

Check against delivery

Statement by Mr. Dechboon Marprasert, Employer Delegate
(Thailand)
to be delivered at the 110th Session of the International Labour
Conference on 9 June 2022 (4 mins)

Mister/Madam President,

On behalf of Thai employer, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly mention the impact of COVID-19 and global crisis on Thailand's economy, and how do we, Thai employers, do to get through this situation.

The COVID-19 and the global crisis has had a significant impact on Thailand's economy over the past few years. In order to response with the pandemic, like other countries, lockdown measures have been introduced. Consequently, many businesses had to shut down or lay off their employees because they could not bear the cost. The Government has issued measures to help the most vulnerable groups affected by the pandemic through social assistance programs. Several initiatives had been implemented and supported businesses during this challenging time.

For example, the Government handed out three thousand baht per employee to aid each business in retaining its employment level. In addition, to increase the employment rate of new graduates, the Government rolled out a co-payment subsidy program for employers to pay new graduates' monthly salaries.

Apart from the government's various measures, we, employers, do not sit idly by. We do not want to "*leave no one behind*"; businesses must survive, and so do our workers. During this difficult time, we have made every effort possible to ensure our workers' adequate working conditions and reasonable welfare. To guarantee a healthy and safe work environment, most employers routinely provide free rapid antigen test kits, and ensure that their employees receive fair medical treatments through health insurance and social security programs. Furthermore, we, Employers' Confederation of Thai Business, encourage our members, who have to lay off their people, to provide fair compensation and reasonable severance package for those laid off.

It's not just the economy, multiple outbreaks and lockdowns have transformed the way people work. Most businesses adopt a work-from-home policy. Drawing a line between working hours and employees' personal life has become more critical issue. We try to ensure that no one work beyond their regular office hours without being paid. It is our responsibility, as employers, to help our workers thrive this difficult time together by offering technical and well-being assistances as well as ensuring that the employees' rights are protected.

Nowadays, it seems that the pandemic is ending soon. Thailand is expected to move towards a full reopening of the tourism sector. We have prepared to recover and build back better from the pandemic. Employment level in each industry should increase, especially in tourism sector. Therefore, we must equip our workers to be ready for the world after the pandemic by up-skilling and re-skilling them, whereas creating a quality of work environment.

In addition, apart from workers in our country, we have also concerned about workers in neighboring countries. As many Thai companies operate businesses in our neighboring countries, such as; Cambodia, Laos PDR, and Myanmar, therefore, we also encourage all those Thai companies to conduct their businesses in accordance with the ILO's standards. The Employers' Confederation of Thai Business provides guidelines requesting cooperation from Thai companies to not expect only profits, but also value quality of life and labor rights of those workers.

However, this would not be possible without help from the Government and the participation of employers and employees. We believe that the tripartite framework could assure the sustainable growth of economy, flourish businesses and protect the rights of workers.

Thank You

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