Green Jobs in Asia Regional Conference

The Green Jobs in Asia Regional Conference, 29–31 August 2012, hosted by the Government of Indonesia at Surabaya, was convened by the International Labour Organization (ILO) through the support of the Australian Government – ILO Partnership Agreement (2010 – 2015), as a follow up to the ILO’s 15th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting which prioritized the transition to green jobs and identified key policy recommendations for their further promotion in the region. The issue of green jobs will also feature prominently at the next International Labour Conference at Geneva in June 2013.

Government, employer and worker representatives from ten countries in the Asia-Pacific region have called for intensified efforts through social dialogue to promote the creation of “green jobs” – and the greening of existing jobs – as critical steps in the pursuit and advancement of socially-inclusive low-carbon, climate-resilient, environmentally-friendly economic development.

For more information, please see the full report of the conference. The conference materials including general documents of the event, green jobs projects’ background documents and the green jobs policy resources of the ILO and other agencies are also accessible from the AP Green Jobs Network.

Green Jobs Malaysia project

The Green Jobs Malaysia project (May 2012-September 2013) will develop the analytical capacity of ILO constituents in Malaysia to assess the economic and employment impacts of a green development strategy through the development of a green jobs mapping study and a new analytical modeling tool (Green DySAM), to enable decision makers to better understand the employment (green jobs), income distribution, CO2 emissions and economic implications of a green development strategy.

Within the project framework, the ILO will assist the Malaysian Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR), Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA) and social partners to identify entry points for further development of policies for green job creation including skills programs for green jobs which will support a just transition towards a greener economy.

ILO in Asia-Pacific joins forces with IGES

On 4 September 2012, the ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Under this MOU, ILO and IGES will develop more effective cooperation based on joint research with national governments and social partners at the national and regional level on the employment impacts of low-carbon and other environment-related policies, joint training and advocacy activities and regular exchange of information at the institutional level.

Green Jobs, Greener Business Plus

The Green Jobs, Greener Business Plus workshop was organized on 5-7 September 2012 in Bangkok under the Greener Business Asia project (supported by the ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme). It aimed at strengthening ILO’s constituent representatives’ understanding of green jobs and greener business notions, tools and programmes. The workshop was also an opportunity to share experience of the pilot programme with hotels in Phuket, and to provide a space to reflect on the area of focus and ways forward by workers’, employers’ organizations and the Ministry of Labour to promote sustainable enterprises and workplace.

Upcoming events

Pathway to greener and inclusive economies: The role of sustainable enterprises

The national forum will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 9 November and in Manila, Philippines on 22 November 2012. The events are organized under the Greener Business Asia project as platforms to discuss options and promising initiatives for promoting sustainable enterprises and greener jobs in Thailand and Philippines.

Green jobs Learning forum

Hosted by the ILO ITC in Turin, Italy from 3-14 December 2012, the Learning forum on Green Jobs: Local strategies and actions will provide participants with a range of development tools and best practices to enhance their skills in the design and implementation of innovative Green Jobs strategies and actions at the local level.

Recommended resources

ILO, August 2012: Introduction to Policies and Programmes for Green Jobs. This document addresses some of the new and specific needs for information sharing and general understanding of the relationship between social, economic and environmental policies, and examines different facets of sustainable development policy that can generate green jobs and decent work.

ILO, Indonesian MoCTE, September 2012: Strategic Plan for Sustainable Tourism and Green Jobs for Indonesia. The plan which was adopted by the Government on 13th September 2012 in Bali identifies key medium-term strategies for the promotion of a job-centered sustainable tourism industry with green jobs and decent work. The plan is the outcome of a large national consultation process that involved more than 250 experts.

ILO, October 2012: Decent Work in the post-2015 development agenda (GB.136/INS/6). The GB paper summarizes the context against which the debate on a post-2015 development agenda is taking place and also describes ILO engagement in the process. The potential significance of a new development agenda for the ILO and its strategic objectives are highlighted.