

AICHR Activities at the Time of COVID-19 Pandemic

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On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Corona Virus Disease 2019 or COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic. Although different countries have different responses to the pandemic, human contact restriction has been their common approach. In Southeast Asia, measures such as movement control, partial or total lockdowns, curfews, quarantine and state of emergency imposed in some ASEAN Member States (AMS) have potential of challenging the implementation of international human rights law.

Following the outcomes from the Special ASEAN Summit on COVID-19 on 14 April 2020 which emphasized the importance of taking a coherent, multi-sectoral, effective, timely, multi-stakeholder and whole-of-ASEAN Community approach to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) issued a statement on 1 May 2021 calling for AMS, ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and entities to integrate human rights values and the principles of non-discrimination, participation and inclusion in their responses to the crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to re-organize our way of living, communicating and working. AICHR came to realization that with the emergence of new

variants, it is unlikely that the pandemic would cease anytime soon. Despite all challenges, AICHR adopted its Five-Year Work Plan 2021-2025 at the 53rd ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) in 2020, which included a number of programs for human rights protection. AICHR also managed to have specific action points related to human rights included in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) for COVID-19 that was adopted in the 37th ASEAN Summit in 2020.

Since 2020, AICHR has adjusted its activities online to advance human rights in ASEAN. Altogether, AICHR held twenty-eight activities consisting of training activities, workshops, forums, consultation and dialogue activities from 2019 to 2021 as briefly described below.

Training

1. *The Essentials of Human Rights Due Diligence in Business: A Training for ASEAN Institutions, Bangkok, Thailand, 1 - 2 December 2020 via videoconference*

The training deepened the participants' understanding on the promotion of Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) for the business sector in order to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and

Human Rights (UNGPs) and the Implementation Plan of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). It unpacked the roles of states in setting expectations on HRDD, and thus equipped participants with essential knowledge on HRDD process and its linkage to remediation as well as lessons learned in addressing adverse human rights impacts in different contexts. The training marked the first AICHR activity attributing to the implementation of the ACRF.

2. *AICHR training for frontline officers emphasizing human rights, child-friendly, gender-sensitive approaches in addressing trafficking in persons, Jakarta, Indonesia, 20 November 2021 via videoconference*

The training comprised of modules related to contemporary forms and challenges in countering trafficking in persons, including how to cope with COVID-19; ASEAN mechanisms in addressing trafficking in persons; ensuring assistance and protection for trafficked persons; interviewing victims; investigating and prosecuting traffickers; assisting trafficked persons in the court proceeding and providing care for the carers. At the training, participants shared their experiences and made some recommendations: (a) AMS to enhance the use of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty mechanism to help the process of investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases in the

region, (b) AMS to consider not holding victims of trafficking in persons criminally or administratively liable, for unlawful acts committed by them, and take necessary protective operational measures of assistance and protection, and (c) AICHR to develop a human rights-based approach to regional referral system in ASEAN to better respond to trafficking in person cases, among others.

Workshops

1. *AICHR Workshop on the Environment and Human Rights: Urban Pollution, Singapore, 9–10 September 2019*

The Workshop comprised a session on defining urban pollution and its impact on the right to health and a session on ideas and solutions in dealing with urban pollution. It also included sessions on the role of the youth in sustainable urban development and ASEAN's approach on the right to a safe, clean, and sustainable environment. Engaging the youth in sustainable urban development was demonstrated and underlined as a strategic approach to address challenges ahead and generate innovative ideas and solutions in dealing with urban pollution. The speakers and participants discussed the various sources of urban pollution and its impact on people's health and the environment, as well as how rapid urbanization and development have affected the environment

and the link between human rights and urban pollution.

2. *AICHR Workshop on Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women through ICT towards Achieving UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, 7-8 November 2019*

The Workshop marked the AICHR's initial attempt at tackling the issue of human rights in the face of digitalization and 4th Industrial Revolution, with emphasis on gender equality and empowerment of women. With the participation of various stakeholders in ASEAN, the AICHR aimed to contribute to ASEAN efforts in building a people-centred and people-oriented community as well as in implementing international commitments such as the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which were ratified or acceded to by all AMS.

