



ILO/Japan Fund for Building  
Social Safety Nets in  
Asia and the Pacific



International  
Labour  
Organization

### Summary of the Talk show:

## What works for youth employment: Sharing policies from Asia and the Pacific

Amari Watergate hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

15-16 September 2014

Moderated by: Delnaaz Irani, ABC Network Presenter

### Youth Employment Prospects –from a street in Bangkok

In Thailand, some students are unsure about their job prospects as there is uncertainty surrounding the availability of jobs in their domain of studies, while others feel that the Thai industry now prefers graduates with Masters.

### Youth Employment Challenges in Asia and the Pacific region

An Indonesian representative mentioned that there is difficulty in assessing jobs for youths in the smaller islands and smaller cities, although the government provides free education up to high school. The participants argued that the cost of university is still unaffordable for many young people in Asia and the Pacific region. They said that even with sufficient education, there is differing quality in education, and this is particularly prevalent in developing countries, which includes Nepal. Youths want decent jobs, but the lucrative salaries available outside of their countries sometimes entice them away from the local economy. For example, in Nepal, some preferred to work overseas as domestic helpers, compared to working as primary teachers in the local informal sector. Youths' aspirations need to be met.

### Suggestions to Governments

A Nepal representative said that local governments are recommended to provide sufficient resources and come up with a holistic approach to youth employment. Graduate unemployed youths require a robust local economy. The government can seek to attract foreign direct investment by providing the necessary infrastructure, whether in finance, manpower or logistics.

### Women Employment

In Japan, most women choose to leave their careers to become homemakers, but the government is making a concerted effort to retain their services. An Indonesian representative said that some of the companies started to provide day-care centres and affordable child-care services, which allowed young women to continue working in Jakarta.

### ASEAN Economic Community and Competition in the Job Market

A Thai representative mentioned that the competition will lead to the economic development. She said that English would have a great impact in employability, as a global working language within the ASEAN Economic Community. As manpower becomes more fluid, some are concerned that the youth employment situation may worsen. Instead of competing with fellow countrymen, youths now have to distinguish themselves from the other ASEAN candidates for limited jobs. However, the participants believe that the ASEAN Economic Community will offer better job opportunities for young people in the long run.