

**FOR INFORMATION**

SIXTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General**Seventh Supplementary Report: Arrangements for an ILO Decent Work Research Prize**

1. At the 47th Session of the Board of the International Institute for Labour Studies (IILS), it was decided to create a research prize to reward outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge on key ILO concerns.
2. At the 294th Session of the ILO Governing Body, in discussing the report of the Institute's Board, it was decided that a document should be presented to the March 2006 session on the modalities of the prize, and the criteria on which it would be awarded.
3. At the Institute Board meeting, it was argued that this prize should have worldwide visibility and impact. It would be presented at a tripartite ceremony in a plenary session of the International Labour Conference, including an appropriate mark of recognition on the part of all three ILO constituents. Arrangements for the prize would incorporate and modify the existing international social policy lectures, which are funded from the income from the ILO's Nobel Peace Prize. The prize would be awarded on the recommendation of a jury.
4. Three points were emphasized at the Institute's Board meeting. First, a balance was required in the membership of the prize jury, ensuring that those concerned were committed to the ILO's work and values. Second, there should not be an open-ended commitment, as a prize might need to be adapted to the current policy agenda. The arrangements for the prize should therefore be reviewed after two biennia. Third, the final name of the prize would be decided by the spokespersons of the Workers' and Employers' groups on the Board, and by the Director-General in his capacity as Chair of the Board.
5. Subsequent to the meeting of the Institute Board, the spokespersons of the Workers' and Employers' groups and the Director-General met and decided to name the prize the ILO Decent Work Research Prize.
6. The Institute was invited to develop more detailed proposals in consultation with the Officers of the Institute's Board.
7. While some details remain to be settled, at present the proposal is as follows:
 - *Timing.* The first ILO Decent Work Research Prize will be awarded in the first half of 2007, and the formal presentation will be made at the 2007 International Labour Conference. Prizes will subsequently be awarded annually, with a review after the award of the 2010 prize.

- *The nature of the prize.* The prize may include a modest financial reward, but its value would mainly derive from its prestige. The winner would receive a replica of an object associated with the ILO (a replica of the three keys that originally symbolized the ILO's tripartism has been suggested), and would have the prestige of giving the international social policy lecture during a plenary session of the International Labour Conference. The lecture would also be repeated or expanded upon in an academic institution in a developing country, continuing the tradition of the international social policy lectures. In addition, the prize winner would be offered the option of spending some time as a fellow at the ILS
- *The jury.* The jury should consist of eminent personalities with an international scientific reputation and include nominees of each of the tripartite constituents, as well as distinguished academics. All members of the jury should meet the criterion of commitment to the ILO's work and values and the jury as a whole should represent the main disciplines relevant to the ILO's work. The jury could be composed of the following persons: one person nominated by each of the ILO's tripartite groups through the Officers of the Institute's Board; two distinguished academics, nominated by the Director of the Institute and approved by the ILO Director-General as Chairperson of the ILS Board. It is expected that the consultations on the composition of the jury will be completed by mid-2006.
- *Nominations.* The call for nominations for the prize will be made at the beginning of September 2006; three months will be allowed for nominations. Nominations will be invited widely through the ILO's networks, constituency and publications. Each nominee should have the support of at least one member of the tripartite constituency, and one leading academic coming from different regions of the world (where one of the supporters is an international constituent organization, this regional diversity requirement would be regarded as fulfilled).
- *Criteria for award.* One of two criteria would be taken into consideration for the selection of the prize winner. The first would recognize major but specific contributions to the understanding of socio-economic relationships and policy instruments for the promotion of decent work. The jury would look for new and original ideas. The second would be a lifetime contribution to knowledge of the central concerns of the ILO and its constituents and, in particular, contributions which advance understanding by bringing together the different perspectives on the world of work, and the different dimensions of the Decent Work Agenda. In either case, both the quality of the scientific work and the value of that work for policy purposes will be taken into account. Arrangements would be put in place to ensure that, over time, the winners came from different regions of the world.
- *Communications strategy.* The Decent Work Research Prize will be given appropriate status and diffusion through the use of the global media. The name of the winner, the lectures and photos of the ceremony will be displayed prominently on the ILO web site. The lectures will be webcast.
- *Organization and funding.* The Institute would take responsibility for organization and management of the process. Arrangements for the prize will be managed within the income available from the Nobel Peace Prize endowment, as indicated in the paper submitted to the Institute's Board.

Geneva, 9 March 2006.

Submitted for information.