



Project Documents Asia EU Project

Regional Dialogue and Program on Facilitating Managed and Legal Migration between Asia and the European Union (EU)

Countries included in the programme:

In Asia: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; for some activities Afghanistan will also be included.

In Europe: Germany, Ireland, Italy, Spain and U.K.

Summary

The aim of the action is to develop legal migration and enhance regional dialogue and cooperation in facilitating managed migration from Asia to the EU. The target group are the Ministries responsible for foreign employment in the countries of origin and would-be labour migrants.

The main activities are:

- a) Developing the capacity of national authorities to assess and respond to current and projected foreign labour needs in the EU and enhancing consultation and cooperation mechanisms for the labour migration management between Asia and the EU and ;
- b) Dissemination of information and advice on legal labour migration opportunities and procedures, and risks of irregular migration.

The proposal addresses the actions specified under “Development of Legal Migration” in the Call for proposals and the geographical priorities in Annex F, namely “South-East Asia region and India in particular.” The proposal is in the framework of an existing regional dialogue and cooperation on the management of labour migration in and from Asia organised by IOM, the “Colombo process”.

Objectives

Overall Objectives:

- To facilitate the development of legal labour migration from South and South-east Asia to the EU.
- To enhance regional cooperation on the management of labour migration and
- To take measures to reduce irregular migration.



Specific Objective:

In the framework of the Recommendations made at the Colombo and Manila Ministerial Consultations on Labour Migration of Countries of Origin in Asia,

- To enhance government and private sector capacity to place workers legally in the EU and in occupations which are in shortage there (while surplus in the country of origin), as well as to foster regional cooperation efforts among major Asian labour sending countries and with the EU in promoting legal labour opportunities and reducing irregular migration.
- To have potential migrants well informed about legal labour migration opportunities and procedures, and the risks of resorting to irregular migration, with regards to the EU member States as a destination.

Programme activities

All the activities except 2.3 concern India.

1. Develop the capacity of national authorities to assess and respond to current and projected foreign labour needs in the EU, and enhance consultation and cooperation mechanisms for the management of labour migration between Asia and the EU.

1.1. Training in administering an overseas employment programme with special reference to market research and marketing.

The Labour Migration Service in IOM has developed a curriculum on administering an overseas employment programme and carried out two joint courses in Asia in order to test the curriculum and train potential trainers to adapt and introduce the training at the national level . The courses were for administrators and labour attaches and were held in March 2005 and December 2004 respectively with participation from ten major labour sending countries in South and South east Asia.

In this proposal the training will be introduced at the national level in ten countries and the base curriculum strengthened with regards to market research and marketing and placement of workers in the EU.

1.2. Training and information dissemination on labour migration opportunities and procedures in selected EU Member States.

In 2004 the Labour Migration Service in IOM developed a curriculum on labour migration opportunities and procedures in select EU Member States. In this proposal the curriculum will be updated to reflect the latest changes in cooperation with EU member States. A course will be carried out for labour administrators from the ten major Asian labour sending countries with the



participation of labour immigration officials from relevant EU countries and the curriculum introduced at the national level in conjunction with the first training. The enriched marketing section of the curriculum on administering an overseas employment programme (refer section 1.1) will be attached to this training course.

1.3. Establishment of national overseas employment market research units and focal points.

Participating countries of origin (10) will take steps for the establishment or enhancement of a labour market monitoring entity in the ministry which will be responsible for gathering and sharing information on projected manpower requirements in the major labour receiving countries, particularly in the EU. Special attention will be paid to emerging skill requirements in the external and EU labour markets in order to meet demand with matching skills. IOM's Labour Migration Service with personnel in Geneva and Manila will assist the national labour market monitoring units with information and analysis on emerging labour market needs, which will be facilitated also by EU member states' inputs. The proposed project will provide equipment for the market research units and subscription to relevant trade journals and assist in the development of a network of information between these units and institutions and authorities in European labour receiving countries collecting and analysing labour market information.

Reports will be made on a quarterly basis and disseminated via a website to recruitment agencies, higher educational and training institutions, concerned government institutions and qualifying and interested individuals in labour surplus parts of the workforce.

1.4. Update national manpower profile and review skills profile in relation to foreign employment demand.

Research will be commissioned in India and the Philippines to assess the manpower and skills profile, absorption for national needs and the surplus for overseas employment. The research will be done in India by consultants from the National Labour Institute and in the Philippines by a consultant from the Economics Department of the University of Philippines.

The results of the study will disseminated to concerned government institutions such as the Planning Commission in India, Ministries of Education/Human Resources and Labour, provincial or state governments and institutions of higher education and training.

