# Protecting the unprotected: Strengthening social security for ASEAN migrant workers

Presentation to the 20<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA), Manila, 17-18 October 2007



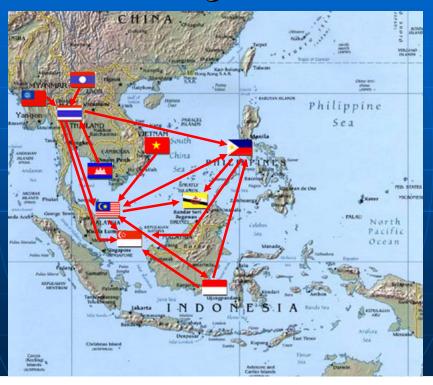
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#### Key considerations

- 1. Migration within ASEAN:
  - Affects all ASEAN countries,
  - Involves millions of workers and their families,
  - Is essential for the operation of the economies and societies of ASEAN countries.

#### **ASEAN** migration flows



#### Key considerations

- 2. In the 2007 Cebu Declaration, ASEAN heads of state and government:
  - Affirmed the important contribution migrant workers make to both host and sending states,
  - Acknowledged the difficulties migrant workers face in exercising rights,
  - Committed ASEAN countries to safeguard the rights of migrant workers.

#### Key considerations

- 3. Migrant workers are often denied social security protection because of:
  - Restrictions to coverage/eligibility based on nationality,
  - Restrictions on portability of benefits (payment to country of origin),
  - Minimum qualifying conditions (e.g. lengthy period of contribution before entitlement to benefits).

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#### Key considerations

- 4. Social security agreements bilateral or multilateral would be an effective way to safeguard the social security rights of ASEAN migrant workers and their families.
- 5. As regional integration deepens, agreements will become even more important to ensure equal treatment of all ASEAN workers.

### Key considerations

- 6. A single ASEAN multilateral agreement would be the ideal solution, but it could be difficult to achieve, especially for longterm benefits.
- 7. Bilateral agreements would be more feasible.

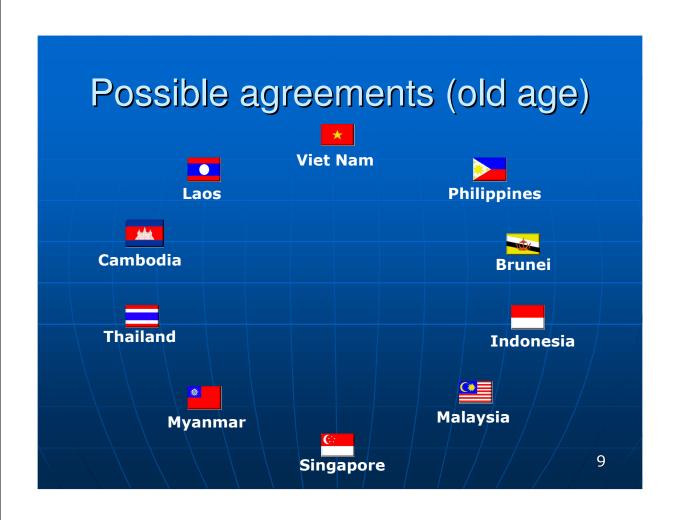
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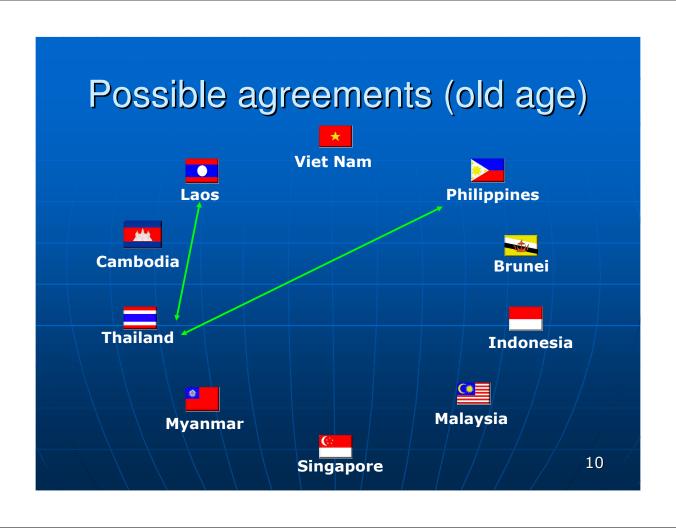
## Social security in ASEAN

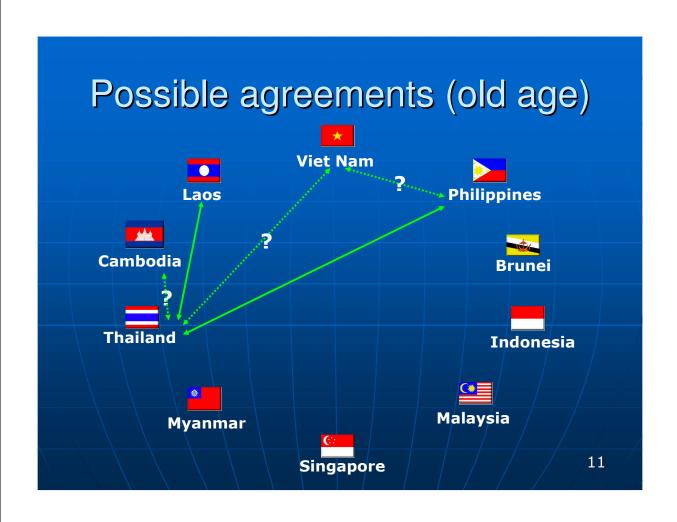
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Invalidity	P/U	?	Р	S	P/S		S	Р	S	S
Survivors	Р	?	Р	S	P/S		S	Р	S	S
Medical care	J	?	S	S	Р	S	S	P/A	S	S
Sickness		?		S	s		S	Е	S	S
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Work injury	Е	?	S	S	S/E	S	S	Е	S	S

