



Joint Statement

THE ASEAN PLUS THREE LABOUR MINISTERS MEETING

8 MAY 2008, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Introduction

1. The ASEAN Labour Ministers gathered in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 May 2008 to discuss joint labour initiatives with their counterparts from People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. This sixth ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting was preceded by the ASEAN Plus Three Senior Labour Officials Meeting on 7 May 2008.

2. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers responsible for labour from ASEAN Member States, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, and their respective delegations. The ASEAN Deputy Secretary General was also in attendance. The list of the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers is attached.

Promotion and Enhancement of Decent Work for the Vulnerable Categories of Labour

3. The ASEAN Plus Three Ministers discussed on Promotion and Enhancement of Decent Work for the Vulnerable Categories of Labour as a central theme of their meeting.

4. Recognising the importance of sustainable development and quality job creation, the Ministers agreed on the need for concerted and sustained efforts to realize “decent work”, taking into consideration the special needs of vulnerable groups.

Partnership in Labour Initiatives

5. The Ministers noted the hosting of the sixth seminar in the ASEAN-China High Level Seminar Series on Social Security, on the topic of employment injury insurance on 21–23 June 2006. The Ministers also noted with appreciation the hosting of the China-ASEAN High-Level Seminar on Human Resource Development in Kunming, Peoples’ Republic of China, in September 2007, which sought to establish a ‘China-ASEAN Information Exchange on Human Resource Development’ as a platform for future collaboration between China and ASEAN in a broad spectrum of areas including skills training, labour migration and social protection.

6. The Ministers noted that the China-ASEAN Capacity Building Workshop in the field of labour and social security held on 14 – 29 May 2007 was very useful, and expressed appreciation to China for making this an ongoing programme.

7. The Ministers noted the hosting of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy Dialogue on “National OSH Framework” by Singapore in early 2007 and the follow-up Policy Dialogue on the “OSH Management System” in late 2007, supported by Japan which convened experts from all ASEAN Member States, the Peoples’ Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

8. The Ministers were pleased with the completion of the second phase of the “ASEAN Programme on Industrial Relations”, which was implemented with technical assistance and funding from Japan, in January 2008, and welcomed the new phase of the Programme which will commence in 2008 until 2010 in cooperation with ILO and Japan.

9. The Ministers commended the successful completion of Phase I of the ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Programme for Strengthening the Basis of Human Resources Development in CLMV Countries and welcomed the second phase of the programme which will involve four ASEAN Member States as “partnering states” of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan and the Overseas Vocational Training Association of Japan in delivering the training programme to CLMV countries.

10. The Ministers acknowledged the organising of the 10th ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme for Officials of ASEAN Countries in November 2006. The programme, which has the theme “Issues in social protection systems”, sought an enhanced understanding of social protection systems and stressed the importance of establishing early warning systems for the labour market. The 11th HRD Programme will be held from 25 November to 4 December 2008 under the theme of “Challenges and experiences on mainstreaming labour and employment issues into the national agendas.”

11. In line with the measures of the Vientiane Action Programme to increase the participation of youth in the workforce, the Ministers lauded the hosting of the ASEAN Plus Three Workshop on Youth Entrepreneurship in Jakarta, 19–20 November 2007, which discussed the inclusion of decent work principles and sought to enhance regional collaboration among ASEAN and the “Plus Three” countries on youth entrepreneurship.

Next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting

12. The Ministers looked forward to further exchanges of views on joint labour initiatives at the next ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting in the second week of May 2010 in Viet Nam.

Concluding Remarks

13. The Ministers expressed their profound sympathies and deepest concerns to the people and Government of the Union of Myanmar on the recent devastating cyclone which has affected so many lives.

List of ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers or Their Representatives
Attending the ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers Meeting,
8 May 2008, Bangkok, Thailand

- 1. H.E. Pehin Dato Adanan Yusof**
Minister of Home Affairs
Brunei Darussalam
- 2. H.E. Vong Sauth**
Minister of State of Labour and Vocational Training
Cambodia
- 3. H.E. Besar Setyoko**
Secretary General of Manpower and Transmigration
Indonesia
- 4. H.E. Laoly Faiphengyao**
Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare
Lao PDR
- 5. H.E. Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam**
Minister of Human Resources
Malaysia
- 6. H.E. Tin Htun Aung**
Deputy Minister of Labour
Myanmar
- 7. H.E. Marianito D. Roque**
Secretary of Department of Labour and Employment
The Philippines
- 8. H.E. Gan Kim Yong**
Acting Minister for Manpower
Singapore
- 9. H.E. Uraiwan Thienthong**
Minister of Labour
Thailand
- 10. H.E. Nguyen Thanh Hoa**
Deputy Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
Viet Nam

11. H.E. Sun Baoshu

Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security
China

12. H.E. Wataru Ito

Parliamentary Secretary of Health, Labour, and Welfare
Japan

13. H.E. Chong Soo Chung

Vice Minister of Labour
Korea

14. H.E. Nicholas Tandi Dammen

Deputy Secretary General
ASEAN Secretariat