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Media Advisory on International Migrants Day-2014

Media Advisory

In the occasion of International Migrants Day, under the theme “*Realization of Fair Migration is Key to Protect Migrants from Exploitation and Abuse*” The United Nations System in Pakistan will convene an interactive two hour briefing session for media representatives with experts from the ILO, IOM, Government of Pakistan and migrant workers from GCC countries.

Programme:

When: Tuesday, 17 December 2014, 12:00 noon

Where: International Labour Organization, Islamabad

Who:

Expert	Topic
Mr. Francesco d' Ovidio, Country Director, ILO Pakistan	ILO's Fair Migration Agenda
Mr. Enrico Ponziani, Chief of Mission, IOM Pakistan	Saving Migrants from Abuse and Exploitation”.
Mr. Sikandar Ismail Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development	State Initiatives to Protect Migrant Workers and future plans
Ms. Anna Engblom, ILO Chief Technical Advisor	Labour Migration Governance in South Asia

How to Participate:

If you are interested to join, please send us your name, CNIC number and your media affiliation, at unic.islamabad@unic.org, not later than 1200 noon 16 December 2014.

International Migrants Day 2014:

Labour migration in Asia is increasing and getting more complex. More and more countries are involved in sending and receiving migrant workers. Thirty percent of the world's migrants can now be found in Asia and Gulf Cooperation Council countries – i.e. approximately 71 million people, equivalent to the population of Germany. The largest flows from South Asia are to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, who



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currently rely on foreign labour to fill almost 90% of private sector jobs, often in construction or domestic work.

Pakistan describes itself as a country highly pro-emigration. Between 1971 - 2013, more than 7 million Pakistanis have officially migrated abroad for employment. Out of this total manpower export, about 96% have proceeded to the Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) Countries. The key country of destination is Saudi Arabia followed by UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain. Only less than one per cent of all migrants from Pakistan are women.¹ Migration from Pakistan peaked in 2012 when 628,452 left the country.

Temporary labour migration is often touted as a triple-win situation; a win for destination countries who can support a level of economic activity (low and high skilled) that would be impossible without foreign labour, a win for countries of origin because it lowers unemployment while bringing in remittances and skills learned abroad, and a win for the migrants who can earn higher incomes and escape poverty.

However, this triple-win often does not deliver benefits equally to all three parties, and it is the migrants who are being short-changed. There is an urgent need to create a fairer migration system which not only ***respects the fundamental rights of migrant workers but also offers them real opportunities for decent work and save them from exploitation and abuses in the whole migration cycle***

Media contacts:

- Vittorio Cammarota, Director, UN Information Centre, Phone: + 92-51-8355719, Email: cammarota@un.org
- Ishrat Rizvi, National Information Officer, UN Information Centre, Phone: + 92-51-8355720, Mobile: + 92-300-8553790, Email: ishrat.rizvi@unic.org

¹ Pakistan Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment