

DOLE backs ASEAN gender mainstreaming

June 2018

Gender mainstreaming as an integral component in strengthening social protection for workers, safety of migrant workers, and occupational safety and health, was fully supported by the labor department during the Senior Officials Conference on Gender Mainstreaming in ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Sectoral Bodies on June 27 to 29, 2018 at Dusit Thani Manila.

Bureau of Workers with Special Concern (BWSC) Director Ma. Karina Trayvilla emphasized the importance of using gender lens in reviewing a policy prior to implementation.

“We should always take into account the gender lens when reviewing a document. Does the document address a gender issue? What provisions can be incorporated to ensure gender equality?” Trayvilla said.

The conference, which was organized by the Philippine Commission on Women, aims to increase the practice of gender mainstreaming in ASEAN sectoral bodies as a strategy to achieve ASEAN’s goal of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Citing the ideas of Dr. Sita Sumrit, Head of the ASEAN’s Poverty Eradication and Gender Division, Prof. Lourdesita Sobrevega Chan of the Philippine Women’s Rights Representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, stressed the importance of gender equality.

“Gender equality is endemic. It is natural and not an add-on matter,” Chan said.

Prof. Chan also emphasized that women play a major role in national development and should not be left behind, as well as the other members of the vulnerable sector.

The ASCC–Senior Labor Officials Meeting is composed of Apiwantanakul Somsak from Thailand; Hnin Wint Phyu Phyu Ei from Myanmar; Ha Thiminhduc from Vietnam; Narath Choup from Cambodia; Maniboun, Oudone from Lao PDR; BWSC Director Trayvilla, Minnerva Ann Averilla, Jonnalyn Calipay, Renz Joseph Nucup, and Karen Dagnalan from the Philippines.

Also, the participants discussed the gender mainstreaming experiences from their respective countries, available methods and tools to mainstream gender equality in policies and projects, and the recommendations to mainstream a gender perspective in the plans and activities of the ASCC.

END/Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns