

BLR Organizes Learning Session on the Impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution



Amidst changes in the world of work, the Bureau of Labor Relations organized a learning session regarding the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe) on 10 February 2020 at the BLR Conference Room in Intramuros, Manila.

The FIRe is a revolutionary change characterized by the ubiquitous and mobile internet; cheaper, smaller, and stronger sensors; and artificial and machine learning. It is a revolutionary change based on recent diverse technologies.

Executive Director Charisma Lorin-Satumba of the Institute for Labor Studies served as the resource person on the topic entitled “Gearing up for the Future of Work: Harnessing the Impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution”.

ED Lorin-Satumba oriented the BLR employees on the future of work, particularly on the implications of the FIRe. She explained that FIRe promises a lot of possibilities in addressing the social problems that we face today. But despite the great promise of the FIRe, there are certain caveats like anticipated labor displacement in certain sectors of the economy.

“According to the ILO Report, 56 percent of jobs in ASEAN are at high risk of automation over the next 20 years,” said ED Lorin-Satumba. She further added that clerical, routine and low-skilled jobs have high risk to be automated while highly skilled workers working with technology will benefit. Therefore, ED Lorin-Satumba explained a human-centered agenda to manage or even thrive from risks associated with the future of work. It include increasing investment in people’s capabilities, increasing

investment in the institutions of work, and increasing investment in decent and sustainable work.

Innovating how humans work alongside machines through reskilling, upskilling and embracing technology-enabled solutions is one of the ways forward and at the same time a challenge for the government employers and workers.

During the open-forum, the participants also had the opportunity to share their insights on the possible impact of FIRE in their workplace.

Attended by almost forty (40) employees, the activity sought to heighten awareness among BLR employees about the future of work and its implications in labor-management relations.

END/Kim Margarete B. Martinez