The Capacity Building for Migration Management in China (CBMM) Project is co-implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in close partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, and the Ministry of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China. This project is principally financed by the European Commission, with co-funding from the Italian Ministry of Interior and the United Kingdom Border Agency. The project seeks to promote cooperation between China and the EU in field of migration through the exchange of expertise, information and personnel. The components of the project include raising awareness of the risks associated with irregular migration.

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Improving Identification of Victims of Trafficking

The IOM Director-General Mr William Lacy Swing opened the ‘Risk Identification of Victims of Trafficking’ training (2-3 March 2010) held in Beijing. The training was the first of its kind to target senior Chinese consular and immigration authorities and was attended by over 40 senior officials from the Chinese Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Public Security (MPS), as well as Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), and Commerce (MOFCOM). The training was convened to strengthen victim identification procedures, introduce safe and voluntary repatriation mechanisms, and improve support services for victims of trafficking. The training was facilitated by experts from IOM, ILO, United Kingdom Border Agency and Belgium NGO Payoke. Mr Swing, speaking at the opening of the training said: “By combining Chinese and European expertise, we can facilitate the sharing of information on respective systems, promote mutual understanding, and take another step towards enhancing international cooperation to combat human trafficking.” Counsellor Qi Xiaoxia, International Conferences and Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted China’s appreciation the CBMM project’s achievements, including work to protect rights and interests of migrants, legal analysis of EU and Chinese migration laws, efforts to combat irregular migration, and inspection of labour recruitment agencies.

Training held for Shandong recruitment agencies

The ILO and MOHRSS implemented the second round of training seminars on ‘Labour Migration Management: Capacity Building for Recruitment Agencies’ (17-18 March 2010) in Jinan, Shandong Province. A total of 68 participants, including more
Research on EU-China migration policies and laws

A comprehensive analysis on migration related laws and policies in China and EU MS was conducted by an ILO researcher with a systematic review of migration laws and trafficking legislation in China and selected EU countries such as the UK, France, Italy and Poland in order to highlight areas that could build common approaches and mutual understanding. The initial findings of the research were shared with law enforcement officials in Shandong and Liaoning provinces through the ILO organized workshops in June 2009.

Workshop on EU-China Law and Policy Review

The ILO and MOHRSS organized a Workshop on ‘EU-China Law and Policy Review’ (15-16 April 2010) in Shenyang, Liaoning Province. The workshop for over 60 officials provided an overview on migration related laws and policies in both China and EU countries. Chinese government representatives from MFA, MPS, MOHRSS, and the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) and EU MS Embassy officials participated and discussed the EU-China Law and Policy Review Report to identify effective measures that could enhance EU-China cooperation in formulating and implementing laws and policies to combat irregular migration.

Fraudulent Travel Document Training for Specialists

IOM conducted a specialist ‘Fraudulent Travel Document Training’ (17-21 May, 2010) in Beijing for over 30 second line experts from China’s key immigration posts (Ministry of Public Security), as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consular Department. The training utilised a European standard training approach and was the second of two trainings which were first piloted in July 2009. The Training used EU MS expert resource persons (Portuguese Border and Aliens Service and German Criminal Police) and introduced easily replicable methods and internationally recognised standards for inspection of fraudulent travel documents, profiling of migrant smuggling and risk identification of those trafficked and smuggled. The participants suggested that IOM further expand trainings and materials so as to be adapted into more formal national training programs.

EU-China Consultation on E-passport Design

IOM and the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) coordinated a technical ‘EU-China Consultation on E-passport Design’ (24 May 2010) between the EU MS (Portugal and Germany) and the MPS (Entry and Exit Administration Bureau) in Beijing to share European and Chinese experiences on development of E-passports. Chinese officials in charge of the development of the next generation Chinese e-passport introduced the current status of the development of the Chinese passport as well as exchanged ideas concerning best practice in biometric and security features. IOM also shared with the Chinese officials copies of Documents: The Developer’s Toolkit which is a comprehensive manual for the development of security features for travel documents, design and planning specifications, as well as identity management systems to reduce fraud and tampering.

