



Concept Note
ASEAN Meeting of Skills Focal Points
In Collaboration with the Department of Skill Development
Ministry of Labour of Thailand

The Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok Thailand
10-11 August 2015

Background information:

In close collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat, ILO has initiated the implementation of Mutual Recognition of Skills (MRS) to assist ASEAN Member States (AMS) in preparing themselves for a region with free flow of skilled labor. The MRS was initiated by the ILO as a key mobility tool for technical/ vocational skills (level 1-4) within the framework of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF). It aims to smooth out the path in the negotiation between nations and facilitate the free movement and employment of qualified and certified personnel.

Since 2012, ILO has facilitated a series of regional and national consultation meetings to push forward the implementation of MRS. These meetings were participated by SLOM focal point, Skills focal point, employers and trade unions. Through these meetings, the role of MRS in recognizing technical/vocational skills (AQRF level 1-4) has been significantly recognized and emphasized. Through the MRS process, the workers with a modest skill set can have their skills recognized within the AQRF.

The AMS have identified target member states to which they would like to have further collaboration on MRS implementation. An Action Plan was also developed in this regard. It was envisaged by all AMS that the implementation process will take time and therefore will require long-term and consistent commitment at national level. As such, it is critical to establish a mechanism to ensure that the Action Plan is implemented the follow-up activities are conducted, and the MRS process moved forward in a coherent and efficient manner.

In 2014, 7 out of 10 ASEAN member countries nominated national skills focal points to support the implementation of Mutual Recognition of Skills among ASEAN Member State. Key responsibilities of the national focal points are to coordinate national efforts and cooperate with peer agencies in other AMS in order to ensure the implementation of the MRS within the proposed timeframe.

The ILO Regional Skills Program through its Korea-funded Project on “Towards a Mutual Recognition of Skills in CLM Member States” and, in collaboration with the ILO ASEAN TRIANGLE Project (ATP) assisted the AMS, including the CLM countries, select priority sectors in which they can make their first step towards the mutual recognition of skills. For CLM, phase one of the project, which is also part of the two-year CLM capacity building program on labour migration under ATP, was initiated to guide the CLM Member States in the design and implementation of the mutual recognition of skills mechanisms through policy guidelines and directions. It is expected that the CLM countries will finalize the referencing process against the AQRF in the selected sectors by 2015.

Further, the Department of Skill Development, Ministry of Labour, Thailand has indicated their desire to provide technical assistance through capacity building activities for the CLM. Among these programmes are training of trainers and training of assessors which they hold in some of their vocational training institutions. They are developing a work plan in this regard, and will also share with the other AMS.

Project phase two for CLM will focus on continuing the assistance to CLM countries in establishing mutual-recognized qualifications mechanism in more industrial sectors.

Main objectives:

This meeting aims to bring together the Skill Focal Points of AMS and discuss on the implementation of Mutual Recognition of Skills. The meeting objective are:

1. To discuss challenges and opportunities on skills development of AEC 2015 in general and on the implementation of MRS, in particular
2. To share knowledge and updates on skills and labour programme in ASEAN countries
3. To provide feedback from country representatives on progress of Action Plans
4. To plan strategically on way forward

Timeline and Venue:

The meeting will be convened on 10 – 11 August 2015 at The Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

Participants: (approx. 30 persons)

- One Skills focal points from each ASEAN Member State Governments (10)
- One national representative from the Task Force-AQRF (10)
- One Representative from ASEAN Secretariat (1)
- Two Resource persons (2)
- ILO Representatives (5)

Expected results:

The following results are expected from this meeting:

- Updates and information on skills development and migration from AMS
- Established mechanism to monitor progress of implementation of country level programs
- Strengthened the network of skills focal point in relation to ASEAN activities and programme
- Improved/revised Action Plans