



## In the Spotlight

### CO -Suva website revamped

This issue of the bi-monthly CO-Suva news in brief features a collection of news items from on our newly revamped website <http://www.ilo.org/suva>

The news items you see here are featured in the whats new section of the website. Hyperlinks have been added for further reading online. Your feedback and comments are much appreciated.

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## Most Recent

### 100th ILO annual Conference decides to bring an estimated 53 to 100 million domestic workers worldwide under the realm of labour standards

The government, worker and employer delegates at the 100th annual Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on Thursday, 16 June adopted a historic set of international standards aimed at improving the working conditions of tens of millions of domestic workers worldwide.

[http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/100thSession/media-centre/press-releases/WCMS\\_157891/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/100thSession/media-centre/press-releases/WCMS_157891/lang--en/index.htm)

### ILO Project Brings Together Worker and Employer Organizations from Samoa and New Zealand in Mentoring Initiative

Worker and employer organizations in New Zealand have welcomed the opportunity to engage in an exchange of expertise with counterparts in the Pacific island nation of Samoa.

[http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/press-releases/lang--en/WCMS\\_158823/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/suva/information-resources/public-information/press-releases/lang--en/WCMS_158823/index.htm)



### ILO Pacific Office Director, Mr David Lamotte meets the Honorable Mr. Sato Kilman, Prime Minister of Vanuatu

On 13th June 2011 during a mission to Port Vila, the ILO Pacific Office Director Mr David Lamotte met with the Honorable Mr. Sato Kilman, the Prime Minister of Vanuatu. Discussions included the upcoming 15th Asia Pacific Regional Meeting and ILO programme work related to seasonal migration and employment policy. From left to right Commissioner of Labour Mr Lionel Kaluat, Prime Minister Mr Sato Kilman, ILO Pacific Director Mr David Lamotte and Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister Mr Richard Kaltongga.



### Tripartite Labour Advisory Council launched in Vanuatu

For the first time since independence in 1980 government, workers and employers have formally joined forces to create a tripartite advisory body to help guide Vanuatu's development of new labour and employment policies.

[http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/lang--en/WCMS\\_155453/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/lang--en/WCMS_155453/index.htm)

### Papua New Guinea labour delegation in Australia: tripartite group studies industrial relations, Australian labour market governance and institutions

A tripartite delegation from Papua New Guinea (PNG) has traveled to Australia to study that country's industrial relations institutions in advance of an anticipated enactment of a Bill to reform PNG's industrial relations laws.

[http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/lang--en/WCMS\\_154857/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/lang--en/WCMS_154857/index.htm)

## DECENT WORK

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### **ILO-JICA agreement to improve Pacific Islands waste management**

The ILO and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have signed an agreement to support improved waste management in the Pacific Island Countries (PIC). The agreement's key objective is to identify, develop and implement joint activities to improve occupational safety and health (OSH) in waste management, promote capacity building among project counterparts, and facilitate exchange of information and achievements. The ILO will provide technical expertise in OSH (through technical advisory missions) while JICA will provide logistical and administrative support.

[http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/lang--en/WCMS\\_152249/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/lang--en/WCMS_152249/index.htm)

### **ILO training helps keep Fiji green and clean**

April 28th is observed globally as World Day for Safety and Health at Work. Waste collectors in Fiji have reason to celebrate this day, because, thanks to a new ILO programme combining 'green' environmental support measures with occupational safety and health (OSH) practices, they are enjoying better, safer and greener working conditions.

[http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/lang--en/WCMS\\_155453/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/pr/lang--en/WCMS_155453/index.htm)

### **UN begins work on next Pacific Island Development Assistance Framework**

Work has begun on a new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 14 Pacific Island countries (excludes PNG who have their own UNDAF). The UNDAF is the UN's collective response to the main development challenges in each country and includes priorities for joint action by UN agencies, including the ILO. Over the next few months there will be consultations in each country about this process. The ILO will be ensuring social partners are aware of opportunities for you to influence this work. If you would like more information contact Lalla Harré (harre@ilo.org).

