

# ADB/ILO Regional Meeting

## The Importance of Labor Standards for Development

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# Basic Conclusions from ILO Analysis

Failing to take account of labor standards harms development in definite and measurable ways. Respect for basic human rights at work, and for the legal and regulatory structures necessary to give effect to them, helps workers, employers, and economies as a whole. It is a measure necessary for poverty reduction.

This does not mean that developing countries should be pushed to adopt a form of regulations and protections that will stifle flexibility, competitiveness and growth. The difficulty in practice is to find the appropriate level of regulation and protection in each case.

This is not only a question of financial costs - it also requires evolving a new approach to viewing situations and finding solutions to problems of poverty, exclusion and lack of development.

# The objectives of the RETA

- Increase awareness of key policy makers in the DMCs, NGOs, and the private sector, regarding the economic and social implications of the non-implementation of labor standards.

## RETA objectives (cont)

- Improve the capacity of policy makers in DMCs and ADB staff to prepare and implement projects that would (a) move children from the worst forms of employment and to school; (b) improve employment for women; and (c) reduce occupational safety and health standards.

## RETA objectives (cont.)

- Enable ADB staff at headquarters and country levels to address the issues of poverty reduction, child labor, gender discrimination in employment, and occupational safety and health issues by strengthening the implementation of relevant labor standards in ADB-assisted development interventions.