

## Programme

### Asian Employment Forum: Growth, Employment and Decent Work

Beijing, China, 13-15 August 2007

#### Sunday, 12 August 2007

10:00-20:00 Registration

#### Monday, 13 August 2007

08:00-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:45 **Opening Session** (*CONFERENCE HALL A & B*)

Chairperson: Mr Zhang Xiaojian, Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Security, China

- Mr Hua Jianmin, Secretary-General, State Council, China
- Mr Juan Somavia, Director-General, ILO
- Mr Tian Chengping, Minister of Labour and Social Security, China

10:00-11:10 **Roundtable: *Visions for the Decent Work Decade: Growth and Jobs to 2015***  
(*CONFERENCE HALL A & B*)

A high-level roundtable will set the stage for the Forum by providing perspectives on the key opportunities and challenges facing the Asia-Pacific Region in the area of productive employment and decent work.

Chairperson: Mr Zhang Xiaojian, Vice Minister of Labour and Social Security, China

Moderator: Mr Simon Long, *The Economist*, Asia Editor

- Ms Sachiko Yamamoto, Regional Director, ILO ROAP
- Mr Ong Keng Yong, Secretary General, ASEAN
- Mr Noriyuki Suzuki, General Secretary, ICFTU-APRO
- Mr Toshio Suzuki, Governing Body Member & IOE Regional Vice President for Asia
- Mr Sadakazu Tanigaki, Former Minister of Finance, Japan
- Mr Arjun Sengupta, Chairman, National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector, India

11:10-11:35 Coffee Break

11:35-12:45 Ministerial Dialogue

12:45-14:00 Lunch

Separate Ministerial Lunch (including key note speakers) hosted by ILO Director-General

**PARALLEL WORKING SESSIONS:** Parallel working sessions will focus on a number of key thematic areas which will need to be addressed during the Decent Work Decade. The objective will be to identify lessons learned from country experiences and to share future strategies. As a follow-up to the Forum, participants will be encouraged to outline and discuss their plans for achieving their decent work objectives including concrete strategies and action developed for their specific national contexts. An important outcome will be to identify concrete and useful outputs for the proposed Asian Decent Work Knowledge Network and other services and resources that can support constituents' efforts in each of the four thematic areas, particularly in the framework of Decent Work Country Programmes.

14:00-16:00      **Parallel working sessions 1**

**Theme 1A: *Setting policy directions for job creation and poverty reduction***

*(CONFERENCE HALL A)*

Chair: Mr Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Federal Minister of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, Pakistan

Facilitator: Mr Jose Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director, ILO

Over the last decade the Asian region has been a leader in terms of economic growth, but often, this growth has not translated into adequate numbers of jobs to absorb the growing number of new labour market entrants and to reduce poverty sufficiently to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals targets. What changes in policies will be needed to ensure that during the Decent Work Decade, growth translates into the more and better jobs required to meet the poverty reduction targets across the region? How to ensure coherence between the economic and social policies in this area? What types of social security systems will be needed in the future?

**Lead countries:**

- China – Mr You Mingchun, Vice Director-General, Social Security Department, Ministry of Finance
- India – Mr Sharda Prasad, Director General (Employment & Training), Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Indonesia – Mr Bambang Widianto, Expert Staff for Human Resources and Poverty Affairs, National Development Planning Agency
- Mr Syed Shahir bin Syed Mohamud, President, Malaysian Trades Union Congress, Malaysia
- Mr Ashraf Tabani, Governing Body Member and President, Pakistan Employers' Federation, Pakistan

**Resource persons:**

- Mr Ajit Singh, University of Cambridge
- Mr Jesus Felipe, Asian Development Bank

**Theme 1B: *Sustaining productivity and competitiveness on a foundation of decent work***

*(CONFERENCE HALL B)*

Chair: Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister of State for Manpower and Education, Singapore

Facilitator: Mr Michael Henriques, Director, ILO

In a globalizing world, productivity and competitiveness provide a crucially important foundation for continuing gains in employment and decent work. Competitiveness at both enterprise and national levels are closely linked to effective enterprise management practices and access to a skilled, motivated workforce. This in turn must be underpinned by effective education and training policies as well as good industrial relations practices. This session will review policies and programmes in these and related areas and the roles which will need to be played by governments, employers' organizations and trade unions.

