

MIGRANT FORUM IN ASIA NEWSLETTER



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CMW holds DGD on the rights of undocumented migrant workers; MRI instrumental behind the DGD

The Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) held the Day of General Discussion (DGD) on The Rights of Migrant Workers in an Irregular Situation and Members of Their Families on 19 September 2011. Representatives of governments, UN bodies and specialized agencies, civil society organizations, and individual experts converged in Palais Wilson in Geneva, Switzerland for deliberations on the legal standards relating to the rights of undocumented migrant workers and members of their families, as provided in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Migrant Workers Convention/ICRMW) and other international human rights instruments. The day also gave way to the presentation of the challenges when protecting undocumented migrant workers' rights, current practices to protect those rights, gaps in protection mechanisms and steps to realize and achieve the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation.

The Day of General Discussion was webcasted live with hundreds of viewers watching from different parts of the world. The webcast enabled communities, especially the undocumented migrant worker communities, to witness the event



Claire Courteille (ITUC), Michele Levoy (PICUM/ MRI steering committee member), M. El Jamri (CMW) and Noemy Barrita-Chagoya speaking at the DGD. Photo credit: PICUM, September 2011.

and join the discussions by sending their comments through a live chat feed. The webcast was made possible by Migrants Rights International (MRI) and Centre for Civil and Political Rights.

The Day of General Discussion is a public meeting intended to foster a deeper understanding of the contents and implications of the Migrant Workers Convention, as they relate to specific articles or topics.

The Committee on Migrant Workers, the body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention, organizes days of general discussion on this Convention.

MRI has been strongly advocating with the CMW for a day of general discussion on undocumented migrant workers. MRI and its networks see the need to unpack various issues relating to undocumented migrant workers in the Convention. One of the greatest misconceptions regarding the Migrant Workers Convention is the allegation that ratification would increase flows of irregular migrant workers. A day of general discussion on undocumented migrant workers within the Migrant Workers' Committee could lead to better treatment and responses towards migrant workers throughout the world. Such a debate would also build on work done by many actors to raise awareness about the vulnerabilities of undocumented migrant workers,

Inside this issue:

1-4 Day of General Discussion ; 4 MRI side event on ILO Convention 189 ; 5 Residency case in Hong Kong monumental for migrant workers' rights movement ; 6 Updates from the GFMD 2011 ; 6 MFA, MRI gears up for PGA 2011; 7 MFA continues engagement in climate change and migration discourse ; 8 Asian Parliamentarians gather in Phnom Penh ; 10 Ensuring social protection for migrant workers in ASEAN ; 12 Regional consultation of CSOs from Sri Lanka, Philippines and Nepal ; 14 MFA participates at the 49th session of the CEDAW ; 15 MFA makes headway for Migrants' Campaign Month

including the particular situation of undocumented women. MRI also views the day of general discussion as a process enabling participants to exchange views on topics in a frank and open dialogue. The discussions will help the Committee to subsequently formulate general comments that it will adopt as formal interpretations of the content of the Convention.

On 19 September, the Day of General Discussion was formally opened by Craig Mokhiber of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR). Mr.

migrant worker is in a situation of irregularity, in terms of residence or employment, to deprive him or her of the right to fair treatment, that is, treatment no less favorable than that enjoyed by nationals, whether for remuneration or in respect of other conditions of work, including overtime, working hours, weekly rest, paid holidays, occupational safety and health, and termination of employment.

Mr. Tall concluded by giving recommendations; The cooperation among States should target the prevention of



Mokhiber said that push factors are not the only reason behind the irregular status of migrant workers but also the lack of coherence in immigration laws in receiving countries. There is a need for coherent laws premised on international human rights norms and standards. The day of general discussion would address fundamental issues such as labor rights, right to health, housing, international cooperation and would search for measures to empower migrant workers in an irregular situation. Mr. Mokhiber noted that the day of general discussion operates in a backdrop of growing intolerance of migrants and migration and widespread stereotypes associated to migrant workers. It is important to counter these notions with evidence and the day of general discussion is an invaluable opportunity to provide essential facts.

Mr. Ahmadou Tall, Member of CMW discussed the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families under ICRMW. Mr. Tall stated that rights are based on the assumption of equality between all human beings, "are born free and equal in dignity and rights." International human rights law generally does not distinguish between nationals and non nationals in terms of rights that are granted to individuals.

Mr. Tall cited Article 69 of the Convention, "States Parties shall, when there are migrant workers and members of their families within their territory in an irregular situation, take appropriate measures to ensure that such a situation does not persist." By inviting State Parties to illegal or clandestine movements, the Convention promotes the prevention and elimination of all forms of exploitation of migrant workers who are seen in the State of transit or in the State of employment as cheap labor. Employers should not take advantage of the fact that the

illegal employment:

- Fight against the dissemination of misleading information relating to emigration and immigration;
- Take measures to detect and eliminate irregular or clandestine movements of migrant workers and their families;
- Imposing effective sanctions on persons, groups or entities which organize, operate or assist in organizing or operating such movements;
- Impose effective sanctions on persons, groups or entities which use violence, threats or intimidation against migrant workers or members of their families in an irregular situation;
- Make adequate and effective measures to eliminate employment in their territory of migrant workers in irregular status, by imposing, where necessary, sanctions on employers.

Ryszard Cholewinski of the International Labor Organization (ILO) showed the complementarities of the ILO Conventions with the Migrant Workers Convention. Convention No. 97 of 1949 (C97) concerning Migration for Employment and Convention No. 143 of 1975 (C143) concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers for instance are reproduced in the Migrant Workers Convention. The interpretations of the ILO Conventions and MWC demonstrate interface of labor rights and human rights laws. Another area of complementarity is the role of ILO in the MWC. ILO can assume a consultative role in the meetings of the CMW. This mechanism ensures synergies are sustained in labor standards and human rights including the rights of workers in irregular situations.

Vincent Chetail of the Graduate Institute discussed other complementary international standards and jurisprudence related to the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation. Professor Chetail said that the Migrant Workers Convention is an integral part of the human rights context and it is very difficult to dissociate to other laws because they are intricately linked to protect migrant workers. "This general regime is of course crucial for State Parties. The Convention brings principles known and recognized by states so there is a didactic approach. The challenge, is usually implementation."

The discussants for the session on the challenges when

migration has created less rights, lowers costs, and thus less regulations. There should be firm insistence of the rule of law in all discourse.

Ms. Michèle Levoy of Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)/MRI and Ms. Claire Courteille of International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) took part in the discussion for the session on the protection of the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families in practice. Ms. Levoy raised the issue of using the correct terminology. Resolution 3449 of 1975 requests all UN organs and specialized agencies concerned to utilize in



protecting the rights of migrants workers in an irregular situation were Mr. Christian Guillermet, Deputy Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica; Mr. Paolo Cavaleri, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Argentina; and Mr. Patrick Taran, Senior Migration Specialist, GMPA. Mr. Guillermet stated that being a country of migrants and as a transit country, Costa Rica has been committed in protecting the rights of migrant workers regardless of status. The country showed its commitment to upholding human rights by considering the 27 recommendations of the Human Rights Council. However, there is a socio-political challenge for Costa Rica to fully implement its national laws and international treaties where it is a party to. Mr. Guillermet said that it is a challenge to include undocumented migrant workers in the social security system of the country because they remain invisible. It is also a challenge for the country to guarantee integration if the people remain invisible and thus could not take part in the educational system.

The Argentine experience, as a receiving and transit country, has been positive according to Mr. Cavaleri. He said that when the National Education Law was passed, undocumented migrant workers are able to access primary, secondary and tertiary education. Mr. Cavaleri stated that irregular migrants do the jobs that nationals could not fulfil so they have rights like any others. Regularization seems to be a taboo for many countries but there should be open implementation of policies that are rights based. Greater rights means greater development not just in economic terms but also in terms of human development. There is a need therefore for resources, participation of other stakeholders in the issue and liberal implementation of policies.

Mr. Taran spoke of circular migration and how it is being used by regimes to lower wages of migrants. Circular

all documents the term "non-documented or irregular migrant workers..." Even today, this has been a continuing recommendation to all stakeholders and even to the public. Proper terminology should be looked at because the term "illegal" creates a stigma. She also mentioned the growing practice of criminalization of those who assist migrants in an irregular situation. Ms. Courteille of ITUC tackled freedom of association and joining of labor unions. The right to association play a crucial role to seeing rights effectively respected. However, undocumented migrant workers face the difficulty of organizing. There are anti-union practices in many countries and migrants are fired from their jobs or get deported if they join unions.

The afternoon sessions of the day of general discussion comprised of three working groups: The criminalization of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families, and their vulnerability to exploitation, abuse and arbitrary detention; Protection and restriction of economic and social rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families; and international cooperation in the protection of the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families. MFA regional coordinator and MRI chair William Gois gave a presentation on the working group on criminalization of migrant workers in an irregular situation. Mr. Gois mentioned six points to contextualize the issue:

1. Criminalization is merely a measure to respond to the constriction of the economy or when the issue of irregular migration becomes highly politicized. As we see increasing criminalization of migrant workers, in particular undocumented migrant workers, one has to ask the question, whose interest? Who stands to gain and who and what is being protected?

2. Missions and embassies have to play active roles in protecting migrant workers. Migrant workers should have the opportunity to go to missions and address their cases. At times, the missions are the migrant workers' last resort. The situation of undocumented migrant workers is an administrative issue and can be resolved if missions intervene.
3. The concept of sanctuaries must also be looked in to. In the 1980s civil and religious organizations provided a safe haven to human rights activists and refugees fleeing persecution and conflict. Sanctuaries can serve as more of a midway in looking at the cases of undocumented migrant workers rather than arbitrary detention, deportation and expulsion.
4. How to scale down criminalization is a question of language. The GA resolution of 1975 requesting the usage of non-documented or irregular migrant workers in our language has not materialized and after several decades we are still struggling to popularize the term.
5. Undocumented migrant workers should have access to justice mechanisms. If there are labor arbitration courts where undocumented migrant workers can resort to, they can demonstrate that their situations are not criminal as being portrayed or supposed.
6. There is a need for proactive cooperation on an equal basis between host and sending countries in dealing with the issues of irregular migration. The host countries should neither act in an arbitrary manner nor act unilaterally. In a host country where there is a sizeable population of undocumented migrant workers, it is imperative on the host country to engage in a meaningful, deliberate dialogue with origin countries on how the situation can be resolved because irregular movement of peoples are also symptoms of what is happening in the countries of origin and there might be a need within the practice of regionalism to look in to international cooperation.

The general introduction and working group sessions at day of general discussion will be pivotal for the CMW as the Committee develops concrete recommendations in relation to the protection of the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families. The Committee will release the Day of General Discussion report by the end of the year. **END**

Read the submission of MFA to the Committee on Migrant Workers here: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/docs/DGD/MigrantForumAsia_DGD2011.pdf

To read all other submissions for this particular day, please click here: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/dgd19092011.htm>

Watch the recorded video of the Day of General Discussion: <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/17373320>

MRI side event at the 18th session of the Human Rights Council: ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers - The Road to Ratification

20 September - MRI held a side event on the occasion of the 18th session of the Human Rights Council. Three months after the adoption of ILO 189: Decent Work for Domestic Workers, labor unions, civil society organizations, governments and other stakeholders are preparing for campaigns and strategies on the ratification of the Convention. Panelists for the side event were Barbro Budin, IUF; William Gois, MFA; Martin Oelz, ILO; and Cynthia Salim, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC). The panelists discussed about the challenges and the great work that lie ahead post ILC 2011.

While stakeholders are working on ratification strategies and campaigns and on the technical aspects of the



Barbro Budin of IUF speaking at the side event. 20 September 2011.

convention, the social aspects of the campaign is also of prime importance. It is the social mindsets that we need to look in to because for many years domestic work was not seen as work. The challenge is not the standard itself but how the standard can transform societies.

It is commendable how groups came together, but sliding into organizational mode will be a setback. How do we keep the synergies of the different groups- unions, NGOs, faith based groups, and women's organizations who have contributed in the process? What will keep the

movement to move forward would be not so much on the legal side of the Convention but more on the social aspect.

