



GFMD Migration and Development Seminar Series

**Migration Profiles as a Tool for Informed Policy Making, Integration and Reintegration
and Emergency Response**

20-21 October 2011

Manila, Philippines

Concept Note

BACKGROUND

The Philippine Government, with the support and cooperation of the Swiss Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), will be hosting a GFMD thematic meeting entitled “**Migration Profiles as a Tool for Informed Policy Making, Integration and Reintegration and Emergency Response**” on 20-21 October 2011 to address the need for reliable, evidence-based data to inform policy-making on migration and development.

Data on migration are often scattered among different ministries, and also between countries of origin and destination pointing to the need for developing an evidence-based tool for managing migration issues. **Migration Profiles (MP)**, first proposed by the European Commission in 2005, have evolved in recent years from just another national report on migration trends into a cost-effective tool to promote policy coherence on migration and development. As an *output*, they constitute an essential knowledge management and reference tools in migration governance which can be updated on a regular basis; as a *process*, they foster continuing dialogue, coordination and capacity-building among government agencies and other stakeholders; as an *outcome*, they help countries to come up with more coherent, well-informed national policies and strategic plans on migration and development, to implement responsive service programmes, to monitor the effectiveness of such programmes and to inform various publics and stakeholders on a timely basis. Since 2006, more than 70 countries MP have been developed. Last year’s GFMD, held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, called for widespread government adoption of MP, prompting for the conduct of a series of regional thematic workshops on Migration Profiles this year, with the first two already held in New York (*Migration Profiles: Developing Evidence-Based Migration and Development Policies*) and Georgia (*Migration Profiles: Lessons Learned*).

The proposed 2-day international event intends to gather key government experts from countries of migrant origin and destination in Asia - some from countries which have already prepared their MP and representatives from international organizations. The workshop aims to promote the development and use of MP as a tool for evidence-based policy making on migration and development. Presentations of the MP concept, process and templates, will lead to an active discussion on the practical use of MP as a government-owned tool specifically on three important areas: (1) mainstreaming migration into development planning, (2) designing more responsive integration and reintegration programs, and (3) improving crisis preparedness and response strategies. The workshop will also present the preliminary results of a mapping exercise conducted

by IOM to identify the extent and types of migration data currently collated by 15 Asian countries and 8 destination countries outside of the region. It will end on a discussion with possible follow-up measures promoting a region-wide adoption of MPs which will be participated by civil society organizations as panelists.

The workshop is designed to highlight how development of MPs in the region can be useful to governments not only in the monitoring of migration flows and stocks but more importantly when making decisions and providing services to migrants within two countries' borders while they are abroad and upon their return. Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable in times of unrest and emergencies, as highlighted by the recent events in the Middle East and North Africa, which affected some migrant origin countries in Asia. Existing gaps in data collection pointed to the need for improved migration data collection and analysis which would allow more coordinated, efficient and effective responses.

Given these objectives, the conference seminar will be considered under Cluster I (Labour Mobility and Development) and III (Tools for Evidence Based Migration and Development Policies) of the GFMD Thematic Work Programme for 2011.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected outputs of the workshop include enhanced understanding and interest of participating countries in Migration Profiles as a tool for evidence-based migration and development policies; a mapping report of existing migration data collection, needs and gaps; and recommendations on sustainable follow-up actions promoting a region-wide adoption of Migration Profile process.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is intended for senior career migration experts from strategic institutions in charge of managing and/or generating migration data. The workshop will also be open to other stakeholders such as international agencies, civil society, private recruitment agencies, and other partners. The estimated number is 40 participants, plus 10 participant/ observers from the Philippines and the secretariat, with breakdown as follows:

- 11 Colombo Process countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Thailand); 6 other ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia and Singapore)
- 8 receiving countries from Asia (Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and KSA; Malaysia, Korea);
- 2 Latin America (Brazil; Mexico); 1 Africa (Nigeria), 1 Europe (Switzerland)
- 12 from international organizations (GFMD, IOM, ILO, EU, UN-GMG, OHCHR, UN Women, UNDP, UN DESA, CARIM, ICMPD)
- 10 participant/ observer from the Philippines including civil society organizations as panelists.