

2010 ASEAN LEADERS STATEMENT ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Adopted in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 28 October 2010

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 17th ASEAN Summit in Ha Noi;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to build an ASEAN Community comprising three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political and Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, by 2015;

RECALLING the ASEAN Charter which sets out the purposes of ASEAN in particular to develop human resources through closer cooperation in education and life-long learning, in science and technology, for the empowerment of the peoples of ASEAN and for strengthening of the ASEAN Community;

RESPECTING the fundamental importance of amity and cooperation, and principles set out in the ASEAN Charter of sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, non-interference, consensus and unity in diversity;

RECALLING our pledge expressed in our Statement on Sustained Recovery and Development at the 16th ASEAN Summit to continuously support and carry out human resource development initiatives in accordance with the requirements of ASEAN’s domestic and global labour market;

RECALLING FURTHER the Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation on Education to Achieve an ASEAN Caring and Sharing Community, which recognised the role of education for economic development in developing national skills frameworks as an incremental step towards an ASEAN skills recognition framework;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the ASEAN Labour Ministers’ Work Programme 2010-2015 adopted by the ASEAN Labour Ministers at their 21st Meeting in May 2010 which contains priority measures to improve the quality and capacity of human resources in the region;

RECOGNISING the importance of human resources and skills development in raising productivity and accelerating economic recovery and sustainable growth in the light of the recent global economic crisis;

RECOGNISING ALSO the major human resources challenges that ASEAN has been facing in sustaining economic recovery and growth that include enhancing workforce competitiveness, improving workforce skills, rebuilding employment and accelerating productivity;

REAFFIRMING ASEAN’s collective resolve to steer through periods of economic downturns and recovery through measures and actions taken both at the national and regional levels in human resources and skills development;

DO HEREBY STATE TO:

Foster technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in ASEAN

1. Enhance technical cooperation among ASEAN Member States to improve the capacities and skills of ASEAN's labour officials, particularly in CLMV countries, and the competitiveness of ASEAN's workforce;
2. Promote sharing of experiences, best practices and knowledge in human resource development issues through seminars, workshops and training sessions, including the regular convening of the ASEAN Human Resource Conference;
3. Encourage the development of national and regional human resource development plans or programmes;
4. Encourage the sharing of policy development experiences among ASEAN Members States on challenges, policies and measures concerning employment, labour market, and skills development;
5. Promote regional cooperation in the development of programmes for skills development of vulnerable groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities;

Promote tripartite and public-private sector cooperation

6. Foster national and regional social dialogue among government, employers and workers in addressing human resource development, policies and programmes;
7. Encourage tripartite participation in education and training policies, systems and structures in addressing human resource development issues;
8. Encourage social partners to contribute to the development and implementation of national human resource development plans and to adopt innovative human resource development practices;
9. Foster strong public-private sector partnerships at regional and national levels to enhance human resources and skills development to stimulate job creation and improve labour productivity in light of global challenges;

Enhance the quality and skills of workers in all ASEAN Member States

10. Promote vocational training and workforce learning for the purpose of improving the employability and upgrading skills of the workforce;
11. Develop national skills frameworks in ASEAN Member States through sharing of experiences and best practices as an important strategy to strengthen human resource development and management and to enable Member States to raise their respective levels of skills standards, as an incremental approach towards an ASEAN skills recognition framework;
12. Encourage the participation of the private sector in the conduct of skills competitions such as the ASEAN Skills Competition to support ASEAN workforce development and to achieve regional standards competency;
13. Foster entrepreneurship and innovation of the workforce particularly in Small and Medium Enterprises to promote economic and employment growth;

14. Encourage the use of appropriate pedagogy in human resource and skills development, and design high-quality training syllabus, curriculums and textbooks relevant to the labour market;
15. Encourage better access to skills training for vulnerable and marginalised groups in society and those in the informal economy;
16. Encourage research, sharing and exchange of experiences in human resource development and training policies between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners;

Promote lifelong learning

17. Promote the sharing of experiences in the development and implementation of national lifelong learning systems among ASEAN Member States;
18. Urge the creation of opportunities to improve the quantity and quality of jobs through lifelong learning;
19. Encourage enterprises to support the development of vocational training and continuing education institutions as part of a national system and infrastructure for lifelong learning;
20. Encourage workers to practice lifelong learning through appropriate policies and frameworks in order to improve their productivity.

WE TASK the concerned ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Bodies and Senior Official Bodies to take necessary efforts to implement this Statement, including mobilising appropriate resources, in accordance with the national laws, regulations and policies of Member States.

Adopted in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, this Twenty Eighth of October in the Year Two Thousand and Ten.