Although there is now a binding covenant to protect the rights of domestic workers, there is still on-going exploitation such as the cases of domestic workers beheaded and being sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia. As some sending countries increase protection of domestic worker rights, some host countries look at other markets with weaker rights protection regimes to source workers.

Another challenge identified is the bulk of migrant domestic workers being deployed in countries where there is a limit or even absence of organizing of workers such as in the Gulf region and even in Europe. Also, how countries will determine who will be included in the convention (exclusionary clause) is something stakeholders should be vigilant about.

The issue of the surplus of women in the care industry was also raised. What does this mean for the struggle of labor, recognition of work and for the struggle of women's rights?

The Convention gives an enormous opportunity for the recognition of the informal sector and for the workers' rights movement to organize domestic workers. The big tasks for the movement would be to come up with new strategies in organizing, how to change public mindsets, and how not to create a divide between local and migrant domestic workers, and undocumented migrant workers.

Several countries, civil society groups, labor unions and organizations are beginning the strategy and campaign process. Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines for instance are looking into their laws. ILO, IDWN, MFA and civil society organizations are coming together on 24-26 October 2011 in Manila to come up with a regional strategy.

A ratification campaign will work effectively if there is a unified strategy among stakeholders. This is the road ahead. **END**

Migrant domestic worker's victory in residency case in Hong Kong monumental for migrant workers' rights movement



Domestic workers from the Philippines on their day-off in Hong Kong. The High Court ruled law banning migrant domestic workers from settling permanently in Hong Kong unconstitutional. Photo credit: Focus China/Alamy/The Telegraph.

30 September 2011 - Law banning migrant domestic workers from settling permanently in Hong Kong was ruled unconstitutional by Hong Kong's High Court.

Evangeline Banao Vallejos, a Filipina domestic worker living in Hong Kong since 1986 challenged the rejection of her application for permanent residency, questioning why expatriate bankers and cooks can apply for permanent residency after living in the city for seven consecutive years. The Court of First Instance through presiding judge Johnson Lam ruled in favor of Vallejos.

"This is monumental, especially because the decision comes out months after the adoption of ILO Convention 189 that recognizes the rights of domestic workers. [The decision] is something to celebrate," said William Gois, Regional Coordinator of Migrant Forum in Asia, in an interview with Al Jazeera on 30 September.

Asked whether the decision can lead to a sudden influx of migrant workers, Mr. Gois stated that this is unlikely, citing similar concern over European Union expansion where streams of workers from developing regions in Europe are feared to take place; but that has not happened. "At the end of the day, migrant workers are only looking for decent work and that they ultimately want to come home to their families." **END**

Updates on the Global Forum on Migration and Development 2011

Government meetings this quarter took place in the cities of Accra, Morocco, Berne, Kingston, and Batumi to deliberate on issues currently affecting migration and development. Switzerland is hosting the 2011 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), launching a series of regional thematic meetings that will conclude in Geneva, Switzerland on 1-2 December 2011.

The meeting in Accra, Ghana (21-22 September) reinforced two underlying points: "First, the need for more reliable and specific data on domestic workers worldwide and specifically in Africa. Working in the informal sector, often in private homes and without a clear definition of 'domestic work', domestic workers are not always captured by labor market surveys. Second, domestic work is perceived as 'women's work', often also as a 'labor of love'. As such, it is undervalued, a fact reinforced by its exclusion from legislation and policies targeted at workers employed in the formal sector. A lack of formal protection by governments can lead to exploitation, violence and sexual abuse. Participants called for domestic work to be moved from the periphery to centre stage of development policy."

In Berne, Switzerland (13-15 September), the meeting was held in the context of the 2011 GFMD thematic work plan, "Labor Mobility and Development: Engaging the Private Sector in Labor Market Planning." Presentations from Asia included "Government Perspective on the Privatization of Migration," Jaime P. Gimenez (Philippines Overseas Employment Administration/Department of Labor and Employment); "Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Moving Care Workers across Borders," Yoshiko Naiki (Osaka University); and "Labor Migration in Asia and the Role of Bilateral Migration Agreements: Market Access Facilitation by Informal Means," Graziano Battistella (Scalabrini Migration Center) and Binod Khadria (Jawaharlal Nehru University). "The Trade Union Perspective on the Privatisation of Migration" was presented by Sharan Burrow of ITUC. Ryszard Cholewinski of the ILO made a presentation on "Evaluating Bilateral Migration Agreements in Light of Human and Labor Rights."

The meeting in Kingston, Jamaica (7-8 September) resulted in two outcomes that can facilitate implementation of the general recommendations of the participants: a gender-sensitive checklist to protect and support migrant domestic workers, intended as a practical guide to governments setting up their policies, legislation and programs to implement ILO Convention 189, the CEDAW General Recommendation and the CMC General Comment.; and an agreement among UN Women, ILO and NGO representatives to establish a

Caribbean Network of Domestic Workers to work together with Caribbean Governments.

Migration Profiles was the theme of the meeting in Batumi, Georgia (12-13 July). "Migration Profiles provide a framework for aggregating in a structured and systematic manner existing data and information from international, regional and national sources. To date, more than 70 migration profiles have been prepared, but there is a lack of a common understanding of what a migration profile exercise entails, and how preparing a migration profile can contribute to capacity-building and greater policy coherence." Participants included representatives from Afghanistan, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Moldova and Pakistan. The International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) were also present.

October meetings of the GFMD have taken place in: Manila (20-21, Migration Profiles); Abuja (17-18, Meeting on Facilitating South-South Labor Migration); Istanbul (13-14, Irregular Migration); Chisinau, Moldova (12-13, Mainstreaming Migration into Strategic Policy Development); San Salvador, El Salvador (4-5, Irregular Migration); and Dhaka (3-4, Lowering the Costs of Migration for Higher Development Gains).

To read more on the developments in the GFMD including the summary reports and presentations from the meetings, visit <http://www.gfmd.org/en/documents-library/switzerland-2011/thematic-meetings.html> **END**



**MFA, MRI
gear up for
PGA 2011**

As governments conclude their deliberations in Geneva for the 5th GFMD, civil society movements led by migrant associations will gather at the 6th People's Global Action on Migration, Development & Human Rights (PGA) to raise their collective voices on critical migration issues affecting them. PGA 2011 will take place on 29 November to 2 December 2011 in La Maison Des Associations in Geneva, Switzerland.

