



International  
Labour  
Organization



# China ILO Cooperation

The People's Republic of China is a founding member State of the ILO. The country has ratified 26 Conventions, which include four Fundamental Conventions, two prioritized Governance Conventions, and 20 Technical Conventions. The ILO and China have a long-standing partnership that has intensified in recent years on South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) and with voluntary contributions by China to the ILO's Development Cooperation Programme.

## China and the ILO



The ILO office in Beijing was established in 1985, overseeing ILO's activities in China (including the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions) and Mongolia.

Since the beginning of the country's transition to a market economy, the ILO has been providing technical assistance to the Chinese government and social partners, in areas such as labour legislation, employment promotion and social security reform. Overtime the nature of the cooperation with China changed. The ILO began referencing

Chinese experience and approaches on employment services and other areas in its development cooperation programmes around the world. In 2012, a first South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) agreement between the ILO and China was signed, whereby China committed US\$ 1 million to support South-South cooperation and the Decent Work agenda.

In 2016, the third Decent Work Country Programme was agreed between the ILO and its Chinese constituents, laying the foundation for a Memorandum of Under-

standing (MOU) for strategic partnership focusing on the four dimensions of the decent work agenda, which was signed in the same year.

More recently, in April and June 2019, the ILO signed three MOUs with the Government of China and one with the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), all of which will provide a solid basis for an expanded programme of development cooperation:

- "South-South Cooperation under the Framework of the Belt and Road Initiative" (signed by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security - MOHRSS)
- "Cooperation for the Promotion of the Effective Implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (as amended, MLC, 2006) through the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative" (signed by the Ministry of Transport)
- "South-South Cooperation on Work Safety Under the Framework of the Belt and Road Initiative" (signed by the Ministry of Emergency Management - MEM)
- Cooperation to assist trade union development in the Asia and the Pacific region to enhance their core capacities through sharing knowledge, experiences, training and technology transfer (signed by ACFTU).

## CHINA AND THE 2030 AGENDA

China's 13th Five Year Plan (2016-2020) underscores the country's commitments to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and support developing countries in the areas of human resources and development planning and programmes. Furthermore, the Plan underscores South-South Cooperation as an effective tool to tackle climate change and enhance international cooperation in this area.

## CURRENT AND RECENT ILO PROJECTS FUNDED BY CHINA

### Achieving SDGs and Ending Poverty through Universal Social Protection (2018-2020)

Jointly implemented by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the ILO in Cambodia and Pakistan, this project benefits from US\$ 745,000 in support from the Government of China. By the end of the project in

2020, 500,000 additional people in Cambodia and Pakistan are expected to obtain access to social protection coverage through improved governance of social security schemes. Part of the long history of full-fledged bilateral

cooperation between each of the two project countries and China, this action also allows China to share its own experiences in extending social security, by drawing on technical assistance coming from China under the project.

### The Future of Work in Asia: Skills Development Strategies and Social Protection Policies to Promote Employment-Rich and Equitable Growth (2018)

With an additional US\$ 200,000 in support from the Government of China, the project strengthened the capacity of ILO constituents (employers, workers and member States) in the ASEAN countries to mitigate risks and unlock opportunities in the context of the large-scale labour market transformation processes shaping the

Future of Work in Asia. The ILO and the Chinese Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security organized an expert meeting on the Future of Work in Asia. This event brought together high-level authorities from Asia and Europe as well as researchers, ILO experts and representatives from civil society to share knowledge on skills development

strategies and to promote decent work in the care economy. Through experts' meetings and capacity building workshops, this project has reached over 150 individuals. Among the total number of participants were 16 workers' organizations representatives, 20 employers' organizations representatives and 23 labour ministry representatives.

### Expand Employment Services and Enhance Labour Market Information in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (2013-2017)

This ILO/China South-South project was designed to improve labour market efficiency and participation, reduce unemployment, and enhance linkages and information flows between job seekers and employers, thereby contributing to the reduction of poverty in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). China's support combined the provision of financial resources (US\$ 1 million) and a wide range of knowledge exchange initiatives based on experiences at both national and provincial levels. In this context, China's technical assistance, advisory services and sharing of good practices together with the ILO's expertise contributed to more efficient labour markets to match supply and demand for jobs.

At the end of the project, the job centres in the two countries saw significant increase in the number of registered job seekers, records of jobs vacancies and job placements.

Through the project, the ILO organized the Belt and Road Conference on Employment Services in ASEAN+3 Countries,

bringing together representatives of ASEAN countries, Japan, China and South Korea to share good practices and explore new ways to deliver services under the South-South Cooperation framework and the Belt and Road Initiative.



## Strengthening Skills Development in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar (2018-2020)

With an allocation of US\$ 1 million, this project focuses on public employment services, labour market information systems and skills development in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

As part of a larger effort by China to promote South-South cooperation in the field of human resources and social security in the Asian region, the project was designed in order to raise the capacity of the selected countries for self-development.



## THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

*"We must reimagine and rebuild our world in a way that works for everyone, brings women into the leadership of the economy of the future and expands the opportunities for young people. It is in this context that the Belt and Road Initiative assumes remarkable and urgent importance. It offers a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the creation of a more equitable, prosperous world for all, and to reversing the negative impact of climate change."*

(Secretary-General António Guterres at the opening of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, 26 April 2019).

## ILO-China-ASEAN High-Level Seminar to Achieve the SDGs on Universal Social Protection (2016)

The ILO and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China jointly organized a High Level Seminar to achieve the SDGs on Universal Social Protection through South-South and Triangular cooperation (SSTC), held in Beijing from 6 to 8 September 2016. Particular attention was given to the international sharing of experiences in view of fostering cooperation among Global South countries and increasing their engagement in SSTC modalities through peer-to-peer approaches in sub-regional and cross-regional cooperation projects. The results were documented in a series of articles as well as 10 videos prepared by the participants, including information on joint plans of action for mutual learning in social protection.



## CHINA AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (ITC) OF THE ILO

In a long tradition of Chinese participation in the programme of the ILO's International Training Centre, in 2018 alone, more than 250 young experts from China received training from the ILO's Training Centre, sponsored by a range of Chinese institutions of higher learning. The training programmes aim to equip a young generation with the tools and knowledge to become agents of change. Key topics included entrepreneurship & social innovation.

Moreover, seventeen Chinese universities are sponsoring the participation of over 200 Chinese youth on the training "Global Youth Leadership Academy – Building on Youth Talent: Developing Young Leaders for the UN 2030 Agenda."

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