3. *AICHR Workshop on Human Rights, Environment, and Climate Change, Bangkok, Thailand, 8-10 June 2021 via videoconference*

This Workshop explored the inter-linked elements of human rights and the environment, such as environmental decision-making, climate change, and impacts on vulnerable groups including women, children and youth.

Discussions were focused on matters in relation to advancement of a rights-based approach to environmental decision-making (including through environmental impact assessment [EIA] mechanisms), intersection between climate change and human rights, children's rights to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in ASEAN. The Workshop reaffirmed the important link between environment and full enjoyment of human rights, the need to focus on accountability, and access to justice and public participation as well as multi-stakeholder platforms to mainstream a rights-based approach to environmental protection in ASEAN. It also shed light on regional efforts to protect vulnerable peoples beyond boundaries and institutionalizing efforts at all level.

4. *AICHR Workshop on Realizing the Right to Health through Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Jakarta, Indonesia, 29 June 2021 via videoconference*

The Forum discussed the challenges and gaps in implementing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in ASEAN during and post-pandemic, the progresses and lesson learned, common elements for an effective UHC system, and measures in realization of the right to health for migrant workers, such as portable social security¹ as well as practical recommendations and ways forward to realizing UHC

for groups at risk or infected with COVID-19, particularly for migrant workers in AMS. Participants also discussed integrating human rights-based approach in the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases, the inclusion of mental health issues into the UHC package and the improvement of living and working conditions of the health workforce.

5. *AICHR holds workshop on community policing approach to prevent trafficking in persons, Jakarta, Indonesia, 23-25 August 2021 via videoconference*

Over one hundred fifty participants from relevant ministries, national agencies and task forces focused on combating trafficking in persons, national agencies of witness and victim's protection, national human rights institutions, ASEAN sectoral bodies and civil society organizations from all AMS and Timor-Leste attended the workshop. At the three-day workshop, participants exchanged views, experiences and good practices on victim identification, human rights and gender perspectives to trafficking in persons, trafficking in persons case handling, community policing approaches, police-public partnership, national and regional referral mechanisms for trafficked persons and their challenges due to COVID-19.

6. *AICHR holds validation workshop on a regional study on migration management and human rights, Jakarta,*

Indonesia, 1 November 2021 via videoconference

The workshop gathered inputs and comments for the AICHR Study on Migration and Human Rights report from migration experts and representatives from universities, think tanks, and civil society organizations in ASEAN. The scope of AICHR's study report covers labor migration management in ASEAN by examining state practices in promoting and protecting the human rights of migrant workers; cooperation mechanism and the role of various stakeholders; best practices and recommendations to protect the rights of migrant workers and improve labor migration management in AMS. The study report complements the existing ASEAN initiatives on the rights of migrant workers, such as: ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers; ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration; and ASEAN Guidelines on Effective Return and Reintegration of Migrant Workers, among others.

Forums

1. *AICHR Forum on the Rights of Migrant Workers: Implementation of Article 4 of ASEAN Human Rights Declaration related to the Human Rights of Migrant Workers, Jakarta, Indonesia, 30 June 2021 via videoconference*

This AICHR Forum on the Rights

of Migrant Workers: Implementation of Article 4 of ASEAN Human Rights Declaration related to the Human Rights of Migrant Workers aimed to contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers as well as the AHRD. The Forum focused on emerging challenges and gaps in policy framework related to the protection of the rights of migrant workers in ASEAN throughout the migration cycle of: pre-departure, transit, settlement in the host country, return and reintegration, and aimed to develop recommendations on the implementation of Article 4 of the AHRD in relation to the rights of migrant workers. The Forum also reviewed the progress and challenges in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration in the region, including the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. *AICHR Forum on Freedom of Opinion and Expression: Digitalisation and ASEAN Digital Connected Community in Post-Pandemic Era: Challenges, Opportunities and Ways Forward, Jakarta, Indonesia, 16 December 2021 via videoconference*

