

"Some employers violate the effective legislation and use child labour," said Serikali Bisakayev, the chairman of the Labour Ministry's committee. "If an employer hires children aged between 14-16 years, a labour contract must be signed, but unfortunately,



the inspections prove that such contracts are not signed and children's rights are violated."

Dmitry Belousov, Corporate Affairs Director at Philip Morris Kazakhstan, said his company opposes any illegal actions in labour relations, including the use of child la-

bour in agriculture.

He underlined that an effective solution to the problems related to the observance of labour migrants' rights can be guaranteed if all interested parties – government, non-governmental organizations, mass media and entrepreneurs (employers) – pool efforts.

Nadezhda Sokolova, the deputy chair of the Almaty region's union of agro-industrial workers, noted that the problem of child labour cannot be resolved overnight.

"Efforts in this direction should focus on several aspects and the main of them is the awareness-raising campaign against child labour among the population in general," she said.

In the first six months around 5,000 administrative cases were instituted against employers for violation of the labour legislation. According to the statistics, over twelve months around 10,000 such cases against employers are opened in Kazakhstan.

Participants in the roundtable meeting adopted a resolution containing recommendations for improving working and living conditions of labour migrants and observance of their civil rights. ■

Source: www.khabar.kz, www.panorama.kz



Skills Register launched in Armenia



The **Skills Register**, an initiative developed in the framework of the ILO-EU project *Towards Sustainable Partnerships for the Effective Governance of Labour Migration*, was launched in Armenia.

The Skills Register aims at attracting qualified Armenian migrants and diaspora representatives into occupations in their home

country that are facing shortages. It also aims to facilitate reintegration of returnees, particularly in the aftermath of the global financial crisis.

The Skills Register has been developed on the basis of the www.employment.am website of the State Employment Service Agency (SESA) at the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues of Armenia. It will be operated by a SESA team specially trained for that purpose.

The Skills Register is trilingual (Armenian, Russian, English) and enables the beneficiaries to access it and register online from any part of the world.

The Skills Register contains applications from job-seekers and vacancies placed by employers in Armenia, and helps to match skilled migrants, returnees and diaspora applications with job vacancies available on the national labour market. ■



Tajikistan's workforce survey

Tajikistan's statistics agency carried out a workforce survey to study the employment situation in the republic.

This survey is a second comprehensive analysis of the country's workforce. The first one was held in 2004.

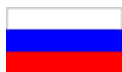
The agency expressed confidence that the survey will help to get information to study the labour market, economic activity and unemployment in compliance with the ILO methodology.

"This is the only source of information on external and circular migration, employment in formal and informal economy as well as on gender issues," an official from the agency said.

According to statistics, 1.856 million people of the 7.5 million population of Tajikistan were employed in 2009. The total unemployment level was 241,200 and the number of labour migrants - 519,900.

The republic's employment comprises 39.4 percent of the population aged between 15 to 75 years and the unemployment level is 11.5 percent of the economically active population. ■

Source: www.avesta.tj



To modernization through vocational education



On August 31, the State Council of the Russian Federation discussed the ways of how to improve vocational education in the country in order to make it meet the demands of

the times.

The joint meeting of the State Council – an advisory body – and the Presidential Commission for Modernization and Technological Development of the Economy was chaired by the head of state Dmitry Medvedev. The country's top politicians, regional governors, rectors of universities and heads of colleges gathered to discuss a rather sensitive issue – the vocational education and training in the country.

“Without making radical improvements to vocational education we will not succeed in modernization and will live in technologically retrograde society,” Medvedev said at the meeting.

One of the trickiest tasks for the state intellectuals is to come up with a solution on how to enhance the prestige of the vocational education – or, in other words, how to convince youngsters to become workers.

“The accent on higher education, going back to the 1990s, had various causes. Now we are witnessing a shortage of specialists with initial and intermediate vocational training,” he said.

Dmitry Medvedev believes that the national priority project Education should encompass the system of initial and intermediate vocational training. ■

Source: www.kremlin.ru, www.interfax.ru



Youth information and counseling centre launched in Azerbaijan



On July 1, the official opening of the *Youth Information and Counseling Center* took place in the mountainous village of Lahij, the Ismayilli region of Azerbaijan. The centre is a pilot initiative under the ILO's From Crisis to Decent and Safe Jobs project.

Representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, as well as representatives of the local administration of Ismayilli participated in the event.

