

*As of 7 June 2017***CONCEPT PAPER****ASEAN HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS IN
THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC)****7 JULY 2017, JAKARTA, INDONESIA****A. INTRODUCTION**

1. THE ASEAN Community was created in 2015 with the ASEAN economic Pillar, the ASEAN political-security Pillar and the ASEAN socio-cultural Pillar which undertake their respective actions according to the sectors. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) aims to have ASEAN as a single market, with a single production base that implies the free flow of production, including skilled labour and capital. This translates into a single market with new businesses and employment opportunities for some 600 million people, with an annual average growth of 5.1 per cent.
2. Meanwhile, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) aims to contribute to realizing an ASEAN Community that is people-oriented and socially responsible with a view to achieving enduring solidarity and unity among the peoples and ASEAN Member States (AMS). Specifically, on labour sector, ASCC is focused on developing the human capital.
3. The ASEAN Inter-Pillar Policy Dialogue on the Impact of ASEAN Economic Integration in labour sector was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 March 2016. It examined the impact of economic integration in labour sector specifically, upon the creation of the AEC and was organised by Malaysia as country coordinator for this work programme with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES).
4. The upcoming Policy Dialogue will be organised by the Indonesian Ministry of Manpower, with the support of the ASEC, UN Women (with funding support from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia) and FES. It will be held as a one-day event in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 July 2017. It is part of the 2016-2020 Work Plan of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW).

5. The Policy Dialogue brings together high-level officials of the ASEAN Member States in charge of labour, economy/trade, and women empowerment, ASEC, UN Women and FES officials and experts, as well as regional representatives of ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE), ASEAN Trade Union Council (ATUC), ASEAN Services Employees Trade Union Council (ASETUC), and selected relevant regional civil society organisations. Representatives of DFAT will also be present in this Policy Dialogue.

B. RATIONALE OF CONVENING THE POLICY DIALOGUE AND ITS FORMAT

6. Free movement of skilled labour and equitable economic development are key components of the regional ASEAN Community. The research presented at the last ASEAN Inter Pillar Policy Dialogue in Kuala Lumpur in 2016 by ILO, UN Women and FES emphasized the need to examine the impact of the ASEAN Economic Community on Women Migrant Workers.
7. A study on “Women Migrant Workers in ASEAN Economic Community” commissioned by the Ministry of Manpower of Indonesia in collaboration with UN Women and FES sheds new light on the trends of women’s labour mobility, access of women migrant workers to the labour markets, their contribution to ASEAN economies and high growth sectors, and challenges of social and economic inclusion.
8. The Policy Dialogue this year will focus on how the AEC affects women migrant workers, based on the key findings of the aforementioned study. This will be steered by the UN Women’s expert through a presentation. The presentation will be based on the key findings of the undertaken study and is important in order to set the right tone of deliberation for the participants to contribute in a fruitful manner.
9. After the brief presentation, key stakeholders consisting of senior civil servants of ASEAN Member States and regional representatives of ACE, ATUC, ASETUC and civil society organisations will be responding to the issues. Prior identification of the respective civil servants of AMS and regional representatives of ACE, ATUC, ASETUC and civil society organisations will facilitate smooth deliberations.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY DIALOGUE

10. A number of lessons can be drawn from the different trajectories and experiences of AMS. These are important to articulate in order to consider the impact of the AEC related labour mobility on the migration of women workers in ASEAN.

11. The Policy Dialogue provides a platform for collaborative problem solving, which clearly moves beyond the simple sharing of information. The joint resolution of problems can enable deliberative discussions in which AMS work together to influence the market policies of both sending and receiving countries, to support policy advocacy at the regional and national level to protect and advance the rights of women migrant workers.
12. As the AEC and ASCC pillars are dealt with by different government agencies of AMS, this policy dialogue will assist to consolidate, where possible and appropriate, common government procedures that apply across departments, such as application and evaluation. The consolidation of procedures is relevant for the action lines in supporting common goals under the respective pillars.

D. DATE AND VENUE

13. Indonesia is to host the ASEAN High-level Inter-Pillar Policy Dialogue on Women Migrant Workers in ASEAN Economic Community in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 July 2017. The Policy Dialogue will be a one day event.

E. PARTICIPANTS

14. Participants will consist of:

- 10 Senior officials from ministry responsible for trade and commerce from 10 AMS;
- 10 Senior officials from ministry responsible for labour from 10 AMS;
- 10 Senior officials from ministry responsible for women empowerment and gender equality from 10 AMS;
- Representatives from the AEC Department and ASCC Department of the ASEAN Secretariat;
- Representatives from UN Women and FES;
- Representatives from regional workers' and employers' organisations, notably ACE, ATUC and ASETUC (1 per organisation, total 3);
- Representatives from regional CSOs (1 per organisation, total 2); and
- Representatives from DFAT.

F. OUTPUT OF THE ASEAN INTER PILLAR POLICY DIALOGUE

15. The Policy Dialogue will put across a summary of discussions to the ACMW.

G. CONTACT INFORMATION

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