Training manual for recruitment agencies and overseas labourers

ILO and Fujian Provincial Employment Service Instruction Centre have produced a Training Manual for Self-discipline of Recruitment Agencies covering management of private employment agencies, good practices, and information on overseas employment policies in destination countries. In addition, practical information such as best sample employment contract, migrants’ assistance hotlines and associations in selected destination countries to ensure their rights protection, and essential content of pre-departure training were presented. A seminar on the use of the manual formed part of the trainings on recruitment agencies for enhanced self regulation capacity was held in Fuzhou, Fujian Province (25-27 May, 2010).
Information Campaigns in Fujian, Liaoning, and Shandong

LO and the MOHRSS implemented comprehensive information campaigns in three key provinces from March 2009 until June 2010, and up to the end of 2009 reached approximately 930,000 potential migrants through the campaigns. The objectives of the campaigns were to prevent irregular migration and enhance potential migrants’ knowledge on safe migration channels. The campaigns targeted potential migrants in high risk regions, recruitment agencies and also business actors such as domestic and international airlines, boat owners, transporters and the hotel industry. The awareness raising activities also took place where migrants move and gather, such as airports, railway stations, recreation places, and labour recruitment centres. The specific information dissemination channels for the campaigns include radio, TV, the internet, public service announcements, DVDs, newspaper, leaflets, text messages, hotline services and outdoor media.

Labour Migration Study Tour to the Philippines

OM organised a ‘Study Tour to the Philippines’ (7-11 June, 2010) in response to interest from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Public Security (MPS) and Commerce (MOFCOM) about managing labour disputes, measures to protect rights of workers, maximising the benefit of workers’ remittances, as well as pre-departure training and accreditation. In light of the new competencies for management of overseas labour migration assumed by the Ministry of Commerce, including the deployment of Chinese workers abroad, IOM highlighted the Philippines best practice for the deployment of foreign workers including pre-departure training, dispute resolution, protection of workers’ rights, deployment of labour attaches abroad, and also active promotion of developing foreign markets for deployment.
Employers were also invited from sectors absorbing a large number of Chinese migrants in Italy such as wholesale and retail commerce, textile and clothing, leather and leather goods, hotels and restaurants. During the Study Tour, the Chinese delegation also had the opportunity to visit the Italian Police/Investigation Department (Carabinieri), the Anti-Mafia National Delegation of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Labour, and were invited by the labour inspectorate to accompany them in a real inspection visit.

Concluding Meeting of CBMM China

In the presence of project beneficiaries, IOM, ILO, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Public Security, Commerce, and Human Resources and Social Security, Officials from the Provincial MOHRSS Bureaus of Fujian, Liaoning, and Shandong, representatives of the EU MS Embassies, IOM organised the concluding meeting of the CBMM China Project (28 June, 2010). The participants reviewed the achievements of the project over the preceding three years (2007-2010), best practices of the Project, as well as made suggestions for future cooperation. Mention was made of the importance of improved mutual understanding between EU-China achieved through the supporting of Chinese officials through technical trainings, study tours, and workshops. The participating Chinese Ministries and EU MS all reiterated their interest to continue exchanges though a ‘second phase’ of the project so as to expand the mutually beneficial EU-China cooperation on migration management in the future.

Labour officials undertake a Study Tour to Italy

ILO organised a Study Tour to Italy (21-25 June, 2010) for a delegation of provincial (Fujian, Liaoning, and Shandong) and MOHRSS officials to participate in a Workshop on ‘Addressing the Demand Side of Chinese Migrant Workers’ in Rome. The objective was to bring together Chinese employers, Italian companies, governmental representatives, law enforcement agents, labour inspectorates, and immigration services so as to discuss how to promote mutual understanding and improve communication between the Chinese community and local society (such as expectations for each other with a view to facilitate a better integration of Chinese community) and identification of viable options to the employment of irregular migrants.