Mirza Aliyev, coordinator of the project in Lahij, told us what efforts were taken to launch the centre.

“We gathered a sixty-member group of activists – 28 young boys and 32 young girls and began to work at a fast pace. We found an appropriate old building and thoroughly repaired it. We bought and installed modern computers. Local youth took an active part in all these activities,” said Mirza.

Mirza is a resident of Lahij and the project he coordinates for villagers is very important for him. The more so the project's goal is to boost youth employment. It is not easy to find job and earn money in such a remote location. Every workplace is occu-

pied, the consumer market is limited and there are no appropriate conditions for starting new business.

“From the very first steps we began to resolve the problem of employment. In compliance with the labour contract every worker who was hired to repair the building had to pass his skills to two of his pupils. Of course, pupils were chosen on their own free will and on their ability to work. Thus, when repair works were completed, one young boy got employed as a brush painter assistant, and another one found job at a carpenter's workshop. The centre itself employed eight persons. Some of them will teach computer courses, others will coordinate the Internet club and the information centre, and others will clean and keep order in the centre,” Mirza continued.

Moreover, young visitors of the centre get access to the Internet that was earlier inaccessible for the village located high in the Caucasus mountains. Here boys and girls can visit the website of the state employment department that places vacancies available in the Ismayilli region and all over the country.



Mirza Aliyev, the project's coordinator

The centre's visitors share their own opinion.

Konul Hashimli: The center creates great opportunities for me. I can use the Internet and different computer programmes.

Sahil Khaligov: In the centre we can get access to the modern technologies and the Internet. In addition we can search for vacancies available in the Ismayilli region and the



whole country. I hope I will be able to find a proper job for myself using the center's facilities.

Ulfet Bayramova: The center helps me to form my time to my profit. From our small and ancient Lahij we can get access to the world. I think this is what the ILO calls “decent work”.

Shohret Guliyev: The center plays an important role in the daily life of young people in Lahij. Simply, the center has changed our life.

Shefa Talibova: The center creates opportunities for us which we never had before. Via the Internet we can contact the authorities at the local and national level and discuss problems and difficulties we are facing. ■



Learning how to start and improve your business

Start and Improve Your Business is today a globally recognized ILO trademark and the programme that has been introduced in more than 80 countries. SIYB Programme includes five training modules: Generate Your Business Idea, Start Your Business, Improve Your Business, Expand Your Business and Know About Business (specially developed for students of vocational schools).

Start Your Business for Azerbaijan's women

Around sixty women from Azerbaijan's western regions – Samukh, Gazakh, Agstafa and Tovuz - underwent trainings based on



the ILO's Start Your Business programme. The trainings were conducted by "Bridge to the Future" Youth Union within the framework of ILO's Boosting Youth Employment Project together with the republic's Youth and Sports Ministry and Labour and Social Protection Ministry.

Aigyun Akhmedova and her girlfriend Bilyura underwent the training and continue to successfully develop their business. Two years ago they rented a room, bought necessary furniture and equipment and opened a small beauty salon in Samukh. At first, they serviced their clients on their own, but soon their business began to expand.

"We had not enough knowledge and experience to expand our business," says Aigyun. "Then we heard about trainings for women who want to start their business and who have already been acting entrepreneurs. At these training we together with Bilyura got new knowledge and business skills. We learnt how to do a business plan, to find money, avoid risks and prevent bankruptcy.

We met many other women and young girls who had started their business, shared with them ideas, knowledge and experience. In one word this seminar was very useful for us. Now we have already three beauty salons in Samukh and all of them are full of clients."

Within the framework of the project business fairs are also organized. Last summer the town of Ganja brought together twenty successful representatives of small and medium businesses from Baku and fifty young women from western regions of Azerbaijan – Ganja, Shamkir, Tovuz, Gazakh, Agstafa, who wanted to start their own business. They gathered to exchange experience and build up business relations.

For instance, designer Zakhra Muradova from Baku signed a business contract with young resident of the Samukh region, Tazagyul Namazova, who showed beautiful handmade design things and underwent the business training.

"I am sure that I am in the beginning of my very successful business path," Tazagyul said. ■

SYB trainings in Dagestan

From July 10 to July 15 Start Your Business (SYB) trainings took place at Dagestan's State Institute of National Economy.

The SYB trainings were organized in the republic by the "Dagestan" youth business incubator under the youth policy committee within the framework of the UNICEF-World Bank project.

