

Third technical meeting of focal specialists on international labour migration statistics in ASEAN

1-2 July 2015

Pullman Bangkok King Power Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Third Technical Meeting of Focal Specialists on International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) in ASEAN was convened on the 1-2 July at the Pullman King Power Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting brought together focal specialists from nine ASEAN Member States (AMS). Participants discussed the current progress of the ILMS Database; shared country experiences of data collection; discussed ways in which data sharing can be promoted among AMS; and validated the conclusions and recommendations of the forthcoming ASEAN TRIANGLE analytical report on international labour migration statistics in ASEAN. The meeting launched Phase III of the ILMS data collection, with agreement reached by all participants on the overall scope and process of Phase III.

Launch of Phase III of the ILMS

1. Participants expressed appreciation to the launch of the ILMS by the ILO and supported the continuation of the ILMS Database in ASEAN, including confirming their participation in Phase III of data collection in 2015.
2. Phase III of the ILMS Database will be launched with AMS on July 3 2015 and the data collection will be closed on Friday 14 August 2015.
3. The ILO re-confirmed the labour migration focal specialists officially nominated during Phases I and II. Additional focal specialists were identified for some countries. Following procedures, ILO will send a formal communication to relevant national authorities to designate a new focal specialist in cases where officers previously nominated have left their posts.
4. Once collected, validated and finalized, ATP will send the data from Phase III to the ILO Department of Statistics in Geneva for final validation, editing and coding. Subsequently, the data will be made available through ILOSTAT (www.ilo.org/ilostat) and on APMigration (<http://apmigration.ilo.org/asean-labour-migration-statistics>).

On boosting cooperation and facilitating information sharing

On working together to boost cooperation and facilitate information sharing in ASEAN, the plenary highlighted the following key points:

1. The sharing of tabulated data on international migrants' arrivals and departures can assist sending countries to compile statistics on return migration.
2. The sharing of tabulated data from sending countries could address key knowledge gaps, including those on irregular migration in ASEAN, to help sending and receiving countries understand better how to address this issue.

3. AMS should endeavor to publish their data regularly and transparently to make them available to other countries – especially online – including clear definitions and relevant information on how these were compiled and any limitations they might contain (possible double-counting, missing populations, limitations in the scope of the data, etc.) so the data will not be misinterpreted by others.
4. Using the latest available standard international classifications in collecting key variables such as education (ISCED 2011)¹, economic activity (ISIC Rev. 4)², occupation (ISCO08)³, age groupings and others can also help to ensure the data are internationally comparable as well as comparable among existing national-level sources.
5. ASEAN Member States noted the good practices of the Philippines to strengthen inter-agency coordination on labour migration statistics through appropriate legislation.
6. ASEAN Member States urged ASEAN Statistics to publish and disseminate key tables from the ILMS Database through its annual *ASEAN Statistical Yearbook*, or other relevant format, in order to complement existing data on labour markets in the ASEAN, and to disseminate the data further and make them more accessible to policymakers and other data users.
7. AMS called for continued policy dialogue on labour migration statistics, particularly on data harmonization and sharing of best practices on labour migration data collection, sharing and analysis.
8. As noted in recommendation #10 from 2013 and recommendation #11 from 2014, AMS called for the creation of an ASEAN ad hoc Technical Working Group (ATWG) consisting of all officially nominated focal specialists from AMS to support the work and aspirations of the ILMS. Said ATWG, with a rotating chair from among its members, shall convene each year with participation of at least two focal specialist from each country and with the technical support of the ILO.

Review of analytical report: “International labour migration in ASEAN: Improving data collection for evidence-based policy making”

Participants reviewed the main findings of the ILO analytical publication on the available ILMS data in ASEAN. Participants provided detailed inputs to verify and correct tables in Chapter 3 of the report. Participants discussed and supported the recommendations made. Additional comments and observations made by the participants, the details of which will be recorded in the report of meeting proceedings, will be integrated into the final report.

The analytical report will be sent to meeting participants on the 3rd July 2015 for peer review. Comments should be submitted to Heike Lautenschlager, lautenschlager@ilo.org and Marko Stermsek, stermsek@iloguest.org by the 17th July 2015.

¹ For further information, please see: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/international-standard-classification-of-education.aspx>

² For further information, please see: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/isic-4.asp>

³ For further information, please see: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/>