



Republic of Korea ILO Cooperation

▶ July 2020

The Republic of Korea has been a member State of the ILO since 1991 and has ratified a total of 29 Conventions, including four Fundamental, three Governance and 22 Technical Conventions.

The Republic of Korea has a long-standing relationship with the ILO in the field of development cooperation. It supports the ILO's mandate by contributing to both its core budget and its development cooperation programmes.

The ILO works closely with the [Ministry of Employment and Labour](#) within the framework of the [ILO/ Korea Partnership Programme](#) first established in 2004. Renewed for the period 2018-2020, this partnership supports projects that strengthen social protection floors, occupational safety and health frameworks, public employment services and technical, and vocational education and training.

In addition, the Ministry of Employment Labour provides strategic funding to implement a Social and Solidarity Economy

programme in Asia that seeks to tackle the challenges related to employment and basic services provision as well as to support social cohesion.

The [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#), with the [Korea International Cooperation Agency \(KOICA\)](#) provides further support in the area of skills development and economic diversification in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Specifically, this cooperation addresses skills mismatch and strengthens national, regional and sector level capacity to design skill strategies.

Furthermore, the ILO benefits from Korean expertise through the country's participation in the Junior Professional Officer programme as well as the secondment of Korean officials and specialists from the Korean Experts Programme.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Republic of Korea's international cooperation is based on a people-centred approach to peace and prosperity. Its development assistance focuses on the following sectors:

- Education
- Health
- Governance
- Agriculture
- Forestry and fisheries
- Technology
- Energy

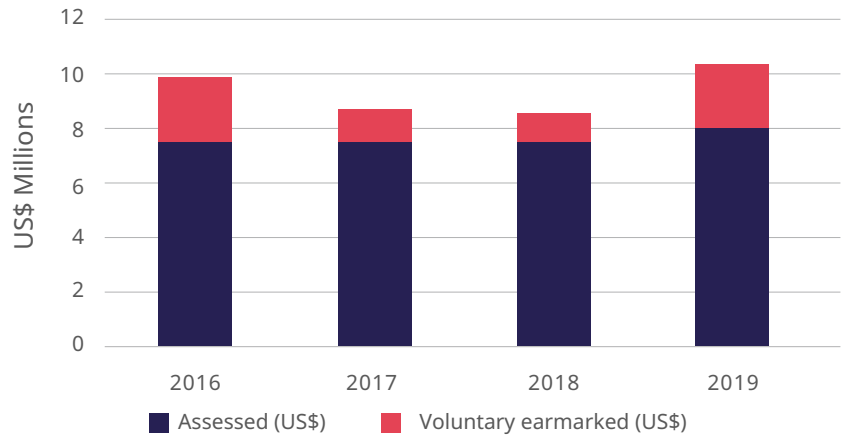
In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Republic of Korea launched a mid-term strategy to promote human rights, civil participation, survival and livelihoods in partner countries, and it has provided US\$6 million in immediate humanitarian assistance to the international humanitarian community.

The Republic of Korea's financial contribution to the ILO

The Republic of Korea funds the ILO through:

- **Assessed contributions**, which are paid by all ILO member States by virtue of their membership. The Republic of Korea provided **US\$ 37.6 million** between 2016 and 2019.
- **Voluntary contributions** earmarked to priority programmes, regions and projects. Between 2016 and 2019, the Republic of Korea's contributions totalled more than **US\$ 9.7 million**.

The Republic of Korea's total contribution to the ILO 2016-2019



Aligning Skills Strategically with Sector Development Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia



Launched in November 2019 to improve competitiveness and employment creation in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, the project benefits from US\$ 1 million in support from KOICA. The project is implementing effective skills development strategies in selected

sectors and strengthening collaboration and mutual learning among the three countries. This approach is based on the understanding that the combination of skills and technological upgrading with investment in diversification (non-traditional sectors) helps ensure that productivity growth is accompanied by employment growth. The Republic of Korea has itself demonstrated this strategy successfully over the past decades. The project will facilitate learning between the Republic of Korea and the three countries and responds to the need to offer young women and men from the Maghreb region opportunities for sustainable and qualified employment. The project is fully integrated into [Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification \(STED\) program](#) of the ILO, thereby benefitting from worldwide experiences while also contributing to program-wide learning.

Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy and Decent Work in Asia

With support from the Ministry of Employment and Labour of the Republic of Korea, the ILO launched the project "[Strengthening Social Solidarity Economy Policy \(SSE\)](#)" in 2019. SSE is a way of doing business and economic activity while also giving equal weight to social and economic profits in a democratic principle of operations. SSE is increasingly gaining recognition as playing an important role in achieving sustainable development.

The project aims to enhance the understanding of SSE in Asia and provide technical support to the countries in need to develop and strengthen their SSE policy in collaboration with the Korea Social Enterprise Promotion Agency. The ILO is carrying out mapping exercises, including a study on SSE job creation, in the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. Capacity building activities will be implemented for the relevant stakeholders in the six countries based on the findings and lessons from



the research. Through this and other complementary activities, practitioners, policy-makers, relevant stakeholders and SSE entities in Asia will be better equipped to develop SSE policies tailored to their national context.

