



TRIANGLE in ASEAN

Labour migration: Inclusive terminology

The way we talk about people or groups of people shapes the way we think about others. The right terms can affirm identities, make people feel valued and respected, and challenge discriminatory attitudes.

The International Labour Organization's TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme promotes rights-based and inclusive labour migration terminology. The aim is to increase awareness of discriminatory language in everyday use and to offer a more respectful alternative.



	NON-ACCEPTABLE TERMS	ACCEPTABLE TERMS	
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Alien worker, economic migrant, foreign worker

Migrant worker

Illegal migrant

Undocumented migrant, irregular migrant, migrant with irregular status

Labour import/export

Labour migration, migration, mobility, movement

Maid/helper/servant

Domestic worker

Prostitution/prostitute

Sex work/sex worker

Receiving country

Country of destination

Sending country

Country of origin

Slaves

Forced labour

Unskilled worker

Low-skilled worker

TRIANGLE in ASEAN

www.ilo.org/triangleinasean