The Consultation was the follow-up on a previous initiative on freedom of opinion and expression online, COVID-19 and ASEAN Community. This Consultation aimed at sharing

practices, experiences, challenges and possible cooperation in addressing the spread of hate speech, fake news, misinformation, and disinformation among stakeholders in ASEAN and its challenges and ways forward in the era of post-pandemic and providing a platform to discuss digital rights within the framework and the interpretation of Article 23 of the AHRD on freedom of opinion and expression.

3. *ASEAN Forum on SDG 11: Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable in the time of Post-Pandemic, Jakarta, Indonesia, 17 December 2021 via videoconference*

The Forum affirmed the critical role of cities, local authorities and communities in improving the life of people and focus on institution-building and mechanisms to make cities a more inclusive, resilient, sustainable and human rights city in the post-pandemic era. The Forum aimed at providing a platform for discussion among local governments and AICHR in demonstrating cities' enabling and transformative power in shaping resilient, inclusive and sustainable and human rights societies through sharing best practices in responding to COVID-19 and understanding challenges, opportunities and ways forward, and the role of different actors in realizing better cities in post-pandemic context.

Consultations

1. *Regional Consultation on Commonalities of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in ASEAN Member States and Advancing a Harmonized and Right-Based Approach, Yangon, Myanmar, 2-3 October 2019*

The 2019 Regional Consultation aimed to advocate for a harmonized and rights-based framework to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in ASEAN. The participants discussed the existing legal framework on the environment and EIA in AMS, identified areas of commonalities, and discussed ways forward for a harmonized and rights-based regional framework, which included identification of the stakeholders, possible content of the regional framework, and timeframe for its implementation, among others.

2. *AICHR Consultation on Realization of the Right to Development to Enhance the ASEAN Community, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia, 11-12 November 2019*

The Consultation highlighted the nexus between the Right to Development, its relations to human rights-based approach to development and the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in the context of ASEAN. The participants discussed the impact of globalization on the right to development in ASEAN and the existing practices in the AMS to address the gaps and ensure the grievances and

remedies related to the right to development. They also emphasized a gender-based perspective. They recommended mainstreaming the right to development, and the accountability mechanism to monitor development program implementation in the ASEAN community.

3. *The 2019 AICHR Consultation on Freedom of Opinion and Expression in ASEAN (Article 23 of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration), Bali, Indonesia, 8-10 December 2019*

The Consultation was held with a diverse participation of representatives from the media, national human rights institutions, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sector, and the relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies. The participants discussed a wide range of issues related to the international and regional framework on the promotion and protection of freedom of expression, state of human rights in digital age and its implications, opportunities and challenges, and strategies in addressing the challenges and balancing rights and freedom, in particular on the right to privacy, data protection, censorship and academic freedom in ASEAN. Aiming to solicit inputs in the formulation of recommendations to the AICHR on the articulation of the Article 23 of the AHRD,² the participants suggested that state obligations consider the role of stakeholders and the gender

perspective in ensuring the freedom of expression and opinion in ASEAN, access to information, the right to privacy and data protection, internet freedom, media freedom, among others.

4. *The 2019 AICHR Consultation on the Implementation of Article 22 of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration on Freedom of Religion and Belief, Bali, Indonesia, 11-13 December 2019*

The Consultation provided a platform for ASEAN stakeholders to share practices and experiences on the implementation of freedom of religion and belief in ASEAN. The Consultation aimed to formulate the articulation of Article 22 of the AHRD³ in advancing freedom of religion and belief in the ASEAN context for AICHR's consideration. The main aspects and salient points in ensuring fulfilment of freedom of religion and belief were deliberated. A detailed formulation of state obligations related to freedom of religion and belief as well as the role of stakeholders with emphasis on gender perspective was recommended by the participants, focusing on the prohibition of all forms of intolerance and discrimination, and the prohibition of all forms of incitement to hatred based on religion and belief.

