



## **Introduction to ASETUC: Its relations with ASEAN/CSOs**





# Purpose of ASEAN

- ❖ To promote **a people-oriented** ASEAN in which ***all sectors of society*** are encouraged to participate in, and benefit from, the process of ASEAN integration and community building.



# ASEAN Community

- A community, to be established by 2015, comprising three pillars, namely:
  - ASEAN Political and Security Community (APSC)
  - ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)
  - ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC)
- The **three pillars** are **mutually reinforcing** for the purpose of ensuring durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region.



# ASEAN's Relations with CSO

- Article 16 of the ASEAN Charter: ASEAN may engage ***with entities which support the ASEAN Charter***, in particular its purposes and principles.
- The rules of procedure and criteria for engagement shall be prescribed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) upon recommendation of the Secretary-General of ASEAN.



“ASEAN needs the support of **civil society** to facilitate the transformation of ASEAN into a people-oriented organisation.”

*Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, SG of ASEAN (East Asia Pacific World Bank-CSO Regional Workshop, Jakarta, 20 June 2008)*

Global  
Union  
Federation



Partnership Industrial Relation

Partner Organisation **Global Level**

**ILO**

**ADB**

**G 20**

**ASEAN Level**



**ASEAN**



## Key Issues on the Establishment of A Partnership with a CSO

- Would the partnership contribute to the ASEAN's **main goals and objectives**?
- Do we share **mutual interest** and **establish trust**?
- Does the CSO uphold **ASEAN principles and processes** (e.g. independence & sovereignty, non-interference, non-discrimination, consensus building etc.)
- Can we establish **constructive dialogues**?
- Would each **ASEAN Member State** be comfortable **with the CSO**?



# ASETUC Objectives

- ❖ To anticipate and identify **emerging trends and concerns in the liberalization of services** under the ASEAN Economic Blueprint.
- ❖ To identify and **promote best practices** among ASEAN-based employers in order to give them due recognition.
- ❖ To promote **harmonious and cooperative relations between workers and employers** in the ASEAN through meaningful social dialogue.



## ASETUC Objectives (cont'd)

- ❖ To propagate the **social partnership** approach to union-employer relationship in order to promote decent work, productivity and competitiveness.
- ❖ To actively engage its member-unions to adopt the philosophy of **social dialogue** that recognize common interests of employers and employees in shaping the ongoing regional integration process.



