

The ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour

The ASEAN community has recognized the importance of labour migration in the region and the need to protect the rights of migrant workers. In January 2007, the heads of states of the ten-member ASEAN adopted, during the ASEAN Summit in Cebu (Philippines), the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (Cebu Declaration).

The ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML), an institutionalized tripartite forum on labour migration in the ASEAN, has provided a platform for the review, discussion and exchange of best practices and ideas between governments, workers' and employers' organizations, and civil society stakeholders on key issues facing migrant workers in South East Asia since its inception in 2009. The AFML meetings result in an outcome document embodied in a "Recommendation" of action-oriented policies and activities, including practical measures to take forward the Cebu Declaration. The AFML is preceded by country-level Tripartite Meetings amongst Government, Workers' Organizations, Employers' Organizations and civil society.

Canada



Themes of the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour

Each year, the theme of the AFML is determined by the Coordinating Body and is chosen from the text of the CEBU Declaration. Previous AFMLs have held the following themes:

2nd ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour , 30 – 31 July 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

“ASEAN Declaration on Migrant Workers: Achieving its commitment”

3rd ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, 19 – 20 July 2010, Hanoi, Viet Nam

“Enhancing awareness and information services to protect the rights of migrant workers”

4th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, 24 – 25 October 2011, Bali, Indonesia

“Development of a public campaign to promote understanding, rights and dignity of migrant workers in countries of destination; Return and reintegration and development of sustainable alternatives in countries of origin”

5th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, 9 – 10 October 2012, Siem Reap, Cambodia

“Protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers: Towards effective recruitment practices and regulations”

6th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, 26-27 November 2013, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

“Enhancing Policy and Protection of Migrant Workers Through Data Sharing, and Adequate Access to the Legal and Judicial System During Employment, including Effective Complaints Mechanisms”

Key recommendations from past AFMLs

The ASEAN Forum on Migrant concludes each meeting with the adoption of its Recommendations.

Recommendations have been made in the following areas:

- (1) Roles of ASEAN stakeholders in the promotion and protection of migrant workers.
- (2) Regional instrument on the Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers: (a) the content and legal status of the regional instrument; and (b) the consultative processes with civil society organizations in the formulation of the regional instrument.
- (3) Enhancing Awareness and Information Services to Protect the Rights of Migrant Workers, including on:
 - Promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers
 - Information and services
 - The role of sending country representatives in receiving
 - Countries
 - Broad stakeholder cooperation
 - Partnerships of ASEAN, stakeholders and international
 - Organizations
- (4) Regulation of recruitment, including
 - the promotion of universal rights and fundamental principles and rights at work;
 - the promotion of transparency, accountability and affordability;
 - the promotion of information sharing and awareness of the public;
 - the promotion of effective monitoring and complaints mechanisms;
 - the promotion of meaningful involvement of multi-stakeholders.
- (5) Data collection, analysis and sharing concerning migrant workers in both countries of origin and destination
- (6) Promoting effective complaint mechanisms and grievance handling mechanisms

ILO support to the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour

The AFML is hosted by the current ASEAN Chair, supported by the ASEAN Secretariat. ILO has technically and financially contributed to the inception and establishment of the AFML since 2009. This support has been provided through the ASEAN TRIANGLE Project since 2012. The ILO has partnered with the IOM and the Taskforce on ASEAN Migrant Workers since 2010, and UNWomen since 2011. In 2012 the ILO prepared a Background Paper on Progress in Implementation of the Recommendations adopted at the Hanoi (2010) and Bali (2011) meetings. A second review paper is planned for 2014.

For further information please contact:

Mr Manuel Imson,
Senior Programme Officer/Project Coordinator, ASEAN TRIANGLE Project
ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel: +662 288 2243

Fax: +662 288 2063

Email: imson@ilo.org

www.ilo.org/asia

