



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN MOHAMED



The ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA) represents regional co-operation in the area of Social Security in the ASEAN region. Its membership is made up of Social Security Institutions of ASEAN countries namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. As a non-governmental association it seeks to promote the development of social security in its member countries in line with the aspirations, laws and regulations of such countries.

After having been in existence for nearly 2 years, member institutions of ASSA have had opportunities to exchange views, information and experiences which had been very useful in the administration of social security schemes in the respective member countries.

ASSA member institutions have demonstrated great commitment in the furtherance of the objectives of

ASSA and this was manifested in their readiness to undertake to complete several ASSA activities. In this respect, the agreement of Central Provident Fund, Singapore to co-ordinate the setting-up of the ASSA homepage is indeed praiseworthy. Another important milestone in the development of ASSA is the efforts taken to compile the info-survey by Indonesia and Malaysia. This Info-Survey contains the profile of social security schemes of ASSA member countries. In addition to this, this ASSA News is yet another strategic development which would provide ASSA member institutions a common communication medium for the sharing and exchange of ideas and experiences which would benefit member countries in particular, and ASSA, in general.

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

From page 1

As promised at the 3rd ASSA Board Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, the ASSA News had been published. The objective of this ASSA News is to update member institutions on the latest development of social security protection in this region and current and future activities of ASSA member institutions. Therefore it is in the interest of member institutions to use the ASSA News as the medium to express their views and opinions on current developments, such as up-coming events, meetings, seminar and training courses. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ASSA Secretariat for having undertaken the task of producing the ASSA News and for having been able to publish the first edition within schedule. The publication of the ASSA News has cost the Employees Provident Fund, Malaysia RM7,665 (USD2,017) and the EPF considers this as a small but meaningful contribution to ASSA. This ASSA News is also significant in that it features articles which capture the historical development of ASSA which could

be used for research and reference in the future.

With this development I am confident that ASSA would certainly, in time to come, play a significant role in the development of social security protection in this region. The ASSA would be an effective association as it provides a common platform to formally and systematically bring all the ASEAN Social Security Organizations together. Thus, with ASSA, now firmly in place, and given the common cultural values shared among member institutions of this region, I believe ASSA can help create a conducive setting for mutual exchange of experiences as well as fostering greater co-operation among member institutions to make ASSA a big success. Finally, it is my vision that ASSA would become a vibrant, dynamic and respected Association in this region. Hence, it is important for all member institutions to work hard towards achieving this objective.

LOGO

ASEAN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION



Note: The ASSA logo was designed by the (SSO) Social Security Office of Thailand.

The "LOGO" has 4 symbols to symbolise the ASSA

1. ASSA stands for ASEAN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION.
2. The 3 intertwined alphabet A's represent ASEAN traditional relationship and also stands for dynamic development and movement towards the new era of co-operation among the social security institutions in the region.
3. The frame symbolises two embracing arms showing mutual support from and among institutions for the people's well-being and security.
4. "Colours"
 - GOLD** represents prosperity of ASEAN countries
 - LIGHT BLUE** represents freedom and peace
 - DARK BLUE** represents stability and strength

OBJECTIVES

- To promote the development of social security in the region in consonance with the aspirations, laws and regulations of the Member Countries;
- To promote regional co-operation in all areas of social security activities;
- To exchange experiences, statistical data and information for social security;
- To work in co-operation with other social security institutions in the region, in East Asia and with similar or related organizations of social security in any part of the world; and
- To co-operate in the defense, promotion and development of social security schemes through trainings, seminars, consultations and dialogues, among others.

A Brief History of ASSA

(ASEAN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION)

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The proposal to form an association to be known as the ASEAN Social Security Association or ASSA, was put forward by the Indonesian National Social Security Association in September 1995. The objective of this proposal was to establish a regional body encompassing all social security organization of ASEAN member countries. The proposal contented that since all member countries had similar objectives and activities, it was quite necessary for the Social Security Organizations of ASEAN member countries to either individually or collectively have regular and formal contact among its senior officers. (Thus, with the establishment of ASSA, meaningful regional co-operation among the social security organizations in the ASEAN member countries could be achieved especially in the area of training, research and development).


MEETING IN BALI, INDONESIA

This proposal was discussed in-depth by the leaders of four Social Security Institutions, namely Prof. Dr. Awaloedin Djamin (Chairman of Indonesian National Social Security Association), Tan Sri Sallehuddin bin Mohamed (Executive Chairman of Employees Provident Fund, Malaysia), Mr. Chamlong Sripasart (Secretary General of Social Security Office, Thailand) and Mr. Renato C. Valencia (Administrator of Social Security System, Philippines) at a special meeting held in conjunction with the 25th International Social Security

Association (ISSA) General Assembly which was held on 13-19 November 1995 in Bali, Indonesia. At this meeting, the four leaders agreed in principle to the establishment of the ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA). The objective of ASSA was to achieve the following:

- a) To promote the development of social security in the region in consonance with the aspirations, laws and regulations of the Member Countries;
- b) To promote regional co-operation in all areas of social security activities;
- c) To exchange experiences, statistical data and information for social security;
- d) To work in co-operation with other social security institutions in the region, in East Asia and with similar or related organizations of social security in any part of the world; and
- e) To co-operate in the defense, promotion and development of social security schemes through training, seminars, consultations and dialogues, among others.

Prof. Dr. Awaloedin Djamin Chairman of the Indonesian National Social Security Association expressed the need to have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to formalize this new association. Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed, Executive Chairman of Employees Provident Fund, Malaysia proposed that the existing ASEAN Secretariat could be used to



formalize this new association, once the consent from the government of each country was obtained.

MEETING IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was drafted by the Indonesian National Social Security Association, which was tabled for consideration by the leaders of the Social Security Institutions, at a special meeting held in Manila, Philippines on 23 July 1996. This meeting was held in conjunction with a seminar on "Impact of Demography on Social Security and the Private and Public Aspects of Pension Funds Administration", which was held on 24-25 July 1996. At this meeting the Heads of the Social Security Institutions deliberated on the draft MOA and decided that they needed more time to study the draft Memorandum of Agreement. The meeting also decided that the signing ceremony of the MOA be held in Thailand to be hosted by the Social Security Office of Thailand.

MEETING IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

On 13 February 1998, a meeting was held at 1030hrs in Social Security Office in Bangkok, Thailand. This meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Awaloedin Djamin, Chairman of the Indonesian National Social Security Association, Tan Sri Sallehuddin bin Mohamed, Executive Chairman, Employees Provident Fund, Malaysia, Dato' Wan Abdul Wahab Abdullah, Director-General, Social Security Organization, Malaysia, Mr. Leong Lick Tien, Deputy

General Manager, Central Provident Fund Board, Singapore and Mr. Chamlong Sripasart, Secretary-General, Social Security Office, Thailand. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the necessary action to be taken for the subsequent signing ceremony of the MOA, which was scheduled to be held later during that day.

SIGNING CEREMONY OF ASSA MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA), BANGKOK, THAILAND

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of the formation of Asean Social Security Association or ASSA was formally signed by the Heads of Asean Social Security Institutions representing Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand, at 1800 hrs on the 13 February 1998. The signatories of this MOA were Prof. Dr. Awaloedin Djamin (Chairman of Indonesian National Social Security Association), Tan Sri Sallehuddin bin Mohamed (Executive Chairman of Employees Provident Fund, Malaysia), Dato' Wan Abdul Wahab Abdullah (Director-General Manager of Social Security Organization, Malaysia), Mr. Leong Lick Tien (Deputy General Manager, Central Provident Fund, Singapore), Mr. Chamlong Sripasart (Secretary-General of Social Security Office, Thailand), Mr. Renato C. Valencia (Administrator of Social Security System, Philippines) and Mr. Cesar N. Sarino (Chairman of the Board, Government Service Insurance System, Philippines).



