

Session 1: The Labor Movement's Prospects under the AEC

After 2015, the ASEAN Economic Community or AEC's impact will include liberalization of the market for goods, as well as free movement of production factors, including labor. The member countries skilled labor will move freely across countries which can create job opportunities and enhance market competitiveness. In practice, country's specific regulations still prevent completely free labor mobility. However, AEC will create diverse impacts on member countries including their laborers. This session aims to understand how AEC implementation will affect labor movement, especially within ASEAN countries. Potential discussion topics include:

- The effects of the blueprint on the labor market within the region.
- Factors determining inflow and outflow labor movement among countries.
- Categories of jobs with possible future movement.
- Possible impact on member countries, such as brain drain.
- Labor adjustment to overcome future challenges.

Session 2: Child Labor and Country Development Perspectives

Child labor is seen as one of the main problems which significantly affect a country's development. However, the problem remains to be solved. Child labor is closely related to poverty, human capital, and national income. Poverty, child labor, and human capital formation are reciprocally reinforcing, because children must work instead of studying. This in turns obstructs the improvement of human capital. Children with low productivity will earn lower incomes and are trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty. This session aims to understand the relationship of child labor, poverty, country development and related challenges of the problem. Potential discussion topics include:

- Child labor attribution to household, national income, and country development.
- The trade-off between child labor and human capital formation.
- Child labor abuse and the vicious cycle of poverty.
- The future perspective of child labor and challenges; the persistence of child labor in spite of regulations in the midst of globalization.

Session 3: Public Sector's Role in Enriching Human Capital and its Contribution to Growth, Development and Standard of Living

Laborers have always been the main source of power driving an economy forward, since the dawn of capitalism. However, laborers' standard of living has been neglected, especially in developing countries where governments put more focus on foreign investment and GDP growth. To do so, government may keep wage low and suppress labor rights. Such policies can attract more investment, but also create the distress and misery which can result in social unrest in the long run. The public sector can both attract investment and improve laborers' standard of living by spending on the human capital development, with education, health care, and retraining program. The main aim of this session is to discuss the potential human capital development programs which can enhance productivity and help laborers support economic growth transformation. Potential topics for discussion are as following:

- Education and productivity development.
- Retraining programs: opportunities during crisis.
- Public health care and nutrition: increasing the return from education and its direct contribution to productivity.
- The importance of equal access to building capability for all.

Session 4: The Importance of Labor Protection Institution in Preventing Labor Exploitation

In a perfectly competitive market, laborers would be paid according to their value of marginal products and efficiency. However, this is not practical in the real world, market failures occur and some lead to exploitation of laborers whose wages are less than the value they actually produce. Monopsony creates inefficient market in that the level of employment and wages will be higher than in the perfectly competitive market. Exploitation of laborers creates the need for labor protection institutions which can enhance efficiency and fairness. Potential topics of discussion include:

- What should be considered as fair wages
- Types of market failure which lead to unfair and inefficient employment conditions.
- Empirical evidences of the unfair labor practices.
- The role of labor protection institutions in enhancing efficiency and fairness.