

Innovations in Labour Migration Governance and Development Outcomes
“Making decent work a reality for migrant workers”
Delegates Dining Room, UN Headquarters, New York
September 26, 2013
08.15am – 10.00am

Speaker Profiles

Ms. Laura Garcíandia, Ayúdenlos a Llegar, Mexico

Ms. Laura Garcíandia leads a team of volunteers who provides assistance to migrant shelters in Mexico. It attends to their immediate needs; gives them information on their legal rights and raises awareness among society on migration issues. The project was founded in 2011 when this group of young people, in different parts of Mexico, became sensitized to the problems that migrants endure while crossing the country. In two years, the group has established partnerships with shelters along many parts of migration routes throughout the country. They support shelters in the states of Veracruz, Mexico City, Nuevo Leon, Tijuana, Puebla, Tlaxcala, Querétaro, Sonora and Oaxaca. Ms. Garcíandia has won recognition from the ILO for her work, which she presented in a five-minute video submission to the ILO Youth Employment Programme’s video contest ahead of this year’s International Youth Day (August 12). In winning that competition, Ms. Garcíandia spoke at the celebration of International Youth Day in New York organised by the ILO, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund and opened by the UN Secretary-General’s representative.

Ms. Andrea DiBietto, AFL-CIO, USA

Andrea Zuniga DiBietto is a Legislative Representative for the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). The AFL-CIO is a voluntary federation of 57 national and international labor unions that represents 12.2 million members, including 3.2 million members in Working America, its community affiliate. Mrs. DiBietto advocates on the AFL-CIO’s behalf for immigration, state employees and wage theft legislative issues. Prior to joining AFL-CIO, she was Legislative Affairs Specialist for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). At AFSCME, she covered a broad array of legislative issues; lead primary campaigns in Nevada, California, Texas and Puerto Rico; and coordinated Hispanic voter outreach efforts. In line with the ILO’s key messages on cooperation between social actors at all levels, the recent negotiation of the immigration reform bill can be seen as an example of effective social dialogue.

Mrs. DiBietto holds a Juris Doctor degree from the George Washington University Law School and a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the American University. She also serves on the Executive Boards of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and the Hispanic Lobbyists Association.

Mr. Maung Aung Tin Htun, Migrant World Film Festival, Republic of Korea

The Migrant World Film Festival is an annual film festival held in South Korea in the summer months—it opens in Seoul and travels to other parts of the country where there is a high

concentration of migrants—and is hosted by the Migrant World TV station. They were formerly known as the Migrant Workers Film Festival and the Migrant Workers TV respectively, because they were established and organised by migrant workers who had media and film training. For this reason, there is always a section in the Film Festival programme dedicated to films made by ordinary migrants, which always speaks to the necessity of protecting migrants' rights and migrants' contributions to Korean society. In addition, the Film Festival screens films from around the world that deal with migrant issues and so contribute to efforts in South Korea to bridge the gap between migrants and the native population whilst celebrating cultural differences. Mr. Maung Aung Tin Htun is the Executive Director of the Migrant World Film Festival.

Mr. Opelo July, BWJobs4Graduates, Botswana

BW JOBS 4 GRADUATES is a non-profit organisation that was formed with the goal of helping university graduates, but also young people with lower educational attainments, find decent employment across Botswana. It started as a group on Facebook, which has since grown to 37,000 active members and continues to grow not only nationally, but regionally. Most companies advertising through BWJobs4Graduates are in Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho and Zambia, as are job seekers (though the platform has also received hits from Malaysia, China, the United Kingdom, and the USA). Employers submitting vacancy notices are also required to submit detailed profiles with which BWJobs4Graduates can independently verify the employers' reputation and honesty, a measure taken to do all possible to protect job-seekers' rights and ensure decent working conditions. In keeping with ILO Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), BW JOBS 4 GRADUATES does not charge job-seekers or workers; employers wishing to advertise through the organisation pay a service fee. Mr. Opelo July, co-founder of BWJobs4Graduates, is their current Director of Operations. BW JOBS 4 GRADUATES was among the finalists for the ILO's Youth Employment Video Contest on youth labour migration "Reaping the benefits, minimizing the risks".

Mr. Nick Forster, FSI-Worldwide, Dubai

FSI Worldwide ("FSI") is a recruitment agency based in Dubai, which began as a specialist supplier of ex-Gurkha personnel to the security industry. While this still forms a significant part of the business, the key elements of the FSI business model (the ethical recruitment, leadership and management of high quality personnel) are concepts that apply equally to civilians as to ex-military personnel. Therefore, FSI has developed a model for the ethical recruitment and management of skilled and unskilled labour for the construction, facilities management, oil and gas, and hospitality sectors in addition to security staff, which is both efficient and cost-effective. FSI provides its services to clients around the world. FSI-Worldwide is working with the ILO on an upcoming project in the context of the ILO/DFID 'Work in Freedom' programme.

Mr. Nick Forster is the co-founder and Senior Vice-President in charge of Group Business Development.