



# BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS

## United States Department of Labor

### Office of Trade and Labor Affairs

#### *Who We Are...*

The Office of Trade and Labor Affairs (OTLA) was created in October 2006 to coordinate all trade-related labor issues within the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB). For the past decade, the labor aspects of international trade have gained increasing prominence in U.S. policies. OTLA's mission directly responds to these policies and consists of three main functions:

- Implement trade-related labor policy and coordinate international technical cooperation in support of the labor provisions in free trade agreements.
- Develop and coordinate U.S. Department of Labor positions regarding international economic policy issues and participate in the formulation and implementation of U. S. policy on such issues.
- Provide services, information, expertise, and technical cooperation programs that effectively support the international responsibilities of the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. foreign labor policy objectives.

#### *Our Accomplishments*

- OTLA played a key role in the formulation and negotiation of the Labor Chapters in Free Trade Agreements with Chile, Singapore, Australia, Morocco, Central America, the Dominican Republic, Bahrain, Oman, Peru, Colombia, Panama and South Korea.
- OTLA has funded technical cooperation projects in 72 countries to promote the effective enforcement of labor laws, by improving labor inspections systems, including occupational safety and health and mine safety health, as well as promoting workforce development and productive labor management relations.
- OTLA is the principal author of official U.S. government reports on labor matters for all countries the U.S. has signed a Free Trade Agreement with since 2002. The reports include an assessment of labor rights, laws governing child labor, and expected impacts on U.S. employment.

#### *Did you know?*

- All Free Trade Agreements negotiated by the U.S. since 2002 include a Labor Chapter with obligations to respect basic labor rights.
- The Department of Labor funds and manages labor rights projects in over a dozen Free Trade Agreement partner countries, from Central America to the Middle East.
- Department of Labor assistance to Central America established a state of the art website with a searchable database of all the labor laws in the region – 1.7 million hits have been received to date. ([www.levlaboral.com](http://www.levlaboral.com))

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<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/otla>