

Media Update

27 April 2018

ILO

Media Advisory

Project concluding seminar – “More and better jobs through socially responsible labour practices in Pakistan’s sports goods sector”

When: Monday, 30 April 2018 from 1330 to 1700 hours

Where: Auditorium, ILO building , near the State Bank of Pakistan (opposite Ministry of Climate Change), Sector G-5/2, Islamabad

What: The Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) has been implementing the Multinational Enterprises & Social Policy (MNE) Declaration Project “**More and better jobs through socially responsible labour practices in Pakistan’s sports goods sector**” in Sialkot since August 2015. This project is funded by the Government of Japan through the ILO/Japan Fund for Building Social Safety Nets in Asia and the Pacific (SSN Fund), and will come to an end on 30 April 2018.

The Project has, *since its inception in 2015*, implemented the guiding principles of the ILO Tripartite Multi National Enterprise and Social Policy which seeks to maximize the positive contribution which (multinational) enterprises can make to economic and social development and to minimize and resolve the difficulties to which their various operations may give rise. As the only ILO instrument addressed directly to enterprises, it translates principles derived from international labour standards into company operations. But it also addresses governments (home and host countries of MNEs) and social partners to put in place a legislative and policy framework that is conducive to a positive contribution of the private sector to socioeconomic development and decent work.



The Project Fact Sheet, and summary of the principles of the MNE Declaration are attached herewith.

The project concluding seminar will showcase the results of the project, highlight good practices and will bring together the various stakeholders that contributed to the achievements of the project.

Who: The Government i.e. Ministry of Overseas Pakistani's and Human Resource Development, Employers Federation of Pakistan, Pakistan Workers Federation, UN Agencies, Diplomatic missions in Islamabad, Development Partners, Multinational Enterprises & their supplier companies in Pakistan, Business Associations, Trade bodies, Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Academia and civil society have been invited to attend this event.

How to Participate: If you are interested in covering the event, please send your name, CNIC number and your media affiliation, to Mr. Razi Haider (Email razi@ilo.org) not later than 11:00 Hrs on **Monday 30 April 2018**. A separate Media List will be placed at the ILO entrance to ensure your entry.

ILO

Op-ed by Ms Tomoko Nishimoto, Assistant Director-General of the International Labour Organization and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work Youth safety and health at work: Early education equals early protection

28 April 2018

In the Asia-Pacific region, more people than anywhere else start working from a young age. As youth, they often work in hazardous and exploitative jobs to earn income for their families. Some of this work also constitutes child labour.



This year, for World Day for Safety and Health at Work, the ILO is focusing on improving the working conditions of young workers as well as bringing an end to child labour.

Young workers in the Asia-Pacific

In the Asia-Pacific, there are about 300 million workers aged between 15 and 24. These workers comprise 20% of the region's workforce. Often it is poverty that pushes young people to start working from an early age. They enter the workforce with virtually no knowledge about occupational hazards and risks, nor any awareness about their occupational safety and health (OSH) rights.

Some young people start working from an even earlier age. There are about 62 million children aged between 5 and 17 who are engaged in child labour. Of these, 28 million are in hazardous work. For these children, exploitative labour is a serious threat to their health and their physical and mental development.

Many young workers in the Asia-Pacific are in the informal economy and are engaged in agricultural, industrial and artisanal work. These workplaces tend to be out of the reach of OSH laws and are otherwise difficult to inspect. In addition, workers frequently lack an understanding of the importance of OSH.

Poor working conditions and a lack of OSH training often translates to higher rates of injury amongst workers who would otherwise have had a long working career ahead of them. They are also at risk of contracting occupational diseases with harmful long-term effects. For example, exposure to hazardous agents such as asbestos, pesticides and other chemicals can ultimately lead to serious diseases and potentially death.

Concerted tripartite efforts

Providing young workers with decent and safe employment opportunities is indispensable for future social and economic development. Governments, employers and workers need to build, implement and continuously strengthen a culture of prevention. Indeed, many governments are currently engaging in regular tripartite dialogues to set standards and develop national OSH policies.

It is crucial that these national policies are in line with international labour standards. In particular, there should be full compliance with the ILO



Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187). Encouragingly, there have been increased ratifications of the Convention in the region.

Educating for a safer future of work

While efforts to improve the current state of workplaces are critical, there must also be efforts to educate future generations in OSH. By one estimate, 65% of children in primary school today will work in jobs that currently do not exist. In order to ensure that these jobs do not jeopardize the health and safety of future generations, it is crucial that children are educated from a young age.

Educating young people in the importance of OSH is necessary for a safe future of work. We must do all we can to ensure that young people are aware of, and protected by, OSH principles so that they too are given the chance to work in a safe and healthy workplace.