The PGA is an independent civil society event parallel to the states-led GFMD process. In collaboration with the GFMD's Civil Society Days (CSD), the PGA brings together migrant associations, migrant rights

organizations, trade unions, faith groups, academia and others from around the world to share information, dialogue, strengthen analyses and develop joint positions on current and emerging issues related to migration. The PGA provides the essential space to enable civil society to critically engage the governments' GFMD process and to challenge states to undertake migration and development policy-making from a human rights framework, as well as hold governments accountable to their international human rights and development commitments. The PGA also paves the way for capacity building and the development of movements and networks.

This year, the theme of the PGA is "Undocumented Migrants: A Call for Regularization." States increasingly negotiate policies governing cross border movements. The control over peoples' entrance and departure may however impact their right to move. It is not in the interest of any country of destination to have large numbers of irregular migrants within its territories; therefore the responses of States take the form of amnesties, deportations, punishment of employers and criminalization of irregular migrants and the proliferation of bilateral agreements. Such measures however can have unintended negative implications on migrants' labor and basic human rights. The PGA, through workshops, roundtables, venues for self-organized caucuses, and meetings with governments, will flesh out the full range of issues involved in this theme, including the underlying problems of poverty and injustice, and how civil society and governments can address these.

The PGA this year is jointly organized by Migrants Rights International (MRI), including MFA, the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), Comitato Antirazzista Durban Italia (CADI). The members of the Global Coalition on Migration (GCM), The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) and their affiliates, Transnational Migrant Platform (TMP), and the European Working Group (EWG) are also taking part. Le Collectif de soutien aux sans-papiers de Genève, Geneva Forum for Pilipino Concerns (GFPC), African Peace Network, The Graduate Institute of Geneva and other local Geneva organizations and networks assist with organizing the process.

More updates and information, including how to register for participation, are available on the website <http://migrantwatch.org/pgs2011/> **END**

MFA continues engagement in climate change and migration discourse

This year's final climate change summit set in Durban, South Africa on 28 November to 9 December 2011 is a crucial event for governments, activists and supporters of the campaign for climate justice and reparations for climate debt. Several issues are up for decision which will have strategic implications, including the future of the Kyoto Protocol, the only binding multilateral instrument on regulating States to take serious steps on carbon emissions cuts.



Rex Varona of Asian Migrant Center/ MFA EC member at the climate debt campaign protest in Bangkok, April 2011; MFA network partner Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD) held a strategy workshop in Bangkok on March-April 2011 to discuss and come up with a collective plan for key tasks, common activities and joint actions on key issues on climate justice. Photo credit: Reuters/JSAPMDD.

Climate change is a grave and urgent threat to life on a global scale. The challenge is great, but greater still for countries of the South and the majority of the people of the South who stand to bear the brunt of its most harmful consequences, because of accumulated economic and social vulnerabilities throughout history up to the present.

The issue of climate change is a cross-cutting issue that intersects with many areas such as migration and development. The MFA network has been keeping a watchful eye on the climate discourse and continues to engage more critically. As governments and climate justice movements in Durban deliberate on the climate discourse ranging from the environmental to the financial, MFA will look in to the "climate connections" to the phenomenon of migration and peoples' right to development. This requires migrants' rights activists to equip themselves with the knowledge needed to work alongside other climate change actors, and to develop an informed analysis and response to the challenge.

The 2011 PGA provides a fitting venue for the climate change and migration caucus. As the climate change conference takes place in Durban, the gathering of migrant communities, migrants rights advocates and other social justice movements in Geneva will create a parallel opportunity to explore regional strategies on climate change and migration which are necessary to promote and protect the rights of migrants and vulnerable groups. **END**

Asian Parliamentarians gather in Phnom Penh



From 15-17 September 2011, Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), along with Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA), MFA Cambodia (CARAM Cambodia, Legal Support for Women & Children, and Cambodian Women for Peace & Development), and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) hosted the 5th Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Labor Migration. Parliamentarians from 8 ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Lao, and Vietnam), and 2 from South Asia (India and Nepal) gathered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to address two important issues within the scope of the protection of migrant workers and members of their families: access to social security/protection, and the formalization of a caucus of parliamentarians to foster collaboration across Asia on migrant worker issues.

This program marked the fifth in a continuing series of dialogues co-organized by MFA and FES that began in 2007. Past programs were organized in Manila (2007), Singapore (2008), Thailand (2009), and Vietnam (2010), parallel to the respective meetings of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), and were aimed at identifying a role for parliamentarians on this issue, enhancing participation of MPs in that role, and identifying key issue areas to take on. A related meeting of parliamentarians took place in Manila in 2011, which included the participation of South Asian and ASEAN parliamentarians, to raise the profile of the specific issue of migrant domestic workers as a lead-up to the 100th Session of the International Labor Conference of the International Labor Organization, where deliberations resulted in the adoption of ILO Convention 189: Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

The gathering in Phnom Penh consisted of a series of plenary sessions, collective brainstorming sessions and small group strategizing. This was the first program in which a group of parliamentarians – the Cambodian local hosts – came prepared with their own statement for the AIPA Committee on Social Matters, which the assembled agreed to endorse. Another outcome of the gathering was the formalization of an Asian Inter-Parliamentary

Caucus through a resolution that was enthusiastically supported by all MP participants.

Social Protection: ‘is often interpreted as having a broader character than social security (including protection provided between members of the family or members of a local community) but is also used in some contexts with a narrower meaning (understood as comprising only measures addressed to the poorest, most vulnerable or excluded members of society)... Social protection has the following aspects: (1) interchangeable with “social security;” (2) as “protection” provided by social security in case of social risks and needs’ (pg.13).

Social Security: ‘...covers all measures providing benefits, whether in cash or in kind, to secure protection from: (a) lack of work-related income (or sufficient income) caused by sickness, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, old age or death of a family member; (b) lack of access or unaffordable access to health care; (c) insufficient family support, particularly for children and adult dependents; and (d) general poverty and social exclusion... Social security has two main dimensions, namely “income security” and “availability of medical care...” (pg. 13/14).

ILO World Social Security Report (2011), as cited in research by Andy Hall.

