



# 10<sup>th</sup> APFSD

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27-30 March 2023



## Multi-stakeholder Partnership in Facilitating Inclusive Economies and Protecting Rights of Migrant Workers

### Side Event: 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

28 March 2023

16:45 - 18:00 GMT+7

Meeting Room G, 1st floor (In person)

### Organizer(s)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,  
UN Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for South-East Asia

### Co-organizer(s)

European Union (EU) Delegation to Thailand,  
Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT),  
Indonesia Ministry of Manpower (MOM), and  
Thailand Ministry of Labor (MOL).

### Registration

To register for this side event, please use:

[https://ilo-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_5fKFafAF2TFq2Jt0uTVbQFg](https://ilo-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5fKFafAF2TFq2Jt0uTVbQFg)

To attend the side event, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the APFSD by March 13 using the link here:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1003108/>

Please register using the option “Registration for Others” and choose your side event. Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Centre.



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## Background

This side event, jointly organised by the ILO, OHCHR, EU, DFAT, MOM and MOL, aims to reflect on the human rights basis of economies in the region, with a focus on the underlying structural inequalities in temporary labour migration programmes, and support services provided to migrant workers. The discussion will touch upon the vulnerabilities faced by migrant workers, especially women as well as those facing intersectional vulnerabilities on the basis of their sector of work and other factors. Discussions will address the critical role that Migrant Worker Resource Centres (MRCs) play in delivering services to migrant workers in order to protect and promote their rights and the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches in facilitating such services.

The event will link primarily with SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals, with particular focus on Target 17.14 (Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development), and Target 17.17 (Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships).

For over a decade, the ILO has been supporting MRCs operated by governments, trade unions and civil society organisations in the ASEAN region, with funding from the Australian government and the European Union. Presently, there are over 50 MRCs in nine countries in the ASEAN region, providing migrant workers and their families with information and services. These include information on safe migration processes and labour rights, counselling, case management including legal aid and referral to relevant service providers, networking, community outreach and capacity-building activities. MRCs have empowered migrant workers and their families to claim their rights, access critical services, join workers groups, and enhance their skills. Notably, over USD 11 million in compensation has been awarded to migrant workers with support from MRCs. MRCs have demonstrated the importance of multi stakeholder partnerships in protecting the rights of women and men migrant workers.

In its 2022 report entitled *"We wanted workers, but human beings came"* the UN Human Rights Office has explored the human rights basis of temporary labour migration programmes in the region, examining migrants' experience of temporary labour migration – within but also away from the workplace – as well



as the consequences of these programmes for their families and communities. UN Human Rights' work on the issue of temporary labour migration is situated in a broader vision for achieving human rights enhancing economies which centres people and planet in economic policies, investment decisions and business models. Where such conditions are not achieved, migrants are compelled to embark on low-wage temporary migration in circumstances that do not respect, protect and fulfil their human rights. In order to address these inequalities, UN Human Rights calls for the implementation of rights-based, comprehensive labour migration policies that centre migrant workers and their families.

## Key Questions and Outcomes

Bringing together a diverse panel, this side event aims to draw attention to the lens of inclusive economies, the parameters of alternative models of labour migration which would achieve economic, social and cultural rights, and development goals while ensuring the rights of migrant workers and members of their families. The side event will highlight the importance and existing examples of multi-sectoral partnerships through the models of MRCs.

The side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

- Given the current economic realities, what can States and other actors do in promoting and protecting the human rights of people in vulnerable economic situations including low-wage migrant workers and members of their families?
- How do collaborations with other stakeholders (within the country and across borders) support an organization's efforts to empower and deliver information, legal aid, other essential services to migrant workers and their families?



## Programme

Master of ceremonies: Starts the meeting at 16:45 hours (75 mins in all)

Opening Remarks	H.E. Michalis Rokas, Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Malaysia	5 mins
Introduction to the side event	Moderator: Mr. Nilim Baruah, Senior Labour Migration Specialist, ILO ROAP	5 mins
Sharing the Indonesian MRC Model	MOM Indonesia  Ms. Dina Nuriyati , Coordinator of MRC Cirebon and East Lampung , Head of Research and International Cooperation, Indonesia Migrant Worker Union (SBMI), Indonesia	12 mins in all
Sharing the Thailand Migrant Worker Assistance Centre model	Mr. Krit Pinsuk , Labour Specialist Professional Level, Prevention Human Trafficking on Labour Operation Center, Ministry of Labour Thailand	5 mins
Role of trade unions in supporting migrant workers	Mr. Basharuddin Harun, Vice President of Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC) Malaysia	5 mins
Ensuring inclusion of migrants: view from civil society	Ms. Reiko Harima, Regional Coordinator Mekong Migration Network (MMN)	5 mins
Interactive discussion and Q&A		25 mins
Summary/conclusions	Moderator	3 mins
Closing remarks	Ms Gemma Edgar, Counsellor (Development), Australian Embassy to Thailand	5 mins

	Ms. Pia Oberoi, Senior Advisor, OHCHR Regional Office	5 mins
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## For information, please contact

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