



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**Contribution to the
2015 United Nations Economic and Social
Council (ECOSOC)
Integration Segment**

INTEGRATION SEGMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT CREATION AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

Guidance questions for Member States' inputs to the Integration Segment:

1. Is youth employment a major issue in your country?

Yes, youth employment is a major issue in our country.

2. What is the proportion of the youth labour force [aged between 15-24] that is unemployed in your country?

According to a report made by the Department of Economic Planning and Development, Prime Minister's Office, it was stated that about 3,252 youth aged 20-24 are unemployed in June 2014.

3. Does your government have specific programmes targeted at youth employment?

The Government through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) has several specific programmes targeted at youth employment such as:-

i. The Youth Development Centre

The Youth Development Centre (PPB) under the MCYS focuses on youth that are not able to continue their education in the normal academic stream. The three main components under the PPB are Skill Training; Self-Development; and Job Placement. 93% of PPB's short courses graduates are successful in finding employment. We hope that we can improve this accomplishment by encouraging our young trainees to start their own business.

To encourage youth to be involved in entrepreneurship, MCYS has a special scheme called the "Program Belia Berdikari" (Independent Youth Programme) where youth are given training courses on how to start a business. Once they have completed the courses, a micro-grant of \$2,000.00 will be given as a business start-up. MCYS will also set up the Incubation Centre as a platform for these young entrepreneurs to run their businesses.

ii. The Youth Centre

The Centre, which was built in 1969, has gone through a substantial facelift. By upgrading its image and adding new facilities, we aim to make the centre more appealing to the youth. Our new approach in implementing any youth related programmes is "For the Youth, By the Youth."

The Centre encourages youth entrepreneurs through creating a youth online seller, blogger, and organised various activities such as Youth Ramadhan Bazaar, business talks, Youth Centre Entrepreneur Week, etc.

iii. The National Youth Service Programme

The objective of the National Youth Service Programme is to produce responsible and resilient youth. The programme consists of 4 main components namely:

- Patriotism, Self and Spiritual Development;
- Discipline and Physical Training;
- Entrepreneurship Development; and
- Community Service.

The programme is open to youth aged 16-21 where they are stationed in a designated camp for a period of three months. So far, this programme has successfully completed its 3 pilot projects and is currently on its fourth project.

4. What role do Governments, the UN system, the ILO tripartite constituents and civil society play in ensuring rights at work?

Brunei Darussalam became the 180th member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on 17th January 2007. The ILO has sent several representatives to the country to establish official relations with stakeholders, in providing technical assistance and capacity development. Brunei Darussalam has ratified two fundamental ILO conventions, namely The Worst Form of Child Labour Convention, 2008 and the Minimum Age Convention, 2011 (with minimum age identified as 16 years old). Following the ratification of these conventions, Brunei Darussalam has committed to abiding by them, by ensuring our national laws and practices complement each other. Every year, Brunei Darussalam is expected to provide a periodic report in relation to the ratified conventions.

In addition, during the International Labour Conference (ILC), Brunei Darussalam is expected to report on its Country baselines under the ILO Declaration Annual Review. This reviews the current status of several aspects in the country (efforts and challenges, conferences, technical cooperation, observation by social partners, etc). The topics in the 103rd ILC included The Elimination of All Forms of Child Labour (FL), Freedom of Association and the Effective Recognition of the Right to Collective Bargaining (FACB) and The Elimination of Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (DISC).

The technical assistance provided by the ILO include the creation of Brunei Darussalam's first National Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Profile. In 2001, a training workshop on the OSH profile was conducted with technical and financial support from the ILO and Singapore (MOM). The National OSH Profile was launched by Pehin Datu Laila Raja Major General (R) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs. The launch of the profile was held on 28th April 2014, in conjunction with the World Day for Safety and Health at the Workplace, 2014. In general, the Department of Labour benefits from ILO's Promotional Framework for

Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) and Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155). In addition, the ILO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, has plans to set up OSH centre.

In 2012, the ILO also provided technical inputs to a workshop on the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 at the request of the Department of Labour and the Marine Department. Brunei Darussalam has indicated plans for the ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006. The ILO has also worked with other governmental departments, namely the Department of Economic Planning and Development, Prime Minister's Office to create a Labour Market Information System (LMIS). The first technical cooperation between the ILO and the Government of Brunei was on a Labour Market Information System. The direct trust fund agreement was signed on 9 April 2014. It is set to operate from May 2014 to April 2016. The project is funded by the Government of Brunei Darussalam and approximately costs B\$462,000.

Where civil society is concerned, the Department of Labour recently co-hosted the "5th Regional Tripartite Social Dialogue for Growth, Employment and Sound Industrial Relations in the Services Sector in ASEAN: Building a People-centered ASEAN through strong regional cooperation on Occupational Safety and Health." This provided an opportunity for dialogue between the Government, private sector and civil society on issues pertaining to health and safety.

In conclusion, we believe that rights at work can be safeguarded with continuous efforts with the ILO, as well as continuous collaboration with other social partners, employers and employee organization and civil society organisations.