Trainings were conducted by certified SYIB master trainers Eteri Khakhoyeva and Zaurbek Kairov, who were invited from the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania.

Thirty potential, new and acting entrepreneurs underwent the training course. All trainees created their own business ideas and received SYB certificates. They also presented their business projects to their trainers and colleagues.

After successful training it was decided



to open the SYB training centre on the basis of Dagestan's State Institute of National Economy. ■

Source: www.riadagestan.ru

Over 100,000 students of Kazakhstan's vocational schools to undergo ILO training



Every year over 100,000 students of Kazakhstan's vocational schools will be able to get tips on running business under the ILO's Know About Business programme.

"Over 400 trainers received KAB certificates and will train over 114,000 students. In the future trainees will be able to start their own business," said the deputy head of the vocational education department of the Kazakh Education and Science Ministry, Ernar Nurmanov, summing up the first year results of the KAB programme at the conference on September 7.

The KAB tool initially developed by the ILO uses a new training methodology with the Internet, interactive boards and video materials. The Know About Business course includes nine modules explaining how to find a good business idea, start own business, prepare a business plan, and giving other successful business tips. Additionally, students consolidate their knowledge through an interactive business game that stimulates the process of starting and improving one's own business in the market economy conditions.

The Know About Business programme was launched in April, 2009, by Kazakhstan's Education and Science Ministry, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under financial support of Chevron and Baker Hughes and is being implemented in all regions of Kazakhstan. ■

Source: Kazinform news agency



Russian regions: focus on occupational safety and health

“The state policy in occupational safety and health is a necessary precondition for ensuring dynamic and stable development of the Republic of Buryatia’s economy, better living standards and demographic situation,” said Tatyana Dumnova, the republic’s Economics Minister. “The republic’ government attaches great importance to the ILO’s work and fully supports its main practical approaches to securing decent work and decent standards of living.”

Tatyana Dumnova spoke at the inter-regional conference on the introduction of modern OSH management systems in regions and enterprises in Ulan-Ude on July 2. The event brought together representatives of the government, labour inspections and directors of training centres from the Republic of Buryatia, the Republic of Yakutia, the Irkutsk region and the Baikal Territory. The ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia was represented by Regional OSH Coordinator Roman Litvyakov.

During the conference participants discussed cooperation with the ILO Office in implementing the pilot project on the intro-

duction of risk management systems in regional and corporate OSH programmes in 2009-2010.

The project embraces regions of the Siberian, Urals and the Far Eastern federal districts and is aimed at improving working conditions through the introduction of modern risk assessment and management systems.



On the sidelines of the conference the republic’s Economic Ministry, the Russian Health and Social Development Ministry’s Scientific Research Institute of Labour and Social Insurance and the ILO Decent Work

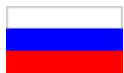
Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia agreed to further develop their cooperation in occupational safety and health.

The parties will cooperate in developing social and labour relations in the Republic of Buryatia, protecting workers’ rights to decent work and preventing occupational accidents and diseases.

They will also raise awareness of tripartite partners about the ILO, international labour standards, advanced international experience in the world of work and amendments to the Russian labour legislation pertaining to occupational safety and health.

Cooperation with the ILO at the regional level unveils opportunities for introducing newest OSH approaches and their adjustment to the Russian conditions as well as for sharing successful experience.

On the eve of the conference a three day workshop on occupation risk assessment and management trained 18 representatives of the government, labour inspections and non-governmental organizations. ■



Alexander Safonov: Creation of safe jobs should be economically viable



“It should be economically viable to create safe and good jobs,” said Alexander Safonov, Deputy Health and Social Development Minister, at the meeting in Irkutsk on August 25. The meeting was devoted to the improvement of the normative legal base on occupational safety and health.

The event brought together representatives of regional labour departments from the Siberian and Far Eastern federal districts and state labour inspections as well as specialists of the Irkutsk region’s municipal entities.

Alexander Safonov delivered a report on reforming the occupational safety management system in modern economic conditions. In particular, the deputy minister focused on employers’ economic incentives to improve working conditions and introduce new safe technologies aimed at reducing the number of jobs with hazardous work conditions that can affect reproductive health.

He also stressed the need for upgrading the normative legal base on occupational safety and health on the basis of unified clear and transparent safety requirements.