PROF. DR. AWALOEIDIN DJAMIN
INDONESIAN NATIONAL SOCIAL
SECURITY ASSOCIATION
INDONESIA



TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN BIN MOHAMED
EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND
MALAYSIA



DATO' WAN ABDUL WAHAB ABDULLAH
SOCIAL SECURITY ORGANISATION
MALAYSIA

Founder Members of ASSA



MR. CESAR N. SARINO
GOVERNMENT SERVICE
INSURANCE SYSTEM
PHILIPPINES



MR. RENATO C. VALENCIA
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
PHILIPPINES



MR. LIM HAN SOON
CENTRAL PROVIDENT
FUND BOARD
SINGAPORE

SECRETARY GENERAL



MR. CHAMLONG SRIPASART
SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE
THAILAND



MR. SENTANDE KERTONEGORO
INDONESIAN NATIONAL SOCIAL
SECURITY ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN

VICE-CHAIRMAN



TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN BIN MOHAMED
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND
MALAYSIA



MR. CARLOS A. ARELLANO
CHAIRMAN PRESIDENT & CEO
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
PHILIPPINES



PROF. DR. AWALOEDIN DJAMIN
CHAIRMAN
INDONESIAN NATIONAL SOCIAL
SECURITY ASSOCIATION
INDONESIA

Board Members of ASSA 1998/1999



DATO' WAN ABDUL WAHAB ABDULLAH
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
SOCIAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION
MALAYSIA



MR. HERMOGENES D. CONCEPCION JR.
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE
SYSTEM
PHILIPPINES



MR. LIM HAN SOON
GENERAL MANAGER
CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND BOARD
SINGAPORE



MR. CHAMLONG SRIMASART
SECRETARY-GENERAL
SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE
THAILAND



MR. NGUYEN HUY BAN
DIRECTOR GENERAL
VIETNAM SOCIAL SECURITY
VIETNAM



MR. ABDUL
WAHAB NASIR
EMPLOYEES
PROVIDENT FUND
MALAYSIA
(until 13 May 1999)



MR. WONG CHEN
CHEONG
EMPLOYEES
PROVIDENT FUND
MALAYSIA
(from 14 May 1999)

1st ASSA Board Meeting In Chengmai, Thailand



The first ASSA Board Meeting was held on 14 February 1999 in Chiangmai, Thailand.

Prof. Dr. Awaloedin Djamin (Indonesian National Social Security Association) was elected as the first ASSA Chairman and Tan Sri Sallehuddin bin Mohamed (Employees Provident Fund, Malaysia) was elected as the Vice-Chairman of ASSA. Tan Sri Sallehuddin bin Mohamed was subsequently to be the Chairman of ASSA from September 1998.

Mr. Santone Kertonegoro, Secretary General of the Indonesian National Social Security Association was appointed as the first Secretary General of the ASSA.

Special Report on ASSA Board Meetings

Special ASSA Board Meeting In Singapore



A special ASSA Board Meeting was convened on 30th July 1999, in Singapore. This meeting was hosted by the Central Provident Fund Board of Singapore. A total of 20 delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, attended this meeting. This special Board meeting was called to seek the Board Members agreement on the proposed amendments to the ASSA Memorandum of Agreement, so that they could be tabled for approval at the 4th ASSA Board Meeting, on 10th September 1999, in Manila, Philippines. The meeting also welcomed and congratulated Mr. Carlos A. Arellano, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Social Security System, Philippines on his appointment as the Vice-Chairman of ASSA.

2nd ASSA Board Meeting in Kuala Lumpur



The 2nd ASSA Board Meeting was held on 12th September 1998, at the Employees Provident Fund Headquarters, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This meeting was jointly hosted by the Employees Provident Fund and Social Security Organization. A total of 30 delegates from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam attended this meeting.

Brunei and Laos attended this meeting as observers. Vietnam was officially admitted as a member of ASSA at this meeting.

news

3rd ASSA Board Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam



The 3rd ASSA Board Meeting was held on 14th May 1999, in Hanoi, Vietnam. The meeting was hosted by Vietnam Social Security (VSS). A total of 16 delegates from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam attended this meeting.

**Signing Ceremony Of The ASSA Memorandum Of Agreement
On 13 February 1998
In Bangkok, Thailand**



from the ALBUM

**2nd ASSA Board Meeting
In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
12 September 1998**



3rd ASSA Board Meeting In Hanoi, Vietnam
On 14 May 1999



Special ASSA Board Meeting In Singapore
30 July 1999



Memorandum of Agreement


ASEAN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION

ASSA

ASEAN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION (ASSA)

This is to certify true copy of the ASSA Memorandum of Agreement signed in Bangkok, Thailand on 13th February 1998.