### **Solomon Islands constituents work towards the establishment of a Labour Advisory Board**

ILO constituents in the Solomon Islands are progressing the establishment of a Labour Advisory Board to enable tripartite engagement on issues impacting on employment and the workplace. The ILO has provided some advice on the draft rules to establish the Board. The Labour Division is hoping to have rules finalised and the Board established and meeting by the end of this year.

### **Solomon Islands employers' organization hold workshop on labour law issues**

A June workshop to explore labour law issues from an employers' perspective was "a great success" said Calvin Ziru, CEO of the Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Industry which hosted the ILO-supported workshop. Workers and the government have also expressed a willingness to consider how, from their perspectives, the current industrial relations and employment laws could be improved.

## **Project briefs**

### **Child Labour research findings**

Papua New Guinea's Child Labour research findings are set to be launched in Port Moresby by the end of July. The research was conducted in Port Moresby for 2 months from Dec 2010. The findings illustrate that children in the capital city are engaged in the worst forms of Child Labour including commercial sexual exploitation, drug trafficking, hazardous work, begging and stealing. This research highlights the larger number of children not in school but working. Health and safety issues also are a major concern for most of these children whom have a diet mostly made of only flour.

### **Trade Union Focal Points TACKLE Child Labour**

Trade Union Focal Points in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu have launched programmes to TACKLE child labour. The Samoa Public Service Association will create awareness of child labour working with school administrators and parents and teachers. The action will highlight the risks faced by children working as street vendors and the impacts that their work has on their health and education. Schools involved in the action will map out means to keep children out of child labour and street work, and in schools. The Vanuatu Trade Union Congress aims to recruit domestic workers and newspaper sellers and sensitize these workers to child labour issues through awareness workshops. The action will also educate the members of the union on child labour issues. The Fiji Trades Union Congress will train teachers as child labour focal points to identify children in child labour or at-risk and provide these children with counselling and follow-up support. The FTUC will also develop a child labour policy for the organisation. The trade union actions to tackle child labour was launched on the World Day Against Child Labour, observed every year on June 12, and will run for the next 3 months. Funding for these actions was provided through the ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour.

### **Child Labour and Development Course launched by the University of the South Pacific**

The University of the South Pacific, School of Government, Development and International Relations, FBE, will teach a Child Labour and Development Course for Post-Graduate students in Semester 2, 2011. The Child Labour and Development Course (DG405) will be designed to equip future practitioners with a sound conceptual understanding of child labour, and enhance their practical and theoretical skills to deal with the issue. As part of the course, the USP will host panel discussions to create greater public awareness and advocacy, and publish student-based articles on the issue. Three important topics that will be explored will be the human dimension of trafficking in children; the links between child labour and youth employment; and research techniques for conducting child labour surveys and school to work transition surveys. The course is funded by the European Union through the ILO TACKLE (Tackling Child Labour through Education) project.

### **Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation sensitize members for World Day Against Child Labour, June 12 2011**

The Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation created awareness on child labour at workshops with members in Suva and Nadi. Findings in the Fiji child labour research report were presented to workshop participants who then discussed at length practical actions that could be done to TACKLE child labour. Participants also worked on formulating a list of workplace skills that needs students need to develop at secondary school to aid the transition from school to work. The careers and workplace skills exercises will contribute to resources for the Ministry of Education's Start Your Own Business (SYOB) Training Course for vocational (TVET) students at secondary schools in Fiji. Members participating at the FCEF awareness workshops also had separate sessions where they worked with a legal consultant to 'unpack' the HIV/AIDs Decree and explore the process of developing HIV/AIDS workplace policies.