“On the one hand, the existing system is ineffective, on the other hand it creates no stimulus for employers to take care of their main resource – workers,” he said. “Today we speak about creating a system of economic incentives for employers.”

The deputy minister highlighted importance of raising awareness and competence of employers and employees in the issues of occupational safety and health. First of all, this concerns practical skills that guarantee safe work.

Participants paid special attention to

changes in the process of assessing workplaces with respect to work conditions.

“In the near future all workplaces will be assessed and every workplace will be given a degree of hazard. Workplaces will be assessed taking into account all factors and not only common ones such as noise, vibration and fumes contamination,” Safonov said. “If a person works in a small office, where ten employees are placed in 20 square meters, he/she gets great psycho-emotional stresses and pressures. This should be taken into account.”

On June 22, Russia’s government submitted a draft law on the ratification of the ILO Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) to the State Duma for consideration.

The goal of the Convention is to develop national strategies aimed at upgrading occupational safety and health. ■

Source: www.minzdravsoc.ru

Our publications

All publications of the ILO Office can be found at our website www.ilo.ru



Social Protection Floor Initiative (in Russian)

This is the Russian edition of the publication of the ILO headquarters in Geneva.

The Global Initiative for a Universal Social Protection Floor (SPF-I) promotes access to essential services and social transfers for the poor and vulnerable.



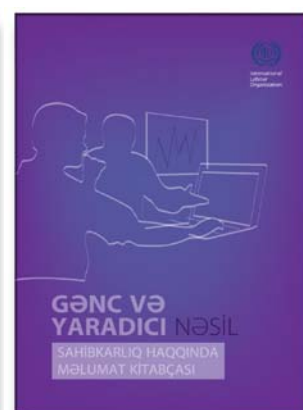
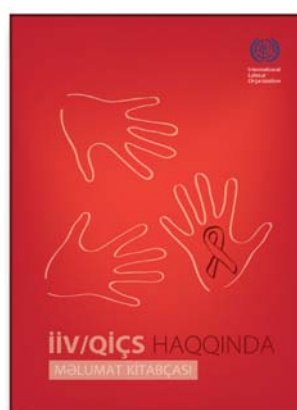
Start with Yourself - Live and Work Safely! (in Russian)

This publication addresses to the youth of Kyrgyzstan. It was prepared within the framework of ILO project From the Crisis towards Decent and Safe Jobs. It tells about the HIV virus, HIV symptoms and contamination, the need for testing and treatment. It also contains the list of HIV prevention centers in the republic, where one can apply for assistance and advice.

New publications in the Azeri language

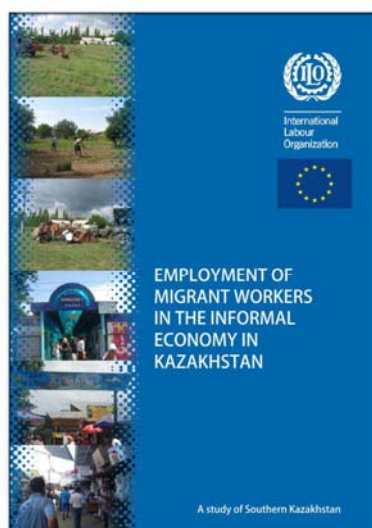
In July a series of *pocketbooks and factsheets* in the Azeri language was published in Azerbaijan. They cover youth employment, entrepreneurship, gender analysis of the republic's labour market and HIV/AIDS.

They were published at the initiative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan and the ILO's Boosting Youth Employment project. The publications will be distributed among social partners and institutions involved in the project.



Employment of migrant workers in the informal economy in Kazakhstan: a study of Southern Kazakhstan (in Russian and English)

The study was published within the framework of the ILO-EU project "Towards Sustainable Partnerships for the Effective Governance of Labour Migration". The paper analyses the employment and living conditions of migrants in the informal economy. In conclusion, the study makes policy and legislative recommendations for reducing irregular employment, reducing the informal economy, and increasing the protection of rights for migrant workers within the context of well-managed labour migration.



The list of ILO publications in languages of our region was supplemented by two more books.

They are the translation of two publications of the ILO headquarters in Geneva into the Georgian language.

