



Regional Conference on the Labor Dimensions of Trafficking in the ASEAN Region

27 – 29th January 2015

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Regional Conference on the Labour Dimensions of Trafficking in the ASEAN Region was held on the 27 – 29th January 2015, Sofitel Plaza Hotel, Manila, Philippines. The meeting was guided by the commitments of the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) for the protection of migrant workers and their families and the elimination of trafficking in persons. In the spirit of creating a common and sustained dialogue on trafficking in persons for labour exploitation and initiating a cross-sectoral dialogue, the conference was hosted by the Department of Justice and Department of Labor and Employment, Republic of the Philippines, with support of the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the International Labour Organization.

These recommendations shall be submitted for consideration by the Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) and the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) in the furtherance of cross-sectoral collaboration to address trafficking in persons for labour exploitation.

The conference recommends:

1. Through the assistance of the ASEAN Secretariat, further collaboration among SOMTC and SLOM and their respective working groups, as well as with entities associated with the ASEAN, regional and international organizations working on the issues of forced labour, which includes but not limited to: trade unions and employers' organizations, ASEAN OSHNet, ASEAN Labour Inspection Forum, ASEAN Working Group on Progressive Labour Practices to Enhance the Competitiveness of ASEAN; and encouraged further coordination with regional consultative processes, including the Bali Process, Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue and ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour. This collaboration should also include civil society organizations.
2. Progress in drafting of the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons and Instrument on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and encourages relevant agencies of the Governments of ASEAN Member States to expedite their promulgation adoption and implementation, taking into consideration recommendations made at this conference.



3. Development of a usable and mutually agreed upon regional employers' database on forced labour and trafficking in persons to include any persons or organizations with cases filed against them, and those convicted of trafficking in persons and labour related offenses, with due consideration to the International Labour Migration Statistics Database set up by the ACMW.
4. Development of a biometric identification system to (i) ensure proper identification and registration of migrant workers recruited, to (ii) support development of a regional database of migrant workers, and to (iii) address the issue of forging documents and placement of underage workers.
5. Develop ASEAN common regional indicators, practices, standards and criteria for identification of labour trafficking victims, with due consideration of existing standards such as the ILO Indicators on Forced Labour and other indicators related to Trafficking in Persons.
6. Greater synergy and collaboration between law enforcement and labour administrators, including labour inspectors and other stakeholders. This can be achieved through: (i) joint capacity building activities; (ii) the staging of collaborative fora, including participation at the Heads of Specialised Unit Meetings and the ASEAN Labour Inspection Conference. These capacity building activities and joint fora should involve the participation of trade unions, employers' organizations and civil society.
7. Provide a comprehensive victim support, which will encompass shelter, counselling, reintegration, skills and livelihood training, the right to work, legal assistance in the prosecution of offenders, and other services needed by victims.
8. Consider setting up a regional ASEAN Victim Aid fund, to provide victims of forced labour and labour trafficking legal advice and pursue civil complaints for compensation, when appropriate.

The participants expressed their thanks to the organizers and chairs of the meeting for convening this successful meeting and their warm hospitality.

The participants adopted the recommendations on 29 January 2015, 10.45AM