

IOM Initiatives in ASEAN



The objective of IOM's migration and development programme is to contribute to a better understanding of the links between international migration and development in order to harness the development potential of migration for the benefit of both societies and migrants and to contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction. IOM's approach addresses the root causes of migration by providing interventions in areas vulnerable to high rates of economically motivated migration. Recognizing that nearly half of the migrants in South-East Asia are women, IOM also ensures that gender is mainstreamed in all activities.

IOM supports ASEAN and its Member States in their efforts to implement two core, mutually reinforcing frameworks – the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (SDGs). As migration is a multi-sectoral issue, it is reflected across all three ASEAN Blueprints. As such, IOM will continue to work with all labour, migration and development related Ministries at the regional, national and local level. IOM seeks to support more multi-sectoral, whole of government-society approaches to maximize the development potential of migration in the ASEAN region.

Priorities and activities include: strengthening the ties between labour mobility and human development, enhancing the health and wellbeing of labour migrants and families left behind, addressing irregular migration - including countering trafficking in persons and preventing the exploitation of vulnerable migrants, strengthening immigration and border management, supporting disaster risk reduction, preparedness and responses - including support throughout crisis cycles and the evacuation of migrants caught in crisis at the request of Member States, and increasing understanding of the nexus between migration, environment and climate change.

IOM is also working with ASEAN Member States and partners to improve the collection and analysis of data with the aim of strengthening the evidence-base for making migration policy. In support of SDG 10.7, IOM has drawn on the Migration Governance Framework and partnered with the Economist Intelligence Unit to pilot the Migration Governance Index - an innovative policy-benchmarking framework.

IOM Initiatives on Migration and Development



Supply chain and ethical recruitment



Promotion of a comprehensive approach to safe migration



Pre-departure orientation programmes for migrants



Establishment of migrant resource centres



Skills development and skills recognition



Mobility of skilled labour



Whole of government approach and capacity building



Reintegration of returning migrants

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Supply Chain and Ethical Recruitment

IOM maps current recruitment and deployment processes in order to identify factors contributing to exploitation, and recommends a tailored response.

As part of activities evaluating whether suppliers comply with ethical recruitment standards, IOM conducts: 1) review of employment contracts for migrant workers; 2) social audits of migrant workers in the workplace; and 3) evaluation of migrant workers' experience post-return. IOM also supports the implementation of more direct, transparent and efficient forms of recruitment and deployment, and builds the capacity of recruitment actors on principles of ethical recruitment. After a pilot roll-out of the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) in the Philippines later this year, IOM will explore opportunities to apply this certification system to other countries.



Pre-Departure Orientation and Skills Development

To promote safe migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), IOM implements projects that enhance the protection of marginalized and vulnerable migrant workers and their access to safe and affordable migration channels. IOM also conducts awareness campaigns and orientation programmes among migrant communities so that they have a better understanding of their labour rights and avenues for recourse in countries of destination.

Further, IOM conducts skills training on a pre-departure or post-arrival basis to equip migrant workers with technical and soft skills that improve their chances of securing better employment and working conditions. Complementing such training, skills matching or job placement services

with interested employers further helps maximize the mutual benefits flowing from labour mobility.

Establishing Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs)

By establishing MRCs, IOM encourages governments to mainstream management of labour migration in national reforms, promotes safe labour migration through innovative pre-departure information campaigns, and enhances understanding of labour migration issues among relevant stakeholders.



ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML)

In collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Task Force on Migrant Labour, ILO and UN Women, IOM continues to provide technical and financial assistance to the AFML. This Forum was conceived as the primary platform for formulating concrete and practical measures to implement the *Cebu Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers*. IOM has not only made technical contributions, but has worked to maximize stakeholder engagement.

Supporting ASEAN in Moving Towards Increased Mobility of Skilled Labour

IOM supports initiatives strengthening the capacity, preparedness, and coordination of ASEAN Member States as they continue facilitating freer movement of skilled labour. In doing so, IOM works closely with the Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM) Working Group, and applies a multi-dimensional approach to address both technical and coordination aspects of labour mobility. This is reflected in four interrelated issues pertaining to the free flow of skilled labour: cross-sectoral coordination and dialogue, guidelines on skills recognition, information management

and sharing, and capacity building for governments. In particular, IOM aims to improve the availability and encourage sharing of information on labour migration and labour markets across ASEAN; enhance recruitment services by matching employers with migrants who have relevant skills; and facilitate the referencing, quality assurance and mutual recognition of workers' skills and qualifications. Through conducting cross-cutting research, IOM also strengthens the evidence-base to provide ASEAN Member States with policy recommendations that contribute to development and safe, informed migration across the region.



IOM X: addressing the persistent challenges of irregular migration, human trafficking and exploitation

IOM X is an innovative campaign encouraging safe migration. Leveraging the power and popularity of media and technology, it aims to inspire young people and their communities to act against human trafficking.

Launched in May 2016, IOM X is working with the ASEAN Committee on Migrant Workers (ACMW) on Happy Home, a campaign encouraging employers of domestic workers to ensure that their homes uphold the rights of domestic workers across the region.

In 2015, young leaders across ASEAN attended the IOM X Youth Forum in Bangkok. To better understand the types of support young job seekers need in order to make informed decisions, participants engaged in role-play with different stakeholders. Further, young people photographed key resources migrants rely on during their journeys – such as buses, internet cafes and embassies – and uploaded them on social media platforms with #IAMIX as part of an awareness-raising initiative.