

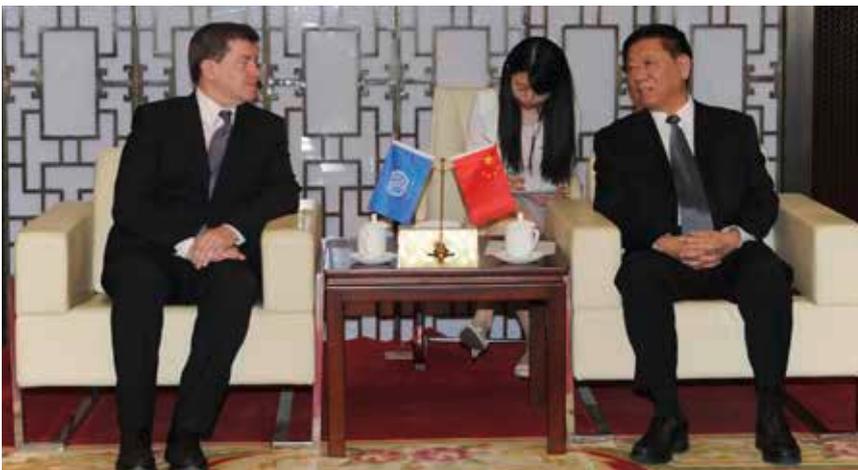


China and the ILO

China has been an ILO member State since 1919. China supports the ILO's mandate both through contributions to the ILO's core budget and to development cooperation programmes and projects.



South-South and Triangular Cooperation



Minister of MOHRSS, Mr. Yin Weimin with ILO Director-General, Mr. Guy Ryder at the signing of the updated MoU, 09/06/2016, Beijing, China.

On September 6th 2016, in Beijing, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China (MOHRSS) signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) defining their cooperation as a strategic partnership. The first MoU between the ILO and MOHRSS, signed in 2001, strengthened collaboration in order to develop labour market policies to guide China's transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy. The updated MoU, signed in 2016, establishes a partnership to realize the common objectives of promoting social justice, decent work and fair globalization in a world marked by deepening economic integration, rapid economic and social transformation and a pressing need for quality job creation and global policy coherence.

The strategic partnership aims to achieve: effective promotion of common interest areas of social justice, decent work and fair globalization in multilateral fora (i.e. UN/SDGs, G20, BRICS) using China's experience in job creation and poverty alleviation as leverage and expanding South-South and triangular cooperation by supporting China's global engagement and its process towards a new reform that puts people at the centre of a sustainable growth strategy which supports tripartism as well as policy coherence between government agencies.

Speaking at the event, Yin Weimin, Minister of MOHRSS stated: "Great changes have taken place in the world economy and the world of work since the MOU was signed in 2001. Over the past 15 years, China has made remarkable achievements in the field of employment

creation, social protection and industrial relations with the excellent support from the ILO." The Minister added that: "China has become the second largest economy in the world now. Therefore it is high time to sign this new MOU in order to consolidate and scale up our cooperation to promote decent work and address the challenges together."

China has always been very committed to social change, to the promotion of decent work and to the positive impact they both have in alleviating people's labour conditions, and has thus been increasing its level of engagement and cooperation with the ILO in the recent years. South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) is referenced in the Twelfth Five Year plan of the Chinese Government, with an emphasis on solidarity and cooperation with developing countries, promoting multilateral cooperation and promoting SSTC to optimize the foreign aid structure, and to increase the technical and economic assistance in projects related to the improvement of people's livelihoods.

China's major breakthrough in extending social security is viewed as a model in the region by many countries and China is keen to facilitate knowledge sharing on the development of basic social insurance pensions, the universalization and progressive harmonization of health insurance programs, the establishment of related community services, the development of linkages between social security and employment services and the implementation of effective inspection mechanisms.

ILO-MOHRSS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT: ILO/CHINA SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION PROJECT

The Partnership agreement that was signed in 2012 and amended in 2016 has for purpose to “Expand Employment Services and Enhance Labour Market Information in Cambodia and Lao PDR” and covers the following:

- Technical assistance on employment services and labour market information system in Cambodia and Lao PDR;
- ILO/China/ASEAN Social Protection Floor Conference held in September 2016;
- ILO/China/ASEAN Employment Services Conference, to be held in 2017.

