



**ASEAN**  
THAILAND 2019  
ADVANCING PARTNERSHIP  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY



**100**  
1919-2019  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
DECENT WORK

## **Provisional Programme**

### **The Regional Workshop to discuss the Preliminary Study Report on Decent Work Promotion in Rural Economy through Productive Growth, Local Employment Promotion, and Transition from Informal to Formal Employment 8 August 2019 The Empress Premier, Chiang Mai, Thailand**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The AEC could generate 14 million additional jobs by 2025, but the gains will not be distributed evenly across countries or sectors, or between women and men<sup>1</sup>. While new opportunities for jobs and incomes will be generated, its distribution across sectors, geographical locations and population groups will likely differ. To ensure that increasing global and intra-regional economic integration result in improved incomes and employment prospects for men and women, in urban and rural areas, appropriate policies need to be in place, including in infrastructure, education, better wages, social protection and skills recognition. Furthermore, agriculture, and in particular subsistence agriculture, will likely remain one of the largest employers, requiring investment in on-farm employment to increase productivity and incomes and in off-farm employment opportunities such as agro-processing<sup>2</sup>.

As many jobs and economic activities are located in rural areas in many ASEAN countries, including in plantations and those linked to regional supply chains, there is heightened recognition that labour protective policies and instruments need to be applied in both urban and rural work environments. Furthermore, much of the rural employment has been perceived to be informal in nature, lacking legal and social protections.

The commitment to rural employment promotion is reflected in the Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment to Formal Employment towards Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN which was approved during the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summit in September 2016. The Declaration upholds the fundamental principles of decent work, encourages South-South cooperation and fosters intra-ASEAN learning on relevant issues regarding formalization, with special attention also to rural employment. The Declaration is followed up with a Regional Action Plan focusing on knowledge sharing and learning among ASEAN Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> ILO-ADB, 2014. ASEAN Community 2015: Managing Integration for better jobs and shared prosperity

<sup>2</sup> ILO-ADB, 2015. Will the AEC support Lao PDR's goal to overcome least developed status? Lao PDR's Country Brief, March. See also ILO, ADB, 2015. ASEAN community 2015: Managing integration for better jobs and shared prosperity, ADB and ILO 2014.

As ASEAN represents a heterogeneous group, within ASEAN Member States, there is a rich set of experiences and successes that can be shared. As a first step, the first technical workshop was held in Pakse, Lao PDR, on 13-15 December 2017 to share information on informal employment situations, experiences in addressing the challenges of informality among the AMS, and to identify common areas of research that can strengthen current policy efforts. The common thematic interest in information and knowledge encompassed “decent work promotion through productivity growth, local employment promotion, and transition from informal to formal employment”, to be led by Lao PDR with ILO’s support. The study is planned in the Regional Action Plan to implement the Vientiane Declaration.

The country case studies to be covered by this study include Indonesia, Lao PDR and Thailand. The regional study will synthesize the findings from these case studies, as well as other existing well known case studies in the AMS on instances of successful rural economic transformation and employment generation. The consultants had been identified in early 2019 for the national case studies and the regional study. The studies need to be finalized before end 2019. On 27-28 June 2019, a second technical meeting was organized in Bangkok to shape the study. The meeting involved participation of the ASEAN regional technical team for the study, representatives from ACE and ATUC, national consultants from Thailand and Indonesia, regional consultant from Viet Nam, and the ASEAN secretariat. The content and the outline of the regional report, as well as the country case studies, had been discussed with some depth. The consultant who had been identified for Lao PDR could not participate due to another engagement with the ILO. The preliminary draft of the studies were presented, discussed and reviewed. The current proposed workshop is to discuss and review the first draft of the study, including all the national case studies and the regional report.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. Present the draft regional and national case studies to the regional technical team, SLOM-WG focal points, Chairs of SOMSWD, SOMRDE and SOM-AMAF, ILO, ASEAN Secretariat, and representatives from ACE and ATUC.
2. Review and discuss the first draft, to identify areas that could be highlighted or analyzed in more details and to suggest how the draft studies need to be enhanced.
3. Agree on the next steps.

This will be a technical workshop, and the exchange of ideas and inputs is expected to be done in an open and straightforward manner.

## **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The expected outcomes of the meeting include:

1. Provision of a clear direction to the regional and the national consultants in revising and finalizing the studies.
2. An agreement on the way forward with the study, including continued exchange among the research consultants.

## PARTICIPANTS

- SLOM-WG focal points
- Chair of SOMRDPE
- Chair of SOMSWD
- Chair of SOM-AMAF
- Lao PDR and Thailand as leads of this study
- National coordinators/focal points for the study
- National and regional consultants engaged to conduct the study
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- ASEAN Secretariat
- ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE)
- ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC)

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

| Time             | Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08.30 – 09.00 am | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 09.00 – 09.15 am | <b>Opening Session</b><br>- Welcome Remark of High Level Officials from MOL, Thailand (project coordinator)<br>- Welcome Remark of ILO                                                                                                                    |
| 09.15 – 09.25 am | Group photo session                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 09.25 – 09.40 am | <b>Summary of the Technical Workshop, 27-28 June 2019, Bangkok</b><br>Speaker: ILO                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 09.40 – 10.30 am | <b>Regional Study on Rural Employment: Methodology and Preliminary Draft Report</b><br>Dr. Vo Tri Thanh, CIEM, Viet Nam<br>Moderator: ILO<br>Q&A                                                                                                          |
| 10.30 – 10.45 am | Refreshment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10.45 – 12.00 pm | - <b>Group Discussion on the Preliminary Draft Regional Study Report</b><br>- What is not clear?<br>- What is missing?<br>- What needs to be revised or updated?<br>- What can be enriched by more information?<br>- Group Presentation<br>Moderator: ILO |
| 12.00 – 13.30 pm | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                  | <b>Overview of the Draft National Case Study Reports</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| <b>Time</b>       | <b>Activities</b>                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13.30 – 15.00- pm | - Indonesia: Dr. Unggul Heriqbaldi<br>- Lao PDR: Dr. Chansathith Chaleunsinh<br>- Thailand: TDRI [Dr. Yongyuth Chalamwong]<br>Moderator: ILO |
| 15.00 – 15.30 pm  | Group discussion                                                                                                                             |
| 15.30 – 16.00 pm  | <b>Group Presentation + Recap</b><br><b>Moderator : ILO</b>                                                                                  |
| 16.00 – 16.40 pm  | <b>Overview on the Linkages between Country Case Studies and Regional Study Report</b><br>Moderator: ILO                                     |
| 16.40 – 16.50 pm  | <b>Recommendations and Next Steps</b><br>Moderator: Lao PDR and Thailand as the leads                                                        |
| 16.50 – 17.00 pm  | <b>Closing Session</b><br>- Closing Remark by High Level Officials from Lao PDR (Head of Delegate SLOM WG)                                   |