# ASETUC Sector Trade Union Council

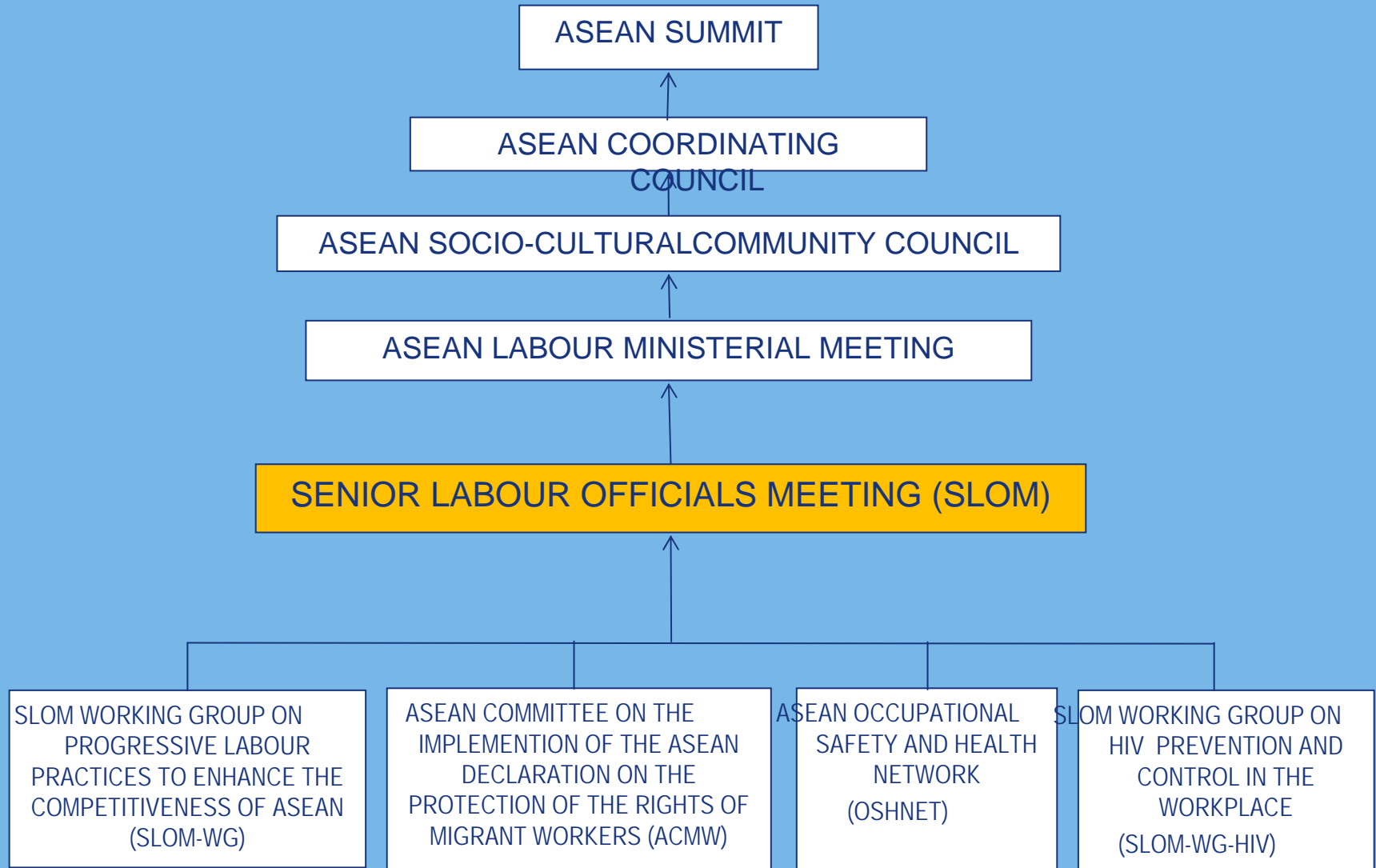
- ❖ Construction Employees' Unions Council
- ❖ Forestry Workers' Employees' Council
- ❖ Financial Employees' Unions Council
- ❖ Commerce Employees' Unions Council
- ❖ Postal and Logistic Employees' Unions Council
- ❖ Telecommunications Employees' Unions Council
- ❖ Migrant Workers Council
- ❖ Occupational Health and Safety Council



# ASETUC Issues

- ❖ Trade liberalization under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS),
- ❖ Labour migration and the rights of migrant workers,
- ❖ ASEAN Framework Instrument on the Promotion and Protection of Migrant Workers and
- ❖ ASEAN occupational safety and health (OSH).

# Organisational Chart of the ASEAN Cooperation on Labour and Migrant Workers





# ASETUC Achievements

- ❖ Completed an initiative **research studies** about “ASEAN Economic Integration and its Impacts on Workers and Trade Unions” in Finance-, Healthcare and Construction-Sectors.
- ❖ Presented the research findings to Member-Trade Unions and ASEAN bodies on 23 – 24 October in Bangkok, Thailand, where the workshop **initiated sector social dialogue on ASEAN level** among Trade Unions, Employers’ Organizations and ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM), which successfully gain the support from ASEAN Secretariat.



## ASETUC Achievements (con't)

- ❖ ASETUC under its component Global Union Federations (GUFs) advocates for the rights of migrant workers, serving as an **organizing centre, resource centre, help centre and advocacy** in various countries of origin and destinations.
- ❖ Convened a joint conference with **ASEAN OSHNET** and NIOSH entitled – Empowering Workers to Prevent Workplace Accidents – on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2007, where concrete and practicable proposals were presented and deliberated.



