



International
Labour
Organization

Concept Note

Sub-regional meeting to validate findings of the Migrant Welfare Fund Feasibility Study conducted in Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos

Vientiane, Lao PDR
May 26 - 27, 2015

I. Background

The ILO ASEAN TRIANGLE Project has identified the need to strengthen its activities in the area of labour migration and skills recognition to assist CLM(V) countries in line with the Initiatives for ASEAN Integration (IAI) launched in 2000 at the fourth ASEAN Informal Summit held in Singapore. The IAI aims to support and accelerate the economic integration of the newest ASEAN Member States. In this regard, the ILO hosted a CLM Sub-regional Workshop on 18 September 2014 in Bangkok to develop the CLM Work Plan on labour migration and skills. The CLM workplan is based on the outcome of this sub-regional meeting and covers four areas of interest as indicated by the CLM countries. These are:

1. International labour migration data collection, analysis and sharing
2. Bilateral agreements/MoUs
3. A feasibility study on a welfare fund programme
4. Strengthening the labour attache attaché programme

The Government of Lao PDR has agreed to be the lead for the third component of the CLM workplan “A feasibility study on welfare fund programme” and is therefore the host of this meeting. Under component 3, Activity 3.1 of the workplan called for: **“A feasibility study on the establishment of the migrant welfare fund, followed by a validation workshop”**.

The feasibility study was conducted between April 2014 – January 2015. A lead consultant from the Philippines guided the work of national consultants in Cambodia, Laos PDR and Myanmar. This study documents the current welfare programmes and services available to migrant workers in these three countries, and identifies the needs and gaps in the provision of migrant welfare programmes and services. Further, it analyses whether the target countries have sufficient knowledge, structural, political, financial, and legal capacities in their current labour migration governance systems that are pre-requisites towards establishing migrant welfare fund programmes. Moreover, the report provides recommendations on the actions that must be taken, and the partnerships/coordination mechanisms that must be forged by Cambodia, Laos PDR and Myanmar in order to develop appropriate migrant welfare fund systems.

II. Objectives

In order to guide the finalisation of the study, a sub-regional validation workshop will be convened to discuss its findings and to agree on next steps.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. Disseminate and validate the findings of the national level components of the study;
2. Disseminate and validate the study findings and the blueprint for the establishment of a migrant welfare fund;
3. To identify pilot initiatives to implement the blueprint.

III. Participants

Participants will include government representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar.

Government representatives from Philippines, Indonesia and Viet Nam will be asked to share their experiences. Participants will include

- 2 government representatives each from Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar (6)
- 2 government representatives from Philippines and Viet Nam (4)
- Additional local participants from the Government of Lao PDR (6)
- Lead consultant and national consultants (4)
- ILO ASEAN TRIANGLE Project representatives (3)
- ILO Lao PDR Office representatives (2)

IV. Venue and date

The meeting will be held at the Lao Plaza Hotel on 26 - 27 May 2015 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

V. Financial support and logistics

Financial support will be provided by the ILO ASEAN TRIANGLE Project. The meeting will be hosted by the Government of Lao PDR.

VI. Outputs

The output of this meeting will be the validated feasibility study and blueprint for the development of a Migrant Welfare Fund in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. The Participants will be asked to identify pilot initiatives to implement the blueprint for a migrant welfare fund in each country.