

Comparability Assessment Workshop on Mutual Recognition of Skills for Bricklaying and Plastering

Collaboration between Thailand and Cambodia

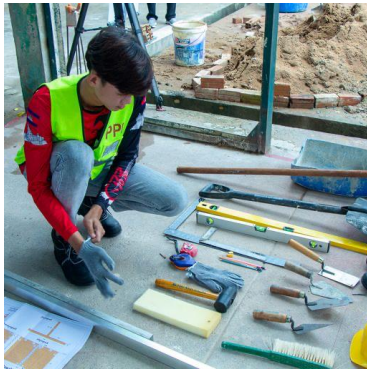
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National Technical Training Institute (NTTI)

Summary

The free flow of skilled migrant workers has been an aspiration of ASEAN and continues to be acknowledged as one of the key regional initiatives in promoting skills recognition in the region. The mutual recognition of skills (MRS) initiative, which was conceptualized and launched by ILO in support of ASEAN's agenda and funded by the Government of Korea, was delayed during the COVID-19 pandemic and currently back in full swing. The former ILO Director-General asserted, at the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting of the ILO, that *"more than ever, workers are getting by on informal work, in jobs that provide little in the way of protection and security, therefore, it is important to provide an environment where everyone will have access to and equal share in the benefits of future, human-centred growth"*.

Now that we are all living with COVID-19 and as economies are trying to regain momentum, we are witnessing some job recovery, including the redeployment of migrant workers who initially returned home from job losses. Therefore, no time is more critical than now to allow the free flow of skilled workers within ASEAN in order to regain stability and shared prosperity within the region. Thanks to the ongoing support from the ILO/Korea Partnership Programme, the MRS initiative was able to attain a significant milestone in this ambitious and critical endeavour.

In January, a group of experts from the Department of Skill Development in Thailand, along with officials from the ILO, travelled to Cambodia to attend a comparability assessment workshop to further the discussions on the comparability of the skill standard for assessment and certification for bricklaying and plastering between Thailand and Cambodia. The technical experts from these two countries have had multiple in-person and online meetings prior to this workshop in order to gain insight on the components of the skill standard for assessment and certification for both counterparts. The specific purpose of this latest workshop, which marks the final stages of the MRS pilot implementation, is to compare assessment procedures and quality assurance measures by enabling the Thai delegation to witness the live demonstration of the assessment.



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After 5 days of intense discussions, including 1 full day of live demonstrations, it has been agreed that technical experts from Cambodia and Thailand will meet again on 22-24 February in Cambodia to clarify the proposed amendments to the relevant procedures for marking scheme methodology and the drawing design for the practical test, after which all the components of the competency assessment would be deemed comparable.

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