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Title of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: EIIP Inter-regional Technical Forum for Asia-Pacific and Arab States for South-South Experience Sharing (Bangladesh)

involved (please add more than one country): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Switzerland and Timor-Leste with online participation from OPT, Syria and Yemen

South-South Objective (s)	Contributing to Sustainable Development Goals and Targets: SDG 8 Decent Work, Target 8.5 Full and productive employment and SDG 13 Climate Action, Target 13.2 Integrate climate measures into policies and Target 13b Capacity building. Project period March 2024-April 2025. Countries in Asia-Pacific and the Arab States regions face mounting challenges from climate change, conflict, and economic downturns, resulting in job losses, fragile livelihoods, and weakened resilience. The increasing frequency and impact of natural disasters, conflict-induced displacements, and environmental degradation underscore the urgent needs for employment creation, infrastructure recovery, and climate adaptation. Traditional recovery models often overlook employment-intensive approaches that could simultaneously address resilience and create decent jobs. From a South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) perspective, the Forum aimed to foster peer-to-peer learning and collaboration between countries facing shared challenges of climate change, crises, and employment. The Forum responded to these needs by promoting knowledge exchange on Employment-Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP) and green job creation through South-South learning, fostering capacity to integrate employment, crisis recovery, and environmental resilience into national policies and public works programs.
South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives	The EIIP Inter-regional Technical Forum brought together decision-makers and officials from Ministries of Labour, Technical Line Ministries in charge of green and crisis-related work, Social Partners, Implementing Partners and ILO officials from 19 countries covering Asia-Pacific and the Arab States (listed above). The initiative aimed to strengthen their capacities to mainstream employment-intensive approaches into climate adaptation, crisis recovery and green works policies and National Public Works programmes, projects and training programmes through peer learning and South-South Cooperation (SSTC), and to create a momentum among these countries to continue collaborating and sharing their experiences in the context of crisis response and green recovery.
Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach	The approach combined technical sessions, case study exchanges, field visits, experience sharing, networking and use of ILOITC eCampus. The Forum was organized around three key themes: (1) Understanding EIIP concepts and application in green jobs and crisis contexts, (2) Learning from good practices and innovations, and (3) Developing a collaborative action plan for advancing EIIP

	approaches nationally and regionally. The process was highly participatory. Peer learning exercises, group discussions, and interactive workshops allowed participants to identify good practices, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration. Officials from India shared lessons from large-scale national programs like MGNREGA and PMGSY, while Arab States counterparts reflected on post-conflict and refugee crisis responses using EIIP.
Innovation	EIIP empowers countries to co-develop innovative, employment-centred solutions that enhance resilience, promote social justice, and build national capacities. There is a vast amount of experience and knowledge available amongst participating countries and therefore a huge scope for cross learning across the two regions. This was the first ever inter-regional knowledge sharing forum for Asia-Pacific and the Arab States on employment intensive investment programmes (EIIP). The innovation of the initiative lays in its inter-regional, cross-crisis focus — bringing together key institutions and lessons from conflict, disaster, and climate adaptation contexts — and positioning employment-intensive methods as core to job rich resilience-building country-owned strategies, policies and training.
South-South Sustainability	The initiative was designed with sustainability in mind. It fostered institutional linkages, encouraged the integration of EIIP into national systems as an integrated approach beyond donor-driven projects, recognizing importance of training and developing local expertise to ensure long-term success in the adoption of new technologies, policies, and practices. Country delegations identified concrete mechanisms for continued peer learning. ILO was tasked to facilitate further knowledge exchange and bilateral meetings amongst countries and continue to carry out research, developing technical guidelines and collating and sharing of best practices. The benefit of in person meeting and networking was acknowledged and It was suggested that the regional forum should become a recurring event.
South-South Adaptability	The SSTC principles and EIIP approaches dovetail neatly in that EIIP strategies include using local skills and expertise through participative projects that connect communities, employers and government to build sustainable infrastructure, which bolsters local economies and long-term employment. An SSTC approach applied in tandem with EIIP activities can be instrumental in supporting employment generation and the local economic development of countries in the global south. Replication is highly feasible. The SSTC model can be adapted for other regions or countries confronting complex crises and seeking job-rich, climate-resilient recovery paths. Successful replication depends on political buy-in, technical capacity, and modest resources to facilitate exchange and technical support.
South-South Results Explain the main results	Key outcomes included: 80 participants across the two regions enhanced their understanding of EIIP and its application to climate resilience and crisis recovery and mainstreaming into in national public works and employment programmes.

	• Good practices and innovations from both regions were collected and shared across the network, including research into indigenous materials for construction, e.g. the use of bamboo in construction, recycling of construction and waste plastic for road construction etc. • Country-specific action plans and regional roadmaps for EIIP mainstreaming were developed. Participants committed to further collaboration through identified roadmaps, with action points such as mainstreaming EIIP approaches into national policies, creating training modules, and promoting regional cooperation. • Country delegations identified concrete mechanisms for continued peer learning including through digital platforms and agreed to follow up bilaterally on issue of common interest, e.g. on EIIP application for refugee management, community contracting, sharing of ICT tools to enhance planning and monitoring of PEPs/PWPs, comparing of technical guidelines, institutional arrangements and capacity building for greater impact and sustainability of interventions. • Commitments were made to pursue funding strategies for EIIP expansion through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), including organising regular EIIP SSTC meetings. Lessons learned: • South-South peer learning accelerates knowledge transfer and inspires policy innovation and the added benefit of in person meeting and networking was acknowledged • The power of cross-regional collaboration: recognizing that despite geographical and cultural differences, regions such as Asia Pacific and the Arab States can benefit from shared knowledge, fostering innovative approaches to issues like sustainability, climate change, and technology integration. The peer learning highlighted not only diverse applications but also the shared value of inclusive, labour-based infrastructure development. • Crisis and climate responses are more effective and sustainable when employment is deliberately integrated and employment must be central early on in any crisis response. • Continued regional and inter-regional cooperation is crucial. It is essential to strengthening partnerships with several national, local, and international partners involved in crisis response and mitigation, through joint programming and resource mobilization for collective outcomes.
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Materials and Web-links	ILO PARTNERSHIPS South-South Platform https://southsouthpoint.net/2025/04/14/strengthening-regional-partnerships-through-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-eiip-forum-unites-asia-and-arab-states/ ILO EIIP Website Employment-intensive Investment Programme Inter-regional forum for Asia and the Arab States International Labour Organization ▶ Session Input Papers and Briefs (4) ▶ EIIP SSTC Peer Learning Guide ▶ Forum Proceedings  