Online course:

Preventing and addressing forced labour and trafficking in persons in East and South-East Asia

3 August - 30 September 2015 | AP-Forced Labour Net
Introduction

From August to September 2015, the AP-Forced Labour Net will host its first online course on preventing and addressing trafficking in persons in East and South-East Asia. 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.

The online course was developed to help participants have a clearer understanding of issues such as forced labour, trafficking in persons, substandard working conditions and labour migration, as well as of the root causes and vulnerabilities that put people at risk of falling victims to labour exploitation. It builds upon ILO’s experience in combating forced labour and promoting decent work and aims to equip participants with the necessary tools to identify and respond to cases of exploitation of workers, as well as to strengthen prevention measures.

Objectives

At the end of the course, participants are expected to:

- Have a better understanding of the concepts of forced labour, trafficking in persons and related practices, as well as of their practical manifestations and interrelation, and the applicable international legal framework;

- Be able to identify the most common indicators of forced labour, which contribute to the identification of victims and perpetrators; and to distinguish between labour rights violations and substandard working conditions and more extreme cases of labour exploitation. This will also help identifying the most appropriate responses to address different situations;

- Have a better understanding of prevention measures, including improved migration governance, workplace monitoring and education; effective victim assistance and protection mechanisms; and the barriers faced by victims of forced labour and trafficking in persons in accessing effective remedies.

Participants profile and requirements

The course is aimed at government officials responsible for labour protection, labour inspection, migration management and anti-trafficking; representatives of employers’ and workers’ organizations; victim assistance and civil society organisations; as well as other persons actively involved in the prevention, identification and prosecution of cases of forced labour and trafficking in persons. The course will focus on the East and South-East Asian contexts, but participants from other regions are welcome to join. The course requires a working level of English.
Course structure

Module 1: Introducing forced labour

This module introduces the definition of forced labour and presents the applicable international legal framework, including the recently adopted Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention No.29. It debates the relationship between forced labour and related concepts, such as trafficking in persons and substandard working conditions, and reviews current facts and figures on the prevalence of forced labour worldwide.

Module 2: Indicators of forced labour

How does forced labour occur in practice? This module introduces the ILO set of indicators and debates ways of detecting signs of a forced labour situation in practice. It also discusses the use of indicators for data collection and research purposes and presents the ILO data initiative on modern slavery.

Module 3: Prevention, protection and access to remedies

The last module provides an overview of the issues of prevention, victim protection and access to remedies, including with regard to groups particularly at risk, such as migrant and domestic workers. It also explores the different aspects of a victim-centred approach to address forced labour and discusses ways of enhancing effectiveness when building a case, interviewing victims and collecting evidence.

Methodology

The course modules will be delivered through a password protected learning area on the AP-Forced Labour Net where registered participants will have access to:

- Short video introductions.
- Self-study lectures using the ILO e-learning tool on forced labour.
- Videos, presentations, blog articles, suggested reading material and additional resources.
- Online discussion forums.

The e-learning tool includes small quizzes and finger exercises throughout each module to help participants stay engaged with the sections. Discussion forums on topics related to each module will allow participants to ask questions to the moderator and to connect, share resources, exchange ideas, and learn about other participants’ experiences.

Additionally, in Module 2, participants will be required to analyse two case studies and to address specific questions related to the cases. Assessment of the case study analysis will be based on a self-assessment method, according to which participants will be provided guidance for grading their own short essay responses.
Timeframe

The course is expected to last 8 weeks between August and September 2015. Each of the three modules has an estimated duration of 3-4 hours of study, including self-study lectures, reading material and assignments.

Certificate of completion

A certificate of completion will be awarded to participants who fulfil the following conditions:

- Completion of three self-study lectures using the e-learning tool (a score of at least 75% in the final assessment and submission of the certificate);
- Submission of written responses to the case studies; and
- Posting a comment or question on each of the three discussion forums.

Registration and enquiries

To register for the course, please visit http://apflnet.ilo.org/online-course.

For enquiries on this course, please email: apforcedlabournet@ilo.org.

The course is expected to start on 3 August 2015, but participants may still register and join the course after this date.

About AP-Forced Labour Net

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.