



BUILDING RESPONSIVE, INCLUSIVE & COLLECTIVE SOLUTIONS

ISSUE NOTE III

‘Networking of Labour Institutes of BRICS Countries’

Prepared by VV Giri National Labour Institute, INDIA

Technical Session IV

July, 2016

Networking of Labour Institutes of the BRICS Countries

1. Rationale

1.1 Given the centrality of employment generation for sustaining and stimulating growth in a period of prolonged slowdown of the world economy, it is of paramount importance for the BRICS countries to coordinate and cooperate in evolving appropriate labour and employment policy measures. Cooperation and coordination in the policy realm is imperative because the BRICS countries face the twin challenge of technological and structural transformation which has both immediate and long term consequences for the world of work. Moreover the transformations are experienced differently in each of these countries depending on their past policy trajectory and present policy architecture. Learning by doing and learning from each other becomes necessary in an environment marked by rapid and continuous change in the landscape of labour. Employment and labour related policies must be flexible enough to match up to the challenges posed by these transformations.

1.2 Developing robust evidence based policy architecture grounded on sound research can become one of the foundational pillar for enduring cooperation among the BRICS countries. A second area where such cooperation can emerge is in building competencies of the various stakeholders to respond to the challenges of transformation and synergising the strengths of each of the constituent countries in the field of training. Finally coordinated dissemination of the knowledge gathered through research and training can not only strengthen cooperation amongst the BRICS countries but also can provide a platform for interaction with the larger community of nations. This can be best achieved by establishing a network of lead labour research and training institutions of the BRICS countries.

2. Objectives

The network will have the following objectives:

- Identify and prioritise urgent areas of common concerns related to labour and employment
- Undertake joint studies based on common and agreed upon methodologies with clear cut policy implications

- Develop competence building programmes to train stakeholders
- Develop customised modules for training in thrust areas
- Organise sustained exchange of research and training personnel and resources through conferences, workshops and exchange visits
- Bring out Working Papers, Policy Briefs and BRICS Employment Updates periodically

3. Operationalisation

The following steps are proposed for operationalising this network

- One lead institution to be identified from each member country forming the core of the network(which can be expanded subsequently)
- One of the selected institution to act as the nodal institution of the network coinciding with the Presidency of the BRICS
- Each institution to set up a BRICS Employment Policy Centre with a nodal points person who shall initiate the networking process
- Once these steps are in place a initial brainstorming session of the nodal institutions along with stakeholders may be organised with a mandate for identifying research and training agenda for the subsequent year.