5. *AICHR Consultation on the Implementation of Article 14 of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD): Preventing and Countering*

Torture in Jakarta, Indonesia, 3-4 December 2020 via videoconference

The Consultation was a continuation of AICHR's previous programs on the implementation of Article 14 of the AHRD. It provided an avenue to share experiences and practices among AMS to counter and prevent torture as well as gather inputs to develop recommendations on the implementation of Article 14 of the AHRD.⁴ Participants discussed the practices of State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) in ASEAN, and shared some key principles in implementing Article 14 of the AHRD as well as possible international and regional cooperation on the prevention of torture. Furthermore, the Consultation underscored the importance of public awareness-raising activities, and collaboration with stakeholders such as government institutions, civil society, national human rights institutions, and scholars to develop possible elements of a skeletal roadmap toward the realization of preventing and countering torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in ASEAN.

6. *AICHR Consultation to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism in ASEAN from the Perspectives of Human Rights, Gender-Sensitivity and Child Rights, Jakarta, Indonesia, 3 June 2021 via videoconference*

This activity showcased the

AICHR's contribution to strengthening cross-pillar and cross-sectoral cooperation in countering violent extremism in ASEAN, and the implementation of the Work Plan of the ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2019-2025) in particular. It provided a platform for sharing best practices on preventing and countering violent extremism from the perspectives of human rights, gender-sensitivity, and child rights.

7. *AICHR Consultation on Mainstreaming Human Rights in Humanitarian Actions, Jakarta, Indonesia, 4 June 2021 via videoconference*

The Consultation was the first AICHR activity focusing on the need and importance of integrating human rights to humanitarian action. Participants from ASEAN bodies and entities, stakeholders and external partners shared experiences and practices to overcome challenges in promoting rights-protection in humanitarian action, including: programs on gender mainstreaming, disability inclusivity and child protection. Participants also discussed four categories of human rights commonly at stake in disaster, pandemic and conflict contexts, which relate to civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

8. *AICHR consult stakeholders in strengthening its human rights protection mandate, Bangkok, Thailand, 14*

September 2021 via videoconference

At this dialogue, AICHR Representatives and relevant stakeholders continued to exchange views on the implementation of AICHR's mandate and functions, and discussed the areas to be strengthened, to solidify its position as the ASEAN human rights body. The dialogue served to identify issues of subregional concern that need adjustment, taking into consideration the disruptive changes taking place globally, and the changing needs of AMS to review AICHR's TOR. It also sought to consolidate views from experts from the American, European and African regions on practical lessons with regard to their respective regional human rights mechanisms that could be considered in the ASEAN context.

9. *AICHR Consultation Workshop on Achieving a Disability Inclusive Post COVID-19 World, Bangkok, Thailand, 3 December 2021, via videoconference*

The Consultation aimed to raise awareness through a consultation workshop that focused on the multidimensionality of disability rights to cope and work towards a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable recovery. More than one hundred twenty-five participants attended the consultation and came up with recommendations for ASEAN.

10. *AICHR Concept Note on the ASEAN Dialogue on the United Nations*

Convention on the Rights of the Child General Comments, Manila, the Philippines, 7-8 December 2021 via videoconference

The Dialogue focused on the discussions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child General Comments No. 5 (2003) regarding general measures on Articles 4, 42, and 44 Para. 6 and No. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realization of children's rights (Article 4). These two General Comments are aligned with on-going children-related efforts of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), through the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

11. *AICHR Consultation on the Right to an Effective Remedy in ASEAN (Article 5 of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration), Jakarta, Indonesia, 14 December 2021 via videoconference*

The Consultation aimed at developing a greater understanding of the concept of the right to effective remedies, exchanging views and experiences in implementing the right to effective remedies and exploring possible common approaches, principles and practices in implementing the right to effective remedies. Among AMS, there has been a profound experience in addressing victims' right to truth, justice, reparation and the guarantees

of non-recurrence. Accordingly, participants shared experiences and practices in realizing the effective remedies for victims.

