

**THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM**  
***“ASEAN After The Global Economic Crisis: Rebuilding Economies,  
Regenerating Growth”***

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**Session on Towards Food and Job Security Coping with the Global Downturn**

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a) Remarkable growth in ASEAN countries in the last 20 years, largely because of the export led growth model that they followed. The ASEAN Charter comes into effect this year, and there are hopes for greater integration, which will benefit the ASEAN block and individual countries.

b) The financial crisis since end 2008 puts a brake on this remarkable progress, and indeed threatens to undo some of the hard won gains. As a result of the current crisis, ILO estimates some 14 million Asian women and men likely to be unemployed in 2009; Numbers of those in vulnerable employment, more than one billion, are likely to reach about 64 percent of all Asian employment. Most affected are women, youth and migrants.

e) The IMF forecasts some recovery in global growth as of mid 2010, but this is conditional on the success of the stimulus packages adopted by countries and on the hope that the financial sector will start functioning effectively. But employment will improve with a lag, perhaps of 4 – 5 years ILO estimates. Therefore a looming Jobs and Decent Work (DW defined as productive employment opportunities that are safe, secure and with voice) crisis. Or, a jobs crisis beyond the current financial and economic crisis: besides for a long time now, growth has not produced enough jobs and perhaps the model needs to be changed;

f) The ILO, a tripartite organization of workers, employers and government of 183 member countries, and the oldest UN organization, celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, deals with issues relating to the world of work. It has been engaged in providing technical support to member countries at this time of social and economic upheaval. Last June, before the crisis actually triggered, the ILO governing body adopted a Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, because it was felt that the current process of globalization was unsustainable and while growth was taking place in several countries, inequality was also rising, and Decent Work was at stake. The G20 leader's summit in April 2009 laid out the elements of a plan for global recovery, with the need for productive jobs at its core. This is an important beginning, but more needs to be done to ensure that employment and social protection outcomes are realized in this time of crisis, rights at work are protected and social dialogue is respected.

g) For recovery, the ILO's International Labour conference, which ends on 19<sup>th</sup> June, has proposed a Global Jobs Pact – at its core are ILO's labour standards, employment and active labour market policies, labour intensive infrastructure investment, social protection for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups linked to employment measures, needs based skill development policies, safeguarding rights of migrant workers, Green jobs, and social dialogue, at its heart.

h) If the Global Jobs Pact – which puts jobs at the centre of the recovery plans, is adopted by countries in a coordinated way, for example in the ASEAN, the synergies and interactions between national jobs pacts will increasingly acquire global significance with reinforcing effects across countries.