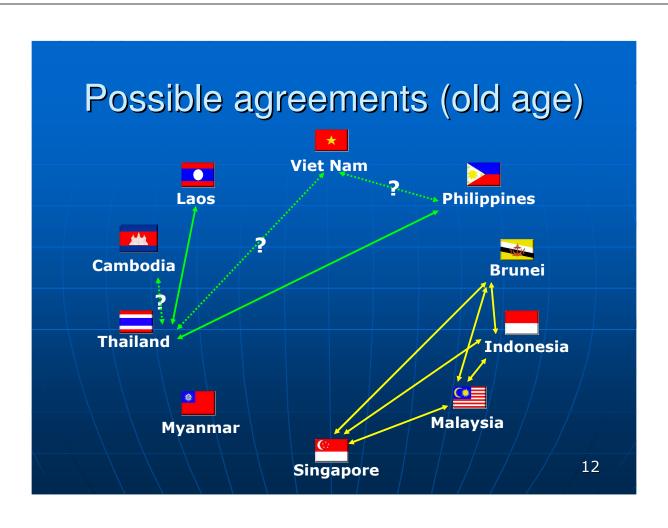
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- Social insurance
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- **Employer liability**
- Social assistance

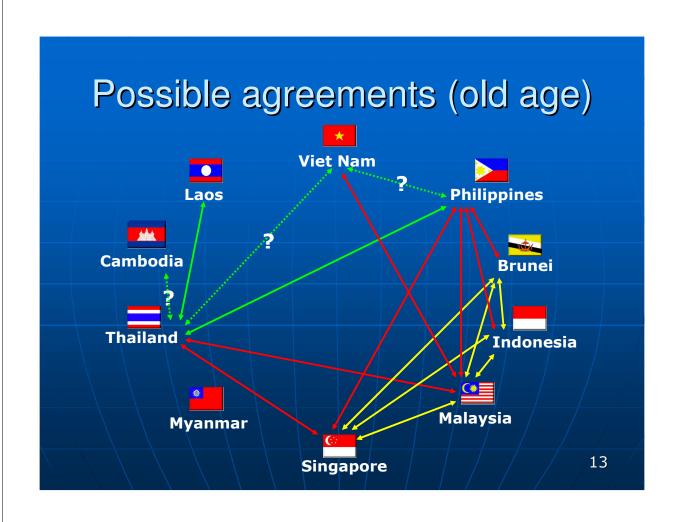
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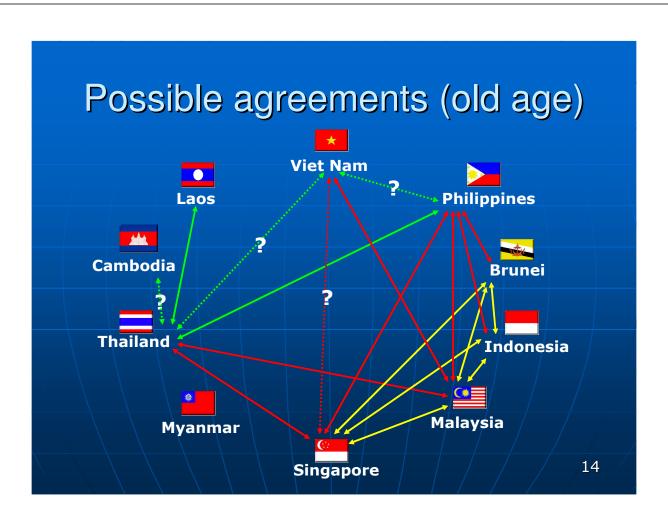


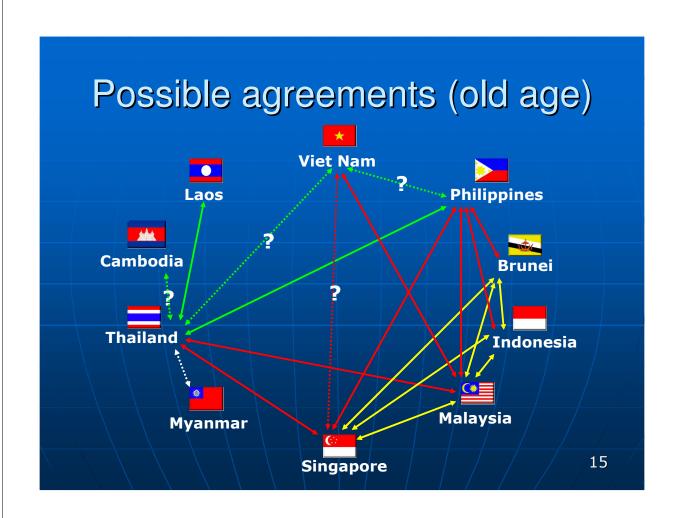












#### Making it happen

Possible ILO technical cooperation for implementation of the study, *if funding can be found*:

1. Assist in organizing a training course for senior ASEAN social security officials on the negotiation and administration of social security agreements.

#### Making it happen

- 2. Facilitate informal discussions between officials (experts) of an ASEAN provident fund and an ASEAN social insurance scheme to identify options for coordination through a social security agreement.
- 3. Assist in developing ASEAN 'model provisions' for social security agreements.

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