Parliamentarians’ Engagement on Social Protection / Social Security for Migrant Workers

Ensuring social protection and/or social security for migrant workers is increasingly becoming a concern among CSOs and migrants’ rights advocates. Although social protection is a right enshrined in multiple international instruments, at the national level much awareness still needs to be raised and options weighed before meaning-

ful mechanisms can be put in place that will extend this right to migrant workers.

Andy Hall of Mahidol University presented a working paper on social protection for migrant workers in 4 ASEAN countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore.

Social protection is a right enshrined in the following international instruments:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - Article 22: “Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security”
 - Article 25: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and his family...”
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
 - Article 9: “States parties recognize the right of everyone to social security including social insurance.”
- ILO C118: Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention, 1962 (37 Ratifications)
- ILO C157: Maintenance of Social Security Rights Convention, 1982 (4 Ratifications)
- ILO C19: Equality of Treatment (Accident Compensation) Convention, 1925 (121 Ratifications)
- ILO C48: Maintenance of Migrants’ Pension Rights Convention, 1935 (8 Ratifications)
- ILO R167: Maintenance of Social Security Rights, 1983
- UN MWC (42 Ratifications)

As Mr. Hall presented, at the ASEAN level, the need for social protection is elaborated in initiatives like the *ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*. Declarations such as this are concerned mostly about the human and labor rights of migrant workers, and little attention is paid to social protection with the exception of some campaigns on accident victims.

As yet, there is no clear standard within ASEAN for the rights of migrant workers. An *ASEAN Framework for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers* is being drafted, but negotiations have stalled, mostly due to problems in receiving countries. It is important for

this to move forward, and for social protection to be considered for inclusion in this framework.

There are multiple challenges in providing social protection for migrant workers, mainly stemming from the fact that these men and women are working and living outside of their countries. Generally, social protection/security programs are only open to a country’s nationals, or are based on stringent residency requirements that low/semi-skilled workers are ineligible to apply for or obtain. Many migrant workers lack the requisite documentation to claim social security benefits, either because they are in an

irregular migration situation or because they simply do not have access to the documents requested (birth and marriage certificates can be difficult to obtain in some situations). Some national programs have strict eligibility periods, whereby workers must contribute to the system over a number of years before they are able to make claims; migrant workers on temporary contracts are often disqualified as a result.

To overcome these (and many other) barriers to access, bilateral social security agreements and memoranda of understanding (MOU) between host and sending states should be encouraged. Many bilateral agreements and MOUs are in place, but they fail to address social protection. However, most agreements include provisions for non-discrimination/equality, implying that labor rights, human rights, and social protection rights should apply equally to nationals and migrant workers. During the program discussions, Hon. Charles Santiago (MP, Malaysia) affirmed that MOUs are the most likely means of attaining social protection for migrant workers, because it is through MOUs that governments of sending countries can insist on higher standards and social protection mechanisms. Governments can also look at including social protection for migrant workers in free trade agreements.

Inter-Parliamentary Co-operation: The formal establishment of the caucus

At this gathering, the participation of the MPs was formalized through the adoption of a resolution to establish the **Asian Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Labour Migration**. The Caucus will be Asia-wide, and will be open to all parliamentarians who participated in the past programs, as well as their colleagues who are interested in engaging. The objectives of the caucus include promoting the cause of migrant workers in their respective national parliaments, collectively engaging at the regional, national, and international levels in the development of agreements and legislation, and acknowledging economic and human security issues related to labor migration. The resolution entrusts the administrative work of the caucus to Migrant Forum in Asia. (continue to page 11)

Ensuring social protection for migrant workers in ASEAN

During the Asian Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Labour Migration in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Andy Hall of Mahidol University presented his working paper on social protection for migrant workers in ASEAN. This initial study, commissioned by MFA and FES, outlines the social protection mechanisms available in 4 countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. It presents a series of recommendations on how to expand access to social protection for migrant workers in ASEAN.

Indonesia

Social Protection in Indonesia is provided for workers in the formal sector and the civil service; a special scheme is provided for members of the military. However, most workers are not protected. For those who are covered, the basic benefits are included in their schemes (health insurance, income security, old age pension, unemployment benefits, etc.). In 2004, a voluntary scheme was implemented for workers in the informal sector.

Migrant workers are not covered by any social security schemes. The government provides some pre-departure training for those going abroad. Some (not all) destination countries require that migrant workers be covered by social insurance schemes, and as such, before these migrants leave Indonesia, they must buy an insurance policy for \$47. Onsite in destination countries, embassies and consular offices provide assistance for migrant workers in distress. Upon return, migrant workers are entitled to assistance at the airport that is to include transportation, legal aid, financial support, etc., however this is not properly implemented. Much of the problem stems from the fact that Indonesia is geographically spread out, and coordination from the central to local areas is lacking. Government officials involved in these programs are generally ineffective in providing social protection.

Indonesia has instituted MOUs with many receiving countries, some with basic provisions for social protection. However, officials who are supposed to deliver these programs are often complicit in the abuses that the migrants face while they are abroad.

The national migration laws of Indonesia are concerned primarily with reducing unemployment through the promotion of work overseas. However there is no real commitment/policy to bring in protection mechanisms for migrant workers.

The Philippines

As is the case of Indonesia, the formal sector in the Philippines has strong social protection mechanisms. However, the low skilled workers of the country have no mandatory coverage. The main social security systems in the Philippines are the SSS (for the private sector) and GSIS (for the civil service), and both have been in place for half a century.

Currently, there are 8 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in 214 countries. These migrants remit a significant amount of money annually. There is a program through which OFWs can voluntarily contribute to a social security scheme while they are overseas. The Philippines has a large network of liaison officers and consular officers overseas to support OFWs. There are 15 social security offices overseas as well to facilitate access to the social security system. This is quite advanced compared to other migrant sending countries. In spite of this set-up, many OFWs, particularly migrant domestic workers, still have difficulties accessing social protection.

Singapore

The percentage of migrant workers is very high in Singapore, and the government has a clear economic policy that is dependent on migrant labour. Migrant workers are a part of the economic policy of the country, and most are concentrated in low and semi-skilled jobs.