1.5 Enhance quality of education and certification process

A study will be commissioned in India and the Philippines to assess and distil good practices in:

- a. The development of financial support schemes to help the youth acquire skills that are sought on the domestic and foreign labour market;



b. The certification and enforcement of professional and technical standards for qualifications, for instance through a national Training Council linked to international standard-setting entities;

c. A review of skills development training structures and systems that will take into account the importance of quality in education and emerging labour market needs.

The results of the study will be disseminated to concerned government institutions of the 2 countries such as the Planning Commission in India, Ministries of Education/Human Resources and Labour, provincial or state governments, institutions of higher education and training and the concerned professional associations. In addition the result of the survey will be distributed for reference to the other participating countries to the Colombo process.

1.6 Build capacity of private sector in placing workers through training and networking and strengthening legal and administrative framework to prevent recruitment abuses

Two trainings will be organised at the South Asia and South East Asia level respectively for private recruitment agencies and will concern placing workers in the EU and ethical recruitment. Manpower agencies from EU Member States will participate in the training as resource persons.

A database of the main manpower agencies in the EU will be compiled and made available to the market research units and association of private recruitment agencies in each country of origin. IOM will assist in the establishment of a network between recruitment agencies in Asian and European countries, through the creation of an interactive website for exchange of information (see section 1.3.)

Labour sending countries will continue to pay attention to the issue of preventing recruitment abuses and implement recommendations made in at the Manila Ministerial Consultations in this regard.

1.7 Organise a senior officials and Ministerial consultations among labour sending states and main destination countries in the EU/EC.

In response to the requests of several Asian labour sending countries, the International Organization for Migration organised ministerial level Consultations for Asian labour sending countries in April 2003 in Colombo. Since then it has become an annual event with consultations held in Manila in 2004 and in Bali in September 2005. The aim of the Ministerial Consultations has been to provide a forum for Asian labour sending countries to:

- Share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on labour migration policies and practices



- Consult on issues faced by labour migrants and sending States and propose practical solutions to protect migrants as well optimise development benefits and enhance dialogue with countries of destination
- Review and monitor the implementation of the recommendations and identify further steps for action

The three thematic foci of the consultations have been:

- Protection of migrant workers and support services
- Facilitating legal migration and optimising its benefits
- Institutional capacity building and interstate cooperation

Achievements so far have included:

- Sharing of good practices, data and information and regular dialogue
- Development of training curriculum for labour attaches and administrators and implementing joint training courses
- Preparation for establishing a common Migrants' Resource Centre in the Gulf States
- Implementation of recommendations at the national level.

This proposal seeks to further the above three thematic priorities, particularly, the latter two, whereas Asia and the main destination countries in the EU is concerned. Therefore it is proposed that the Ministerial Consultations in 2007 is a joint one with the EC and main destination countries for Asian workers, namely U.K., Ireland, Italy, Germany, Spain and other interested countries.

The Consultations will last two days, consisting of a preparatory meeting of senior officials, followed by the main ministerial meeting. The agenda will be around three thematic areas:

- Development of managed and legal migration from Asia to the EU and optimising its benefits
- Reducing and preventing irregular migration
- Institutional capacity building and interstate cooperation between Asia and the EU in managing migration

Participating governments will be fully involved in setting the agenda of the Meeting, its conduct, preparation of conference papers and drafting of the recommendations and follow-up modalities. Apart from Least Developed Countries, the participating countries will cover the cost of the Ministers' travel.

The host government (a country of origin) will be fully engaged in planning the Meeting, will send out invitations along with IOM, provide assistance to the meeting secretariat and accommodate the visiting ministers.



Recommendations made at the Consultations will form a programme of action for follow-up.

1.8 Implement a pilot action for the placement of workers within existing schemes in the EU

IOM will work with the Ministries of labour and private recruitment agencies in India and the Philippines in placing workers in Italy, U.K., Ireland, Germany and Spain. The mechanism will be as follows:

a. Contacts and an agreement will be made by IOM with manpower agencies in the UK, Ireland, Germany and Spain by the IOM office. In Italy the IOM office will work with the Ministry of Labour and the regional governments.

b. The recruitment order will be placed with the local IOM office by the manpower agencies or State entities specifying: number, occupation, requisites (education, skills and work experience), terms and conditions of employment and country of origin (if relevant).

c. IOM will select three private recruitment agencies and the State recruiting entity based on past performance in the country of origin, for selecting workers. The recruitment order will be placed by IOM with these agencies who will advertise the positions and for its services charge the successful candidates not more than what is permitted by the national legislation. IOM will monitor the selection process, which will comprise of the following steps.

