



Third Joint Dialogue on labour migration between the ASEAN Confederation of Employers and the ASEAN Trade Union Council

24 February 2023
Tokyo, Japan

Joint Statement

Introduction

The Third Joint Meeting of the ASEAN Confederation of Employers and the ASEAN Trade Union Council was held on 24 February 2023 in Bayside Hotel Azur Takeshiba, Tokyo, Japan. The meeting was hosted by the ACE with support from the ILO's TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme¹, in coordination with the ILO's Bureau of Employers Activities (and Bureau of Workers Activities).

Preamble

The ASEAN Confederation of Employers (hereinafter referred to as the ACE) and ASEAN Trade Union Council (hereinafter referred to as the ATUC):

Reaffirm their strong commitment to advancing decent work for migrant workers in ASEAN Member States.

Note and reaffirm the Outcome Statements adopted at the first ACE and ATUC joint dialogue in Bangkok, Thailand in 2016, and at the second ATUC and ACE joint dialogue in Manila, the Philippines in 2019.

Acknowledge the importance of having regular dialogue between ACE and ATUC on labour migration issues to build trust, address emerging issues, and develop and put forward to relevant organizations common positions on labour migration.

Acknowledge that migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to various types of crisis, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic which had profound impacts on labour migration in the ASEAN region, and globally, and exacerbated the pre-existing vulnerabilities of migrant workers, especially women.

¹ TRIANGLE in ASEAN is a partnership between the ILO, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

Recognize the specific protection needs of migrant domestic workers and the responsibility of employers' and workers' organizations to advocate for strengthening their labour and social protection.

Note the potential of well governed labour migration to support sustainable, inclusive development in countries of origin and destination.

Reaffirm the value of tripartism and social dialogue as a mean to achieve better governance of labour migration.

Call for continued support from the ILO in building capacity of both national and regional employers' and workers' organizations, sharing good practices across countries and providing technical assistance, as needed.

ACE and ATUC agreed to:

1. Review the implementation status of the recommendations made in the 2016 and 2019 Outcome Statements to monitor and document progress and remaining gaps.
2. Continue regular joint dialogues, with rotating host, to advance knowledge and understanding of issues related to labour migration governance and to advance the implementation of recommendations of ACE and ATUC to meet labour market demand and improve the life and work of migrant workers in the region. The host may suggest focusing on specific thematic issues in future dialogues to deepen understanding.
3. Undertake joint advocacy towards governments of ASEAN Member States to influence legal and policy reforms on issues identified as priorities by ACE and ATUC, including but not limited to those identified in earlier joint dialogues:
 - 3.1. Labour mobility for women and men migrant workers, including making legal pathways more accessible and effective;
 - 3.2. Skills development, recognition and mobility for medium-skilled migrant workers to respond to labour market demands, including implementation of mutual recognition of skills;
 - 3.3. Social protection for migrant workers, including portability of social security benefits where possible;
 - 3.4. Fair recruitment, including elimination of charging of fees and costs on migrant workers;
 - 3.5. Use of modern technology in improving efficiency of recruitment and labour migration processes;
 - 3.6. Reintegration support for returning migrant workers;
 - 3.7. Decent conditions of life and work for migrant workers, including freedom of movement and access to passports and personal documents; and
 - 3.8. Effective legal protection of migrant workers throughout the migration cycle, consistent with international labour standards, accompanied with labour inspection and accessible dispute settlement mechanisms.