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News Release

ILAB News Release: [09/30/2009]
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Release Number: 09-1204-NAT

U.S. Department of Labor awards \$6.4 million in grants to support international worker rights

WASHINGTON — U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis today announced \$6.4 million in grant awards to implement projects promoting adherence to international core labor standards and support the rights of workers.

The grants and contracts awarded by the department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) are part of an effort to promote worker rights, largely through the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Better Work program.

The worker rights projects will take place in Haiti, Lesotho, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Better Work project in Haiti, initially funded in 2008, will continue with an additional \$2.5 million. The ILO also will establish a Better Work project in Lesotho with the department's \$1.9 million grant.

Since 2000, the department has funded more than \$288 million in technical assistance projects to improve labor conditions for workers internationally.

The department also will fund research projects on two topics: refining the assessment and monitoring of labor standards, and examining the relationship between international trade and labor rights.

The research findings generated through these projects will improve the department's capacity to produce congressionally-mandated reports on the labor impact of trade agreements; inform the design of related cooperative activities undertaken with trade partner countries; and further the knowledge base on the assessment and monitoring of international labor standards.

For more information about ILAB's technical assistance and research projects, visit http://www.dol.gov/ilab.

Editor's Note: A chart with information about the individual grants is below.

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of International Labor Affairs
Office of Trade and Labor Affairs
FY 2009 Programming to Support Worker Rights Internationally

Table with 4 columns: COUNTRY, FUNDING LEVEL, PROJECT TITLE, IMPLEMENTER. Rows include Haiti, Lesotho, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Table with 3 columns: FUNDING LEVEL, PROJECT TITLE, IMPLEMENTER. Rows include Refining the NAS-ILAB Matrix and International Trade and Labor Rights.

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