



**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION**

**Regional Office for Africa**

**P.O. Box 2788/2532, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Tel: (251-11) 5510346/5514313, Fax: (251-11) 5513633/5511395,  
email: [addisababa@ilo.org](mailto:addisababa@ilo.org)**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Monday, 05 November 2012**

## **New Initiative to promote a General Labour History of Africa**

ADDIS ABABA (ILO News) – International and African researchers, historians and senior officials gathered in Addis Ababa under the auspices of the International Institute of Social History (IISH) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to launch a new initiative designed to promote a general labour history of Africa.

The First meeting of the Steering Committee examined the preliminary outline of the Project entitled “GENERAL LABOUR HISTORY OF AFRICA” to propose ways and means to come up with a comprehensive, user-friendly, scientific multi-volume labour history of Africa.

Among the participants: Prof. Andreas Eckert (Director of the International Research Centre for Work and Human Life Cycle in Global History, Humboldt University of Berlin), Prof. Endreas Eshete (Professor of Law and Philosophy, Former President of Addis Ababa University), Prof. G. Ugo Nwokeji (Associate Professor of African Studies, University of California, Berkeley), Prof. Hanan Sabea (Professor of Anthropology at the American University of Cairo), Dr Muna Abdalla (Director General of IDEA International / Liaison Office with the African Union), Ms Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon (Chief Regional Programming Unit of the ILO Regional Office for Africa), Mr Firmin Matoko (Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office with the African Union and with the Economic Commission for Africa) and Dr Stefano Bellucci (Senior Researcher and Head of the Africa Desk of the IISH in Amsterdam).

“Labour is a major entry point into African History”, said Professor Endreas Eshete but we have so little documented research on African labour studies.

The main goal of this new initiative is also to bring together scholars from different disciplines with labour advocates to engage on debates and research on the workers’ conditions, labour relations and everyday lives of working people and their families.

The initiative is also new approach to respond to African and international institutions and people interested in the preservation of labour heritage and history and in the study of labour issues to encourage the creation of a wider community engaged in the study of African labour issues and its promotion.

\*\*\*\*\*

**For more detailed info:**

International Institute of Social History: [sbe@iisg.nl](mailto:sbe@iisg.nl) , Tel +31 (0)20 668 5866

ILO Africa Communication team in Addis Ababa:

[guebray@ilo.org](mailto:guebray@ilo.org) , Tel: + 251/115-444415 or + 251/911-218115

[rahel@ilo.org](mailto:rahel@ilo.org) Tel: + 251/115/444454 or + 251/911-218113