



**Lao PDR National Recommendations for the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour**  
**14 August 2019**

**Recommendations**

**Sub-theme 1: Challenges on Sustainable, Fair and Equal Protection**

1. Enhance capacity of tripartite and civil society stakeholders, including women's organizations, and enhance collaboration to implement and monitor overseas recruitment standards and practices.
2. Improve the quality, disaggregation and reliability of data collection and analysis to inform policy and legislative development and improve individual worker protection.
3. Encourage more sophisticated and easier to access information on regular migration channels and procedures for migrant workers and duty bearers (immigration and labour officials, labour attaches and civil society), and coordinate the flow of this information and operating procedures across borders, and between the national and community levels.
4. Monitoring and evaluation of the delivery, inclusivity and quality of pre-departure training, with special attention on providing information to diverse at-risk groups of migrant workers.
5. Improve coordination between all stakeholders – in countries of origin and destination, and across migration corridors – to ensure a transparent collaboration with clear responsibilities for all actors in the labour migration governance system.
6. Develop and/or enhance existing laws, policies and regulations that better protect migrant workers, enhance and enforce laws around regulation of recruitment agencies and practices and ensure responsive engagement from law enforcement officials, as well as labour officials.
7. Invest in providing more, better and gender-responsive services to migrant workers and their families, including ordering complaints, financial training and sending remittances, and begin institutionalising these services within robust civil society organizations, trade unions and government service providers.
8. Ensure that legal systems and labour migration MOUs enforce gender equality, provide labour mobility options for women and require non-discriminatory hiring practices and social protection schemes that support women migrant workers' maternity and reproductive choices.

**Sub-theme 2: Challenges on Migrant Worker Employability**

9. Whole-of-government approach to skills and vocational training, and shift focus of education and skills training policies to include soft skills education, so that workers can meet demand for new occupations and jobs.
10. Promotion of basic education for all girls and boys in line with other ASEAN in an effort to redress inequality across the region and to improve employability of Lao migrant workers.
11. Implement research, predication of automation and lessons learned into policy responses. All stakeholders to consider long-term planning around migration especially the need to invest in retraining workers to enable switching between sectors.
12. Develop methodologies and collect data that allows stakeholders to anticipate employer needs and design training around these anticipated needs.

13. Foster an environment in Lao PDR that supports local job creation and skills and vocational training (especially for women and youth) through the TVET programmes, and prioritising SMEs and jobs in rural areas, and in eco and agro-tourism sector, to meet demographic pressures of more young workers entering the job market.