

Foreword

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in its Enhanced Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2004, has reaffirmed its commitment towards its overarching goal of an Asia-Pacific region free of poverty. The International Labour Organization's (ILO's) commitment towards achieving decent work for all, is consistent with and supports ADB's goal of poverty reduction in the region. Recognizing a common ground, ADB and the ILO have identified areas for cooperation, collaboration and coordination to improve their contribution to the achievement of these goals. This Core Labor Standards Handbook is a result of close collaboration between ADB and the ILO.

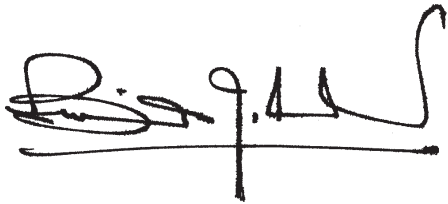
ADB adopted a commitment to core labor standards (CLS) as part of its Social Protection Strategy in 2001. Since then, ADB ensures that the CLS are duly considered in the design and implementation of its investment projects.

This Handbook provides information about CLS, explains the difference between core and other (noncore) labor standards, and presents examples of good practices in the application of CLS in ADB operations. It does not introduce new policies or requirements, but instead gives practical knowledge on how CLS can be taken into account by ADB staff and their Government counterparts. In order to give a comprehensive view, the Handbook is not limited to project-level interventions, but also covers the planning and design of country strategies and programs.

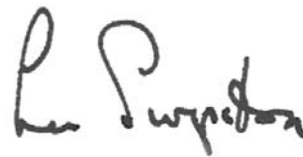
The Handbook is divided into three parts. Part 1 is an introduction to international CLS. Part 2 presents the eight Conventions that the ILO's International Labour Conference recognized in 1998 as fundamental to the rights of every person at work, irrespective of the level of development of individual member States. Part 3, Core Labor Standards in ADB Operations, presents ideas on how ADB can integrate CLS into its operations. The Handbook includes several

appendices on practical information about CLS, checklists, ILO contacts, and other information that can prove helpful to ADB staff and Government officials.

We hope that ADB staff and their Government counterparts will find this Handbook useful. Nonetheless, this Handbook remains a working document. As more experience and examples of good practice emerge from Asia and elsewhere, the Handbook may be revised, enhanced and updated to ensure that ADB staff and Government officials have access to the best and latest information on CLS. ADB and the ILO will continue to work closely on this and other related issues.



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