Palais des Nations,
Room XXIII,
13 October 2017 (13:15-14:45)

Labour Mobility and Skills Recognition: Insights from ASEAN and ECOWAS

Overview

The aim of the side event is to introduce and discuss the role of regional frameworks to improve the skills and recognition of the qualifications of migrant workers. The focus will be on the emerging approach to mutual recognition arrangements on professional services (MRAs) and their interaction with trade and migration policies.

This side-event is co-sponsored by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines

Agenda

Introduction, Prof. Elisa Fornalé, World Trade Institute, University of Bern

Panel: Challenges and the promises of mutual recognition arrangements for skills recognition

- Dr. Joji Aragon, Assistant Secretary, Legal, Legislative and International Affairs Department of Labour and Employment, Republic of the Philippines
- Prof. Sufian Jusoh, Institute of Malaysian and International Studies
- Mrs. Amanda Bisong, GIZ Advisor at ECOWAS
- Mrs. Pamela Apaza Lanyi, World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Dr. Nathalia Popova, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Dr. Miryam Hazan, Consultant at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)

Moderated Discussion, Mr. Pierre Sauvé, Senior Trade Specialist, Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice, World Bank Group

Closing Remarks, Dr. Marion Panizzon, University of Bern

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Concept Note

Regional skills recognition practices are screened for improving the "fair, regular and orderly" migration (processes?), which are the pillars of a future Global Migration Compact. With a focus on ASEAN and ECOWAS, the panel will learn from the inputs of ILO, IADB, WTO and academia to further identify which skills recognition practices could be "uploaded" to the Global Compacts process, while highlighting their relation to trade agreements, liberalization of labor migration, and their impact on facilitating return migration and the circulation of skills.

The side event will address the following questions:

- What approaches to skills and qualifications can be identified? Are there best practices that are emerging at the regional level?
- What are the legal challenges that nation states are facing in implementing them?
- What is the potential role of the mutual recognition regime in the adoption of domestic measures? Beyond recognition which additional barriers to labor migration exist (access to professional associations etc.)?
- Which regional MRA or bilateral labor agreement (BLA) sets standards to be replicated at the level of the Global Migration Compact through common guidelines, recommendations, plan of actions?
- What type of legal venue—trade and economic partnership agreements, bilateral labor migration agreements could address the issue of skills-recognition, transfer and testing?

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