## **Upcoming events**

**The Global Jobs Pact framework for labour governance and migration** will be continuing its labour law reform project activities in Vanuatu. The newly established Tripartite Labour Advisory Council have requested technical inputs from the ILO project to revive consultations on the draft Employment Relations Bill, which has been stalled since 2006. The draft Bill proposes a consolidation of three pieces of existing labour legislation in Vanuatu, namely the Employment Act, the Trade Unions Act and the Trade Disputes Act. **A national workshop** is scheduled to be held in Port Vila during the **first week of August**. For more information on this project, please go to the webpage:  
[http://www.ilo.org/suva/what-we-do/projects/lang--en/WCMS\\_155803/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/suva/what-we-do/projects/lang--en/WCMS_155803/index.htm)

### **National Training on Disability for Fiji Employers**

**3 August 2011** at the Airports Fiji Limited Conference Room in Nadi, Fiji.

The workshop aims to present 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 will be Human Resource managers from various multinational, regional and national corporate organisations in Fiji.

### **Sub-Regional Workshop on Promoting Decent Work for People with Disabilities through Inclusion**

**3-5 August 2011** at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi, Fiji.

The workshop aims 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. In addition, the workshop will explore sector based initiatives to promote inclusion for people with disabilities in tourism and related industries. Participants to the workshop will be tripartite constituents from Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu including the relevant ministries responsible for disabled persons, national and regional disability persons organisations (DPO) and development and donor partners.

### **TACKLE - Papua New Guinea National Child Labour Forum**

**26-28 July 2011** Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

The Forum's objectives are; to create awareness and understanding of child labour concepts and Conventions, to identify the links between child labour and education, to present the child labour research findings for PNG, to explore local strategies to address the issue of child labour, including a national World Day Against Child Labour campaign, and to contribute to developing a national plan of action for the elimination of child labour.

For more information on the TACKLE project, please go to the webpage:

[http://www.ilo.org/suva/what-we-do/projects/lang--en/WCMS\\_155852/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/suva/what-we-do/projects/lang--en/WCMS_155852/index.htm)

## Follow up

### 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](mailto:suva@ilo.org). Here is a link to the ILO Constitution: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/constq.htm>

### 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](mailto:suva@ilo.org)). For the nadbook on reporting processes follow this link: <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/index.htm>

## Key Resources

### The ILO Helpdesk

The ILO Helpdesk is a one-stop shop for company managers and workers on how to better align business operations with international labour standards and build good industrial relations.



The ILO Helpdesk for Business provides basic information on a wide range of labour topics, all derived from the ILO MNE Declaration. Specific queries on applying principles of international labour standards in company operations can be directly submitted by email to [assistance@ilo.org](mailto:assistance@ilo.org) or telephone +41 22 799-6264 (fax +41 22 799-6354).

This individual assistance service is free and confidential and available for company managers and workers; government agencies, employers' and workers' organizations and other interested organizations can also make use of the service. Replies are prepared by an ILO expert team and draw on the different ILO normative instruments, policy documents and tools. Responses to most questions are provided within a day or two. For more complex questions, replies may take longer.

<http://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/business-helpdesk/lang--en/index.htm>

### Other newsletters from the Regional Office

**Skills and Employability Network Community Updates, Issue 2;** 21 June 2011 - Provides a brief synopsis of the latest news, activities and resources that have happened in the Asian Decent Work Decade Knowledge Sharing Network on Skills and Employability.

[http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/newsletters/lang--en/docName--WCMS\\_158342/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/newsletters/lang--en/docName--WCMS_158342/index.htm)

**AP-IRNet Community Updates, Issue 3;** 21 June 2011 - Provides a brief synopsis of the latest news, activities and resources that have happened in the Asian Decent Work Decade Knowledge Sharing Network on Industrial Relations.

[http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/newsletters/lang--en/docName--WCMS\\_158341/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/newsletters/lang--en/docName--WCMS_158341/index.htm)

**News@ILO, June 2011;** The June 2011 e-newsletter of the ILO in Asia and the Pacific contains the latest news from the regional office, a feature on domestic workers in India, 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\\_156322/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/info/public/newsletters/lang--en/docName--WCMS_156322/index.htm)

**DECENT WORK**

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