



Canada



International
Labour
Organization

Viet Nam National Recommendations for the 13th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour

28 September 2020

*Supporting migrant workers during the pandemic for a Cohesive and Responsive
ASEAN Community*

Sub-theme 1: Impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers and responses in ASEAN

1. Extend affordable healthcare benefits, including free access to testing and screening, to all migrant workers.
2. Disseminate information and awareness raising through measures that are accessible to migrant workers.
3. Tackle xenophobia, discrimination, and stigmatization to improve social cohesion.
4. Encourage job retention, remote/flexible arrangements, alternative employment, job creation, and renewal/extensions of contracts, visas, work permits. Allow workers to change jobs without losing visa/immigration status.
5. Ensure access to justice and legal remedy and social services inclusive of supporting information technology application, important in times of crisis.
6. Reduce costs and increase the availability and accessibility of remittance services, including digital services.
7. Support returned migrant workers, migrant workers returning before expired contract, female migrant workers inclusive of pregnant migrant workers and implement reintegration programs.
8. Consider a moratorium on arrests and detention of migrant workers or at a minimum, alternative options to detention
9. Consider repayment of, or moratorium on, loan repayments/debt from migration.
10. Continue increasing and improving safe and regular migration channels and fair recruitment through oversight and inspection.
11. In the content of negotiations with the employers, it is necessary to include the content of epidemic as a force majeure case to negotiate.
12. The enterprise should review the number of impacted migrant workers.

13. Conduct an evaluation on the impacts to migrant workers during employment as well as potential migrant workers from which recommendations could be suggested for supporting these subjects.
14. Enhance the role of labor management board in receiving countries.
15. Enhance the role of Trade Union and Trade Union cooperation among nations.
16. Enhance the role of labor management board in receiving countries.
17. Enhance the role of associations to which enterprises sending workers to work overseas are the member so that they could respond effectively and receive support from the State.
18. Consider to sign bilateral MOU on supporting heavily impacted migrant workers.
19. Strengthen the tech applications in consulting, providing information to migrant workers

Sub-theme 2: Inclusive and responsive labour migration policy for future preparedness in ASEAN

1. Foster tripartite-plus social dialogue for cohesive and responsive whole-of-society approach.
2. Collect comprehensive confidential and secure sex- and age-disaggregated data.
3. Collect the number of migrant workers with expired contract, migrant workers lose job but cannot return, returned migrant workers, informal migrant workers.
4. Strengthen grievance resolve channel and information for irregular migrant workers.
5. Ensure workplaces and employer-provided housing follow labour standards and OSH and WHO safety guidance.
6. Extend social protection coverage to all migrant workers. Develop bilateral or regional agreements, arrangements, or MOUs on the portability of social protection for migrant workers.
7. ASEAN emergency and pandemic preparedness plans should take into account protections for migrant workers.
8. Ensure health care systems are accessible to all migrant workers, especially during crises.
9. Encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation and agreements, including on responsibilities during crises. Prepare an ASEAN emergency and pandemic response plan for migrant workers.
10. Strengthen job-matching, skills recognition, reskilling and upskilling, and trainings.

The meeting was held on 28 September 2020 at Hanoi, Viet Nam, and online.