



คณะกรรมการสมานฉันท์แรงงานไทย (คสรท.)
Thai Labour Solidarity
Committee (TLSC.)



**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
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**Seminar on
Recommendations to the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting:
Decent Work for Vulnerable Workers**

**Sunday 20 April 2008
Siam City Hotel, Bangkok**

**Organised by
Ministry of Labour, Thai Labour Solidarity Committee
Employers' Confederation of Thailand and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung**

Background

Labour cooperation is one part of the ASEAN social development cooperation, aiming at ensuring access to productive employment and social protection for workers in the region. The cooperation is guided by the ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM) which is regularly organised, currently every two years.

In 2008, the 20th ALMM is scheduled on 8th May in Bangkok, with the objective to provide a forum for consultation and exchange of ideas on labour, including cooperation among members on issues pertaining to labour and human resources. Prior to the ALMM meeting, a preparation meeting of senior labour officials will be held to monitor the implementation of activities that were initiated at previous ALMM meetings and to submit important topics for the next ministerial meeting for consideration.

ASEAN is increasingly moving towards labour rights issues of international concern. The topic of the 20th ALMM in 2008 is "promotion and enhancement of decent work for the vulnerable categories of labour", which is consistent with the global campaign on "decent work". Besides, huge progress was made in January 2007 by signing the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. The regional mechanisms would significantly better lead to the necessary changes, as their aims set, if the process would be open to participation of other relevant parties: employees, employers and civil society groups. Currently it seems that participation is quite low due to many reasons. Recognising and believing that participation is a key to the success of most discussed programmes and initiatives within ASEAN, the four organisations named above are jointly organising a seminar to contribute to the process.

Objectives

1. To provide information on ASEAN mechanisms of labour cooperation and the situation of labour, particularly vulnerable, in the region;
2. To exchange opinions among concerned groups on problems regarding the promotion and enhancement of decent work for vulnerable workers;
3. To present common recommendations regarding promotion and enhancement of decent work for vulnerable workers and to submit to key members of the ALMM

Organisers

Ministry of Labour
Thai Labour Solidarity Committee
Employers' Confederation of Thailand
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Participants

Trade unionists, labour officials, employers, labour NGOs, academics, other related organisations and interested individuals, altogether 50 participants.

Venue

Kamolthip Room, 2nd Floor, Siam City Hotel, Si Ayuthaya Road

Final Programme

20 April 2008

08.30-09.00 Registration

09.00-09.30 **Opening remarks**

Mr. Supat Gukun, Director of Bureau of Coordination for International Cooperation, Ministry of Labour
Ms. Siriwan Romchatthong, Employers' Confederation of Thailand
Ms. Wilaiwan Saetia, President of Thai Labour Solidarity Committee
Ms. Vesna Rodić, Resident Director FES

09.30-10.00 **Situation of labour in ASEAN countries and the role of the ALMM in enhancing decent work for vulnerable workers**

- Situation of vulnerable workers in ASEAN countries
- ASEAN mechanisms on labour cooperation
- Role of the ALMM in enhancing decent work for vulnerable workers

Presentations by:

Mr. Christopher Ng, UNI-APRO Regional Secretary
Ms. Elsa Ramos, ILO SRO-Bangkok

Moderation by Ms. Rakawin Leechanavanichpan, ILO SRO-Bangkok

10.00-10.15 Plenary discussion

10.15-10.30 Break

10.30-11.30 **Recommendations for promoting and enhancing decent work for vulnerable workers**

Panel discussion with:

Ms. Wilaiwan Saetia, President of Thai Labour Solidarity Committee

Assoc.Prof. Lae Dilokwitayarat, Chulalongkorn University

Mr. Kovit Burapathanin, Ministry of Labour

Ms. Siriwan Romchatthong, Employers' Confederation of Thailand

Moderation by Assoc. Prof. Malee Pruekpongsawalee, Thammasat University

11.30-12.15 Plenary discussion

12.15-13.00 **Closing address**

Mr. Nakorn Silpa-Archa, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN

13.00 Lunch