Certified by:


Prof. Dr. Awloedin Djamin
Chairman of ASSA

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

WHEREAS, the ASEAN Social Security Association is envisioned to be a forum whereby the members could exchange views and experiences regarding relevant social security issues;

WHEREAS, the spirit of ASEAN co-operation is capable of being adopted and fostered by the social security institutions of the region;

WHEREAS, the social security institutions of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand are desirous to establish an association as a non-governmental ASEAN Organization and as a machinery through which they can deliberate and work to attain the goal of regional co-operation in the field of social security;

Now, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing promises, the social security institutions of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, through their duly authorized representatives, do hereby establish the ASEAN Social Security Association, subject to the following terms and conditions:

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of the association shall be the ASEAN SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION ("ASSA" for brevity).

ARTICLE II DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms shall be interpreted as follows:

1. "ASEAN" – Association of South East Asian Nations;
2. "Member Country" – a member country of ASEAN;
3. "Region" – the geographical area embracing the territories of the Member Countries;
4. "ASSA" – the ASEAN Social Security Association;
5. "Board" – the Executive Board referred to in Article V hereunder;
6. "Member Institution" – the association or institution providing social security in any Member Country admitted as a member of the ASSA; and

ARTICLE III OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSA

The objectives of the ASSA shall be as follows:

1. To promote the development of social security in the region in consonance with the aspirations, laws and regulations of the Member Countries;
2. To promote regional co-operation in all areas of social security activities;
3. To exchange experiences, statistical data and information for social security;
4. To work in co-operation with other social security institutions in the region, in East Asia and with similar or related organizations of social security in any part of the world; and
5. To co-operate in the defense, promotion and development of social security schemes through trainings, seminars, consultations and dialogues, among others.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

1. The signatories to this Memorandum of Agreement shall constitute the Charter Members of the ASSA.
2. Admission of other institutions for social security may be made subject to such conditions as the ASSA may deem necessary.
3. Each Member Country shall be entitled to designate any number of representatives of its Members institutions to the ASSA.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. Composition

- a) There shall be an Executive Board which shall consist of Heads of all Member Institutions who shall elect from among themselves its officials. The officials to be elected are as follows:
 - 1) Chairman of the Board,
 - 2) Vice-Chairman and
 - 3) One Representative from each Member Institution.
- b) Any member of the Board may, at any time, designate in writing his alternate by depositing such name with the Secretary General. Such designation shall indicate the period the alternate shall hold office.
 - 1) This designation may be terminated at any time in same manner. Such designation shall be automatically revoked if the designating member ceases for any reason to be a member of the Board.
 - 2) An alternate member shall be entitled to receive Notices of Meetings of the Board and to attend and vote in such meetings. Unless restricted by the written designation, the alternate member shall exercise all the functions of the designating member.
- c) The Board shall be convened by the Chairman at least once a year or as often as may be necessary or the conduct of business and for carrying out the directives of the ASSA.

2. Powers

The Board shall have the following powers:

- a) To invest and otherwise deal with the funds of the ASSA and to incur such expenses to further the objectives of the ASSA;
- b) To appoint the Secretary General, who shall be nominated by the Chairman, from among the officials of the Member Institutions of the country of the Chairman.
- c) To enter into such contract for the acquisition or disposition of any movable or immovable property which may be necessary or expedient for the attainment of the objectives of the ASSA. The title to such property shall be in the name of the ASSA;
- d) To approve the budget for the administration of the ASSA;
- e) To decide on such subjects or matters as are referred to it by the Member Institutions and which fall within the objectives and powers of the Association;
- f) To enter into agreements or contracts for such services and assistance as may be needed for the proper, efficient and stable administration of the ASSA;
- g) To create such committees or sub-committees or auditor as may be deemed necessary; and
- h) To conduct the affairs of the ASSA in accordance with its objectives and purposes.

3. The Chairman

- a) The chairmanship of the Board shall be rotated from among the Member Countries. It shall be held by an elected Representative.
- b) The term of office of the Chairman shall be for one (1) year.
- c) In case of resignation, recall, or for any other reason where the Chairman can no longer continue in office, the nominee from the same Member Institution who nominated the Chairman to be replaced shall automatically succeed as Chairman for the remainder of the term.

