

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: PROGRESS IN EXTENDING SOCIAL PROTECTION IN ASEAN COUNTRIES

ILO-China-ASEAN High Level Seminar to
Achieve the SDGs on Universal Social Protection
Through South-South and Triangular Cooperation

7 September 2016, 9:00-10:30, Beijing, P.R.C.

According to Article 22 and Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), everyone has a right to social security and a decent standard of living, including access to essential social services.

Social protection powerfully contributes to reducing poverty, exclusion, and inequality while enhancing political stability and social cohesion. It can also be a powerful tool to prevent and recover from the economic crisis, natural disasters, and conflicts. Social protection is needed for economic reasons as well. Social protection contributes to economic growth by supporting household income and thus domestic consumption. Furthermore, social protection enhances human capital and productivity, making it a critical policy for transformative national development. Social protection is therefore essential for inclusive development and social justice.

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development is composed of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Social protection, including floors, are among and contribute to five of these goals, namely SDG 1 on ending poverty, SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives, SDG 5 on achieving gender equality, SDG 8 on promoting decent work, and SDG 10 on reducing inequality.

Today nearly 73 per cent of the world's population lack access to adequate social protection coverage.

To reduce such a deficit, the ILO has launched a global campaign and a Global Flagship Programme with a view to assisting countries to provide better access to social protection to 130 million people in the next five years and 500 million by the end of 2030, in which knowledge exchange among the countries in the Global South plays an important role.

Following the adoption of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), many member States of the ILO have acknowledged the importance of social protection in their development agendas and made significant progress in the extension.

In this context several ASEAN countries have taken measures to extend their social protection systems. In some cases the schemes are universal, in others the schemes are targeted towards the poorest.

As a whole, there are rich and abundant accumulated national knowledge and experience in extending social protection, which are very much relevant and precious for other countries with similar socioeconomic development conditions. The exchange of these experiences, key factor of success and main challenges, is the main objective of this panel discussion.

General question

Please share with us the most recent progresses in extending social protection in your country. What were the key ingredients for the success in extending social protection? And what are the key challenges?

Specific questions for countries

Cambodia

What led to such a quick and successful expansion of NSSF coverage and what are the main challenges to the system to extend to additional group of enterprises and workers?

How is NSSF getting ready to deal with new contingencies such as health insurance and likely pensions in the future?

Indonesia

Could you share with us the experience of Indonesia in merging schemes and bringing all of them under one single agency? How important was this measure?

How does the Indonesian government intend to extend social protection coverage to the informal sector?

What are the main challenges that BJPS faces in enforcing the current laws?

Malaysia

Please share with us the latest developments in terms of extending the coverage of the Employment Workers Insurance in Malaysia?

When we talk about extension we are also referring to widening the scope of contingencies covered. Do SOCSO have plans in terms of extending the scope of contingencies?

What are the main challenges for Malaysia to reach that everyone is covered by Social Protection?