



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACCI JOINTLY HOSTING IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN AUSTRALIA ON EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE ISSUES

Statement by Peter Hendy, Chief Executive

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Australia's largest and most representative business organisation, has welcomed this week's tri-partite regional dialogue on employment and workplace issues that will accompany the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) 2nd South-East Asia and Pacific Forum on Decent Work.

The Australian Government, ACCI and the ACTU are jointly hosting this important ILO meeting in Melbourne, the first in Australia for over a decade. Delegates comprise the leading government, employer and trade union representatives from each country in our immediate region.

ACCI President Mr. Neville Sawyer today told the Forum that stable and prosperous economies and workplaces in our immediate region were goals that should be pursued by the ILO and all countries, and are to our collective benefit.

This objective was all the more significant given the need for regional co-operation and economic reconstruction in the wake of the Boxing Day tsunami and the Easter Monday earthquake, and the significant role Australia is playing in that undertaking.

The work-plan of the four-day Forum includes a consideration of the ILO's 'Decent Work' programme in each country, as well as a focus on the workplace implications of HIV-AIDS and occupational health and safety initiatives.

Mr. Sawyer also highlighted how Australian industry is deeply engaged in the economies and labour markets of the region, and that Australia has much to contribute as well as to learn from regional experience on workplace issues.

ACCI is the globally recognised representative of Australian employers in the Forums of the ILO. Delegates to the sub-regional Forum are from Indonesia, New Zealand, Philippines, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Vanuatu and Australia.

A copy of the ACCI President's opening statement of the Forum is on the ACCI web site www.acci.asn.au.

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