**Lead countries:**

- Japan – Mr Kazumi Matsui, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan
- Pakistan – Mr Sabur Ghayur, Chairman, Policy Planning Cell, Ministry of Labour
- Republic of Korea – Mr Mu-Song Lim, Director, Employment Policy Division, Ministry of Labour
- Malaysia – Mr Sh Yahya Sh Mohamed, Deputy Director General of Labour, Ministry of Human Resources
- Mr Juan Kiat Koh, Executive Director, Singapore National Employers Federation, Singapore
- Mr Shigeru Nakajima, Director, International Affairs Department, Japanese Trade Union Confederation, Japan

**Resource persons:**

- Mr K.P. Kannan, Member, National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector, India

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

16:30-17:00 Feedback to plenary from working sessions and wrap-up of the day  
Chairperson: Workers' representative  
Brief presentation by moderators, followed by questions and answers

19:00 Reception hosted by ILO Director-General, Grand Ballroom A & B, Level 1, China World Hotel

**Tuesday, 14 August 2007**

09:30-11:00 **Parallel working sessions 2**

**Theme 2A: *Defining institutions and policies for equitable and efficient labour markets***  
(CONFERENCE HALL A)

Chair: Mr Kazumi Matsui, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan  
Moderator: Mr Kari Tapiola, Executive Director, ILO

As competitive pressures grow and technological and organizational changes happen at an ever faster rate, effective labour markets must be at the centre of any sustainable strategy to promote decent work. Many Asian countries, particularly after the Asian crisis in the late 1990s, have been introducing innovative policies and institutions to underpin better labour market intermediation and governance, as well as a range of active labour market policies. The session will review selected examples of such initiatives in the region, including the role of social dialogue and respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, and seek to identify lessons which may have potential for wider replication and adaptation.

**Lead countries:**

- Nepal – Mr Shyam P. Maniali, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Transport Management
- New Zealand – Mr Craig Armitage, Group Manager, Workplace Policy, Department of Labour
- Singapore – Mr Ong Yen Her, Divisional Director, Labour Relations and Workplaces Relations Division, Ministry of Manpower
- Ms Michelle Bisset, Industrial Officer, Australian Council of Trade Unions, Australia
- Mr Paul Mackay, Manager, Employment Relations Policy, Business New Zealand, New Zealand

**Resource persons:**

- Ms Hua Fuzhou, President, China Labour Studies Society, China
- Mr Russell Lansbury, University of Sydney, Australia

**Theme 2B: *Rolling back informality* (CONFERENCE HALL B)**

Chair: Mr Athauda Senerviratne, Minister of Labour Relations and Manpower, Sri Lanka

Facilitator: Ms Azita Berar Awad, Director, ILO

Informal economies in the Asian region remain significant parts of economies as high as 80 per cent in some countries. As Asian economies adapt to global competition and changing technologies, subcontracting and outsourcing of production has increased, often involving micro and small enterprises at the bottom of the supply chain. The session will review the experiences of several Asian countries that are adopting measures promoting recognition, upgrading and support to informal units, and protection for their workers. How effective have these programmes been in terms of promoting decent work and can they be replicated and up-scaled?

**Lead countries:**

- The Philippines – Mr Romeo Lagman, Undersecretary, Department of Labor and Employment
- Sri Lanka – Mr Delwakkada L. Kumaradasa, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower
- Mr Ravindra Peiris, Executive Director, Employers' Federation of Ceylon, Sri Lanka
- Mr Thampan Thomas, President, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, India

**Resource persons:**

- Ms Wilaiporn Liwgasemsan, Deputy Secretary General, National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) Thailand
- Mr Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC, Bangladesh
- Ms Dong Kaijian, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-12:30	Working sessions 2A and 2B continued
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:30	Feedback to plenary from working sessions ( <i>CONFERENCE HALL A</i> ) Chairperson: Employers' representative
14:30-16:00	<b><i>Session on an Asia-Pacific Decent Work Knowledge Network</i></b> ( <i>CONFERENCE HALL A &amp; B</i> ) This roundtable will review scope and modalities for a Knowledge Network based on inputs formulated during the thematic sessions. Co-chairs: Ms Sachiko Yamamoto, Regional Director, ILO and Mr Jose Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director, ILO Resource Person: ▪ Mr. Shigeo Takenaka, Secretary-General, Asian Productivity Organization Discussion
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-17:00	<b>Closing Session</b> ( <i>CONFERENCE HALL A &amp; B</i> ) Chairperson: Mr Tian Chengping, Minister of Labour and Social Security, China Summary on outcome of the forum by Ms Sachiko Yamamoto, Regional Director, ILO and Mr Jose Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director, ILO Closing remarks by Mr Juan Somavia, Director-General, ILO

19:30

Reception hosted by Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the People's Republic of China, Banquet Hall, Villa 5 of Diaoyutai State Guesthouse

**Wednesday, 15 August 2007**

08:00-

Field visit to Tianjin

Lunch hosted by the Mayor of Tianjin.

14.08.2007