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PRESS RELEASE

Indonesian Government to Launch Indonesia-Youth Employment Network (I-YEN)

JAKARTA (Joint Press Release): Indonesian young women and men are facing daunting social and economic problems. In 2001, the total number of unemployed young people in the country reached 6.1 million, representing 76 percent of the total unemployed population. The youth unemployment rate is about 15% in rural and 25% in urban areas. Addressing this problem, the government of Indonesia has established an Indonesia-Youth Employment Network (I-YEN).

In association with the commemoration of International Youth Day, the I-YEN will be launched on Tuesday, 12 August 2003, at Graha Sawala, Ministry of Finance, Jakarta. The network will be launched by Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, H.E. Dorodjatun Kuntjoro-Jakti. In the launch titled “A Celebration of Youth: From Here to Convention 2003,” the members of the I-YEN high-level panel will also be introduced.

The I-YEN involves senior policy-makers from various ministries as well as prominent representatives of the private sector and the civil society. The Coordinating Team of the I-YEN consists of 15 high level government officials from six ministries and 12 representatives of national employers’ organizations, workers’ organizations, private companies and NGOs¹. The network adviser is the Minister of Manpower and Transmigration, H.E. Jacob Nuwa Wea, the chairman is Secretary to the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Widjanarko, and the Vice Chairman is Secretary General of the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, Mr. Tjepy Aloewie.

The Youth Employment Programme in Indonesia is part of the global youth employment programme initiated in 2002 by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the ILO Director General Juan Somavia, and the World Bank President James Wolfenson. Ten countries were selected to take the lead in the review and renewal of employment policies for

¹ Detailed information on members of the I-YEN Coordinating Team is attached.
young people. Indonesia decided to be one of the lead countries after a National Workshop on Youth Employment was conducted in Jakarta in 2002. To support the initiative the ILO has provided technical assistance.

Established on 19 May 2003, the main task of the I-YEN is to develop a national youth employment action plan by the end of this year. The aim of the action plan is to (1) enhance the employability of young people through better education and relevant training for work; (2) give young women the same employment opportunities as young men through gender sensitive policies; (3) encourage youth entrepreneurship through making it easier to start and run a business; and (4) generate more employment opportunities for young people through a growth-oriented “pro-job” macroeconomic strategy.

Furthermore, the I-YEN will provide guidance for action programmes at provincial and district levels; mobilize technical support and financial resources; monitor and evaluate the programmes; and report to the Government. The work of the I-YEN is supported by a technical team within the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration.

ILO assistance to the I-YEN includes a survey on school to work transition in collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration; development of vocational training policy guidelines and training packages in collaboration with the Ministry of Education; a study on future scenarios and projections of youth employment; documentation of good practices in youth employment programmes; a national convention of young people; training and business guides for young workers in the informal sector; and the development of a national youth employment website.

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