- Registration of applicants in a data base
- Shortlist of applicants meeting profile and requirements
- Interview applicants, verify documents and test skills where necessary (via accredited institutions)
- Send the list of selected (or pre-selected) workers to manpower agency
- Receive confirmation (final list of selected workers) and documentation (job offer and employment contract) from manpower agency and provide information and documentation to selected applicants
- Ensure employment contracts meet standards of the country of employment and origin

d. Pre-departure services will be offered by IOM and include:

Visa assistance

- Briefing on visa procedure
- Assist in completing application forms
- Arrange health assessment
- Verify the accuracy and completeness of the visa application before submission



Orientation

- Arrange language training
- Provide pre-departure orientation

Travel and transit assistance

- Book low cost fares
- Transit assistance

e. IOM will monitor return and reintegration, or the circular migration process.

2. Dissemination of information and advice on legal labour migration opportunities and procedures and risks of irregular migration as concerns EU States as a destination.

2.1. Building the capacity of national partners as migrants' resource centres for provision of advice to potential migrants.

IOM will work with State and non-governmental entities engaged in the provision of information and advice on migration in India, Philippines and Bangladesh. The activities undertaken will be:

- a. Mapping of organisations engaged in the provision of migration information and an assessment of their activities including a gap analysis.
- b. Provision of training to NGOS engaged in information dissemination in the three countries on labour migration opportunities and procedures in select EU Member States, risks of irregular migration and migration laws in countries of origin and destination including illegal recruitment.
- c. Creation of a model MRC in each country
- d. Provision of equipment and library resources for the MRCs.

2.2 Undertaking information campaigns with national partners to inform potential migrants of the risks of irregular migration including illegal recruitment, regular migration options and regulations of both receiving and sending states.

Potential migrants in the profile identified as high risk groups will be informed through a multimedia public information campaign of the problems of illegal migration and difficulties that could face with intermediaries who smuggle or traffic migrants in order to make profits. At the same time information on legal migration opportunities will be disseminated to the same group and any surplus labour force in occupations that are in shortage in the EU.



The authorities, media and NGOs will be a secondary but no less important target group for sensitisation and awareness raising on the concepts, problems and different dimensions of irregular migration and what role they should play in its prevention and control.

In partnership with the Ministry responsible for overseas employment, NGOs and the model MRC, IOM will run an information campaign in India, Philippines and Bangladesh that will comprise of the two main components.

- Strategy definition and research
- Information dissemination

Strategy Definition

The first two months will be spent on preparation and design of the public information campaign, workshops and carrying out the base-line KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) survey. During this phase, a national research organization will be selected to carry out the KAP survey. Appropriate media will be selected through which information will be disseminated to the target group. Furthermore, a draft communication strategy and plan of action assigning specific responsibilities and deadlines for the information campaign will be drafted.

Information Dissemination

In this second stage, IOM in co-operation with the MRC will disseminate information to potential migrants in the profile identified in the strategy definition stage as well as to the media and NGOs. The information campaign will utilise the following medium:

sensitization and awareness building workshops with national media and NGOs; discussion tours of major migrant sending areas; television and radio commercials, radio call in programmes; production of a basic facts brochure and a poster campaign; Regular newspaper column and announcements; press releases and press conferences on the programme; and grass roots networking. To highlight some important details -

The Basic facts brochure: will be a concise booklet with simple, basic facts about the realities of irregular migration its risks and most probable consequences (exploitation, isolation and hardship) will be produced. The brochure will also provide information on what constitutes illegal recruitment and on legal labour migration channels and procedures. Coordinates of government entities and NGOs that can provide further information or assistance will be also provided. Distribution will also be carried out through the national and regional networks of partner government structures and NGOs.



Grass roots networking: IOM will work closely with national NGOs and disseminate information through their regional and local structures. Informative meetings, round tables, informal question and answer sessions and other interactive events will be organised and held 'on the ground' by local and regional structures of national NGOs.

Migrants Resource Centre: All of the above dissemination activities will be supported by IOM through the Migrants Resource Centre (MRC). The MRC will serve as an ongoing and central reference point for information dissemination after the term of the current initiative is expired. Integrated within the activities of this centre will be counseling, brochures and other forms of information dissemination regarding migration. Trained staff will be on hand to advise those considering working abroad about the realities of migration. A telephone counseling service will be established at the MRC.

A KAP survey among the target group will be carried out toward the end of the project to assess the impact of the campaign and information dissemination.

2.3 To introduce and strengthen pre-departure orientation programmes

IOM already carries out a number of pre-departure orientation programmes for migrants from Asia for Australia, Canada, Finland, Italy, Norway and the USA. The Asian countries where the programmes are conducted are the Philippines, Pakistan, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

IOM will develop and introduce a module for the main EU destination countries in all ten countries of origin. This will be delivered either as a part of the government's pre-departure orientation programme (offered in a number of Asian countries) or by IOM.