

**Keynote Speech of
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The ASEAN Secretariat**

**Consultation Workshop
ASEAN Community 2015:
Managing Integration for Better Jobs and Shared
Prosperity**

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ASEAN Statistics at a Glance

- GDP grown 74.7% since 2000.
- On average, population of ASEAN who are living under PPP \$ 1.25 a day is around 15% in 2010.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows at US\$108.2 billion in 2012
- Total merchandise trade recorded a slower growth rate from 16.8% in 2011 to 3.6% in 2012.



Employment Situation in ASEAN

- Labor force participation in ASEAN Member States in 2011 is at different levels from 64.1% to 85.1%.
- Youth labor force participation rates in the region are among the highest in the world at more than 50%.
- Majority of employment is in the agriculture, fishery, and forestry sectors.



Informal Economies and Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

- Constitute significant parts of the economies and labor force
- SMEs important in terms of income and employment generation
- Sectors should receive high attention in the discussions on the impacts of regional integration
- Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment



Labour Competitiveness

- ½ of ASEAN consists of young people
- Average years of schooling in ASEAN-6 is 8.1 years, while for CLMV, 4.1 to 5.9 (UNDP Report 2012)

- Vision of better jobs and shared prosperity has to be aligned to the overall efforts in promoting the education sector
- Mastery of English



Labour Mobility and Mutual Recognition of Skills

- Migrant workers in 2010 were 105.5 million; over 30 million were in Asia
- ASEAN Efforts:
 - ❑ Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs)
 - ❑ Agreement on Movement of Natural Persons in November 2012
 - ❑ Cross recognition of National Qualification Frameworks
 - ❑ ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF)
 - ❑ ASEAN Labor Ministers' Work Programme (2010-2015)



Conclusion

- Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the implementation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint
- Results of ILO-ADB Study could serve as useful complement to ASEAN Member States in shaping the regional priorities



THANK YOU

