

**National Technical Training Seminar
on
Preparation of Social Security Laws: Standards, Policy and
Legislation**
with resource persons from ASEAN countries
Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 27-29 August 2013

Concept Note

Over the past decades, most Asian countries have adopted some form of social security arrangements including work injury insurance, social health insurance, and compensation schemes against loss of income in case of sickness, maternity, death, invalidity, old-age, and unemployment. The existence and ongoing extension of such schemes in Asia suggests a growing acceptance of the role of social security in providing income security and social health insurance, and fostering solidarity among workers and employees, contributing thereby to more equitable growth and social stability. A broad variety of systems and provisions can be observed in Asian countries, reflecting a variety of factors that include their political history, labour market structure, and their current stage of economic development.

In the low-income countries of the region, where economic growth has been persistent over the last two decades and per capita incomes are on the rise, renewed efforts can be observed towards strengthening social security provisions through statutory arrangements. Along with rapid economic development, a trend of labour market diversification is ongoing, witnessing a decrease in subsistence agriculture to give way for an increasing share of wage employment in the secondary and tertiary sectors. The growing class of wage-workers and -employees, relying on monthly wages for their subsistence, are facing the risk of income loss in the event of unemployment, sickness, maternity, invalidity, work injury and old age. The development of mandatory employment-related social insurance provisions, which have proven a successful means to cope with such risks in industrialized countries, is therefore increasingly gaining the attention of policy makers in Asian countries, particularly in South-East Asia.

The ILO is the specialized United Nations agency responsible for the development of social security as part of its efforts to promote labour protection and decent work. Over the years the ILO has acquired substantial experience in providing technical assistance on social security and has developed solid in-house expertise in the relevant technical areas: social security standards, policy formulation, extension of social protection to the informal economy, costing of policy options, actuarial valuations, social budgeting, administration of social security schemes, advocacy, training, etc. Since its inception in 1919, the ILO has contributed globally to the promotion of international

labour standards, including on social security. These standards are enshrined in a series of international Labour Conventions and Recommendations. The Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) for instance, is at the core of ILO interventions and technical assistance on social security all over the world. More recently the ILO launched a global campaign promoting the extension social security coverage, and progress has been witnessed in some Asian countries (China, Thailand, India, Philippines, etc.) and elsewhere around the world.

In East and South-East Asia, the ILO has been providing technical assistance for several decades; the ILO notably supported the establishment of statutory schemes in several countries, including Thailand (1990), Lao PDR (2000), and most recently Cambodia (2009). In other countries the ILO has been providing technical assistance in a variety of technical areas, including on social security financing, actuarial valuations, extension of coverage, decentralization of benefit delivery, and harmonization of schemes. In light of the on-going economic growth and formalization of labour markets in the region, together with the improved capacity of governments and national administrations, several countries in the region have recently embarked on reforms aiming at strengthening their schemes by reviewing benefit provisions, improving implementation arrangements, and/or establishing new benefit branches.

In order to support in a collective manner the countries in the region where reforms are ongoing or under consideration, the ILO is planning to organize a series of technical training seminars on different thematic areas related to social security, including on minimum standards and social security legislation, social security financing, social health insurance, unemployment insurance, and harmonization of schemes. Bringing together key officials dealing with social security in those countries will also promote the sharing of experiences, the exchange of information, and further regional integration within ASEAN through the development of a mutual understanding and technical cooperation.

The first training seminar planned is dealing with social security standards and legislation; it aims to address policy issues, scheme design, and aspects related to the implementation and governance of social security schemes. Further details of the workshop are given below.

Objectives of the workshop:

1. Enhance participants' knowledge of ILO's main social security standards, notably the minimum standards spelled out in ILO Convention 102 (1952), and in other relevant ILO conventions and recommendations.
2. Discuss with participants: (a) common legal definitions of the different social security contingencies, (b) qualifying conditions commonly applied, and (c) common designs of benefit provisions, ensuring consistency, equity, and an adequate benefit level.
3. Discuss the linkages between target population, benefit design, and financing requirements; and any trade-offs to be considered when developing social security legislation.
4. Discuss other relevant aspects related to the implementation of social security legislation, including governance arrangements, administration, compliance, and benefit delivery.
5. Discuss technical aspects of relevance in the respective countries of participants, in particular such aspects related to the development or amendment of social security legislation.

Expected Result

1. Participants have enhanced their knowledge and understanding of ILO social security standards.
2. Participants have gained a better understanding of social security principles and scheme design issues, notably on the relationship between legal provisions, implementation issues, and long-term financing requirements.
3. Participants have discussed specific issues of concern in their respective countries, and have identified technical areas where further inputs and/or technical assistance is needed or recommended.

Participants

The participants include policy makers, high-level government officials, and technical officers involved in the development of social security legislation from the countries of Lao PDR (15 persons), Myanmar (5 persons), Viet Nam (5 persons), Indonesia (5 persons) and Cambodia (5 persons).

In addition, a maximum of 15 other selected participants will be invited to participate, such as ILO technical experts, programme and project officers in the respective countries, and others as relevant. A total of 50 participants are expected to attend the workshop.

Date and Venue

The training workshop will take place at Villa Santi Resort, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR during 27-29 August 2013.

Organisers

The workshop will be co-organised by the project LAO/11/01M/LUX (venue and Lao participants) and by ILO DWT Bangkok.

Resource persons (TBC)

The training will be facilitated by:

- Ms Valérie Schmitt, Social Protection Specialist, DWT, Bangkok
- Mr Jean-Claude Hennicot, CTA, ILO Project LAO/11/01M/LUX, Lao PDR
- Mr Hiroshi Yamabana, Social Security Actuary, ILO Geneva
- Ms Emannelle St-Pierre Guilbault, ILO Geneva
- Ms Céline Bista, CTA, ILO/Japan-ASEAN UI Project, Bangkok
- Mr Thibault van Langenhove, ILO Cambodia
- Mr Carlos Galian, Associate Expert on Social Security, ILO Vietnam
- Ms Sinta Satriana, Consultant on Social Protection, Lao PDR
- Ms Loveleen De, Consultant on Social Protection, DWT Bangkok
- Dr Thaworn Sakulphanit, Director, HISRO, Thailand

Language

The official language will be English and all materials will be provided in English. For Lao participants, an interpreter will be available for simultaneous translation of course materials.