

Skills-AP Updates

Asian Decent Work Decade Knowledge Sharing Network



International
Labour
Organization

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WELCOME TO SKILLS-AP

It is with great pleasure that we join you in building this community dedicated to improving skills and employability prospects across the Asia-Pacific region. As you may know, many countries in the region—and around the world—are finding it increasingly difficult to respond to the skills needs of their workforce in a time of increasing globalization, new technology and changing patterns of work. There are severe shortages of skilled labour due to the out-migration of skilled workers, an ageing workforce or simply the lack of capacity to provide training. Furthermore, persons with disabilities are faced with compounded difficulties in finding decent work.



Carmela Torres

The ILO-sponsored Asia Pacific Knowledge Sharing Network in Skills Development and Disabilities (Skills-AP) is focused on addressing these challenges by using this virtual space as a platform where members and constituents can actively share knowledge, build relationships and effectively collaborate with each other. Skills-AP is dedicated to facilitating network building and prioritization of critical areas which include (qualification of skills recognition; promotion of workplace learning; quality of training; strengthening labour market information; and competency-based standards).



Sandra Rothboeck

We hope to work closely with all of you to bring this attention to the fore through an innovative and interactive platform. We have many planned activities for the year ahead—including online discussion forums, regular announcements to community members and a face-to-face visioning workshop. In the meantime, please continue to contribute and be part of Skills-AP!

Warmest regards,

Carmela Torres / ILO Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, Bangkok
Sandra Rothboeck / ILO Skills and Employability Specialist, Bangkok

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

On December 3rd, International Day of Persons with Disabilities will be celebrated under the theme, “Keeping the Promise: Mainstreaming Disability in the Millennium Development Goals towards 2015 and Beyond.” There are approximately 400 million persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific region and 250 million of them are of working age.

This observance serves to reemphasize our global commitment to the cause and promote a better understanding of the challenges. In the region, the ILO is partnering with other UN agencies and organizations to voice the rights of women and men with disabilities.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

The first Skills-AP online discussion forum is scheduled for February 2011. What would you like to discuss?

1. Consolidation of Regional Model Competency Standards (RMCS)
1. Quality assurance
2. Skills recognition for migrant workers
3. Workplace learning
4. Employment services
5. Lifelong learning

Send your vote to BKK_SKILLS-AP@ilo.org and we'll make sure your voice is heard.

RELATED RESOURCE

[Regional Model Competency Standards](#) for various industries are available in draft form for commenting on the portal.



[EmployAbility: a resource guide on disability for employers in Asia and the Pacific](#) A manual to assist business and organizations in recruiting, hiring and retaining employees with disabilities. Includes information on publications, websites, good practices, national organizations and government departments, checklists and fact sheets.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Skills-AP Updates will be released on a regular bi-monthly basis. It serves as a space for us to update each other on what is going on in the community. We welcome any announcements that you would like to share. Just send us an email to: BKK_SKILLS-AP@ilo.org

IN THE PIPELINE

- [Regional Conference on ASEAN and Disability](#)
1-3 December 2010 / Jakarta, Indonesia
- [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)
3 December 2010 / Worldwide
- [International Symposium on Social Enterprise for Sustainable Employment of Persons with Disabilities](#)
15-17 December 2010 / Pattaya, Thailand
- [International Symposium on Lifelong Learning for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development](#)
12-13 January 2011 / Hong Kong