

**First Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening the Role of
ASEAN Labour Attachés in Singapore**

26 April 2016

Orchard Hotel, Singapore

Conclusions and Recommendations

The First Capacity Building Workshop on Strengthening the Role of ASEAN Labour Attachés in Singapore was convened on the 26 April 2016 at the Orchard Hotel, Singapore. The Workshop, jointly organized by the ILO ASEAN TRIANGLE Project and the Philippine Overseas Labour Office (POLO) of the Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore, brought together labour attachés and relevant consular officials from the Embassies of five ASEAN Member States (AMS)¹. The Workshop was organized as part of ILO's capacity building program for ASEAN labour attachés as a means of enhancing the services for migrant workers from ASEAN countries who are now in major destination countries in the region, namely Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. The Workshop was also attended by ILO representatives and officials from the Singapore Ministry of Manpower (MOM), as observers.

The Workshop was opened with messages delivered by H.E. Ambassador Antonio Morales of the Embassy of the Philippines and ILO Senior Program Officer and Project Coordinator of ASEAN TRIANGLE Project (ATP) Manuel Imson. During the meeting, participants: (1) received updates on labour migration trends in the ASEAN; (2) discussed the current services and programs they offer to migrant workers; (3) shared data on migrant workers from each destination country now employed in Singapore; and (4) discussed key issues and challenges faced by migrant workers.

At the end of the Workshop, the participants considered the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. Acknowledged the importance of labour migration in ASEAN.
2. Welcomed the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, which reaffirms the need to respect, protect and promote fundamental freedoms for all and recognizes the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development.
3. Acknowledged the important role of labour attachés and relevant consular officials in extending protection and support programmes to migrant workers.

¹ Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

4. Reaffirmed the value of regular meetings among ASEAN labour attaches and related consular officials in Singapore as a means of promoting better and more coherent understanding about labour migration, including issues relating to the services and protection of migrant workers.
5. Agreed to consider the following modalities for future meetings:
 - a. Holding the meeting at least once a year. The next meeting to be convened in the first quarter of 2017;
 - b. Designating a coordinator for each meeting from among its members;²
 - c. Continued technical support by ILO and, where necessary, other relevant agencies;
 - d. Adoption of the following themes for the next meeting:
 - i. Protection of migrant workers.
 - ii. Issue of minimum wage.

Meeting participants expressed appreciation to the ILO ASEAN TRIANGLE Project, funded by the Government of Canada, and the Philippine Overseas Labour Office of the Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore for co-organizing this Workshop.

Report of the meeting

It was agreed that the report of this Workshop will be distributed to all participants by the ILO in and will be uploaded in the ASEAN TRIANGLE Project's website:

http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/projects/WCMS_413795/lang--en/index.htm.

² The Workshop agreed to adopt the suggestion of Lao PDR delegate, that future Coordinators for these meetings should follow the ASEAN Chairmanship. In this regard, it was proposed that the 2017 meeting be co-chaired by Lao PDR and the Philippines (current and incoming ASEAN Chairs, respectively) subject to final confirmation from both sides.