Highlights from MMN’s CSOs Meeting in Yangon

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Presented by:
Ms. Hkun Sa Mun Htoi (Mun)
Information and Advocacy Officer
Mekong Migration Network (MMN)
Email: mun@mekongmigration.org
MMN’s CSOs Meeting in Yangon

17 Representatives from 12 local organisations
Objectives of the Meeting

• To introduce MMN and its activities;
• To exchange information, ideas and experiences about labour and migration; and
• To identify key issues for the network’s activities in Myanmar.
PEST Analysis

- Analysis of current Migration and Labour environment in Burma/Myanmar based on the changes in:
  - Politics and Legal Framework
  - Economy
  - Society
  - Technology
Politics and Legal Framework

Opportunities

• Govt’s increased awareness
• More Freedom of Speech
• More CSOs and NGOs in labour rights movements
• More labour rights movements led by workers and migrants abroad
• Parliament discusses labour issues more
• More media freedom
• Myanmar being the chair of ASEAN in 2015

Challenges

• Govt officials are less interested and lack knowledge and expertise
• Suppression of trade unions
• No proper implementation of labour laws
• Lack of/limited capacity of opposition parties and MPs
• Weak rule of law → no guarantee of freedom of speech
# Economy

## Opportunities
- Wages rise due to increasing FDI
- Companies competing for skilled workers
- More job and employment opportunities
- Provision of social welfare to workers
- More advance tools/materials for goods production
- More medical services available & Govt plans to introduce mobile clinics
- CSR: ...% of companies goes to charities
- US companies (FDI more than 500,000) have to follow specific code of conducts (e.g. no forced labour) → might influence practices of local companies

## Challenges
- No effective implementation of labour laws
- No minimum wage
- More internal migrants in SEZs → impacts on city planning & basic social services
- Shortage of farm workers in rural areas → decreased food production
- Increasing social problems
- No decent housing conditions
- Workers with no household registration have to report regularly
- CSOs need referral system
- (Need to do in depth research on US policies)
Opportunities

- More CSOs can do more work on awareness raising
- Can protest freely; people organize protests more often
- More trade unions have office in YGN
- More networks like ITUC & ILO
- Networking with local, regional and international orgs strengthened
- More draft laws, policies and regulations
- Social media’s reporting on labour rights issues strengthened
- Stronger cooperation from public media

Challenges

- Competitions b/w CSOs & no unity
- Inaccurate information disseminated
- No follow up action from the govt & lack of monitoring process if demands are met
- Confrontations b/w workers & govt; employers & employees
- Some trade unions set up by govt & employers
- ITUC & ILO not inclusive; no contact with small unions/workers groups
- External influences not compatible with local cultures and practices
- Lack of time for consultation; delay in the process; less inputs from various stakeholders
- No concrete media protection law
Technology

Opportunities

• For migrants, it’s easier to call back home
• Provision of Emergency Services (e.g. MOLES’s hotline)
• Compilation of data on registered/documented migrants and workers in Burma by MOLES
• Uploading data on the MOLES’s website

Challenges

• Not accessible everywhere by everyone
• SIM card is very expensive ($100-200)
• Govt can arrest people who are using the Thai phone
• ES not effective and efficient
• Hotline: no one picks up
• Govt’s data does not represent the whole population
• Lack of technical capacity ➔ no updated data
• Govt does not transform data into action
Any questions or comments??

Thank you!

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