

BLR Partners with ITCs and ILO for Strategic Compliance Planning to Improve Labor Laws Compliance in Rural Sectors

The Bureau of Labor Relations, together with members of the Banana, Mining, and Tuna Industry Tripartite Councils, participated in a workshop organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Office Manila for the validation of the regional baseline study/sectoral assessment and of the strategic compliance plan to improve labor laws compliance in rural sectors. The activity conducted from June 22 to 23 in Tagaytay was also joined by the Bureau of Working Conditions, Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns, Institute for Labor Studies, and other government agencies regulating the Banana, Mining, and Tuna sectors.



The workshop is part of the ILO's Project, *"Improving Workers' Rights in the Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific with Focus on Women,"* which aims to contribute in ensuring and sustaining improved working conditions, especially for women workers, through the improvement and promotion of labor

laws compliance, occupational safety and health, and gender equality in the rural sectors in the Philippines and Indonesia. The Project is a component of the implementation of the ILO Flagship Program *Safety + Health for All*, and will run until November 2024 under the funding of the US Department of Labor.

Since the commencement of the Project, the ILO CO Manila has been in close coordination with the Banana ITC in Region XI, Mining ITCs in Region V and Caraga, and Fishing (Tuna) ITC in Region XII for the development of a national framework of ITCs on labor laws compliance, OSH, and gender equality with the objective of enhancing the culture of compliance in rural sectors.

The purpose of the two-day workshop is to give the regional and industry and national representatives from government, employers and workers, an opportunity to engage in discussion on additional inputs to the Baseline Study, as well as the initially identified sectoral priorities under the Project. The first day of the workshop focused on the validation of the baseline study and assessment of current working conditions in the three identified sectors, which was completed by the Rapid Asia Team. Sectoral workshops were also conducted to verify the strategic compliance plan of the respective ITCs, the result of which was presented in plenary on the last day of the activity.



End/Athena M. Villagonzalo