Dialogues

The Human Rights Dialogue discussed in a separate article in this volume involves mainly the representatives of AMS and follows the discussion format of the United Nations Universal Periodic Review. However, AICHR has been holding another type of dialogue from 2019 on various issues with representatives of AMS, CSOs and other institutions. A summary of the discussions during these dialogues are presented below:

1. *AICHR Interregional Dialogue: Sharing Good Practices on Business and Human Rights, Bangkok, Thailand, 10-11 June 2019*

A two-day Dialogue emphasized the stock taking of recent progress among AMS in implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), particularly the development of a national action plan on business and human rights and discussed the interaction between the UNGPs and expansion of trade liberalization through Free Trade Agreements. With around one hundred eighty participants attending from the subregion and beyond, the Dialogue saw notable progress that has been made worldwide including Southeast Asia to ensure the effective

implementation of the UNGPs.

2. *The 2nd AICHR Regional Dialogue on Mainstreaming of the Right to Education in the ASEAN Community, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 20-22 October 2019*

Pursuant to its objectives, the 2nd Regional Dialogue mapped out good practices and challenges pertaining to the promotion of the right to inclusive education for women, children and persons with disabilities; the right to education for development; the right to education for employment; the right to education in digital age; and human rights education in ASEAN. The participants shared good practices and challenges to enhancing the right to quality and inclusive education and discussed possible ways forward for the AICHR as well as relevant bodies of ASEAN to contribute to the mainstreaming of the right to education in the ASEAN Community.

3. *The 2019 Jakarta-AICHR Human Rights Dialogue (JAHRD), ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia, 13 November 2019*

This Dialogue was attended by Representatives of the AICHR, AMS, CSOs, and other stakeholders. The Dialogue focused on exchanging views and opinions on the achievements, challenges and opportunities of the AICHR on the promotion and protection of human rights in ASEAN, and on the evolution of discourses and knowledge

on human rights in the past decade and the role of ASEAN scholars in the process. Advocating for the promotion of people's participation, inclusivity and accountability in realizing human rights in ASEAN, the participants provided inputs and suggestions on ways to overcome challenges and barriers faced by different stakeholders and actors, and to establish effective cooperation among different actors at the national, regional and international levels. Inputs from the Dialogue would also be useful for the AICHR to elaborate further on the articulation of Articles 9 and 39 of the AHRD.

4. *AICHR Regional Dialogue on Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Gender Perspective on Disability Rights), Bangkok, Thailand, 3-5 December 2019*

This Dialogue was conducted in conjunction with International Day of Persons with Disabilities, focusing on gender perspective on disability rights from multiple dimensions, such as women with disabilities and policy and political rights, gender perspectives and justice system, disaster preparedness and management for women and girls with disabilities, inclusive education for women and girls with disabilities, and mainstreaming gender and disability rights in business. The participants, mostly members of the disabled persons' organizations (DPOs), discussed three position

papers with recommendations to further mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in ASEAN in the areas of political participation and access to justice, inclusive education, business, and disaster management.

5. *ASEAN Dialogue on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) General Comments, Manila, Philippines, 11-12 December 2019*

Following the recommendations of the ASEAN Dialogue on the UN CRC and its Related Instruments held in 2018, this Dialogue shared best practices in addressing challenges by discussing the General Comments (GCs) as authoritative interpretations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) articles and as a means to identify regional and international similarities in advancing the rights of the child. With focus on GC 12 on the right of the child to be heard and GC 14 on the right of the child to have her/his best interests taken as a primary consideration, the Dialogue put special attention to children in vulnerable situations such as those who are stateless, children of undocumented migrants, child brides, children of sex workers and those with disabilities. Several recommendations raised include reviewing the reservations made by some AMS on the UN CRC articles, strengthening the awareness of decision makers on GCs, institutionalizing

the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of GCs, reinforcing the efforts to educate children about their rights, and streamlining the promotion and protection of the rights of the child in ASEAN, among others.

