

The bi-monthly CO-Suva publication features a collection of news items from our website <http://www.ilo.org/suva>. Hyperlinks have been added for further reading online. Your feedback and comments are appreciated.

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News round up

Statement on Fiji, by ILO Director-General Juan Somavia

The Director-General of the ILO, Mr. Juan Somavia, expressed deep regret at the decision of the Government of Fiji to proceed with the publication of regulations to implement the Essential Industries (Employment) Decree which was gazetted in late July. He highlighted the importance of the communiqué issued by the 42nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting (Auckland, New Zealand, 7-8 September) which expressed their "continuing deep concern at the deteriorating human rights situation and serious political and economic challenges facing the people of Fiji". The ILO had presented a submission on Fiji to the Forum in which it warned of "the danger of a serious degradation of the situation in the near future".

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_162761/lang-en/index.

Breakthrough in reforming labour legislation in Vanuatu

Tripartite constituents in the Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu have achieved a breakthrough in consultations to draft an Employment Relations Bill. The new Bill will replace the existing Employment Act, the Trade Disputes Act and the Trade Unions Act. This work is being supported by the AUSAID funded project Labour Governance & Migration. http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/press-releases/lang-en/WCMS_160856/index.htm



Introducing ILO's Know About Business (KAB) programme in Fiji

The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries, Director, Mr. David Lamotte presented an introduction to KAB at a recent Education Forum (01.09.2011) organised by TACKLE Fiji. Participants included tertiary level school principals and other senior education officers. The outcome of the forum generated feedback on the applicability of the KAB in Fiji's schools. KAB's general objective is to contribute towards the creation of an enterprise culture, by promoting awareness among young people of the opportunities and challenges of entrepreneurship and self-employment, and of their role in shaping their future and that of their country's economic and social development.



Training Opportunities for the disabled a major ILO priority

A recent news article featured in the Vanuatu Daily Post 11.08.2011

Training opportunities for the disabled were the main concern of two International Labour Organisation officials in Port Vila. They saw government and NGO officials with the sole objective of looking at what is offered for people with disability in Vanuatu. They observed that the government has "taken some very positive steps", in that it recently ratified the new UN charter on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This covers such basic rights as the right not to be discriminated against, and rights to the same opportunities for training, especially vocational training. Then there should be equal employment opportunity for those with disability. Other matters like health care and equal rights for women and children are also very important.



Edward Bernard and Debra Perry

One of the most significant rights is that children should have access to education in the most inclusive setting possible, that they should not be set apart from their peer group lacking disability. It is realised, however, that certain supports and adaptations for different disabilities to assist learning will be necessary. One problem brought to the visitors' attention was the difficulty the Australian Pacific Technical College has in identifying disabled students. They are required to make sure the disabled are included in technical cooperation programmes, but they have had difficulty finding the right people. "The right education leads to the right vocational training - and then employment opportunities," said Debra Perry from Geneva. By Bob Makin, Vanuatu Daily Post.

Other Recent Events

ILO Director-General sends High Level Delegation to Fiji

Mr. Juan Somavia sent a high level delegation to Fiji to advise him on how the ILO could help contribute to a constructive consideration of relevant issues by all parties. This photo is of ILO Suva Office staff with the Leader of the Delegation, Mr. Guy Ryder, Executive Director of the Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. http://staging.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/press-and-media-centre/news/WCMS_160472/lang--en/index.htm



PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES TRADE AGREEMENT (PICTA) TEMPORARY MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS (TMNP) WORKSHOP 22-23 August 2011, Nadi, Fiji

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat hosted a Workshop on the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) Temporary Movement of Natural Persons in Nadi, Fiji on 22–23 August 2011. The ILO, represented by Nilim Baruah from the ILO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific, made a presentation on the labour dimensions of the PICTA TMNP Scheme. He explained the International Legal Framework for Protection of Migrant Workers, including international labour standards, good practice in relation to regulation of recruitment, and rights of migrant workers in the context of temporary labour migration. He also highlighted the importance of labour market assessments for identifying shortage occupations. A number of countries requested ILO technical support to progress the PICTA TMNP scheme.

Start Your Own Business (SYOB) training of trainers workshop

The Fiji TACKLE team have successfully completed a Start Your Own Business (SYOB) training of trainers workshop, conducted for Education Officials from the Ministry of Education's TVET and Curriculum Development Units from the 15th to 19th August 2011. A total of 30 participants were trained, including Ministry of Education Officials, teachers from vocational schools, National Youth Coordinators from 5 different provinces in Fiji and trainers working with schools and communities, including children and young women survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking.



The SYOB Curriculum was developed and launched by the MOE for secondary school students in vocational programmes, with the specific objectives:

- To prepare students to recognize saleable skills they have and use these in a small business;
- To assist students to acquire knowledge and skills in starting their own small business and
- To help students to develop an appreciation of good planning and sound business ethics.

The ILO has been assisting the MOE through TACKLE to implement the SYOB course for vocational students in secondary schools. This has included training workshops with TVET teachers in 3 divisions in Fiji and the development of SYOB teaching and learning resources for teachers and students. The Ministry of Education is expecting to fully roll-out the SYOB programme to all MOE vocational centres by November 2011.

Papua New Guinea National Child Labour Forum

26-28 July 2011, Port Moresby

The PNG National Child Labour Forum highlighted the importance of inter-agency partnerships at all levels, and close collaboration and coherence in the areas of child labour elimination, education strengthening, poverty reduction and youth employment. http://www.ilo.org/suva/lang--en/WCMS_161092/index.htm

National Training on Disability for Fiji Employers

Fiji: 2 August 2011

The workshop presented to the representatives of employers in Fiji best practices on disability inclusion and corporate social responsibility policies relating to the employment of persons with disabilities. The participants were Human Resource managers from various multinational, regional and national corporate organisations in Fiji.

National Workshop on Promoting Decent Work for People with Disabilities through Inclusion

Samoa : 2 August 2011, Vanuatu: 8 August 2011

The workshop aimed to review legislation, policies and programmes, share best practices, tools and methodologies including the identification of gaps leading to strategizing and development of national action plans.

Microinsurance Innovation Facility hosted in Papua New Guinea

The Microinsurance Innovation Facility seeks to increase the availability of quality insurance for the developing world's low-income families by nurturing a new generation of microinsurance experts. The fellow is hosted by the Pacific Financial Inclusion Program and will be based in Port Moresby to help a national microinsurance provider improve the services it provides to low-income people. Oliver Ullrich is a Fellow of the Microinsurance Innovation Facility hosted in Papua New Guinea. Oliver is a German national with a background in the banking industry and has been working for a large international insurance company in the past.



Oliver Ullrich

Look ahead

Consultations for the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework

Upcoming in-country consultations include Vanuatu on 1 September, Fiji on 15 September, Tuvalu between 19 and 23 September and Samoa on 6 to 7 October. Final consultation dates for Kiribati are still to be decided while consultations in the Solomon Islands were convened on 26 August and in the Republic of Marshall Islands were convened in the first week of August. It's critical that labour and social protection issues are well represented in the next UNDAF. We encourage as many as possible of our constituents to get involved in the UNDAF consultations, as you are the best advocates of the importance of promoting decent work in your countries. http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/press-releases/lang--en/WCMS_161725/index.htm

Child Labour Research Survey Report for Papua New Guinea to be launched

The survey showed that child labour exists in Port Moresby, PNG. A total of 229 children participated in the survey of working street children. 68% of the children were identified to be involved in hazardous work. The Report will be officially launched in Port Moresby and uploaded to the ILO Suva website in November 2011.

Reports on the application of Conventions due 1 September 2011

Reports on the fundamental and priority ILO Conventions each ILO Member has ratified are due every two years (states beginning with L-Z are required to report in 2011). Reports on other Conventions are due every 5 years. Reports are due by 1 September. For advice or assistance on completing these reports, overdue reports from previous years or reports in response to a direct request from the Committee of Experts Members can email (suva@ilo.org). For the handbook on reporting processes follow this link: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/index.htm>

Pacific Labour Market Information & Analysis Training

28 November – 2 December 2011, Noumea, New Caledonia

Identified as a priority area in the Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work (PAPDW), this hands on practical training will involve technical experts in the area of labour statistics and analysis from all 8 ILO member countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Marshall Islands). This training will be done in collaboration with SPC and will include the identification of follow up activities for future support in this area.

Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation top executive conference (TOPEX 2011)

16th September 2011, Nadi, Fiji

The ILO Office for South Pacific Island Countries has been asked to make a presentation on *“Preparing emerging trends - Research, Data and Developments”* aligned to the theme *“Labour Market Trends”*. This year's theme for the TOPEX 2011 is *“Sustainable Business - Responsible Employers”*.

National Policy on HIV/AIDS in the Workplace consultations

September 2011, Port Moresby, PNG | Honiara, Solomon Islands

National Tripartite Consultative Council Meetings will be held on advancing HIV workplace policies at national level as part of the national HIV strategy and Decent Work Country Programmes for each respective country. Discussions are also planned with individual tripartite partners on the HIV Country Priority Outcomes target for 2012 onwards.

Referring the Convention on Domestic Workers to cabinets and parliaments for action

The ILO Constitution (Article 19) requires Members to refer new Conventions to the appropriate authorities for action. This process is designed to inform governments and/or parliaments of new Conventions so that they can decide whether to commence work towards ratification. This report should be made within 12 months of the International Labour Conference that adopted the Convention. The new Convention on Domestic Workers should be reported to national authorities by next June. The competent authorities are the authorities that would be able to ratify the Convention. It is recommended that labour authorities discuss this process as soon as possible with counterparts in foreign affairs or other agencies involved in the international law making. For assistance in reporting please email: (suva@ilo.org). Here is a link to the ILO Constitution: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/constq.htm>

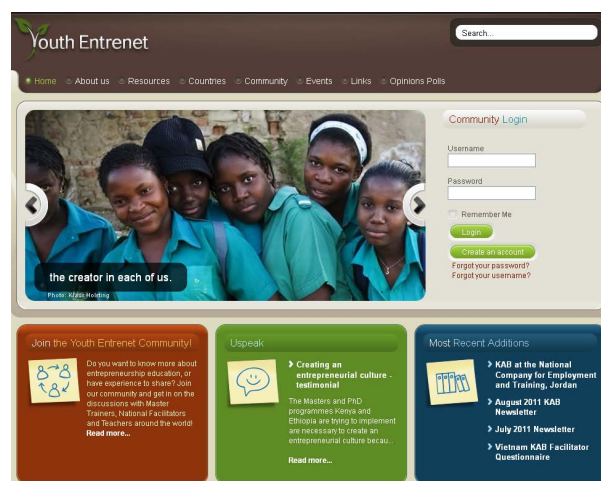
Key Resources

News@ILO, September 2011; The September 2011 e-newsletter of the ILO in Asia and the Pacific contains the latest news from the regional office, a feature on a beautician in Timor-Leste, a selection of the latest publications, and details of forthcoming events and meetings.

http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/newsletters/lang--en/docName--WCMS_160328/index.htm

Youth unemployment is a significant and serious challenge to sustainable development in the World today!

There are more than 1 billion young people aged 15-24 in the world today, of which 85 per cent live in developing countries. The 50 poorest countries in the world will more than double their population, from 0.8 billion in 2007 to 1.7 billion by 2050. Youth are generally three times more likely than adults to be unemployed and today there are close to 80 million unemployed young women and men in the world. It is estimated that almost 100 million young people will be entering the global workforce every year for the next ten years.



Youth Entrenet is a global knowledge sharing and resource platform created by the International Labour Organization (ILO) through a partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) under the project "Creating Youth Employment through improved Youth Entrepreneurship".

VISIT THE WEBSITE: <http://www.knowaboutbusiness.org/>