

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
29 October 2018

ASEAN FORUM ON HIV AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE AND MIGRATION SET

The DOLE through the Bureau of Working Conditions will conduct the ASEAN Forum on HIV AIDS in the Workplace and Migration on November 9 to 10, 2018 at the Diamond Hotel Manila.

The forum aims to review the current practices on HIV and AIDS in migration, recruitment policies and mandatory testing in the workplaces of AMS and identify concrete steps the region can undertake to enhance cooperation and collaboration of ASEAN Member States to strengthen their capacities in addressing HIV and AIDS issues in migration.

Some areas of concerns for ASEAN regarding HIV and AIDS and migration have been previously identified including the need for formal protocols of both sending and receiving countries in handling workers found positive for HIV; region-wide accepted procedures to follow for workers repatriation, referral for reintegration and access to support services of HIV positive migrant workers, among others. Established mechanisms that would ensure migrant workers the access to HIV and AIDS information and services (during recruitment and deployment) in all ASEAN member countries would greatly help in strengthening capacities of the governments of both sending and receiving states handling and responding to HIV and AIDS concerns.

But despite the numerous interventions in the Region, cases still continue to rise to an epidemic proportion. The issues of the origin, extent, reporting, and treatment of AIDS are all sensitive matters that must be handled with utmost care. AMS must ensure to strike a balance between health care and workers' rights, specifically those of migrant workers. The development of a strategic framework to promote migrant workers' protection specifically their health concerns requires a strong, harmonized ASEAN stand in responding to emerging the HIV and AIDS situation related to migration is the primary objective of the forum.

Representatives from the following organizations are the expected attendees: ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat, Senior Officials Meeting on Health and Development (SOMHD), ASEAN Committee on the Implementation for the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Philippines, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), The Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC), Positibong Marino (Identified NGOs for migrant workers and those working on HIV and AIDS), Department of Health (DOH), Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA, Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), Employees' Compensation

Commission (ECC), Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

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