These are **ILO's Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration: Non-binding principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach** and

In search of Decent Work - Migrant workers' rights: A manual for trade unionists



In Brief

■ Workshop for Georgia's private employment agencies



On 25 June the ILO Anti-trafficking Project and the ILO Migration Project jointly organized a workshop for private employment agencies (PREA). The workshop aimed to assist PREA in developing recruitment standards in Georgia. PREA worked on the model Code of Conduct developed by the International Confederation of Private Employment Agencies to draft the Code of Conduct for Georgia. Participants also discussed the idea of forming a national Association of Private Employment Agencies. Armenian colleagues shared their experience at the workshop. Representatives of the Office of the Georgian State Minister on Diaspora, Georgian Trade Unions and Employers, EU, the International Organization for Migration, UNDP attended the event.

■ Quality Association created in Armenia



The Quality Association was created in Armenia at the initiative of the Republican Union of Employers.

The organization's main task is to actively participate in developing strategies for the improvement of quality infrastructure in the country and to study and introduce successful international experience in this sector.

Henrik Moller, senior adviser from the ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities, who was on a visit to Armenia, welcomed the Association's launch. He noted that the Association will contribute to the development of quality management systems in Armenia and their integration with international structures.

Source: *Delovoi Express newspaper*

■ Kyrgyzstan introduces European occupational risk assessment standards



Kyrgyzstan began to implement the programme within the framework of the ILO occupational safety project last October.

«Until now sixteen occupational safety specialists underwent the training,” Bakyt Zhunushev, the head of the Kyrgyz state labour inspection's analytical department, said at the meeting on July 19. “At present, a train-

ing centre is being created, which will allow to train another 200 specialists until the end of the year.” Source: www.24.kg

■ Georgian employers draft Code of Conduct on Forced Labour and Trafficking in Human Beings



Georgian Employers' Association (GEA), with the ILO's assistance, developed the Code of Conduct on Forced Labour and Trafficking in Human Beings for employers in Georgia. The draft Code was sent to the ILO headquarters in Geneva for comments. The Code will be presented and signed by the employers' organizations and their members in September.

■ Education strategy discussed in Dushanbe



The Tajik capital hosted on July 21 a national seminar on integration of child labour issues in the education sector's policies.

The three-day seminar in Dushanbe brought together representatives of regional departments on children's rights, trade unions, the Employers' Union, and members of the national working group on the elimination of child labour in Tajikistan.

The seminar was organized by the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC) and UNICEF.

Muhayo Khosabekova, ILO-IPEC Project Coordinator in Tajikistan, said the seminar was a very timely event. Participants developed measures of the education sector's reaction to child labour. It is planned that proposals put forward at the event will be reflected in the national education strategy. Source: www.avesta.tj

■ Survey of external migration in Armenia



The results of the surveys of external migration in Armenia in 2008-2009 and the analysis of labour migration trends and migration experience were presented at the meeting of the Council on Human Trafficking Issues on July 27.

Karine Kuyumdzian, the head of the Armenian national statistics service's census and demography department, said according to the surveys conducted in November-December 2009 return migrants were regis-

tered in 1,013 of the 5,609 households, their number totalled 1,106. In compliance with the joint sample survey of labour migration in Armenia conducted by the ILO and the Armenian national statistics service an ILO expert studied the survey database and formulated main labour migration trends for 2008-2009 to the Council. Source: *Regnum news agency*

■ Uzbekistan: Briefing in Geneva



A briefing dedicated to the 19th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the 10th anniversary of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was held in the Palais des Nations in Geneva (the United Nations Office in Geneva) on August 16.

It was organized by Uzbekistan's Permanent Mission to the UN Office in Geneva.

Taking part in the event were around 50 representatives of international organizations and permanent missions of UN member-states accredited in Geneva. The International Labour Organization was represented by Executive Director Kari Tapiola. Source: www.mfa.uz

■ Oslo conference calls for commitment to recovery focused on jobs



The heads of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the ILO, along with other leaders, on September 13 called for a broad international commitment to a jobs-focused policy response to the global economic downturn. At a historic conference in Oslo - hosted by Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg of Norway and co-sponsored by the IMF and ILO - leaders from government, labor, business and academia met to tackle the sharp increase in unemployment and underemployment since the 2008 global financial crisis.

“When growth is not fair, it becomes unsustainable,” said ILO Director-General Juan Somavia. “This has been the overriding lesson of the crisis. High levels of employment creation should be a key macroeconomic objective alongside low inflation and sustainable budgets.”

The ILO estimates that unemployment is up by more than 30 million worldwide since 2007. The increase in unemployment in advanced economies has been particularly severe, but the crisis also has hit emerging market and developing economies.



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