

Regional Symposium on Deployment of Workers Overseas: A Shared Responsibility Provisional Programme

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Bangladesh, 15 –16 July 2008

Jointly organized by Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Tuesday, 15 July 2008	
09.00–9.30	Registration
9.30–10:15	Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Address by Ms. Panudda Boonpala, Director, ILO Dhaka • Address by H.E. Dr. Dora Rapold, Ambassador of Switzerland in Bangladesh • Address by Mr. C. K. Hyder, Secretary-General, Bangladesh Employers' Federation • Address by Mr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Member Secretary, National Coordination Committee for Workers Education • Address by Special Guest, Mr. Md. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Government of Bangladesh
10:15-10:45	Coffee Break
10.45-11.00	Preliminaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of participants and briefing on programme and expected outcome • Establishment of committee to draft conclusions and follow-up action by Ms. Panudda Boonpala, Director, ILO Dhaka
11.00-13.00	Plenary Session 1: ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration and Contemporary Challenges in the Protection of Migrant Workers Chair: Dr. Hamidur Rashid, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs This session discusses the ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, including the extent to which it has been adopted by countries, and the challenges that need to be addressed to expand its adoption. The ILO Multilateral Framework offers valuable guidelines on how origin and destination countries can manage migration more effectively through policies and measures which are consistent with ILO and other international principles. <i>Presentations:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration by Mr. Ibrahim Awad, Director, ILO International Migration Programme <i>Panel Discussion :</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government (Pakistan) • Government (Malaysia) <i>Open Discussion</i>
13.00-14.30	Lunch

14.30-17.00

Plenary Session 2: Promoting Fair Recruitment Practices for Safe and Regular Migration

Chair: Mr. Md. Abdul Matin Chowdhury Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Most countries in Asia have a large number of recruiting agencies engaged in providing services for nationals in a growing global market for labour. Creating a policy environment where private recruiters gain from adopting non-exploitative practices but are penalized for violating exploitative ones, is the biggest challenge for governments of origin countries. This session focuses on sharing experience on effective policies that generate more decent jobs for migrant workers.

Presentations:

- Recruitment of Pakistani Workers – Mechanisms and Vulnerabilities
by Dr. G.M. Arif, Senior Research Demographer, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics
- Migrant Recruitment Practices in India
by Dr. S Irudaya Rajan, Chair Professor, Research Unit on International Migration, Centre for Development Studies
- Private Sector Initiative in Promoting Good Recruitment Practices
by Mr. Ghulam Mustafa, President, Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies

Panel Discussion

- Government (Philippines)
- Worker (Nepal)
- Employer (Malaysia)

Open Discussion

17.00-19.30

Break

19.30-21.00

Dinner

Address:

- Emerging Trends in Migration to OECD Countries
by Dr. Philip Martin, Professor, University of California Davies

Wednesday, 16 July 2008

09.00-11.30

3 Parallel Sessions (A, B, and C)

Parallel Session A: Promoting Safe Migration for Women

Chair: Mr. Hans Leo Cacdac, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

The share of women among migrant workers has been increasing across the region. In Sri Lanka, for instance, the most recent estimate is that 56% of migrant workers leaving annually are women. Still, a significant part of the movements takes place in an informal and irregular manner, and trafficking of women and children across borders is still a common problem, giving rise to major protection problems. This session focuses on sharing experience on effective policies that provide protection for women migrants.

Presentations:

- Trends and Issues in Migration of Women Workers
by Keiko Osaki, Chief, Population and Social Integration Section, Emerging Social Issues Division, UNESCAP
- Comparative Approaches to Protection of Women Migrants
by Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, Chair, South Asia Migration Research Network

Open Discussion

Parallel Session B: Migration Infrastructures and Effective Services to Migrants

Chair: Mr. C.K. Hyder, Secretary General, Bangladesh Employers' Federation

The extent to which migrant workers are protected depends in large part on the migration infrastructures available both in their home countries and their countries of destination. Migration infrastructures can be public or private and include bilateral and multilateral agreements, government agencies that regulate recruitment or provide group insurance, private employment agencies, skills testing or training centers, travel centers, money transfer agencies, etc. This session compares experiences of countries in terms of providing effective migration infrastructures.

Presentations:

- Effectiveness of Migration Infrastructures: the Case of Indonesia and the Philippines by Ms. Emilyzen Ignacio and Ms. Yesenia Mejia, Research Consultants
- Effective Services to Migrants: Lessons from the Bangladesh Experience by Mr. Nazrul Islam Khan, former Ambassador to Kuwait and Yemen, Bangladesh

Open Discussion

Parallel Session C: Emerging Demand for Labour and Skills Development

Chair: Mr. J. Panda, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

The demand for migrant labour appears to be expanding, which is likely to continue, based on medium-term economic and demographic outlooks. This demand cuts across different skill levels. The challenge for countries which pursue the deployment of workers as an economic strategy is to provide the proper training and preparation for their workers to fill this growing demand for labour. This session will look at these issues.

Presentations:

- Training for Employment Overseas by Mr. Abdul Malek, Director General, Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training
- Meeting the Emerging Demand for Skilled Migrant Labour by Mr. Cesar Averia, President and CEO, Staffbuilders Inc.

Open Discussion

11.30-12.30

Plenary Session 3: Report on Conclusions of Parallel Sessions

Presentations:

- Report on Conclusions of Parallel Session A
- Report on Conclusions of Parallel Session B
- Report on Conclusions of Parallel Session C

Open Discussion

12.30-14.00

Lunch

14.00–16:00

Plenary Session 4: Migration – A Shared Responsibility of Origin and Destination Countries

Chair: Dr. Mahfuzul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment

It can be easily argued that the economic benefits of labour migration is maximized, and the migrant workers better protected when both sending and receiving countries cooperate to ensure a well-managed labour migration system that prepares the workers for deployment, guarantees them fair treatment at the worksite and avenues for redress, and prepares them for return. This session looks at examples of experiences of cooperation between countries on labour migration.

Presentations:

- On the Colombo Process and Follow-up by Ms. Aiko Kikkawa, Regional Project Manager, International Organization for Migration Bangladesh Office
- The Role of Multinationals in the Protection of Labour through the Supply Side by Ms. Sridevi Kalavakolanu, Consultant, Business for Social Responsibility

Panel Discussion

- Government (India)
- Worker (Malaysia)
- Employer (Bangladesh)

Open Discussion

16.00-16.15

Coffee Break

16.15-17.30

Closing Session

Summing up

- Mr. Manolo Abella, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO/EU Asian Programme on the Governance of Labour Migration
- General Discussion of Conclusions and Follow-up Action Recommendations

Closing remarks

- Mr. Md. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Vote of Thanks