The main purpose of the Project is to improve labour market efficiency and participation by reducing unemployment and enhancing linkages and information flows between job seekers and employers. This has contributed to poverty reduction in Cambodia and Lao PDR and has also been fully consistent with the core elements of the ILO’s global Decent Work Agenda that stresses on the creation of productive employment and on skills development which increases the employability of workers, the competitiveness of enterprises and the inclusiveness of growth.

Core to this cooperation is its technical assistance, advisory services and sharing

of good practices and experiences from China to both Cambodia and Lao PDR.

Together with ILO’s expertise, and drawing upon a large inventory of practical case studies from Asia and other regions, the Project contributes to more developed human resources and labour market in achieving the economic and social growth and advancing the work envisaged under the 2015 ASEAN Regional Economic Integration agenda.

Along the way, MOHRSS is developing a solid platform for cooperation to exchange and share practices and experiences in the area of employment promotion.

THE ILO AND CHINA - KEY FACTS:

1919: China becomes a founding member of the International Labour Organization.

1978: China’s Reform and Opening-up policy lay the groundwork for the gradual development of labour market policies aimed at the strategic goals of employment creation; social protection; social dialogue; and realization of fundamental principles and rights at work.

1983: People’s Republic of China resumes its activities in the ILO.

1985: ILO Office opens a Country Office in Beijing.

2001: ILO and China sign the first MOU.

2012: ILO and China sign a first South-South Agreement.

2013: China and ILO launch the first South-South Cooperation project on strengthening public employment services and labour market information in Cambodia and Lao PDR.

2015: President Xi announces China’s donation of US\$ 2 billion to set up a South-South Cooperation Fund. Actually, China has always been active in South-South cooperation. For instance, China’s donation of USD 30 million to the ADB for poverty reduction in 2004 and of USD 35 million in 2008 and of USD 45 million in 2013 are good examples of its commitment.

2016: The 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) for the economic and social development of China aims to promote the development of the “One Belt One Road Initiative” and to more actively assist the developing countries in reducing poverty and achieving the SDG goals.

2016: ILO and China sign the 2nd MOU.

ILO DECENT WORK COUNTRY PROGRAMME (DWCP) IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 2013 – 2015

In close consultation with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) and the China Enterprise Confederation (CEC) along with other relevant ministries and civil society organizations (CSOs), had agreed that the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) would provide the framework for the ILO-China partnership between 2013 to 2015, a period that coincided with the final three years of implementation of the China’s 12th Five

Year Plan (2011-2015) and of the Asian Decent Work Decade (2006-2015).

The DWCP was aligned with other major priorities identified in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), namely:

- UNDAF Outcome 1: Government and other stakeholders ensure environmental sustainability, address climate change, and promote a green, low carbon economy.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is explicitly referenced both by the Chinese Minister of Human Resources and Social Security and the ILO in the Partnership Agreement “for promoting Technical Cooperation with a focus on South-South Cooperation” (2012).

- UNDAF Outcome 2: The poorest and most vulnerable increasingly participate in and benefit more equitably from China’s social and economic development.
- UNDAF Outcome 3: China’s enhanced participation in the global community brings wider mutual benefits.

CHINA- ONE BELT ONE ROAD INITIATIVE

Under the guidance of sustainable development principles, China has undertaken many South-South and triangular cooperation programs, including regional and sub-regional cooperation such as the “One Belt One Road Initiative”.

When the Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Central Asia and Southeast Asia in September and October 2013, he raised the initiative of jointly build-

ing the “One Belt One Road Initiative” which has attracted worldwide attention. At the China-ASEAN Expo in 2013, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang emphasized the need to build the Maritime Silk Road oriented towards ASEAN and to create strategic propellers for hinterland development. Accelerating the construction of the “One Belt One Road Initiative” can not only help promote the

economic prosperity of countries along the “One Belt One Road Initiative”, but increase regional economic cooperation, strengthen exchanges and mutual learning between different civilizations, and promote world peace, employment and development. Currently the ILO and the Chinese government are discussing the signing of an agreement under the “One Belt One Road Initiative”.

CHINA AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION SUPPORT

In September 2016, China has released its national plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Headquarter in New York.

As the first national plan specifying various domains and goal-oriented concrete measures, the plan comprehensively expounds China’s development policy and China’s efforts to help other developing countries to forge ahead the process of global implementation. China also aims to achieve goals in other major areas including agriculture, health, education and economic growth by 2030.

