



**RECOMMENDATIONS
THE FIFTH ASEAN GO-NGO FORUM FOR
SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

“Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly”

22 November 2010, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

1. We, the participants of the 5th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development held on 22 November 2010 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam;
2. Acknowledged that world population, including that of ASEAN Member States, is ageing and the demography is shifting due to decreasing birth rates, changing family patterns combined with extended life expectancies;
3. Acknowledged the potential risks of elderly living in poverty and their special needs, especially the old-old, those with disabilities and female. The vulnerability of these groups intensifies as they grow older and have been working in informal sectors which may not comprehensively covered by the existing social protection schemes;
4. Acknowledged the important role of family, as the basic unit of society, as well as the communities in providing care for the elderly and ensuring active and healthy ageing. In this relation, it was further acknowledged that there is a changing structure of the traditional nucleus family in the region as an impact of, among others, modernisation, urbanisation, migration and growing number of singles and single parents;
5. Agreed on the need to foster cooperation in and among ASEAN Member States in promoting the quality of life and well-being of the elderly and reducing their social risks as a response to the growing trends of ageing societies through the following recommended actions:
 - a. Promote the mainstreaming of ageing concerns in social and economic policies and programmes and ensure that adequate financial and human resources are secured for sustainable social protection, especially welfare and care, for the elderly as well as their barrier-free access to health services and infrastructures are safeguarded;

- b. Promote self-care approaches as well as community-based care, including home-based approaches, and access to health services for the elderly;
 - c. Promote the capacity building of families as well as primary health providers, social workers, caregivers and volunteers in delivering appropriate care to the elderly;
 - d. Encourage the adaptation of school curriculum to include issues relating to ageing and enhance the awareness and ability of the younger generation to lead a healthy lifestyle, nurture a life course approach to growing older and respond to the ageing communities in their midst now and in future;
 - e. Strengthen the capacity of government officials in formulating and implementing effective responsive policies and programmes to the ageing situations and trends in ASEAN and the potential impacts on socio-economic development;
 - f. Provide opportunities for the elderly to remain economically active through the provision of flexible work environment and micro-credit facilities, which would support self-reliance and dignity of the elderly;
 - g. Encourage the elderly to remain socially active and contribute to the community;
 - h. Encourage all stakeholders, including private sector, NGOs and older persons associations (OPAs), to continue their good work and active role in addressing issues of the elderly by giving due recognition of their contributions;
 - i. Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and mechanisms in developing, implementing and evaluating programmes and services for the elderly in ASEAN Member States;
 - j. Conduct regional comparative studies on the socio-economic impacts of the growing trends of ageing societies and the existing social security and pension schemes in ASEAN Member States as a tool for promoting social inclusion and well-being of vulnerable older persons;
6. Noted that the Sixth ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development will be held in 2011 in Thailand back-to-back with the Seventh ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (7th SOMSWD). ASEAN Member States were requested to provide inputs on the possible theme or topics of discussion of the Sixth ASEAN GO-NGO Forum to Thailand for consideration;
7. Encouraged the GOs and NGOs to implement the recommendations of the Fifth ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development and mobilise adequate resources to support follow-up actions. The GOs and NGOs Focal Points were encouraged to monitor and report the progress at the Sixth ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development.

8. The participants of the 5th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development expressed their high appreciation to the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei Darussalam for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangement of the Forum. The participants also expressed appreciation for the knowledge sharing by the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and HelpAge International in the Forum.
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