4. The Vice-Chairman

- a) The Vice-Chairman shall have such powers and duties as the Board may determine. In the temporary absence or incapacity of the Chairman, he shall exercise the powers and discharge the duties of the Chairman.
- b) The term of office of the Vice-Chairman shall be for one (1) year.
- c) In case of resignation, recall, or for any other reason, where the Vice-Chairman can no longer continue in office, the nominee from the Member Institution who nominated the Vice-Chairman to be replaced shall automatically succeed as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the term.

5. The Secretary General

The Secretary General shall be the Chief Operating Officer of the ASSA and shall have the following authority:

- a) To perform all things necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the Secretariat;
- b) To arrange for the accommodation of the secretarial and clerical work of the ASSA;
- c) To be responsible for the submission of an annual report and audited account with respect to the past year and a budget of income and expenses for the ensuing year during the annual ASSA meeting; and
- d) To be responsible for preparing and maintaining the records of the proceedings of the Board.

ARTICLE VI TERMINATION OF OFFICE

Any member of the Board shall cease to hold office upon his resignation or withdrawal, disability, substitution or recall of his nomination by the Member Institution that he represents.

ARTICLE VII SECRETARIAT

There shall be established a Secretariat to be headed by a Secretary General which shall be located in the country of the Chairman.

ARTICLE VIII ASSOCIATION MEETING PROCEDURES

1. The ASSA shall meet at least once a year or as often as the Board may deem necessary.
2. Notice of an ASSA meeting shall be transmitted to each Member Institution by the Secretary General. Such notice shall contain the items of the agenda. Whenever practicable, a working paper on each item of the agenda shall be prepared by the Secretary General or a Representative of a Member Institution shall accompany such notice.

1. The decisions or resolutions of the ASSA shall be taken or passed by consensus unless the ASSA decides otherwise.
4. The Member Institutions of the same Member Country shall have one collective vote.
5. Except in the case of amendment of this Agreement or the dissolution of the ASSA, any other matters of concern to the Member Institutions not provided for by this Agreement shall be determined by the ASSA through ordinary procedures.

ARTICLE IX QUORUM

1. The presence of more than one-half of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the ASSA.
2. Matters requiring major decisions shall require the presence of all members of the Board.

ARTICLE X WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS

A resolution in writing, duly signed by all members of the Board, shall be considered as a resolution passed at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE XI FINANCES

1. The cost of providing office space and equipment for the Secretariat shall be borne by the Member Institutions of the Member Country where the Secretariat is located.
2. The costs incurred in ASSA meetings shall be borne by the Member Institutions of the host country.
3. Travel, board and lodging expenses of members of the Board shall be for their own account.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENT AND DISSOLUTION

Amendment to this Agreement and the dissolution of the ASSA shall be made by at least two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Board at a meeting called for the purpose.

ARTICLE XIII RATIFICATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall be subject to the ratification by all the Member Institutions. All Member Institutions shall notify the Secretariat that they have ratified this Agreement.


This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last written notice aforementioned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives have set their hands this Thirteenth day of February 1990 at Bangkok, Thailand.


INDONESIAN NATIONAL SOCIAL
SECURITY ASSOCIATION
INDONESIA

BY: 
AWAOLODIN DAMIN


SOCIAL SECURITY
ORGANIZATION
MALAYSIA

BY: 
DATO' WAN ABDUL WAHAB ABDULLAH

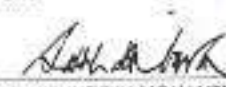
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
PHILIPPINES

BY: 
RENATO C. VALENCIA

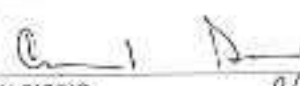
SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE
THAILAND

BY: 
CHAMLONG SRIPAEW


EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUND
BOARD
MALAYSIA

BY: 
TAN SRI SALLEHUDIN MOHAMED

GOVERNMENT SERVICE
INSURANCE SYSTEM
PHILIPPINES

BY: 
CESAR N. SARINO

CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND BOARD
SINGAPORE

BY: 
LEONG LICK TIEN

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF



Signing Ceremony of ASSA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), Bangkok, Thailand



The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of the formation of Asean Social Security Association or ASSA was formally signed by the Heads of Asean Social Security Institutions representing Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand, at 1800 hrs on the 13 February 1998. The signatories of this MOA were Prof. Dr. Awaloedin Djamin (Indonesian National

Social Security Association), Tan Sri Sallehuddin bin Mohamed (Employees Provident Fund, Malaysia), Dato' Wan Abdul Wahab Abdullah (Social Security Organization, Malaysia), Mr. Leong Lick Tien (Central Provident Fund, Singapore), Mr. Chamlong Sripasart (Social Security Office, Thailand), Mr. Renato C. Valencia (Social Security System, Philippines) and Mr. Cesar N. Sarino (Government Service Insurance System, Philippines).

