

AP-Forced Labour Net online discussion:

RESEARCH ON FORCED LABOUR AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: WHAT DO WE KNOW? WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

Background Note

Date: 11-22 May 2015, Venue: <http://apflnet.ilo.org/discussions>

From 11-22 May 2015, the AP-Forced Labour Net will host an online discussion forum on **Research on Forced Labour and Trafficking in Persons: What Do We Know? What Do We Need to Know?** We invite all our members and other stakeholders to join the discussion to share existing research resources and experiences from past research initiatives, and to exchange views on future priorities for research and data collection on addressing forced labour and trafficking in persons.

The ILO estimates that 11.7 million out of global 20.9 million forced labour victims are in the Asia-Pacific region.¹ Estimated annual illegal profits generated by forced labour in Asia-Pacific are USD 51.8 Billion, which constitutes one third of global profits from forced labour.² These broad estimates help raise awareness on the urgent need to step up efforts to address forced labour and trafficking in persons in Asia-Pacific. At the same time, they highlight the need for more substantive information on forced labour in the region, the factors sustaining these practices, and bottlenecks for their effective eradication at national and local levels.

In the Asia-Pacific region, many organizations and programmes have extensive experience in carrying out research on forced labour and trafficking in persons. Studies have covered various issues ranging from mapping trafficking trends and recording victims' experiences to quantifying forced labour practices in specific industries. Building upon this knowledge base, the AP-Forced Labour Net invites discussion participants to discuss the following questions:

- What research is available on preventing and addressing forced labour and trafficking in persons in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond?
- What are some good practices and lessons learned on carrying out research on forced labour and trafficking in persons?
- What are the main gaps in the current knowledge base on combatting forced labour and trafficking in persons in the Asia-Pacific?
- What are the priorities for further research to inform action against forced labour and trafficking in persons in Asia-Pacific?

Discussion participants will include representatives of:

- ILO, UN and civil society organizations working on issues related to forced labour and trafficking in persons.
- Research institutions and academia.
- ILO constituents in Asia-Pacific and beyond.

¹ ILO. *Global estimate on forced labour* (Geneva, 2012).

² ILO. *Profits and poverty: The economics of forced labour* (Geneva, 2014).

The discussion is moderated by Ms Marja Paavilainen, Chief Technical Adviser of the Forced Labour Action in the Asian Region (FLARE project).

About us

The **AP-Forced Labour Net** is an ILO-sponsored platform created to help those interested in forced labour, trafficking in persons and slavery in Asia-Pacific connect, share resources, exchange ideas, and learn about preventing and addressing forced labour. AP-Forced Labour Net offers a bimonthly blog, online discussions, e-learning tools, a library of resources, regular news updates, and an interactive 'Ask the Expert' function.

The platform is currently supported by the ILO's **Forced Labour Action in the Asian region (FLARE project)**. The FLARE project supports legal and policy reforms, capacity building and knowledge sharing on combating forced labour and trafficking in persons at sub-regional level in East and South-East Asia, and in its focus countries China, Viet Nam and Mongolia.