Like the Philippines, Singapore's social protection mechanisms have been in place for half a century. The national program, called the Central Provident Fund, is a savings scheme that workers contribute to. It is open to all Singaporeans as well as to permanent residents. The main issue with this fund is that migrant workers do not have access to it. Most migrant workers are not permanent residents, and cannot become permanent residents because they do not meet the skills requirements. The government has instituted skills development programs for migrant workers to help to resolve this issue, and have created some incentives for employers to take advantage of these programs for their workers. Migrant workers are protected under general labour laws, and medical insurance is a requirement.

In sum, there is some social protection for migrant workers in Singapore, but little compared to that given to national workers. Restrictions are generally due to residency requirements. In addition, domestic workers and seafarers, who are part of the informal sector, do not have access. There is also no minimum wage in Singapore for any workers.

Thailand

In Thailand, there are good social protection mechanisms in place for the civil service, following international standards. These protections include workplace injury coverage, maternity benefits, child allowances, pensions, unemployment insurance, etc. There is also a social protection mechanism for informal sector workers, who can pay into the SS fund; this scheme does not provide as much protection as enjoyed by formal sector workers, but at the very least a program exists.

Thailand hosts many undocumented workers every year who are smuggled across the border. A process is in place to regularize these workers (mostly from Cambodia, Lao, and Myanmar). Through a national verification process, smuggled migrants have their nationalities verified and are issued identity documents giving them access to work. Once legally verified, these workers have equal access to social protection – that is, they are entitled to the same benefits and services as local Thai workers. There is also a universal health care policy for all – citizens and undocumented workers. That said, in interviews conducted by Mr. Hall and his team, migrant workers did not seem to know about the availability of these social protection benefits, even if they were working legally. Employers make deductions, but the social protection scheme is not accessible.

Recommendations

Mr. Hall identified 5 key principles to bear in mind when developing social security mechanisms:

1. Equality of treatment: all workers, migrants and nationals, should have the same rights; this is often enshrined in bilateral and multilateral MOUs
2. Provision of benefits abroad: social protection is usually designed to offer long-term protection, so unless there is a means to access this protection once the migrant worker returns home, it can be difficult to manage across borders
3. Administration of the system: it is important to determine which country will oversee the program over what particular period of time, and when responsibility will pass between the two
4. Totalizing: must ensure that benefits are packaged properly, as some migrants work for long periods of time in one country, while others work for short contracts in multiple countries; it is important that the schemes can work together
5. Assistance for migrants: migrants need help to access social protection systems (e.g. translators for paperwork, access to information in a language they can understand, etc.)

He recommends that states take the following steps to ensure social protection for migrant workers in ASEAN:

ASEAN member states should consider, based on research, good practice, and international human rights standards, devising models of regional multilateral frameworks/agreements and standards/principles relating to migrant social protection. He insists that migrant social protection should be integral to ASEAN discussions on the basis of equality of treatment in the access to and realization of social protection, on par with national workers.

CSOs, academics, trade unions, and international organizations should prioritize research to devise policy platforms that would support ASEAN member states in the development of social protection systems for migrants.

ASEAN member states that send migrants abroad for work should utilize existing bilateral and MOU agreements, and initiate new agreements where none are in place. These should be used to lay out clear policies, practices, and systems to insure portable migrant access to social protection.

Campaign strategies and research should be developed around the expansion and creation of migrant social protection systems regionally, bilaterally, and nationally. “Expanded access to social protection for migrant workers needs to be realized alongside expanded access to social protection for all informal sector workers, migrant or otherwise on the basis of developing equality of treatment.” **END**

Asian Parliamentarians gather...

(continued from page 9) The first action of the newly formed caucus was to endorse the statement to AIPA that drafted by the Cambodian delegates to the program. This was the first of the MFA/FES parliamentarians’ programs in which a group of parliamentarians came prepared with their own statement for the AIPA Committee on Social Matters. This marks a significant step in the growth of the program, and the calls in the statement reflect many of the issues brought forward in previous program discussions. Briefly, the Cambodian statement calls for ASEAN member states to:

- Implement policies that promote safe migration
- Work together to curb illegal recruitment
- Form an ad hoc committee within AIPA to deal with the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers
- Fast-track the establishment of the framework for the protection of migrant workers

Documentation of all past programs and resources related to the issues taken up can be found online: <http://asianparliamentarians.mfasia.org> **END**

Regional consultation of CSOs from Sri Lanka, Philippines and Nepal discuss common strategies for advocacy in the West Asia region

Colombo, Sri Lanka—The consultation on 5-6 July 2011 is part of the continuing program of work of MFA and Solidarity Center in bringing together stakeholders from countries of origin and destination to dialogue on migrants rights issues.

The program began with regional and global updates on labor migration and was presented by William Gois of MFA. The update covered three areas: ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Work; Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD); and the Colombo Process.

Among the question brought up by the participants was on the process of ratifying the ILO Convention 189: do governments need to have a national law before ratifying or should they ratify first before coming up with a national law? In response to this it was explained that there is the process of accession when the states say that there is already an existing national law that is compliant to the ILO convention. There are some states that see first if they comply with all the articles in the convention before they ratify. There are also states that ratify the convention but the implementation into national law is problematic. However there is now a legal document that says that our aspirations for domestic workers rights is now in international law. It is for CSOs to see how to rework strategies in relation to calling for the ratification and implementation of the convention.

It was emphasized by a number of participants that the road to ratification and implementation will be a long process. There is a need to create more education around it and to engage the media in relation to raising awareness on the convention. CSOs will also need to follow up and monitor the implementation of states once the convention is ratified.

The participants also said that there is a need for CSOs to work with trade unions in organizing domestic workers. Trade unions will also need to include domestic workers in their membership.

It was also emphasized that the informal sector is bigger than the formal sector. The world of work is changing and for the first time there is a law that specifies protection for informal workers. There is a need to strengthen the initiatives and campaign for the recognition of the rights of migrants. Advocates should not divide into 2 camps: local and migrant as biases and prejudices will come in to play.

It was also discussed that CSOs will need to study government MOUs with countries of destination and match them with the standards put forward by the ILO convention. In the Philippines this can probably be done as MOUs in the country are made available to the public. In Sri Lanka CSOs are not consulted in the drawing up of MOUs.

Conversations that Matter

The second part of the workshop involved discussions on key issue concerning migrants in the West Asia region: the Kafala System, standard contract and reference wage for migrants. An overview of the Kafala system was provided as well as updates on changes in the system in specific countries in West Asia. This was followed by discussions on the standard contract in line with the standards put forward by Convention 189. In connection to this, the proposal for reference wage for all migrants regardless of nationality was also discussed.

Recommendations that emerged from this workshop were:

- There is a need to strengthen pre-departure and pre-employment trainings for migrants
- There is also a need to look at the roles of the missions. In some countries of destination in the West Asia region, there are no consulates that can assist migrants in distress. The Philippines is one example that CSOs can study: the notion of joint and solidarity liability. How do we hold the recruitment agency liable?

Country Presentations

The third session focused on country processes and initiatives and updates on policies and programs in the Philippines, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The Philippine country profile was presented by Lynn Abano of the Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA). Currently there are 8.6 million Filipinos working outside the country with more than 50% of them women. The Philippines deploys more than a million migrant workers annually to more than 150 countries. Among the biggest re-

gion where Filipino migrant workers are deployed is the West Asia region.

Updates on new policy and legislation concerning Filipino migrants were presented by Mr. Chris Lomibao from the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs of the Philippine Congress. Among the recent policy developments included amendments to the Magna Carta on Overseas Filipino workers. Section 3 of the new law explicitly provides that the Philippine government shall allow the deployment of OFWs only when any of the following 3 guarantees on the part of the receiving country is met: The receiving country has existing labor and social laws protecting the rights of migrant workers; the receiving country is a signatory to, or a ratifier of, multilateral conventions, declarations or resolutions that protect the rights of migrant workers; and the receiving country has concluded a bilateral agreement or arrangement with the Philippine government on the protection of the rights of OFWs.

Mr. Lomibao also discussed updates on illegal recruitment policies. It is now a prohibited act to force an OFW to avail of a loan, or undergo health examinations. Trainings, seminars or schooling shall only be taken from specifically-designated institutions, entities or persons. Also, longer terms of imprisonment and higher fines are imposed on those found guilty of committing acts of illegal recruitment.

He also discussed about the institutionalization of the Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars and gave recent policy updates provided for stricter regulation of medical examination of OFWs. The Department of Health is given more powers to regulate the conduct of health examinations. Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Centers located in various sites abroad, a Shari'a or human rights lawyer, a psychologist and public relations or case officers shall be provided to assist migrant workers in distress.

The country profile on Nepal was presented by Mahendra Pandey of the Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee. The official number of migrant workers in Nepal is 19,0463. This number does not include the migrants going to India. There is an open border policy between Nepal and India so the mobility of people across the border is seldom monitored. Around 900 people leave Nepal each day. A big number of migrant workers are undocumented.

The Ministry of Labor and Transport Management in Nepal has the foreign employment act and regulation of 2007. The government also established a foreign employment promotion board.

Nepal has MOUs with four countries in the GCC region: UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar and Nepal assigned four labor attachés and established two safe-houses. The country also endorsed the operational guidelines and standard criteria for domestic workers in the GCC. Finally, the Nepal government has voted for Convention 189 and is processing the ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention.

The country profile of Sri Lanka was provided by K. Velayudam of the National Trade Union Federation of Sri Lanka. The estimated total workforce of Sri Lanka is 8.5 million with 1.7 of the workforce being migrants. He issues concerning migrant workers that should be addressed are: debt bondage, lack of social security, unsuitable working conditions, and racial discrimination in the workplace.

Velayudam also discussed the Sri Lanka national policy which was developed by the Ministry of Labor and Employment. The policy incorporates the vision of Sri Lanka's 10 year development framework. The goals of the policy include:

- Develop a long term vision for the role of labor migration in the country;
- To enhance the benefits of the labor migration on the Economy, Society and the migrant workers and their families;
- Minimize negative impacts
- To work towards the fulfillment and protection of all human and labor rights of migrant workers

Recommendations and Program of Action

The participants, after engaging in discussions and presentations, came up with a program of action where they can refer to as they continue to strengthen their rights advocacy. Recommendations include:

- Policy level: include domestic worker rights in national labor laws; lobby with governments to ratify ILO 189; develop advocacy and position papers on reference wage and standard contracts.
- Networking/organizing: identify other organizations who could be possible partners; engage with government organizations; engage with media; organize domestic workers.
- Advocacy spaces: GFMD, regional conference in Manila on ILO 189; national activities related to migrant worker advocacy **END**

MFA participates at the 49th session of the CEDAW

On 11 - 29 July 2011 the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) met for its 49th sessions with 3 countries from Asia due to give its periodic report: Korea, Nepal and Singapore. In line with MFA's engagement with UN Human Rights Mechanisms and treaty bodies, 3 MFA members from Korea, Nepal and Singapore participated in the 49th session of the CEDAW. MFA members who participated were Women Migrants Human Rights Center of Korea, Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) Nepal and the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (HOME) Singapore.

In preparation for its engagement with the CEDAW, MFA members submitted country shadow reports for the consideration of the committee. The shadow report focused on providing the committee with information on issues and questions raised pertaining to women migrant work-

Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia Pacific's "From Global to Local" Training. The training program is designed to fill the gap between human rights monitoring by CEDAW committee at the international level and grassroots activism and demanding government accountability at the national level. The program provides technical guidance and support on the CEDAW reporting process to women's NGOs. The training program enabled MFA members to be more informed with the mechanisms set-up by the CEDAW Convention for the monitoring of its implementation, monitor their government's performance during the review of state party reports and to interact with CEDAW committee members.

CEDAW Committee Sessions

At the opening of the second week of the CEDAW Committee sessions, CSOs were allowed to provide their oral interventions. Two MFA representatives Bridget Tan, from HOME Singapore and Renu Rajbhandari from WOREC Nepal, presented statements to the committee.



MFA participants to the 49th session of the CEDAW: Bridget Tan, HOME; Tatsee Macabuag, MFA Secretariat; Renu Rajbhandari, WOREC; Rev. Han Kukyum, Women Migrants Human Rights Center of Korea. File photos.

ers in the periodic reports of the Governments of Nepal, Republic of Korea and Singapore. The shadow report for Nepal was a consolidated document prepared by the MFA members: Women's Rehabilitation Centre Nepal (WOREC), Pourakhi, Youth Action Nepal and Pravasi Nepal. The shadow report for the Republic of Korea was prepared by Women Migrant's Human Rights Center Korea (WMHRCK) and Joint Committee with Migrants Korea (JCMK). The shadow report for Singapore was prepared by Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (HOME).

