- This approach purports to galvanize un/semi-skilled labor force and bring them up the value chain, as ASEAN human capital.
- It aims at mobilizing the full potential of regional workforce at all skills.

Source: Patcharawalai Wongboonsin, 2004; Patcharawalai Wongboonsin and Joannis Kinnas. 2004. Maximizing The Demographic Dividend via Regional Cooperation in Human Resource Development.)

- It requires national and regional arrangement in encouraging existing needed mobile labor
 - At the unskilled and low skilled levels from an ASEAN member country in another to be upgraded in terms of basic skills and competencies.

Source: Patcharawalai Wongboonsin, 2004; Patcharawalai Wongboonsin and Joannis Kinnas. 2004. Maximizing The Demographic Dividend via Regional Cooperation in Human Resource Development.)

- The recent initiative of the Thai government to Memorandums of Understanding on cooperation in labor employment with Lao PDR and Cambodia
 - Serve as a promising sign of improvement in migration management

within the region.

Source: Patcharawalai Wongboonsin, 2004; Patcharawalai Wongboonsin and Joannis Kinnas. 2004. Maximizing The Demographic Dividend via Regional Cooperation in Human Resource Development.)

- The MOUs are to support these initiatives to strengthen economic cooperation with the three neighboring countries:
 - Economic Cooperation Strategy (ECS) between Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand (CLMT);
 - The Cambodia, Vietnam and Lao PDR
 Development Triangle; and
 - The Cambodia Lao PDR and Thailand Development Triangle.

 Source: Patcharawalai Wongbo

Source: Patcharawalai Wongboonsin, 2004; Patcharawalai Wongboonsin et al. 2008.)

- The ECS is expected to provide the participating countries with unique opportunity
 - to increase trade and investment,
 - to enhance competitiveness,
 - to generate more employment, improved income and the quality of life of the peoples in the sub-region.

- Recent Initiatives
 - ASEAN Declaration for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers
 - An ASEAN Committee for the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers
 - Creating an important inter-governmental body to deal with the full range of issues and challenges faced by migrant workers in ASEAN.

- Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers
 - Established in April 2006
 - Composed of civil society organizations, trade unions,
 community groups, and migrant worker associations
 - To study and offer recommendations for practical steps to implement the ASEAN Declaration by
 - Drafting an ASEAN Framework Instrument for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

Central Principle

- Regardless of migrant workers' origin or current documented or undocumented status, migrant workers in ASEAN shall be
 - Guaranteed non-discriminatory 'national treatment' in both their conditions of work and their life outside of work.
- Undocumented migrant workers should not be treated as criminals solely for the reason of their lack of status.

- ASEAN Framework Instrument should
 - Complement
 - Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI)
 - ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS).
 - Promote best practices in managing migration and protecting mobile human resources of the region
 - To help reduce the poverty and development gap in ASEAN

Control of Irregular Labor Migration

- Irregular labor migration has undermined regular migration schemes as well as the security of states and human beings.
- To capitalize on the demographic dividend, bilateral and multilateral cooperation is expected towards combating transnational trafficking.