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Minister of Labour and Social Security, Thailand. Representatives from Laos and Vietnam also attended this signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Agreement of ASSA as observers. The signing of the MOA in Thailand thus marked the birth of ASSA as the premier Social Security Association for regional co-operation in the area of social security administration in the ASEAN region.



Forward Step of Vietnam Social Security System in Pension Payment



To date, there are up to 1.3 million people enjoying monthly pension in Vietnam. This figure is likely to increase every year due to the getting older trend of population. Thus, it affects the management of pension payments for retirees.

In the past, retirees could only receive pension at their registered permanent resident. Therefore, retirees who have the needs of provisional stay and temporary absence have faced difficulties by this payment method. The needs of temporary absence and provisional stay are very high in retirement age. After retirement, the retirees will have more time to visit their children, relatives and friends or to go for holiday. In order to create favourable conditions for social security receivers and implement effectively the "serving workers" function, from 1 July 1999 Vietnam

Social Security has implemented a decision that allows the retirees to receive pension at their provisional stays. According to the decision, people enjoying the monthly pension travel from a province/city to another province/city with over 3 month provisional stay and wish to receive monthly pension at their provisional stays, they will be entitled to received the pension at their provisional stays.

This decision has affirmed a new forward step in the management of Vietnam Social Security System, and expressed the concentration, the unification, and the closeness of social security fund. And the most important is to affirm the better service of Vietnam Social Security System towards the workers, satisfy their needs for temporary absence, and provisional stay.

Thailand's SSO Pays Benefits Via Banks



As a result of implementing the Re-engineering Project which is the collaboration between the Office of the Civil Service Commission, the Andersen Consulting Company, and the SSO since 1997. The Social Security Office of Thailand is now launching a pilot project of cash benefit payment through banks. The main aim is focusing on delivering more convenient and faster services for member insured persons. They can save time and travelling cost by calling to the SSA to request for benefits claims forms and mail the ready filled-in forms including

needed documents back to the SSO. Once the investigation is made, the cash benefits will be delivered through bank accounts of the claimants. By this way, insured persons are not necessary to travel to claim benefits at any SSO. The said project will kick-off on 1 August, 1999 in Pathumthai provincial Social Security Office. If the pilot project is successful, this type of services will be expanded throughout the whole Kingdom.

COUNTRY news

Social Visit organized by CPF, Singapore in conjunction with the Special ASSA Board Meeting



The activities culminated in an Alfresco Rijstafel (Dutch-Indonesian cuisine) dinner at the Alkaff Mansion – a lovingly restored 1920's conservation site situated atop the scenic Telok Blangah Hill. Underneath a dedicated marquee, the ASSA delegates were able to relax and get to know one another better. When the ASSA delegates finally bade farewell, it also signaled the end of the 2-day programme. We hope all the ASSA delegates had enjoyed themselves in Singapore. We at CPF certainly enjoyed having you with us!



It was not all work though, and the meeting was followed by some sightseeing and social activities on Saturday 31 July 1999. These included a golf fellowship at the renown Sentosa Golf Club; and the delegates' very own "Singapore Experience" – a tour that showed the diversity of Singapore's people and landscape. Besides touring the city, the delegates also went to one of Singapore's public housing satellite towns – at Tampines.



RP's SSS holds talks with Manila Office in Taiwan for Social Security Coverage of Filipinos

Senior officials of the Philippine Social Security System (SSS) and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) in Taiwan began discussions on the social security coverage of migrant workers in the island-state, SSS Chairman and President Carlos Arellano and MECO Chairperson Eva Estrada-Kalaw said in a joint announcement yesterday.

They said the discussions centered on the extending coverage to workers earning at least P3,000 a month. This move is in line with the programs of the Philippine government to uplift the welfare of workers both at home and abroad.

