

Session 5 - Supporting Workers and Businesses Affected by Disasters: Social Security and Employment Policy

Wednesday 23 November, 9.00- 10.30 (1 hour and 30 minutes)

Moderator: *Mr Jovenal Lazaga, ATUC*

Session Note:

This session will bring forward social protection and disaster from the perspective of business continuity and employment security. The first presentation will present examples of policies that help enterprises resume their businesses and workers maintain their jobs following a disaster. The second presentation will cover the active role of the business community in mitigating the impact of disasters and helping themselves to survive and thrive after a disaster.

Objective of the Session:

- To understand that the business sector and employers can play also an important role in disasters' response and recovery; and
- To discuss possible policies and interventions aimed at directly supporting the business and workers following a disaster.

Presentation 1: Thailand's response to the 2011 floods (through the Unemployment Insurance and wage subsidies) (30 minutes)

Presenter: Ms. Rangsimapreechachard, Labour Specialist, Social Security Office, Ministry of Labour, Thailand

This presentation will show how government social protection and employment policies help enterprises maintain/resume their businesses and workers maintain their jobs. Thailand's experience following the 2011 floods presents a case study where the government's employment policy and existing social protection scheme, promptly adjusted to respond to the disaster, have prevented businesses from closing down and laying off workers.

Presentation 2: Interventions from the business sector in helping enterprises survive and thrive after a disaster (30 minutes)

Presenter: Mr. Peter Townsend, CEO of Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce (CECC)

This presentation will bring up the role of the business community in improving their resilience to disaster. Recover Canterbury is a temporary organisation formed by the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce (CECC) and Canterbury Development Corporation (CDC) supported by several government agencies to help small and medium businesses survive, revive and thrive following the earthquakes. Initially, Recover Canterbury's role was to identify what emergency help businesses needed and ensure they received it. Over time, it evolved into a free "one stop shop" for business to obtain various supports, including business trainings and referrals to other agencies such as lawyers, banks or insurers.

Question & Answer (30 minutes)