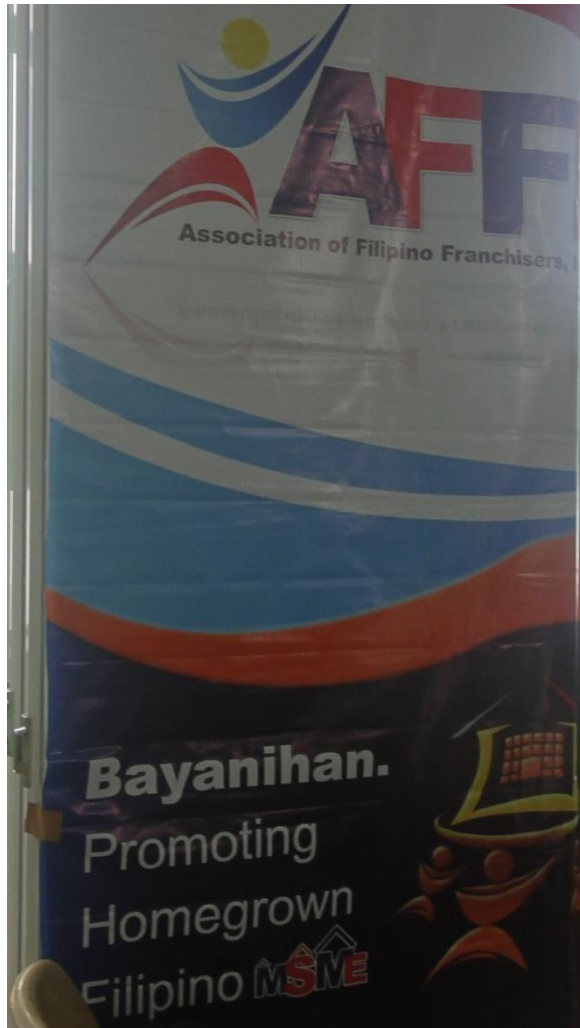




Mobilising Development-friendly Investments and Entrepreneurship by Migrants



Assumptions

- Not all migrants can be entrepreneurs.
- Whether its a enterprise, savings or investments, it is critical that there is a conducive or suitable business environment .
- Migrants want secured way of savings and investments.

Assumptions (cont.)

- Migrants are not homogenous. Varied needs and wants also on how, when, what, and how much to save and invest.
- Those who have been entrepreneurial before migrating are more likely to engage in business upon their return or even setup their businesses while they are abroad.

Opportunities

- Increasing attention being given to the migration/development nexus by States and civil societies
- Well-informed initiatives by the private sector and civil society to tap on migrants' savings and potentials as investors and entrepreneurs
- Microfinance institutions, banks and other financial institutions now interested to provide financial services to migrants.
- Increasing awareness among migrants to save and invest a result to financial literacy.

Examples of existing initiatives

Productive initiatives

- Mescal distillery in Zacatecas formed by 21 Mexican migrants (productive initiatives), SEDPI (Philippines), ERCOF (Philippines), FADUGO (UK), AFFORD, DVF Dairy Farm, etc.

Financial literacy

- CARD-MRI (Hong Kong), SEDPI (several countries in Europe and Middle East)
- Filipino Franchising Fair (Hong Kong)
- Linking microfinance institutions with diaspora organizations (INAFI remittances, financial literacy in the Phil., Bangladesh; ASKI (provides loans to domestic helpers in Singapore, etc)

Challenges

- Cultural and behavioral factors
- The lack of support system (in the form of education, infrastructures, affordable financing, and other programs)
- Space to incubate migrant business and bring them to another level with business development support, networks, value chain network

Challenges (cont.)

- Migrants who are potential entrepreneurs, savers and investors, seldom have access to good opportunities, mainly because they are overseas. No viable system in both public and private sector, that could give reliable information on enterprises at home. Absence of reliable person back home to manage the business.
- Financial Literacy
- The reactive approach of the government towards migration and development which is attributable to a systemic lack of a comprehensive and integrated strategic approach to its labor export program.

THANK YOU!

Leila Rispens-Noel

Senior Advisor

INAFI International

www.inafi.org

leila.rispens-noel@inafi.org

September 14, 2011

