

Meeting of Focal Specialists on International Labour Migration Statistics in ASEAN

Pullman Pattaya Hotel G, Pattaya, 27 June 2014

Conclusions and recommendations

The Meeting of Focal Specialists on International Labour Migration Statistics in ASEAN was able to brief focal specialists on the progress of Phase I (pilot phase) of the ILMS Database and initial analysis of data; present and share countries' experiences of data collection; identify national capacity-building needs; and discuss strategies to ensure data collection is more harmonised, consistent and accurate in the future.

Phase II of ILMS – Timeline and content

1. Meeting participants supported the continuation of the ILMS and agreed to participate in Phase II of the ILMS database, to be conducted in 2014.
2. Phase II of ILMS database will begin on June 30 2014. The 7-week data collection period will be closed on Monday 18 August 2014.
3. The data tables for Phase II were presented in Session 1 of the meeting and are attached in Annex 1.
4. ILO will continue to liaise with the labour migration data focal specialists nominated during Phase I. In addition to the focal specialists nominated during Phase I, meeting participants will be included in relevant communications.
5. Phase II will collect data for eight time-periods (2006-2013) and older data if available, comparable and consistent, as well as data that was not submitted during Phase I.
6. Data from Phase I and Phase II of the ILMS will be uploaded to ILOSTAT and will also be made available on AP Migration (www.apmigration.ilo.org) and shared with ASEAN Secretariat. The ILO will produce a publication based on data collected in Phase I and Phase II.

Training and capacity building needs

7. Challenges were identified in the areas of harmonization of data definitions, financing of surveys, questionnaire design, and capturing data on irregular migration.
8. Training and capacity building needs were identified in the areas of information sharing across agencies and countries, questionnaire design (e.g. for Labour Force Surveys) and administrative data collection forms, development of a Labour Market Information System template (related to data on labour migration); and exchange of lessons learnt from the other regions, including the European Union, Australia, among others.
9. Further discussion on identified training and capacity building needs per country will be pursued.

Regional cooperation and sustaining the ILMS Database

Collection, analysis and sharing of labour migration data are a priority for AMS, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the ILO, as emphasised in recommendations made at global and regional migration dialogues¹. The meeting recognized the need for regional cooperation and a strategy to sustain the ILMS Database.

10. ASEAN Secretariat supports the initiative of the ILMS and encourages all ASEAN MS to actively participate in the ILMS Database, including Phase II.
11. Meeting participants supported the creation of an ASEAN Taskforce on Labour Migration Data Compilation, as iterated in the Recommendations of the 1st Meeting of ILMS Focal Specialists and at the 6th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour.
12. ILO will develop an ILMS Database Manual to guide future ILMS database processes. This Manual will include, where appropriate (i) review of procedures of Phase I and II of the ILMS; (ii) guide to sources for labour migration data for each table of the ILMS; (iii) compilation of internationally accepted definitions used in the ILMS; among others.
13. Recommend inclusion of the ILO Migration Module in Labour Force Surveys, including questions on place of birth and country of citizenship².
14. Recommend harmonization of national administrative records with national codes that are aligned with international standards for industry (ISIC), occupation (ISCO), and education (ISEC), to the greatest level of detail possible e.g. at the four-digit level.

¹ High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, Global Forum on Migration and Development, ILO Technical Tripartite Meeting on Labour Migration, ILO International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Cebu Declaration, Recommendations of the 6th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour.

² For further information, please see:

http://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/migmain.showPractice?p_lang=en&p_practice_id=42