

Sustainable Economic Development



Minimum Wage Policy for Brunei Darussalam

Partners: Brunei Ministry of Labour, Brunei Darussalam Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (BDIPSS)

This study provides recommendations to Brunei Darussalam on the minimum wage policy based on information from existing literature, examples from other ASEAN countries, and analysis of information

from the Labor Force Survey, Household Expenditure Survey, and other available data and statistics.

The appropriate minimum wage floor below which no employees should be offered nor accept employment should be between B\$350 and B\$450 per month. This recommendation is based on the principle that each worker should be able to meet the basic expenditure of a lower middle-class household for two people –the worker and a dependent. Cost of living is determined

using available data. Thus, using more detailed and up-to-date information on cost of living can yield an exact level.

An important policy question in Brunei is whether non-local workers are covered by the minimum wage legislation. Non-locals are engaged disproportionately in low-wage activities whose current wage levels are very close to the proposed minimum. So, they are most likely to feel the impact of legislation. This characteristic of the labour market should be considered when devising the minimum wage policy.

Geographic Scope: Brunei Darussalam

Policy Index for Natural Disasters Resilience

Partner: Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University

ASEAN is one of the world's regions most vulnerable to natural disasters. This project aims to evaluate which factors most influence the resilience of a region by constructing a resilience index and applying the formula to pilot regions.

Using the Schipper and Langston (2015) approach, the researchers define the influential variables to represent the criteria of learning, options, and flexibility as proxies for resilience. The three groups of variables that characterise influential variables are financial and economic capital, social capital, and institutional capital. Because the researchers could not derive a solid conclusion on the relationship between variables,

they did not build a composite index. Instead, they constructed a relative position of the city for each variable. The result would provide policymakers with the data of areas that need to be maintained or improved.

The indicators were applied in 50 pilot cities in Indonesia.

Geographic Scope: 50 pilot cities in Indonesia

Social Protection Floor: A Perspective from Developing East Asia

Partners: Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), National University of Singapore (NUS), Hochschule Bonn–Rhein–Sieg (H-BRS), Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA, Ha Noi)

This research examines the conceptual, economic, and fiscal impact(s) of the Social Protection Floor initiative of the International Labour Organization and other policy influencers by first critically examining the methodologies used by international agencies to estimate the fiscal costs of designated minimum package(s) of social protection programmes. It also briefly reviews the methodologies used and usefulness of the Social Protection Index of the Asian Development Bank.

The research also analyses strategies and initiatives of selected East Asian countries (China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam) designed to progress towards achieving the Social Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in September 2015, and endorsed by the six countries covered in the study.

Finally, the research provides a framework for generating fiscal space to fund the social protection programmes and initiatives of each country.

Geographic Scope: China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam

