The International Labour Organization’s (ILO) ASEAN TRIANGLE Project has launched in December 2014 the International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database, the first of its kind in ASEAN. The launch was made possible through the support of the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States and the ILO HQ in Geneva. The ILMS Database gathers together all of the official government data sources on international migrant workers’ stocks and flows within the region, as well as on countries’ nationals living or working abroad.

The data are now published as a ‘special collection’ on the ILO’s central ILOSTAT Database portal a powerful research tool that will be used by policy makers, researchers, academics and the ILO to influence policy implementation, monitoring, and improvement as well as to guide technical assistance.

THE ILMS DATABASE CAN BE ACCESSED FROM TWO PORTALS:

ILOSTAT:  http://www.ilo.org/ilostat/faces/home/statisticaldata
APMigration:  http://apmigration.ilo.org/asean-labour-migration-statistics

By collecting relevant, comparable and tractable data on international migrants throughout the region, including a range of previously unpublished sources, the ILMS Database in ASEAN provides a coherent and powerful research tool for policymakers and others to profile and monitor the migrant labour force within the region.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ILMS DATABASE IN ASEAN ARE THREEFOLD:

1. To provide an openly-available, relevant, comprehensive and timely information source to enable evidence-based policymaking on international labour migration in ASEAN;
2. To map the existing data sources countries collect, including information about their quality, scope, completeness, comparability and possible ongoing gaps and weaknesses that can be filled through capacity building; and
3. To define a set of tables of relevance on international labour migration as a standard reference-point for future data collection, publication and analysis in ASEAN and beyond.

WHY DOES ASEAN NEED AN ILMS DATABASE?

The work comes at a critical time for ASEAN as economic development, regional integration and demographic factors continue to drive up intra-regional labour mobility. In order to manage this trend more coherently, the ILMS Database fills an important knowledge gap. Indeed, the importance of improved data collection and sharing on international labour migration among Member States have already been emphasised as recommendations and commitments under the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2007); the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint (2009); the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML) (2013); at the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2013) and at the UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (2013).
The tables collected under the ILMS Database in ASEAN were decided upon through extensive consultations with ASEAN Member States and other stakeholders. The 17 tables are collected across the following three modules, as follows:

**MODULE A. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK**

1. Resident population By sex, age and labour market status, total and migrants
2. Working-age population By sex and by education, total and migrants (ISCED 2011)
3. Migrants By country of origin
4. Employed migrants By country of origin
5. Employed persons By economic activity, total and migrants (ISIC, Rev.4)
6. Employed persons By occupation, total and migrants (ISCO-08)
7. Employed persons By sex and status in employment, total and migrants (ICSE-93)
8. Average monthly wages By sex, total and migrants

**MODULE B. INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT FLOW**

9. Inflows of working-age migrants By sex and country of origin
10. Inflows of migrants By sex and education (ISCED 2011)
11. Inflows of employed migrants By economic activity (ISIC, Rev.4)
12. Inflows of employed migrants By occupation (ISCO-08)

**MODULE C. NATIONALS ABROAD**

13. Stock of nationals abroad By sex and country of residence
14. Outflow of nationals By sex and country of destination
15. Outflow of nationals for employment By sex and country of destination
16. Outflow of nationals for employment By economic activity (ISIC, Rev.4)
17. Outflow of nationals for employment By occupation (ISCO-08)

ILMS DATABASE IN ASEAN, PHASE III

Following two successful rounds of data collection under the ILMS Database in ASEAN, Phase III of the project will be launched in July 2015 in order to collect the complete data for 2014 and address ongoing data gaps and capacity building needs. The ASEAN TRIANGLE Project has documented the process of developing the ILMS Database and produced a “Guide” to assist other regions developing similar databases. The project will produce an analytical report on the data collected to highlight the main ongoing trends within the region and draw conclusions on how to improve data collection and sharing among the Member States.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Mr Manuel Imson
Senior Programme Officer/Project Coordinator
ASEAN TRIANGLE Project
ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Tel: +662 288 2243
Fax: +662 288 3063
Email: imson@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/asean-triangle