

Employment Issues in Asia-Pacific LDCs

High-Level Segment Roundtable 2
“Meeting the Challenge of Employment
Creation in Africa & the LDCs”
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Asia-Pacific LDCs



- Asia-Pacific LDC economies: highly vulnerable
- Labour markets: easily affected (economic & demographic changes)
- Labour force: grows faster than employment



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Predominant Role of Agriculture



- Agriculture accounts for highest share of employment

Cambodia & Myanmar ~ 70%

Lao PDR 76%

Solomon Isl. 79%

Timor-Leste 81%

Bhutan & Nepal ~ 93%

- Low productivity per worker
➔ low wages



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Informality in Industry / Services



- Official unemployment figures do not reflect real challenges

- High incidence of informality in industry & services



under-employment
“working poor”



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Vulnerable Groups in LDCs



- Youth unemployment: 50% of total A/P LDC unemployment
- Women: important segment of the un- & under-employed
- Child labour: persistent



Policy Options



- Decent work: key to LDC poverty reduction
- Ensure employment creation focus on macroeconomic policies & poverty reduction
- Balance economic growth with employment generation



Policy Options (contd.)



- Improve education & skills for employability
- Promote productive self-employment & entrepreneurship
- Facilitate access to productive assets (e.g., credit)



Policy Options (contd.)



- Improve rural employment opportunities
- Create employment in post-disaster / conflict situations





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Thank you!

And thanks to ILO for data used in this presentation