

**ACE Intervention**  
**Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe,  
Orderly and Regular Migration.**  
**11 March 2021 from 15:30-17:00**

**Roundtable 4: Strengthening evidence-based policymaking, public debate and cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration (addressing objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23)**

**ACE Intervention**

Thank you, Mr Chairman and the UN Network on Migration, for inviting the ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE) to participate in this round table discussion. It is a great honour for me to share the views and experience of ASEAN employers, particularly in relations to **Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships** for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Labour migration is an important phenomenon in most ASEAN countries. In 2019, there were an estimated 10 million international migrants in ASEAN. Employers regard regular migration as a necessary and positive phenomenon. When well-managed, it is a vehicle for fulfilling personal aspirations, balancing labour supply and demand, sparking innovation, and transferring and spreading skills. Both employers and workers benefit from clear, transparent, and well-implemented migration policies that facilitate economic growth and development and protecting workers.

For these reasons, the business community has an important stake in working with governments to develop coherent and consistent migration policies that facilitate the safe and orderly movement of labour across the entire skills spectrum. Businesses are frequent and, in some cases, heavy users of national migration systems. Their experience with the practical workings of immigration laws, procedures, policies, and knowledge of the emerging market and staffing trends can be a source of important information to governments and international organisations. Thus, the private sector's participation is not only essential to the development of well-regulated migration systems but as a major stakeholder.

The ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE) has been the collaborating partner of ILO, IOE, CAPE, ATUC and other regional and international organization, working in various areas of work aim to strengthen the influence of employers in shaping a conducive environment for competitive and sustainable enterprises, promoting responsible business practices and collaboration among members in the region. ACE is the collaborating partner for regional employers' engagement in labour migration. We participated in regional policies discussion and implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the AFML, to advance the implementation of the principles of the 2007 ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers and the 2017 ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

Through the regional and international partnership and cooperation, particularly with the ASEAN and the ILO, we have managed to implement many programmes and activities, from educating, awareness-raising, training, information sharing, promoting to policy advocacy. We have developed employers' policy position and policy briefs for sustainable labour migration in ASEAN in the area of skill, occupational safety and health, recruitment, forced

labour, non-discrimination, gender equality, violence and harassment. We have also established an employers' platform on migration, which serves as an employers' information, resource, and communication platform to facilitate collaboration among ASEAN employers and support member employers' organization in national-level advocacy, programme and initiatives.

Throughout the years, we have experienced the enhanced collaboration among member states and among ACE members in promoting and facilitating the protection of migrant workers for safe, orderly and regular migration. We have also witnessed employers' progress, change of attitude and perception in recognizing the rights and contribution of migrant workers and towards fair and responsible recruitment and employment practices. All these milestones towards a safe, orderly and regular migration would not be possible without the regional and international organization's support and cooperation.

The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) presents a key opportunity for employers organization to **bring business recommendations to improve the governance of migration, address the challenges associated with today's migration, and strengthen migration to sustainable development**. It is important that employers' organization are consulted at the national level, and their inputs are **incorporated into the national guidelines** for implementation.

ACE fully endorses and supports the realisation of objectives 23 to enhance the private sector's engagement in international cooperation and forge global partnerships to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration. At the global level, the IOE Business Advisory Group on Migration works with the regional and **national focal points** in different regions for engagement in the Regional Multi-stakeholder review processes to reflect business realities and challenges in the labour migration policy framework of their respective governments. The national and regional dialogue and consultation will facilitate and improve global policy initiatives' relevance and impact.

International Cooperation and global partnerships are based on one of the GCM's guiding principles of the "whole-of-society" approach, wherein all stakeholders bring their priorities and concerns and find ways of effecting addressing them. Through these consultations at the GCM multi-stakeholder consultations, employers' organizations have managed to present their priorities and reiterated the need for governments to follow the "whole-of-government" approach for meaningful achievement of their recommendations.

The Asian Confederation of Employers (ACE) and employers' organization have presented our key priorities to the policymakers, which focus on:

- The need for predictable and transparent legal frameworks for the mobility of skills
- Responsible recruitment practices
- Skills development programmes, skills recognition schemes and skills matching frameworks that respond to labour market realities
- The use of technology to improve migration management

The declaration serves to input the national and regional dialogues on migration as governments implement the GCM.

### **ASEAN Employers call**

As all stakeholders will adapt to new realities in our globalised world, it is now high time for stronger collaboration between social partners, government and stakeholders on labour

migration issues at the national, regional and international level. The private sector relies extensively on mobile human resources and stands to gain from people being able to move for work. In this framework, and to support the governments implementing the CGM objectives, Asian Employers call for

- regular and organized dialogue and consultation between policymakers and employers organizations through formal communications channels. Mechanisms at the national level should be put in place to ensure that this dialogue is a continuous ongoing process.
- Asian employers also call for greater dialogue and G2G collaboration between countries of origin and destinations to improve overall migration framework and management. The collaboration that reflect employers' view will also facilitates skills mobility policies and improve skills development, skills certification, recognition and matching.
- Asian employers call for investment in data collection, which is essential for evidence-based policymaking and makes a stronger case for improved regulations. Governments could begin compiling/publishing outgoing and incoming workers' statistics. Employers should have access to such information to source required skills as and when needed. Besides, if employers' also feed information on job availability, skills matching can be mutually beneficial.

Given that businesses form the backbone of economies, it would serve governments well to ensure that any decisions on migration policies are made in consultation with the private sector through employers' organization at the national and regional level.

Mr. Chairman,

I want to express my sincere gratitude again for inviting ACE to this round table discussion. We look forward to the continuous collaboration and cooperation with national, regional and international stakeholder to achieve our common goal for a safe, orderly and regular migration. Thank you very much.



## Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration.

Ms. Siriwan Romchattong  
Secretary General

**ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE)**





## The Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

- The Global Compact for Migration (GCM) presents a key opportunity for employers' organization to bring **business recommendations to improve the governance of migration, address the challenges** associated with today's migration, and **strengthen the contribution of migration to sustainable development.**
- It is important that employers' organization are consulted at the national level, and their inputs are **incorporated into the national guidelines** for implementation.
- The ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE) **fully endorses and supports the realisation of objectives 23** to enhance the private sector's engagement in international cooperation and forge global partnerships to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.



## Asian employers priorities on migration

- The need for **predictable and transparent legal frameworks** for the mobility of skills.
- **Responsible recruitment practices.**
- **Skills** development programmes, skills recognition schemes and skills matching frameworks that respond to labour market realities.
- Leveraging the **use of technology** to improve migration management.

The declaration serve to input the national and regional dialogues on migration as governments implement the GCM.



## Asian Employers call for

- **Regular and organized dialogue and consultation** between policymakers and employers' organizations through formal communications channels.
- Establishment of **coordinating institutions** at the country level, as a **National Task Force on migration**, with participation of national employers' organisation for the implementation of the objectives.
- Greater dialogue and **G2G collaboration** between countries of origin and destinations to improve overall migration framework and management.
- **Investment in data collection** for evidence-based policymaking and makes a stronger case for improved regulations.