

**Part II. Implications for International and APEC Cooperation**  
**Session VI. Implications for International and APEC Cooperation**  
**(PowerPoint)**

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**Cooperation on**  
**International Migration**

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*PECC-ABAC Conference on “Demographic Change and International Labor Mobility in the  
Asia Pacific Region: Implications for Business and Cooperation”  
in Seoul, Korea on March 25-26, 2008*

## Cooperation on International Migration

Prepared for  
"Demographic Change and International Labor Mobility  
in the Asia and Pacific Region: Implications for Business and Cooperation"

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## Cooperation - Globally



- Migration dialogue has evolved significantly in recent years
- Global interest in migration issues:
  - Global Commission on International Migration (2003)
  - The United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (September 2006)
  - The establishment of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (Brussels, 2007 and Manila later this year)
- General agreement on potential for social and economic development

## U.N. High Level Dialogue

3

**“National strategies** to address the impact of international migration on development should be complemented by strengthened **bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation**”.

Summary of HLD on International Migration and Development (President of UNGA 2006)

## Contemporary “Management” Issues

4

- Everyone is looking to: “increase the benefits” and “reduce the social costs”
- Comprehensive national strategies
- Increasing willingness to discuss bi-lateral, regional and multilateral cooperation (HLD Summary)
- IOM promotes migration comprehensive policy development to manage migration for the benefit of all

## International Cooperation

5

Three types of Cooperation:

- Global arrangements
- Multilateral arrangements
- Bilateral agreements

## Cooperation: Reasons

6

- Recognition of its importance (in economic terms)
- Migration is increasing as the world shrinks through globalization, improved transportation and communication infrastructure
- Increasing focus of countries on the integration on non-trade issues
- Historical migration trends no longer apply
- Migration is diverse: temporary, short-term, permanent, high-skilled, low-skilled, multi-stage
- International migration is a complex and by definition an inter-state phenomenon

## Cooperation: Challenges

7

- Migration management is a:
  - governance issue;
  - politicized issues; and
  - State sovereignty issue...
- ... with national and international dimensions.
- Pressure on a wide range of stakeholders limit opportunities for legal migration despite demand and increased mobility
- States remain concerned about irregular migration
- Fluid and changing due to links to economic development
- Shortage of timely, consolidated and comparable data makes policy formulation and dialogue difficult

## U.N. High Level Dialogue

8

### **The HDL centered around four themes:**

- The effects of international migration on economic and social development
- Measures to ensure respect for and the protection of the human rights of all migrants, and to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons
- Multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including remittances
- Promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike

### **Outcomes: Chairperson's summary (no resolution)**

- A "forum" for non-binding intergovernmental exchange of views
- Support for improved capacity-building
- A mechanism to better match international labour supply and demand

## Global Forum – First Meeting 2007

9

**Participants** from 155 member states and civil society

**Main themes** of the forum were:

- Human capital development
- Labour mobility
- Remittances and other diaspora resources, and
- Enhancing institutional and policy coherence and promoting partnerships

**Outcomes:**

- The need for capacity-building
- Human rights and gender equality should be mainstreamed throughout the migration and development debate
- Pilot projects on policy coherence, data collection etc.
- Next meeting will take place in Manila in 2008.

## Global Dialogue: Shortcomings

10

- Only get consensus on very important but general issues
- Challenges have different solutions depending on the region
- International migration flows are primarily regional
- No regional ownership; little or no regional follow up

## Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs)

11

### What are they?

- Government fora for discussing migration issues (can be operational or policy)
- RCPs come in many shapes, sizes and forms
- No agreed international definition

### Common characteristics

- Focused exclusively on migration issues
- Often initiated by a conference on a particular theme
- Thematically organized or geographically based or both
- Informal and non-binding dialogue and information exchange

## Regional Consultative Processes

12

- There are currently over 12 major RCPs globally addressing migration issues – four of these are active in Asia and the Pacific region
- IOM and other IOs support and facilitate regional consultative processes
- IOM participates in all of the 12 major processes through provision of administrative, technical or secretariat support

## RCPs: Advantages

13

Countries have found advantages to tackling international migration issues from a regional approach.

