The International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database for ASEAN

Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN TRIANGLE Project)
THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION STATISTICS (ILMS) DATABASE FOR ASEAN

The objectives of the ILMS Database in ASEAN are threefold:

1. To provide an openly-available, relevant, comprehensive and timely information source to enable evidence-based policymaking on international labour migration in ASEAN;

2. To map the existing data sources countries collect, including information about their quality, scope, completeness, comparability and possible ongoing gaps and weaknesses that can be filled through capacity building; and

3. To define a set of tables of relevance on international labour migration as a standard reference-point for future data collection, publication and analysis in ASEAN and beyond.

Why does ASEAN need an ILMS Database?

The work comes at a critical time for ASEAN as economic development, regional integration and demographic factors continue to drive up intra-regional labour mobility. In order to manage this trend more coherently, the ILMS Database fills an important knowledge gap. Indeed, the importance of improved data collection and sharing on international labour migration among Member States have already been emphasised as recommendations of improved data collection and sharing among the Member States.

The tables collected under the ILMS Database in ASEAN were decided upon through extensive consultations with ASEAN Member States and other stakeholders. The 17 tables are collected across the following three modules, as follows:

**MODULE A. International Migrant Stock**

1. Resident population
2. Working-age population
3. Migrants
4. Employed migrants
5. Employed persons
6. Employed persons
7. Employed persons
8. Average monthly wages

**MODULE B. International Migrant Flow**

9. Inflows of working-age migrants
10. Inflows of migrants
11. Inflows of employed migrants
12. Inflows of employed migrants

**MODULE C. Nationals abroad**

13. Stock of nationals abroad
14. Outflow of nationals
15. Outflow of nationals for employment
16. Outflow of nationals for employment
17. Outflow of nationals for employment

**ILMS Database in ASEAN, Phase III**

Following two successful rounds of data collection under the ILMS Database in ASEAN, Phase III of the project was launched in July 2015 in order to collect the complete data for 2014 and address ongoing data gaps and capacity building needs. The ASEAN TRiANGLE Project has documented the process of developing the ILMS Database and produced a “Guide” to assist other regions developing similar databases. The project will produce an analytical report on the data collected to highlight the main ongoing trends within the region and draw conclusions on how to improve data collection and sharing among the Member States.

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The ILMS Database gathers together official government data from a number of statistical sources on international migrant workers’ stocks and flows within the region as well as on countries’ nationals living or working abroad. It is the first of its kind in the region. The ILMS fills an important knowledge gap, creating a powerful research tool through which policymakers and others can profile and monitor the international migrant labour force within the region.

The ILMS Database is published at a critical time for the ASEAN region, as economic development, regional integration, and demographic factors continue to drive intra-regional labour mobility. The ILMS Database was created by the ILO’s project on Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN TRIANGLE Project), which is funded by the Canadian Government. It was developed through extensive collaboration with both the ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILMS Database can be accessed from three portals online:

ILOSTAT: www.ilo.org/ilostat
APMigration: http://apmigration.ilo.org/asean-labour-migration-statistics
ASEAN Statistics: http://www.asean.org/resources/category/asean-statistics