Draft
Concept Note
ILO National Workshop in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar
ILO/Korea “Towards the Mutual Recognition of Skills in ASEAN countries” Project

Background
As the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 is fast approaching, ASEAN Member States are proactively preparing themselves to embrace a region with free movement of goods, services, investments, skilled labor and freer flow of capital. To achieve such goal, the development of a “mutually recognized skills framework” became very critical, because the mutual recognition of skills can smooth out the path in the negotiation between nations and thus facilitate the freer movement and employment of qualified and certified personnel. Essentially, the mutual recognition of skills is the major instrument for skilled labor mobility in ASEAN.

In the process of the mutual recognition of skills, however, there is an unavoidable existence of the development gap between the more developed and lesser-developed ASEAN Member States that can impede skilled labor mobility and the advancement of the recognition process. Therefore, it is not only necessary but also urgent to address the development divide and accelerate integration of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar (CLM) so that they are able to catch up in the development process within the scheduled timeline. Against this backdrop, the ILO Regional Skills Program through its Korea-funded Project on “Towards a Mutual Recognition of Skills in CLM Member States” (TMRS-CLM) was initiated to navigate the CLM Member States in the design and implementation of the mutual recognition of skills mechanisms through policy guidelines and directions.

To achieve the mutual recognition of skills, ILO has facilitated a series of regional consultation meetings since 2012. In the most recent regional tripartite Validation/Consultation Workshop on the Implementation of Mutual Recognition of Skills (MRS) in ASEAN countries held on 24-26 September 2014 in Jakarta Indonesia, the CLM Member States identified two specific occupations which they would like to have the MRS, and further developed a corresponding detailed work plan; they also identified their respective target countries with which they would like to initiate the MRS process. As such, the ILO TMRS-CLM project envisages the importance of having a follow-up national workshop in the three CLM Member States respectively, to provide technical assistance to help the three countries to advance their MRS process.

Objectives
The Objectives of the national workshop in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are to:

1) Review and refine the detailed action plan submitted during the Action-Planning workshop in Jakarta Indonesia with the key stakeholders identified;

2) Finalize the commitments on MRS and Regional Model Competency Standards (RMCS) with key stakeholders with assigned responsibilities for all activities and timelines for completion; and,

3) Ensure that Cambodia identify initial required content for mutual recognition process.

Tentative timetable:
**Approach and participants**
The national workshop will be held in a tripartite manner. It will be joined by senior officials from responsible ministry (ies) who are familiar with or responsible for national level training policy systems and standards as it relates to the AEC roadmap on the free flow of skilled labor and the shift towards a mutual recognition of skills in ASEAN. Representatives and experts in skills and/or economic integrations of employers’ organizations and workers’ will also be key participants.

**Expected Outputs**

1. Finalized commitments on MRS and RMCS for bi-lateral mutual recognition and further AEC referencing;

2. Refined action plan with a firm timeline for the implementation of the action plan with all responsibilities allocated and any development support clearly identified.

3. Focal point designated for the implementation.