# Core Strategy

- Develop **confidence and build trust** with ASEAN employers and governments to promote the ASEAN road map on decent work.
- ASETUC **accreditation** and **coordination** with the ASEAN Secretariat as the inclusive voice of ASEAN workers, especially in sectoral and industry concerns, during regional meetings and conferences.
- Organize and provide resources for an **ASETUC think tank**.
- Define a focused agenda, and strengthen **ASETUC capacity** for sustained, organized dialogue with ASEAN employers and governments.



## ASETUC as an entity associated with ASEAN

- ❖ Business and professional organizations, and civil society groups are accredited with ASEAN, but worker organizations and unions are not.
- ❖ *Strategy:* **ASETUC formally process accreditation with the ASEAN Secretariat as an “entity associated with ASEAN”** *Chapter V, Art. 16 of ASEAN Charter*



## Highlights of the Affiliation (cont)

Applications for CSO affiliation:

- shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of ASEAN.
- If the ASEAN Secretariat considers the application in conformity with the Guidelines, ***it shall be referred to the appropriate link body.***
- When an appropriate link body cannot be identified, the ASEAN National Secretariats, for their views.
- Unless there is an objection, the application shall be submitted to the ***ASEAN Standing Committee*** for its consideration.



## Some Privileges of an Affiliated CSO

- It may use the name “ASEAN” and display the official ASEAN emblem;
- It may submit written statement or recommendations;
- It may submit project proposals for Third Party funding, to be channeled through the ASEAN Secretariat; and
- It may attend meetings of ASEAN bodies for consultation on matters and issues of direct concern to the CSO.



**Social dialogue** on ASEAN regional integration calls for an “**ASEAN Labor – Industry Project Committee on Worker Concerns**” to focus on urgent sectors: finance / banking services, health services, telecom and construction.



## 3 Latest Regional Event of ASETUC

- ❖ ASETUC Workshop on ASEAN Economic Integration and Its Impact on Trade Unions and Workers, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Bangkok, Thailand
- ❖ ASETUC/FES Evaluation and Planning: "From Thailand to Vietnam: the Significant Footstep to Successful ASEAN Integration, 16-18 December, Hanoi, Vietnam
- ❖ Regional Social Dialogue for Growth, Employment and Sound Industrial Relations in the Services Sector: Sharing Experiences from ASEAN and the EU, Hanoi, Vietnam, 31 March - 1 April 2010



# ASETUC Workshop on ASEAN Economic Integration and Its Impact on Trade Unions and Workers, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

- ❖ Assessment Study: ASEAN Economic Integration and its Impact on Workers and Trade Unions  
(Construction, Healthcare, Finance and Telecom Sector)
- ❖ Joint Communique:
  - ASEAN Govt to support the engagement of both employers and trade unions to commit to work together by facilitating social dialogue between employers and trade union participations in the various ASEAN Forums
  - Continue the research oriented direction as a think-tank contributor, we would urge ASEAN community to be engaged with our finding in the future as a foundation for better dialogues
  - ASEC to support and assist in the accreditation process of ASETUC



**Regional Social Dialogue for Growth, Employment and Sound Industrial Relations in the Services Sector: Sharing Experiences from ASEAN and the EU, Hanoi, Vietnam, 31 March - 1 April 2010**

- ❖ The participants agreed that ASEAN should promote social dialogue particularly trade unions and employers representatives in the ASEAN decision-making process and in regional integration. Constructive and serious social dialogue will facilitate social cohesion and reinforce social partnership and people's solidarity for the building of an ASEAN community.



Need for an ASETUC **think tank**, with support from global and national unions to think about concerns and issues, prepare studies, develop strategies and training for ASEAN workers and unions.

→ Structure

→ Mobilize support from donors through **project proposals**.

→ Help **improve, update** union positions and statements for discussion & negotiations with ASEAN business & government leaders → **heavy task** → cope with rapid changes going on.

→ **Way to gain new respect from business, govt & the public.**



**Thank you**



**ASEAN SERVICE EMPLOYEES TRADE UNION COUNCIL**