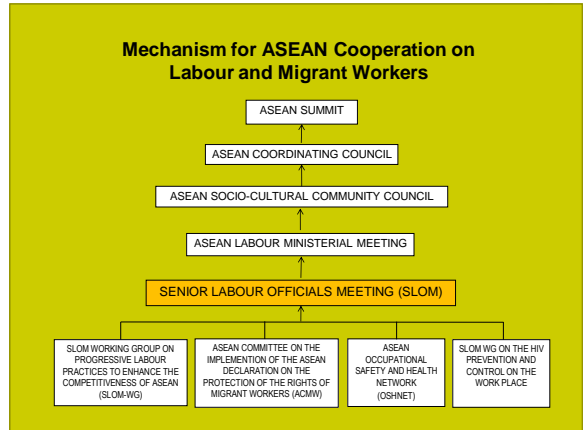


ASEAN PRIORITIES IN LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

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*Regional Social Dialogue for Growth, Employment and Sound Industrial Relations in the Service Sector: 1
Sharing Experiences from ASEAN and EU, 31 March – 1 April 2010, Ha Noi.*



ASEAN Frameworks for Cooperation in Labour and Migrant Workers

- ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (Jan 2007)
- ASEAN Commitments on HIV and AIDS (Jan 2007)
- Cooperation Agreement between ASEAN Secretariat and ILO (March 2007)
- ALM 's Work Programme 2005-2010
- ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint (March 2009)
- ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint (Nov 2007)

Human Resources Development

Priority areas

(i) Employment generation/HRD in the context of globalisation

Objectives:

- To formulate strategies that enhance job creation and promote employment in all ASEAN countries;
- To facilitate and enhance the capability of AMSs to find ways of generating employment; and
- To formulate region-wide strategies that promote ASEAN cooperation in the generation of employment opportunities.

Human Resources Development

Selected activities (i)

- ASEAN HR Summit (1st Summit, 22 Oct 2008, Singapore; 2nd Summit, May 2010, Ha Noi)
- ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Programme for Strengthening the Basis of Human Resources Development in CLMV Countries-Phase II (2008-2011)
- ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Youth Entrepreneurship, Nov 2007

Human Resources Development

Priority areas

(ii) HRD planning and labour market monitoring

Objectives:

- To train HRD planning staff of AMS to monitor and amend the HRD strategy in keeping with changes in technology and world trade;
- To promote the development of a regional capacity for analysis of common labour market and HRD issues and for training of manpower and HRD planners

Human Resources Development



Selected activities (ii)

- ASEAN-ILO Technical Workshop on Labour Market Statistics, October 2007, Putrajaya, Malaysia
- Workshop on Labour Market Information and Analysis in ASEAN countries, 2-4 March 2010, Bandar Seri Begawan

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Priority areas

(iii) Enhancing labour mobility

Objectives:

- To ensure the availability of competent and skilled manpower through better HRD strategies and plans;
- To promote better mobility of labour through the establishment of networks of professional accreditation bodies as part of a larger strategy to enhance labour market flexibility in the region;
- To promote faster integration of CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam) members into the ASEAN; and
- To enhance the capability of AMS to cope with economic downturns by information exchanges and best practices.

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Selected activities (iii)

- Enhancing Skills Recognition Systems in ASEAN (2004-2008)
- Programme on Overseas Employment Administration for CLMV
- Development of ASEAN Common Standard Curriculum (ACSC): International Trade and Basic Electronics
- ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS)

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Priority areas

(iv) Strengthening social security/social protection

Objectives:

- To put together national systems of social protection or social risk management that build upon local strengths and existing formal and informal mechanisms;
- To establish mechanisms that reduce the probability of a downside risk during times of economic downturns; and
- To establish mechanisms that decrease or cushion the potential impact of a future crisis as well as relieve the impact of the crisis once it has occurred.