6. *Regional Dialogue: Self-Assessment of AICHR Progress After 10 Years, Bangkok, Thailand, 23 July 2021 via videoconference*

This Dialogue created an opportunity for exchange of views among former and current AICHR Representatives on AICHR's mandates and functions that need to be strengthened in order to enhance effectiveness in the promotion and protection of human rights in the subregion. It aimed to document the discussion and recommendations for further deliberation in support of the work of a Panel of Experts to be established by the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM), which was tasked by the AMM in 2019. The Dialogue commended AICHR for its achievements and progress made in the first decade of AICHR's establishment. It also discussed a number of structural and operational challenges, namely, on the overview of regional human rights mechanism and the evolution of AICHR; challenges in implementing AICHR's mandates to provide policy support for AMS and ASBs (ASEAN Sectoral Bodies) to mainstream human rights and to develop human rights strategies

in ASEAN; ways forward for AICHR to advance stakeholders engagement; and ways forward to strengthen AICHR's protection mandates.

Online Activities

AICHR was able to invite more participants from different stakeholders for online activities since there was no budget implication on the number of people that could participate. This opened the way for inclusivity in the AICHR process and introduced new methods of engagement with stakeholders. Online engagement allows me to reach out and listen to the grievances of the victims of human rights violations from different countries regardless of language differences because of online application on language translation. Moreover, although almost all conversations were done online, the quality of the substance of the discussions did not lessen.

Some Reflections

As a way of reflection, while the COVID-19

crisis appears to be an unprecedented situation, there are also unexpected positive developments in addressing the pandemic, which includes, but not limited to, (a) the increased appreciation of effective protection of social and economic rights and universal healthcare coverage, (b) the need to have science-based policies, (c) awareness and appreciation of the advancement of technology, and (d) new opportunities to conceptualize online employment.

At the same time, the situation created by the pandemic also exposed new vulnerabilities and inequalities. One of them is the digital divide between those who have the means and the poor, those who live in rural areas, students with disabilities, girls, and women that surfaced very clearly during the pandemic.

It is now very important for AICHR to seize the momentum and define the (new) state obligations related to "digital rights" to ensure that the human rights of the people in AMS are fulfilled.

Endnotes

1 "Portability means the ability to preserve, maintain, and transfer social security right vested or on disbursement, regardless of nationality and country of residence.⁴ A tool to establish portability is a Social Security Agreement (SSA), which is an international agreement that coordinates the social security programs of two or more countries in order to overcome, on a reciprocal basis, the barriers that might otherwise prevent migrant workers and the members of their families from receiving benefits under the systems of any of the countries in which they have worked." Study Report on the Portability of Social Security Rights between ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat, September 2021, page xxii, <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EPUB-Study-Report-on-the-Portability-of-Social-Security-Rights-between-ASEAN-Member-States-Final-Sep2021.pdf>.

⁴A. T. Cruz, "Portability of benefit rights in response to external and internal labour mobility: The Philippines experience," Paper presented at the International Social Security

Association, Thirteenth regional conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Kuwait, March 2004. R. Holzman et al., *Portability regimes of pension and health care benefits for international migrants: An Analysis of issues and good practices*. (Geneva: Global Commission on International Migration, 2005).

2 "23. Every person has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information, whether orally, in writing or through any other medium of that person's choice. " The full text of ASEAN Human Rights Declaration is available at <https://asean.org/asean-human-rights-declaration/>.

3 "22. Every person has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. All forms of intolerance, discrimination and incitement of hatred based on religion and beliefs shall be eliminated." ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.

4 "14. No person shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." ASEAN Human Rights Declaration.