

Media Update

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ILO

Press Release

Representatives of all trade unions in Balochistan get detailed orientation on International Labour Standards

Quetta - Representatives of all trade unions of Balochistan gathered here on Friday for orientation on International Labour Standards (ILS) by ILO, the only specialized agency of the United Nations dealing with rights at work.

The orientation was attended by trade union members from Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF), Pakistan Workers Confederation Balochistan (PWCB) and All Pakistan Labour Federation (APLF). Many of the affiliated union members from irrigation, agriculture, public health engineering, Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation, Bolan Mining Enterprise and others were also present.

“It is important that trade union members from all backgrounds and diverse representation know the International Labour Standards and their role in compliance of these standards” said Ingrid Christensen, Country Director, ILO Country Office for Pakistan and added “I am particularly happy to welcome women’s representatives in workers’ activities today”.

The tripartite partners from 187 member states develop international labour standards and ILO assists in actualization of these standards at respective national levels.

The one day orientation session was organized by the “International Labour and Environmental Standards” Project on Friday, May 19, 2017 at Quetta Serena Hotel. The Project is supported by European Union.



The discussions were facilitated by Ms. Miranda Fajerman, ILS Specialist, ILO's Decent Work Team for the South-Asia. Detailed sessions throughout the day included ILS development & supervision mechanism, national situation on ILS compliance, trade unions' role in monitoring and reporting on compliance, ILS on child labour and strategies to address child labour.

Abdul Salam Baloch, Chairman, Pakistan Workers Federation said that it is satisfying to note that ILO is focusing on compliance of the ILS. Mr. Ramzan Achakzai, President, Pakistan Workers Confederation Balochistan welcomed ILO working with all federations and affiliated trade unions which will increase the impact of labour movement in Pakistan. Abdul Haleem Khan, Media Secretary, All Pakistan Labour Federation said ILO also needs to further its support to the trade unions in this marginalized province. Ms. Rukhsana Khalid, Chairman Women Wing, All Pakistan Labour Federation shared that ILO encourages women workers to also come ahead and work for their rights at work. Moreover, she said that today's session on ILS informed trade union leaders on the role in ILS compliance and that they intend to continue the struggle in this regard.

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UNIDO

Press Release

UNIDO commits vigilant support for food value chain development in Gilgit and KPK

UNIDO Pakistan has concluded a successful need assessment mission to Gilgit Baltistan and KPK during last week, exploring the potential of agricultural produce of the areas and to help the government in transforming agriculture into agro-industry by addressing the gaps in various value chains for fresh fruits, dry fruits, fish and dairy sector. UNIDO after a series of



consultations, developed a project proposal on Agro-Industry Development Program for Pakistan targeting three sectors i.e fresh fruits, dry stone fruits, trout fish as well as dairy . The concept for value addition was conceived in close collaboration with the federal Ministry of Food Security and Research as well as active participation of Provincial Agriculture Departments. The main objective is to assess the selected value chains relevant to provide assistance in processing, packaging, branding, certification as well as establishing linkages with national and international markets.

UNIDO has contributed \$ 50,000 as a seed money to undertake this need assessment for the formulation of the project document. The anticipated budget for the project would be 3 million USD for phase I, to be mobilized from government of Pakistan and some other international donors including UN funds. A project formulation mission lead by Mr. Esam Alqararah, UNIDO Representative, and comprising of Mr. Bassel Alkhatib, UNIDO Project Manager at UNIDO Head Office in Vienna, and Mr. Youssef Doughan, International food Expert from Lebanon, had undertook field visit to Peshawar and Gilgit Baltistan, where the meetings with various high level officials were held. The mission also interacted with farmers and women associations to seek the problems faced by them and to identify the gaps where UNIDO could provide assistance for further strengthening of selected value chains. The Chief Minister of Gilgit Batistan during his meeting with UNIDO team appraised UNIDO's assistance for the uplift of poor communities in the area as well as for assisting the government to have a system established for the certification of various perishable commodities like cherry and apricot to enable these products meet compliance and compatibility for export to China and minimize the post harvest losses. The government of GB is also facilitating to fund the project from local government resources.

UNIDO mission also had high level meetings at federal level including with Economic Affairs Division, where it was reiterated that through this project UNIDO is working on much needed interventions that comes under priority area for government of Pakistan. The government of Pakistan ensured all its support for the project and for funding from local and international donors once the project document is finalized.

