

Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN TRIANGLE Project)



AT A GLANCE

→ Partners

Tripartite constituents in ASEAN member States, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC), ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE)

→ Donor

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

→ Duration

2012-2016

→ Target beneficiaries

Governments, workers' and employers' organizations (including ACMW, ACE, ATUC), male and female migrants and potential migrants in the ASEAN region

→ Geographical focus

Southeast Asia

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

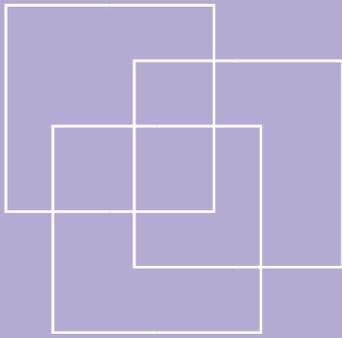
In recent years labour migration flows from and within southeast Asia have grown in volume and complexity. This trend is linked to a number of factors, including demographic changes, income disparities, human security concerns, established migrant networks and improved transport. But while migrant workers make an enormous development contribution to both their countries of origin and destination, many – particularly those with irregular status – suffer human and labour rights violations.

There is no effective, unilateral approach to international labour migration governance. Actions taken in countries of origin have fundamental consequences in destination countries and vice versa. Moreover, there is a remarkable commonality in the challenges faced by women and men migrants, service providers and governments across the region.

The TRIANGLE project aims to significantly reduce the exploitation of labour migrants in the region through increased legal and safe migration and improved labour protection. The project will promote both bilateral and regional approaches to deal with shared concerns, make regionalism more effective, and enhance the capacity of institutions in ASEAN. The project objectives are in line with the strategic priorities of the ASEAN Labour Ministers Work Programme (2010-2015).

- A stronger regional legal and policy framework to more effectively govern labour migration and protect the rights of women and men migrant workers, in a gender responsive manner.
- Enhanced capacity of governments to oversee the enforcement of labour and migration laws and regulations, in a gender responsive manner.
- Enhanced capacity of social partners to influence labour migration policy and protect the rights of women and men migrant workers.





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OUTCOMES

- Support the development of a regional legal and policy framework on labour migration that reflects good practices and rights-, age- and gender-sensitive principles drawn from international standards.
- Establish a regional age and sex-disaggregated database on migration and trafficking to guide the formulation of age and gender sensitive evidence-based migration policies.
- Enhance the capacity of governments in countries of origin to maximize the positive impact of migration on development by developing regional tools to strengthen pre-employment and pre-departure training, overseas employment administration, the support provided by labour attachés and consular officials, emigration procedures and migrant welfare funds.
- Enhance the capacity of governments in destination countries through the development of regional tools and guidelines, including on labour inspection, occupational safety and health and dispute resolution.
- Strengthen relations between and among workers' organizations in the region by facilitating cooperative agreements among trade unions and by the development of regional guidelines on the role of trade unions in formulating labour migration policies and providing services to migrant workers.
- Strengthen relations between and among employers' organizations in the region by strengthening the capacity of the ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE) to convene members on labour migration issues and formulate policies, supporting the enhancement of skills training and certification of migrant workers and developing regional tools.

ACTIVITIES

January 2015 – January 2016

- Conducted a financial literacy needs assessment of ASEAN migrant workers; developed a financial education course and capacitated migrant leaders, civil society organizations and embassy staff to conduct financial education workshops in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.
- Developed and launched the International Labour Migration Statistics Database (ILMS) that contains key labour migration collected by ASEAN member States; the ILMS may be accessed at the ILO and ASEAN websites.
- Gathered representatives of the *ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW)* and the *Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)* to discuss the labour dimensions of trafficking in persons and to develop cross-sectoral strategies to combat the issue.
- Conducted a feasibility study on developing migrant welfare programmes for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.
- Conducted a Sub-regional Workshop to Develop Migrant Welfare Programmes in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar which disseminated the findings of the feasibility study and shared good practices and lessons learned from the Philippine and Vietnamese migrant welfare systems.
- Conducted a national tripartite workshop to examine the Philippines' progress against ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML) priorities and develop recommendations for the 8th AFML.
- Developed and conducted a training course for ASEAN labour attaches on strategic negotiations and conflict management.
- Provided technical assistance to develop the ASEAN Trade Union Council's (ATUC) policy brief and position paper on the ASEAN Economic Community.

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