



ASEAN TRIANGLE Project

First Joint Meeting of the ASEAN Confederation of Employers and the ASEAN Trade Union Council

8-9 March 2016

Conclusions and Recommendations

The First Joint Meeting of the ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE) and the ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC) was held on the 8-9 March 2016 at the Pullman KingPower Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, supported by ILO and the Canadian Government. Regional and national representatives of the ACE) and the ATUC from 10 ASEAN Member States and representatives from the International Labour Organization (ILO) The Canadian Government participated at the opening of this First Joint Meeting.

The First Joint Meeting of the ASEAN Confederation of Employers and the ASEAN Trade Union Council was organized in order to strengthen bipartite dialogue in the ASEAN, address current and emerging issues of common concern, build trust among the two organizations and put forward common positions on key issues in labour migration to the Governments of the ASEAN through the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) and Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM).

Overarching Framework

The ASEAN Confederation of Employers and the ASEAN Trade Union Council:

- Acknowledged the importance of labour migration in ASEAN and the development contribution that migrant workers make to countries of origin and destination. Labour migration in the region generates substantial benefits for countries of origin in terms of jobs and productivity, and remittances and skills upgrading for countries of destination.
- Noted that despite the positive experiences that can and should be cited, migration is still too frequently associated with unacceptable labour abuses; and recognized that the benefits of labour migration for national workers, and the migrant workers themselves, can only be maximized through the effective promotion and respect of workers' rights, including basic human rights, fundamental principles and rights at



work enshrined in UN and ILO Conventions, the promotion of decent work for all, and the adherence to principles of social justice, fair treatment, equal opportunity, and gender equality.

- Welcomed the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, which reaffirms the need to respect, protect and promote fundamental freedoms for all and recognizes the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- Welcomed the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community on 31st December 2015 and the renewed commitment to migration expressed in the ASEAN Community Blueprints for 2016-2020 to cover the Economic, Political-Security and Socio-Cultural Pillars. ACE and ATUC recognise the tremendous opportunity for growth, prosperity, increased connectivity and integration, but called for growth that is inclusive, and prosperity that is shared.
- Look forward to contributing to the implementation of the Work Plans of the ASEAN Labour Ministers (ALM), the SLOM and the ACMW.
- Reaffirmed the value of social dialogue as a means to achieve better management of labour migration in the ASEAN Region.

Recommendations:

1. ATUC and ACE identified the following areas of mutual concern, that should be addressed in future Joint Dialogues of ACE and ATUC:

- 1.1.** Labour mobility and the implementation of the Mutual Recognition of Skills (MRS) for medium and low-skilled workers in ASEAN. MRS shall be linked to labour market demand and supply in ASEAN Member States.
- 1.2.** Expanding social protection mechanisms to better protect the most vulnerable groups, including migrant workers. Measures would include, for example, examining portability of social security arrangements.
- 1.3.** Ethical and fair recruitment of migrant workers.
- 1.4.** Protection of migrant workers throughout the migration cycle, consistent with international labour standards.



2. ACE and ATUC agreed on the value and need to regularize a joint dialogue between the two organizations, and recommended the following modalities:

- 2.1.** The dialogue shall be organized on an annual basis.
- 2.2.** ACE and ATUC will alternately host the dialogue each year. The second joint dialogue will be hosted by ATUC; the venue and date will be decided on in consultation with ACE and ILO.
- 2.3.** The purpose of the dialogue is to facilitate a bipartite discussion and joint actions on issues of common concerns, including on labour migration.
- 2.4.** Support by ILO and any other relevant agencies.
- 2.5.** The ACE and ATUC will discuss issues raised at the AFML meetings.

ACE and ATUC agreed on a joint submission of the Conclusions and Recommendations to the ASEAN Labour Ministers through the ASEAN Secretariat, with copies also to national ALM focal points.