



111th ILO Conference: Malaysia employers commit to promoting women leadership skills development, and more

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Addressing the audience on behalf of MEF President Datuk Dr Syed Hussain, Syukri Sudari took the opportunity to share the progress that has been made in these areas so far, and the way forward.

In a wide-ranging address to the plenary sitting of the just-concluded 111th International Labour Organization (ILO) Conference in Geneva, Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) Vice President, Syukri Sudari (*pictured above, extreme left*), affirmed the Federation's commitment to:

- Promoting women's leadership,
- Enhancing skills development,
- Advocating for social protection,
- Addressing retirement support issues,
- Supporting refugees' access to work opportunities, and
- Collaborating with the ILO under the **Safe and Fair Programme**.

Addressing the audience on behalf of MEF President Datuk Dr Syed Hussain, Syukri took the opportunity to share the progress that has been made in these areas so far, and the way forward that is being charted out. Joining him in representing the MEF, which is the central organisation of private sector employers in Malaysia, was Vice President Farid Basir (*pictured above, third from left*) and Council member Peggy Chew (*pictured above, extreme right*).

Also contributing to the Conference was Malaysia's Human Resources Minister, V. Sivakumar (*pictured above, second from left*).

We have summarised parts of the speech for the benefit of the nation's employers and HR leaders.

Firstly, by aligning with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, Malaysia aspires to achieve a workforce with the necessary skills to thrive in the global landscape by 2030, thus emphasising the determination to **increase the number of workers equipped with relevant skills**.

Secondly, voicing support for inclusive social protection schemes that safeguard workers' welfare and rights, he spoke about the **necessity of financial literacy training for workers** to be equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed financial decisions and secure their financial future.

In response to the issue of post-retirement support, MEF called for **an extension of Social Security coverage to retirees**. The organisation highlighted the importance of creating comprehensive systems that ensure retirees receive the necessary support and care they deserve.

Highlighting its partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to **advocate for refugees' legal access to work opportunities**, MEF is keen to recognising the talents of refugees, and aims to create an inclusive society that provides them with the means to contribute to the workforce and society as a whole.

On the issue of women empowerment, MEF recently organised **the National Summit on Women**, which provided a platform to **celebrate Malaysian women's contributions** and foster an inclusive environment for their further growth and success.

Confirming that MEF has collaborated with the ILO Safe and Fair Programme, aimed at developing knowledge tools for its members, Syukri talked about the nation's commitment to **promoting safe and fair labour practices**, ensuring that the wellbeing and rights of workers are protected in all aspects of employment, which was the overall theme of the speech as well.

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- Updates from a **speech delivered by Minister Sivakumar**, including the importance of **sustainable development and green jobs**