(Read the report here:

<http://www.mfasia.org/resources/information-a-educational-materials/369-mfa-2011-shadow-report-for-the-49th-session-of-the-cedaw>)

Global To Local Training

Prior to their participation in the committee sessions MFA members also participated in the International Women's

Prior to the government sessions, CSOs organized lunch briefings with the members of the committee with the first lunch briefing organized by CSO representatives from Korea. At the lunch briefing, MFA member Rev. Han Kukyum of the Women Migrants Human Rights Center of Korea provided inputs on the issues of women migrant workers as well as female foreign spouses in Korea. Twenty three committee members participated in the lunch briefing in which committee members highlighted in the discussions the rights of the children of migrant workers, issues of nationality and divorce.

On 19 July 2011 the committee deliberated on the periodic report of the Government of Korea. Members of the committee raised issues concerning the rights of female foreign spouses in Korea, children of foreign spouses and the rights of female foreign spouses who are divorced.

A lunch briefing was also organized by CSOs in preparation for the periodic report of the government of Nepal. At

the briefing, Renu Rajbhandari of WOREC presented the issues concerning trafficking and the situation of Nepalese women migrant workers.

The periodic report of the government of Nepal was deliberated on 20 July 2011. Member of the committee raised issues concerning Nepalese women migrant workers in particular women who migrate through irregular channels. It was highlighted that 90 % of the women who migrate from Nepal are undocumented. These women are put in vulnerable situations and are most often abused in the workplace. The committee strongly recommended for the government of Nepal to address the issues of these undocumented women migrant workers.

On 21 July 2011 a lunch briefing was organized by CSOs from Singapore in preparation for the periodic report of the government of Singapore. Bridget Tan of HOME presented on the situation of women migrant workers, highlighting the issues faced by migrant domestic workers in Singapore.

The periodic report of the government of Singapore was discussed on 22 July 2011. Members of the committee raised issues concerning the situation of women migrant workers, migrant domestic workers and female foreign spouses.

At the 49th session the common recommendations of the CEDAW committee to the 3 Asian countries reporting included the ratification of the 1990 U.N. Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and member of their families and the ILO Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers. **END**

MFA makes headway for Migrants' Campaign Month

Migrants Campaign Month (MCM) is the annual advocacy program of MFA where the network particularly and more visibly highlight migrants' rights issues and universal ratification of international human rights instruments. MCM is celebrated each year from November 25 to December 18, to observe the following human rights events: 16 Days of Activism to Combat Violence Against Women Migrants (November 25 – December 10); International Human Rights Day (December 10); and International Migrants Day (December 18).

There are recent developments worth highlighting for MCM this year. The adoption of ILO 189: Decent Work for Domestic Workers is a landmark victory for all domestic workers and rights advocates. The network should focus its efforts on further mainstreaming and raising the

profile of domestic work as an important area for advocacy.

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) this year is facilitating a series of smaller, thematic meetings around the world and will culminate in Geneva, Switzerland on 1-2 December 2011. MCM paves a good opportunity for the network to step up its advocacy and lobby work with governments on the issues being discussed at the GFMD meetings.

The MFA network is exploring the following activities:

- Organizing rallies to celebrate the gains and to continue the struggle of migrant workers and advocates in promoting the rights and well being of migrant workers
- Printing and distribution of flyers and posters aimed at raising awareness of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families.
- Developing articles and getting them published in national and local news papers, web sites etc.
- Conducting local and nationwide actions such as: embassy visit, press conference, symposiums and dialogues or protest action to rally governments to pay more attention to the needs and rights of migrant workers. As a strategy, it would be good to target the embassies of countries that remain signatory to the MWC, e.g. Indonesia and Cambodia, and other major sending and receiving countries of the region, e.g. Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea, Japan.
- Lobbying with respective governments towards policy change and improve the working and living conditions of migrant workers with the objective of promoting and protecting their rights and welfare.
- Calling for the universal ratification of the UN 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, ILO Conventions 97, 143 and 189 which focus on the labor rights of migrant workers and domestic workers, and for an effective implementation of the ILO Multi-lateral Framework in developing a rights-based approach to labor migration.

Calendar of activities for the MCM will be available soon on the MFA website www.mfasia.org **END**

MIGRANT FORUM IN ASIA MEMBERS



EAST ASIA

Hong Kong: Asian Migrant Center (AMC), Coalition for Migrants Rights (CMR), Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (IMWU); Japan: Solidarity Network with Migrants in Japan (SMJ); Korea: Joint Committee with Migrants in Korea (JCMK); Mongolia: Center for Human Rights and Development (CHRD); Taiwan: Hope Workers' Center (HWC); Hsinchu Catholic Diocese Migrants and Immigrants Service Center (HMISC)

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma: Federation of Trade Unions (FTUB); Cambodia: CARAM Cambodia, Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD), Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW); Indonesia: Center for Indonesian Migrant Workers (CIMW), Jarnas Pekabumi, Konsorsium Pembela Buruh Migran Indonesia (KOPBUMI), Migrant Care, Seri Buruh Migran Indonesia (SBMI), Solidaritas Perempuan; Malaysia: Tenaga Kita; Philippines: Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative, Inc., Batis Center for Women, Inc., Center for Migrants Advocacy (CMA), Kanlungan Center Foundation, Inc., Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anakan ng mga Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino (KAKAMMPI), Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services Foundation, Inc.; Singapore: Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics (HOME), St. Francis Workers' Center, Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2)

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh: Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Association for Community Development (ACD), Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), WARBE Development Foundation; India: Center for Education and Communication (CEC), Center for Indian Migrant Studies (CIMS), Migrant Forum India (MFI), Migrants Rights Council, National Centre for Labor; Nepal: All Nepal Women's Association (ANWA), POURAKHI, Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC); Youth Action Nepal (YOAC); Sri Lanka: Action Network for Migrant Workers (ACTFORM), Migrant Services Center (MSC), Women and Media Collective (WMC)

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