Dear AP-Forced Labour Net members and readers,

It is again time for our bi-monthly community update! Please visit our platform to review current highlights and new features on the AP-Forced Labour Net including:

- Blog entry "Creating the choices needed to end forced labour and child labour", by Simrin Singh, Senior Child Labour Specialist, ILO Bangkok.
- Upcoming online discussion "Research on forced labour and trafficking in persons: What do we know? What do we need to know?", 11-22 May 2015.
- Report from the past online discussion 'Eradicating Forced and Child Labour from the Supply Chains: How to Institute Real Change?'.
- New publications in the resource library.
- Updates on regional and global news on forced labour and human trafficking.

To ensure that you can receive our community updates in the future, please register as an AP-Forced Labour Net member. You can also follow us on Facebook.

Please forward this email to interested parties!

User guide for registration can be found here.

Highlights of this Month:
Blog: Creating the choices needed to end forced labour and child labour

Simrin Singh, ILO Senior Child Labour Specialist explores in her blog how to create choices to end forced labour and child labour. Choices are needed not just for the children and their parents, but also for those that employ them, and those whose duty it is to protect human rights. Transforming the work itself to make it decent is a good starting point. Find out more here.

Upcoming online discussion - Research on Forced Labour and Trafficking in Persons: What Do We Know? What Do We Need to Know?

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?

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 knowledgebase, 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.

For more information, see the online discussion background note here.

The AP-Forced Labour Net hosted an online discussion forum on *Eradicating Forced and Child Labour from the Supply Chains: How to Institute Real Change?* from 1-12 September 2014. The online discussion report is now available here.

The main objectives of the online discussion were to generate and share information on innovative approaches and good practices in addressing forced and child labour in supply chains, and to discuss remaining challenges.

Among the AP-Forced Labour Net discussion participants, there was an overall consensus that the way forward needs to involve multi-stakeholder engagement, long-term commitment to work on remediation, and interventions at the bottom tiers of the supply chains to formalize informal sectors, improve law enforcement and strengthen the voice and bargaining power of workers.

Importance of access to education and establishing real alternatives to forced and child labour
were also emphasized by several participants. Emergence of industry-wide and area-based interventions was noted as a positive sign for future. These efforts need to be supported by better regulation of contracting practices and labour market intermediaries, and capacity building of factory managers and labour inspectors. Respective roles of different stakeholders in these initiatives were also discussed in length.

Highlights from our resource library:

Fair Recruitment Initiative Brochure
The International Labour Organization (ILO) has launched a global “Fair Recruitment Initiative” (ILO-FAIR) to help prevent human trafficking, protect the rights of workers and to reduce the cost of labour migration. The brochure provides information on ILO's responses, targets and activities on fair recruitment program.

Remember also our “Ask the experts” site and the E-learning package on forced labour. These are permanent features of the AP-Forced Labour Net!

Upcoming events

- Online discussion Research on Forced Labour and Trafficking in Persons: What Do We Know? What Do We Need to Know?, 11 May - 22 May 2015

Past events

- Business response to preventing forced labour of migrant workers, Employers' Regional Workshop – ASEAN Triangle Project, 31 March - 1 April 2015

News highlights of the Month

- US House subcommittee hears testimony on Thai slave labor, Undercurrent News, 23 April 2015
- EU threatens Thailand with fish product ban, EU Observer, 21 April 2015
- Domestic workers: 47 million people worldwide denied basic labour rights, The Guardian, 2 April 2015
- Your seafood might come from slaves, New York Post, 25 March 2015
Updates from our network

- **United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT)**
  Newsletter (April 2015) is available [here](#).

- **Anti-Trafficking Review** calls for papers for a themed issue entitled 'Prosecuting Human Trafficking', by 15 July 2015

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. The platform is currently supported by the ILO’s [Forced Labour Action in the Asian Region (FLARE) project](#). For more information, please contact Ms Marja Paavilainen, Chief Technical Adviser of FLARE project.

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