



กระทรวงแรงงาน: รมว.

Ministry of Labour Prepares Measures to Cope with Influx of Migrant Workers, Fight Human Trafficking

Minister of Labour says the government prepares measures to cope with the influx of migrant workers and to fight human trafficking, especially after the ASEAN Community (AC) comes into existence and its 300 baht minimum wage policy comes into effect.

Giving his speech on “Labour Migration Critical for Thailand” at an international meeting entitled “On the Move: Critical Migration in ASEAN”, held at Chulalongkorn University to mark the International Migrants Day on December 18, Mr. Phadornchai Sasomsab, Minister of Labour, said There are currently 140,000 Thai workers working overseas, mostly in Asian countries. About 47,000 Thai workers, or 32 percent of Thai workers in oversea countries, work in Taiwan.

Mr. Phadornchai said the migration situation in Thailand has changed over time as the country economy has improved. Thailand is now a hub of migration. It is a host, a destination and a transit country for migrants. Each year, some one million skilled, semi-skilled and non-skilled workers migrate to Thailand to work. He said many ASEAN member countries might face this kind of challenge after the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is formed in 2015, warning that they might not only encounter the migration of skilled workers that comes along with AEC, but also the migration of semi-skilled and non-skilled workers.

The labour minister also said many countries accuse Thailand as a country of origin, transit, and destination for people who are subject to forced labour, sex trafficking and force begging. However, the government has made the prevention and suppression of human trafficking as prioritized national missions while continuing the effort to ensure that local and migrant workers enjoy decent works, work safety, good health and fair wage as well as welfare

Mr. Phadornchai noted that the government policy on migrant workers has to comply with international standard so it will not create a worry in the mind of employers and employees in the long run. This requires cooperation from the origin country to issue correct documents of their workers. Regarding the labour shortage situation in Thailand, the labour minister said there is huge shortage of non-skilled and semi-skilled workers in various industries after the government has expanded education opportunities for students and workers to improve their skills.

On the government’s 300 baht daily minimum wage policy, which will come into force on January 1, 2013, he said the policy will attract migrant workers into Thailand. But the government has improved its system to management migrant workers more effectively and to give them better welfare in accordance with international standard. It has accelerated the national verification process, focused on hiring workers through government to government agreement, promoted knowledge on labour protection, and employers/employees welfares and provided greater social service and protection to migrant workers. He added that the government has also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational

Organised Crime (UNTOC) and two protocols and 14 conventions of International Labour Organization (ILO).