

- encouraging institutions at all levels to implement policies and activities to target and reduce the incidence of child labour.

The program is funded predominantly by the United States Department of Labor under a cooperative agreement, although the implementing organisations, World Vision, Plan Philippines, Christian Children's Fund and the Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation also provide contributions. There are also several other partners involved in the initiative, including the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor, community groups and Filipino Government Departments, such as the Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Employment.

Although there is little evaluation of the project available, the Philippines Information Agency indicates that as of 2007, 32 000 children had been assisted by the program, 2 000 more than were initially targeted.

The ABK Initiative is now in its second phase, ABK2 or Take Every Action For Children (TEACH NOW). This phase will be implemented in four areas with the worst incidences of child labour and will again receive funding from the US Department of Labor. Under ABK2, the Philippines Department of Labor and Employment has undertaken a new partnership agreement with World Vision to collaborate in a number of ways, including providing increased educational opportunities and access to children assisted under the program.

## 6.4 Conclusion

As we have seen in this chapter, in pursuing their international commitments major international organisations enter into a range of partnerships with many different organisations and agencies. These include partnerships with employer groups and individual businesses. Even though most of these organisations' development activities are targeted at poorer countries, they are still based on the same philosophy as PPPs in more developed countries—bringing the best aspects of government and industry together to pursue a common goal.

Considering the growing trend amongst the world's consumers to put more pressure on manufacturers to be more careful and selective in where they source their products from, it is very likely that many more PPPs in this area will be developed over the next couple of years.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

'Public-private partnerships' is a term that has not commonly been associated with the delivery of labour market and welfare services. While there is a large amount of information available on PPPs, its focus is predominantly on partnerships for the purposes of building and maintaining infrastructure or the provision of public utility services. Information on PPPs that deal with the provision of labour market and welfare services is scarce.

However, more and more governments are using PPPs to meet the demands of providing services to the community. As can be seen through the case studies in this report, there is a significant amount of work being done through PPPs in the APEC region to deliver such services, demonstrating that efficiency, productivity and successful outcomes can be increased by partnering public and private sector expertise and resources.

While government and business tend to be the primary focus of PPPs, educational institutions and civil society are also critical partners in human resource development. Some of the examples are government led and initiated and some are initiated by industry, depending on the unique circumstances in each APEC economy and the workforce challenges being addressed. Some of the case studies in this paper use a purchaser-provider model, where government services are contracted out to private organisations, and others are collaborative where partners share job placement or labour exchange activities.

APEC has long promoted and encouraged the use of PPPs in responding to economic challenges and as an important tool in achieving sustainable development in the promotion of businesses of all sizes, from micro-enterprises to larger economies. The importance of PPPs in meeting skills and labour shortages, and in the delivery of employment services and welfare programs makes an important contribution to the goals of APEC by assisting people to fully participate in the economy and help alleviate poverty.

It is hoped that this report will be of value to all the APEC economies in their further development of PPPs, and that it will provide assistance to anyone considering using PPPs in implementing human resource development policies and programs.