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Green jobs for Youth

Working towards social equity

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Decent Work for All

ASIAN DECENT WORK DECADE 2006-2015

Presentation Outline



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1. What are green jobs
2. Linkages between green jobs and youth
3. What can be done



1. What are green jobs



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Green jobs are decent jobs which

- ✓ Reduce consumption of energy and raw materials (dematerialize economies)
- ✓ Avoid greenhouse gas emissions (decarbonize economies)
- ✓ Minimize waste and pollution
- ✓ Protect and restore ecosystems and environmental services
- ✓ Adapt to climate change

1. What are green jobs



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Green jobs produce **green goods and services** (e.g. certified organic food, green hotel, ecotourism, solar panel, water efficient valve, green finance, etc.)

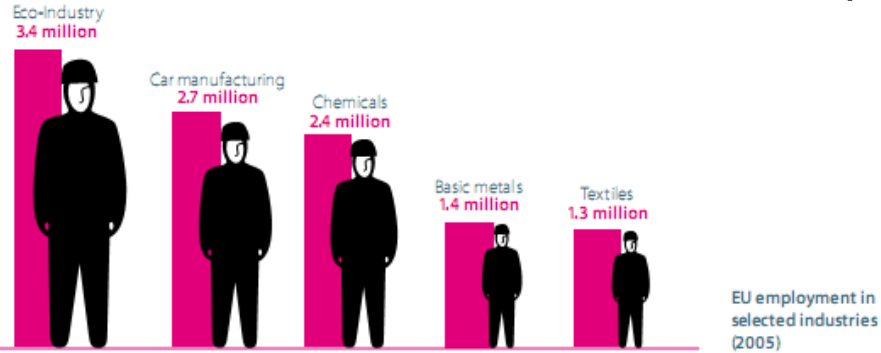
Green jobs can also be specialized jobs that help reduce the environmental impact of enterprises and activities in ANY sector (e.g. an energy auditor in the mining sector)

Green Jobs are being counted in an increasing number of countries

1. What are green jobs



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Source: Ernst & Young, *Eco-Industry, its size, employment, perspectives and barriers to growth in an enlarged EU*, August 2006 for eco-Industry; Eurostat, *EU Labour Force Survey for other Industries*.

Green Jobs are one of the fastest growing sectors of the employment market in Europe and North America (Eurostat, QSP)

Ship-breaking

Over 100,000 workers in Asia, almost all untrained and unprotected in an environmentally damaging and hazardous industry.



Not Green Jobs !!

For decent work & environment related reasons



Recycling

Millions of workers in Asia involved in hazardous waste recycling (e.g. e-waste) in the informal sector.

2. Linkages between green jobs and youth



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- Overall, Green Jobs are NOT more youth jobs than traditional jobs
- But, numerous studies have shown that there are benefits from green jobs investments in youth-heavy service occupations;
- Ex: Investments in clean energy are expected to create **three times more jobs** as compared to support fossil fuels, which will benefit youth (direct, indirect jobs) (Polin, al);
- Ex: Since youth are employed heavily in the service sector, they will on average benefit more from induced jobs due to green investments, in particular energy efficiency programs (US DOL, Brookings Institute);

2. Linkages between green jobs and youth



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Some high growth sectors with potential for strong youth presence, including in Asia

- **Renewable energy** (already higher number of green jobs globally than carbon based related jobs) (Pew, 2011)
- **Energy efficiency in buildings** (a priority green sector in many countries, labor intensive)
- **Ecotourism** (growing three times faster than trad. tourism) (UNWTO)
- **Sustainable food production** (Ex. sustainable tea production has grown by more than 50 times over the past 5 years, accounted for 7.7 % of global exports in 2009) (UNCTAD, 2010);
- **Recycling** (but with very important social issues and decent work deficits in many countries)
- Etc.

2. Linkages between green jobs and youth



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In 2012...

- 75 million young people are unemployed worldwide
- Almost half of the youth unemployed, or 36.4M, come from Asia and the Pacific (which accounts for two thirds of the global workforce)
- Many polls and enquiries show that the young population aspires to environmentally friendly jobs
- But, **Are the youth well equipped for green jobs?**

3. What can be done



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Country assessments as first step

Country	Sectors	NET Green Jobs potential
China (2010)	Forestry, Energy, Industry	30 million by 2020 (direct & indirect)
South Africa (2011)	Energy, Natural Resource Management, Mitigation	450,000 by 2025 (direct)
Brazil (2008)	Energy, Transport, Recycling	2,6 million in 2008 (existing, direct)
Bangladesh (2010)	Climate Adaptation, Construction, Transport, Energy, Agriculture & Recycling	7,5 million in 2010 (direct & indirect) of direct ONLY 800,000 DECENT
Indonesia (2012)	Renewable energy, transport, forestry & plantation, infrastructure	Up to add. 1,270,390 jobs through green investments (5 years)

Green growth, jobs, Just Transition



- 1. Effects on employment**
 - Net effects economy wide (employment gains versus losses)
 - Job creation: direct + indirect (+ induced)
 - Transition: job substitution
- 2. Effects on income**
 - Greening- induced poverty
- 3. Effects on social in/exclusion:** measures to improve working conditions and a Just Transition



Creating new green jobs... and making existing jobs greener



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Consider the impacts of green jobs policies on youth unemployment, and remediate. There is ample evidence that youth will not necessarily benefit from the proliferation of green jobs initiatives around the world.

Record age and other demographics in green jobs statistics. Policies cannot fix what they cannot measure. Labor statistics agencies should carefully track these data.

Expand environmental-friendly curricula in secondary and higher education. To provide appropriate knowledge and tools to youth is an effective way for professional development of potential green jobs holders.

Creating new green jobs... and making existing jobs greener



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Encourage governments to invest in green jobs for youth. National and local governments can invest in *proactive programs*, including:

- green-jobs training and apprenticeships for youth;
- Skills for GJ anticipation and development systems;
- Incentives for public and public-private green projects (e.g. infrastructure, natural resource management) that hire youth (e.g. green & youth procurement)

Promote green entrepreneurship and access to funding. Banks can partner with community organizations, secondary schools and community colleges to train and coach young green entrepreneurs

Lessons for policy



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- Green economy necessary condition for sustainable development, but not sufficient
- Policy coherence essential, additional and complementary social policies are needed
- Active labor market policies, social dialogue, social protection, industrial policies,



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Thank you

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