- Thematic and regional setup - focus on issues of direct and common interest (Regional ownership)
- Enhance awareness of the value of interstate dialogue and efforts to improve cooperation
- Promote a “habit of cooperation”: build confidence in inter-state dialogue, information sharing, cooperation and exploration of collaborative approaches
- Contribute to international **networking** creating an environment supportive of bilateral cooperation – which often is sustained outside the RCP process
- Facilitate the development of networks among officials from different ministries of *the same* government, laying the foundation for better cooperation, coordination and coherence on a national basis.

## RCPs: Disadvantages

14

- The tendency has been to generate sweeping declarations or affirmations of commitment to comprehensively address migration, which are often duplicative in intent and lack true commitment and follow-up
- Such declarations, affirmations, commitments, accords, remain valid benchmarks for cooperation and action – but it is critical that they are reinforced and advanced by national, bilateral and sub-regional engagement

## RCPs in Asia

15

Each of these deal with different aspects of migration and may have different countries participate:

- *Inter-Governmental Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC)* – informal forum promoting dialogue and exploring opportunities for greater regional cooperation on matters relating to population movements – especially with regard to reintegration, refugees, trafficking, border control, irregular migration
- **Bali Process** on *People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime*) governments work towards the development, individually and collectively, of strategies to deter and disrupt people smuggling and trafficking at all levels of operation and irregular migration

## RCPs in Asia

16

- **COMMIT** – RCPs on The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) members are the 6 GMS countries that aims at creating a sustained and effective system of cross-border cooperation and collaboration to combat human trafficking
- **Colombo Process**; Ministerial Consultations on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour– regional dialogue and cooperation on the management of labour migration; activities center around protection of vulnerable migrants and provision of support services, optimizing benefits of labour migration

## Colombo Process

17

- Regional consultative process for overseas worker and contractual labour for countries of origin in Asia
- Guided by Ministerial consultations that take place yearly and set work plan for the Colombo Follow-up Programme (training, research, capacity building, dialogue etc...)
- 11 member countries and 8 observers
- [www.colomboprocess.org](http://www.colomboprocess.org)

## Bilateral Cooperation and Other Dialogue

18

### **Bilateral**

- Traditional bi-lateral discussions always continue – many bilateral agreements in this region address migration issues, particularly labour migration and trafficking.
- Labour migration two main types: G to G and not G to G
- Counter-trafficking cooperation relates to fighting organized crime, irregular migration and the protection of trafficking persons (including return).

### **Other Government Dialogue**

- ASEAN - Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2007)
- Korea hosted the Asia-Pacific Conference on International Migration and Development in June 2007 in preparation for the Global Forum
- Task forces on counter-trafficking and smuggling

## Going Forward in Asia and the Pacific

19

- ASEAN will continue to discuss intra-regional migration
- ESCAP (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) has a mandate to host a “High Level” meeting on migration and development sometime this year
- January 2008 – Ministerial meeting was hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi to highlight issues related to contractual labour
- First time a country of “destination” has hosted such a dialogue, it was attended by Asian countries and may emerge into an RCP focusing on the Gulf states

## Asia-Pacific Consultations

20

### APC 1996



#### **Members**

Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (SAR of China), India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Laos, Malaysia, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia (France), New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam

#### **Focus**

Return and reintegration; refugees; trafficking; entry/border control; asylum; irregular migration; labour migration; remittances; rights of migrants and IDPs; role of the country of origin; impact of economic crisis; public awareness campaigns; information sharing; burden sharing; capacity building

## Bali Process

21

### Bali Process



#### Members

Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Fiji, France (New Caledonia), India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Vanuatu and Vietnam

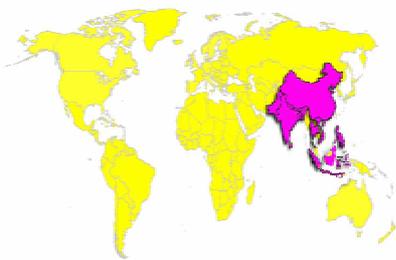
#### Focus

Trafficking and smuggling; irregular migration; information and intelligence sharing; fraudulent document detection; border management; visa systems; return and readmission; public awareness campaigns; harmonization of legislation, asylum practices and management; victim protection and assistance; development aid; law enforcement

## Colombo Process

22

### Colombo Process



#### Members

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam

Observer states from “receiving” countries

#### Focus

Labour migration and related programmes (protection of vulnerable migrants and provision of support services to them; optimizing benefits of organized labour migration; capacity building, data collection and inter-state cooperation)



Thank you!  
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