As a responsible developing country, China has actively participated in international cooperation on development and will continue to contribute to South-South Cooperation, Premier Li explained. He also added that the China-initiated assistance fund for South-South Cooperation and the China-UN Peace and Development Fund will formally start operation by the end of the year 2016, adding that China’s proposed Academy of South-South Cooperation and Development has also enrolled its first batch of students. In order to support a bigger UN role in the implementation of the Agenda,

“China will continue to contribute to global development. We will continue to pursue common development and the win-win strategy of opening up. We are ready to share our development experience and opportunities with other countries and welcome them to board China’s express train of development so that all of us will achieve common development.”

(H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People’s Republic of China, UN General Assembly, New York, 28 September 2015)

China pledges additional \$100 million in annual aid to UN development agencies in 2020 on top of the amount contributed in 2015, Premier Li said.

ALL-CHINA FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (ACFTU) AND THE ILO BUREAU FOR WORKERS ACTIVITIES (ACTRAV)

In promotion of South-South cooperation for the Asia and the Pacific Region

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) and the International Labour Organization- Bureau for Workers’ Activities (ILO-ACTRAV), have jointly identified the following priorities and programmes based on the policies of the ILO and have established a work programme that was carried out by ACTRAV and ACFTU in the Asia/Pacific region during the period of 2014-2015. The priorities that were taken in account were the following:

- Union building and development;
- Promotion of employment opportunities through the influence of government policies, tripartite discussions and negotiations with employers;

- Improvement of industrial relations through enactment and the implementation of appropriate labour laws and the establishment of relevant structures through the awareness and promotion of international labour standards;
- Promotion of a healthy and safe working environment;
- Provision of necessary assistance to migrant workers;
- Promotion of the ILO Decent Work Agenda;
- Strengthening union education and training;
- Promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation between workers from ASEAN countries

The objectives of this Public-Private Partnership (PPP) were to:

1. Plan and organize 9 regional seminars jointly held between ACTRAV and ACFTU on selected topics, held in the region during the 2014-15 period.
2. Organise a seminar on wage setting, held in China by ACFTU –ACTRAV Turin (Jointly funded and organized) in 2014.
3. Develop greater cooperation amongst unions in the region and create better understanding of union development and restructuring in the region.
4. Foster communication capacities and skills within trade unions and between trade unions.

ASEAN LABOUR INSPECTION CONFERENCE

The ASEAN Labour Inspection Conference is a recurrent activity aiming to build a national capacity of inspection to ensure workplace compliance, with the intermediate goal of promoting the exchange of regional best practices with respect to Ministries of Labour inspectorates' oversight of workplace compliance with labour law.

ILO-CHINA-ASEAN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS



The sharing of expertise among constituents takes its deep roots in ILO history, particularly from the historical context in which ILO has developed important relations in and across regions. Currently, a growing demand is emerging for an enhancement of the ILO technical cooperation dimension of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC).

From an ILO perspective, SSTC represents a horizontal and solidarity-driven means to promote the Decent Work Agenda, notably social protection, in the context of the 2016-17 Programme and Budget (P&B), foreseeing South-South network sharing, through interregional cooperation and partnerships as key elements for the implementation of its development cooperation strategy.

In addition to the above mentioned perspective, SSTC also represents a strategic tool for the ILO Development Cooperation Strategy 2015-17, building on the key principles of sharing good practices and policy experiences, and creating partnerships, notably with the private sector. ILO has established a dedicated work unit named the Emerging and Special Partnership Unit (ESPU) within the Partnerships and Field

Support Department (PARDEV-ESPU) to promote SSTC.

The ITCILO- BRICS outreach programme is structurally interlinked with the work of this Unit and has for mandate to facilitate institutional capacity building activities in support of ILO constituents and other ILO stakeholders. One example of a flagship initiative implemented by PARDEV, jointly with BRICS, was the global SSTC Academy which took place in Turin from 11-15 July 2016.

Aiming to contribute to the strengthening of ILO constituents' capacity, from the Global South, to help them build and reform their social protection policies and strategies in line with the ILO Recommendation No. 202, Convention No. 102 and other ILO social security standards, the ILO and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China have jointly organized a High Level Seminar to achieve the SDGs on Universal Social Protection through South-South and Triangular cooperation, held in Beijing from 6 to 8 September 2016.

During the Seminar, a particular attention was given to the sharing of international experience in view of fostering cooperation among Global South countries and increase their engagement in SSTC modalities through peer-to-peer approaches in sub-regional and cross-regional cooperation projects. As a result, several articles have been prepared by representatives of the various participating countries from the South.



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