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

Promoting OSH in Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises



The project [“Upholding sustainable delivery mechanisms to promote Occupational Safety and Health \(OSH\) in micro, small and medium size enterprises \(MSMEs\)”](#) is taking stock

of the various experiences from the ILO and other relevant initiatives to further promote the improvement of OSH in MSMEs.

To this end, the project produced the report [“Improving Safety and Health in MSMEs: An overview of initiatives and delivery mechanisms,”](#) which concluded that initiatives should be low cost, easy to access, action-oriented and tailored to the specific needs of these enterprises in order to ensure that MSMEs effectively implement OSH measures. Case studies from Tunisia, Indonesia, Colombia, Philippines and Cameroon will soon be published on this topic. In addition, in partnership with the International Training Center (ITC) of the ILO in Turin, the project is developing a virtual platform of participatory action oriented trainings that support the project’s main objective of strengthening OSH and productivity in MSMEs. The project is making strategy adjustments to better respond to MSMEs needs in the context of COVID-19 and its aftermath.

Establishing and Enhancing an Overall OSH Framework in Myanmar and Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR)



[With this project](#), the ILO is supporting the broader labour law reform and capacity development initiatives

in Myanmar and Lao PDR. In 2018 and 2019, the project significantly contributed to the drafting of and consultations on OSH laws in Myanmar and Lao PDR, where these legal instruments were enacted on 5 February 2020 and 15 March 2020 respectively. In Lao PDR, the project facilitated the drafting of a national OSH profile and stakeholder mapping. Training of Trainers workshops on “Work Improvement at Small Construction sites” were held in April and October 2019 in Lao PDR. In Myanmar, the project is implementing activities in collaboration with other related development projects on the elimination of child labour, responsible business and labour force data collection. In addition, the project is supporting training programmes and fellowships on OSH for government agencies of ASEAN.

Strengthening Public Employment Services in English Speaking Africa



Online job portal systems are crucial to effective and successful public employment services (PES), and they can also contribute to reducing PES operational

costs through the automation of services and tasks. Supported by the Korean Ministry of Employment, the ILO is strengthening the PES in Namibia and Malawi by updating job portal systems and strengthening the capacities of public officials. After an initial assessment of the situation in Namibia, ILO and KOREATEC established a master plan to upgrade the existing job portal system and software development is underway. The project is also identifying successes from the job portal Work-Net based on indicators (benchmarking) of user interface, filtering of information and the reporting system, among others. The job portal in Namibia is not only an emerging best practice, but it will also contribute to developing tools and guidelines for the modernisation of PES in developing countries. The ILO is also carrying out a global study on the use of technology in PES to help improve service delivery to its clients. The study will document PES’ incorporation of digital services and the potential role of online portals.

Promoting ASEAN Initiatives in TVET and Skills for an Inclusive Future of Work

With support from the Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Korea, the ILO is implementing the project [“Promoting ASEAN Initiatives in TVET and skills for an inclusive future of work.”](#) The project further strengthens ILO’s support for ASEAN’s initiative on mutual recognition of skills (MRS) and TVET within the framework of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework. This project, as part of the ILO/Korea Partnership Programme, has helped facilitate negotiation between participating countries with the aim of enhancing the freedom of movement and employment of qualified and certified personnel. Moreover, it has helped extend and deepen the regional debate on skills and the future of work through initiatives such as the ILO/Korea TVET Forum. This type of sharing of good practices and national skills strategies for the future of work aims to generate ideas and new perspectives as the ASEAN member states prepare to meet future skills challenges, especially for more vulnerable groups.



Supporting the Implementation of Sustainable Social Protection Floors for Workers and their Families in ASEAN - Phase II



During the past few years, the ILO/Korea Partnership Programme has provided considerable financial and technical support for ASEAN countries to assist their efforts in building a better social protection system, especially through the project [“Supporting the implementation of sustainable social protection floors for the workers and their families in ASEAN”](#). Building on the achievements made in the first phase towards the implementation of a modern social security system, phase II focused on strengthening regional exchanges on best practices so countries can draw from these to develop their own systems. With this aim, a communication campaign was developed and disseminated among tripartite stakeholders through social media. The campaign is effectively raising awareness on the benefits of employment injury and health insurance.

Portworker Development Program (PDP) in Bulk Terminals

Launched in 2014 with support from the Republic of Korea, the first phase (2014-2017) of the project produced training materials for port workers handling iron ore, coal and fertilizer. In phase II, the project developed best practices related to the transport, handling and storage of two cargoes, safe conditions of work in dry bulk terminals and ships, and the use of specific equipment. A Chief

Instructors’ Manual to train potential instructors was also developed and validated in May 2019. These training materials are [available from the ILO upon request](#) and have been provided to more than 40 port authorities and institutes. The project is now focused on dissemination activities, including planning for Training of Trainers workshops in developing countries.

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