"This is a form of recognition of the significant role and contribution of the migrant workers to the country's economic growth and development," Arellano said.

Arellano and Kalaw made the announcement following a high-level discussion between the SSS and the Taiwan-based Manila office. In observance of the One-China Policy, the Philippines does not have an embassy in Taiwan, and MECO is the country's main link to the island-state.

Some 150,000 Filipinos are working in Taiwan. Many of them are clamoring to be placed under the coverage of the SSS so that they can avail of benefits and loan privileges when they return to the Philippines.

Arellano said the SSS, an International Social Security Association (ISSA) member-institution from the Asia-Pacific region, would need the help of MECO in the dissemination of information, distribution of forms and in the placement of personnel to serve Filipino workers in the country.

"We will provide the guidelines, conduct seminars there and process the applications," Arellano said. "We expect to sign an agreement with MECO soon".

Philippine SSS-RCBC Agreement on Overseas Filipino Workers Remittances

Senior officers from the ISSA member-institution Social Security System (SSS) and the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) in the Philippines exchanges handshakes during the signing ceremonies of the SSS-RCBC accord on bank remittance of SSS contributions and loan payments of Filipino overseas workers. SSS Executive Vice President Leopoldo S. Veroy hands over to RCBC First Vice President Venus E. Duran the signed agreement in ceremonies held at the SSS (Manila) corporate headquarters late last year.



COUNTRY news

Voluntary Social Security Coverage of OFWs in Taiwan



The Philippine Social Security System (SSS), an ISSA member-institution, and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) signed last March 25, 1999 an agreement extending social security coverage to migrant workers earning at least P3,000 or its foreign currency equivalent in Taiwan. SSS Chairman and President Carlos A. Arellano handshakes MECO Chairperson Eva Estrada-Kalaw as she

exchanges the signed agreement in ceremonies held at the SSS (Manila) corporate office. The Philippine SSS-MECO agreement is expected to benefit some 150,000 Filipinos working in the island-state. SSS Vice Chairman Rafael G. Estrada and SSS Commissioner Aurora R. Annaez witnessed the signing of the social security accord.

RP's Arellano Elected To ISSA Governing bureau

The International Social Security Association (ISSA), in its 26th General Assembly held in Marrakech late last year, elected the Chairman and President of the Philippine Social Security System (SSS) as regional co-ordinator in the Asia and the Pacific regions and member of its governing bureau.

Carlos Arellano, who was titular delegate of the Philippines to the Marrakech assembly in Morocco last October 25-31, 1998, was elected member of the "The Bureau", the powerful body that carries out the decisions of what is called the "world parliament of social security".

"It is a great honour to represent the Philippines and Asia and the Pacific regions in this prestigious International organization," Arellano said.

ISSA, which was founded in 1927, has 370 member institutions from 144 countries worldwide. The members from the Philippines are the SSS, the Government Service Insurance

System, Pag-IBIG Fund, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation and the AFP Retirement Separation and Benefits System.

The 26th General Assembly in Morocco was one of the major events of ISSA's triennial program of activities. An ISSA general assembly is held every three years.

Officials said the issues discussed included topics such as reengineering of social security institutions, pension reforms and the need to "harmonize economic growth with social realities."

During the assembly, the Philippines made a presentation on its reengineering activities, officials said.

Officials said that as a bureau member, the Philippines would be represented in all major ISSA activities involving the Asia and the Pacific regions, which range from Turkey in Asia Minor to the continent of Australia.

COMING EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY COURSE

Date : 12 October 1999 to
2 November 1999
Venue : EPF Building, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Organized By : Employees Provident Fund
Social Security Training Institute
(ESSET)

For further information please contact :-

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EPF Social Security Training Institute
18th Floor, Bangunan KWSP
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50350 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Telephone No: 03-2948564
Facsimile No : 03-2981599
E-mail : epfeset@po.jaring.my

MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, ISSA

Date : 16-19 November 1999
Venue : Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

For further information please contact :-

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- Social Security Organization, Malaysia
<http://www.perkeso.gov.my>
- Central Provident Fund, Singapore
<http://www.cpf.gov.sg>
- International Labour Organization
<http://www.ilo.org>
- International Social Security Association
<http://www.issa.int>