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Selected activities (iv)

- Seminar on Strengthening Social Protection Systems in ASEAN-The Way Forward, 18-20 August 2008, Kuala Lumpur
- ASEAN-China High Level Seminars on Social Security (2001-2006)
- Development of Country Profiles on Social Security Systems (on going)

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Priority areas

(v) Strengthening tripartite co-operation

Objectives:

- To promote tripartite co-operation as a measure as a means of advancing democracy and human rights issues as well as bring about social cohesion, peace and security;
- To encourage the use of tripartite cooperation as a vital mode of arriving at policy decisions for social and economic development in an era of liberalised trade and freer flow of communication;
- To encourage of the use of tripartite co-operation in resolving disputes and arriving at peaceful solutions; and
- To strengthen the social partners, institutions, processes and mechanisms involved in the promotion of tripartite cooperation.

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Selected activities (v)

- ASEAN-ILO Workshop on Core International Labour Standards, 22-25 Sep 2008, Singapore
- ASEAN-Japan Programme on Industrial Relations-Phase III (2008-2010)
- ASEAN Seminar on Tripartism and Social Dialogue and Measures to Address the Economic Downturn, 30 November – 1 December 2009, Singapore
- ASEAN Guidelines on Good IR Practices (in the process of finalisation)

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Human Resources Development



Priority areas

(vi) Strengthening of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Capacities and Standards in ASEAN

Objectives:

- To promote the understanding of ASEAN on OSH management systems
- To assist the implementation of the PoA on National OSH Framework

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Human Resources Development



Selected activities (vi)

- Development of an ASEAN OSH-MS Guidance for Small Enterprises (on-going)
- Project on Developing Best Practices in OSH Inspections in CLMV (2007-2009)
- ASEAN-OSHNET Workshop on Good Occupational Safety and Health Practices, 18-19 February 2009
- ASEAN-OHSNET Workshop on Effective Implementation of National Promotional Frameworks for Occupational Safety and Health, 12-14 May 2008, Ha Noi

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Human Resources Development



Priority areas

(vii) Promotion and Protection of Migrant Workers in ASEAN

Aim:

- to promote fair and appropriate employment protection, payment of wages, and adequate access to decent working and living conditions for migrant workers

Four areas of concern:

- protection of migrant workers against exploitation, discrimination and violence; labour migration governance; and fights against trafficking in persons.

Major undertaking:

- Development of an ASEAN instrument on the protection and promotion of migrant workers

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Human Resources Development



ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS): brief progress on MRA

- Launched by **ASEAN Economic Ministers** at the 5th ASEAN Summit, 15 Dec 1995
- The AFAS is aimed at substantially eliminating restrictions to trade in trade services among ASEAN Member States in order to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of ASEAN services suppliers.
- It provides the broad guidelines or AMSs to progressively improve market access and ensure equal national treatment for services suppliers among AMSs.

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Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)

- At the 7th Summit (Bandar Seri Begawan, 5 Nov 2001), ASEAN Leaders mandated the start of negotiations of MRA to facilitate the flow of professional services under AFAS
- An MRA enables professional service providers registered/certified in its signatory countries to be equally recognised in other signatory countries
- MRA does not warrant unrestricted free flow of foreign professionals, relevant domestic regulations and market demand still applies.

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Concluded MRAs in ASEAN

- Engineering Services
- Nursing Services
- Architectural Services
- Surveying Qualifications
- Accountancy Services
- Medical Practitioners
- Dental Practitioners



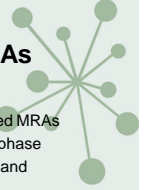
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Implementation of ASEAN MRAs

- ASEAN is now focusing on implementing all signed MRAs
- Typical processes in implementation preparation phase
 - setting up implementing committee and its rules and procedures
 - Setting up secretariat for implementation
 - Establish recognition/assessment mechanism
 - Compilation of related domestic rules and regulations
- Typical processes in implementation phase:
 - Review of recognised institutions
 - Review of applicants
 - Establish work programme



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Thank you



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