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<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Regional Consultation on Media and Labor Migration: August 21-23, 2000, Manila: [programme]</th>
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Paper No. 1
Rationale

The spectre of poverty has pushed millions of people from Southeast Asia to opt for labor migration across and out of the region as a means of survival. This economic undertaking has engendered various social ills for the migrant workers and economic benefits for their families too.

Labor migration has become part and parcel of Asia's economic miracle. Its uses and abuses have caused friction between states as well. Addressing these problems have not been attended to sufficiently as some governments do not have effective communication programs dealing with labor migration issues. Media too have been wanting in exploring the opportunities, challenges and risks faced by those involved in labor migration. They raised their voices occasionally when abuses are committed, disproportionate to the magnitude of labor migrants' contribution to a nation's overall well-being. Media have been more reactive in dealing with overseas employment. Tasked in the business of information and education, media have not communicated effectively the myriad of labor migrants.

A more proactive position is ideal, but this requires greater awareness among media practitioners as to the state of labor migration in Asia and the attendant problems faced by workers, and wider understanding of their role in addressing the needs of migrant workers and the impact on the political, economic and social life in Asia.

Objectives

- To examine the state of labor migration in South East Asia.
- To discuss the state of media coverage of labor migration issues in South East Asia, and role of media in addressing the needs and concerns of overseas workers.
- To exchange experiences and opportunities for collaboration in dealing with labor migration.
- To recommend measures to improve understanding of the many facets of overseas employment.

Day 1, 21 August 2000

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<tr>
<td>0830 - 0900</td>
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| 0900 - 1000   | Welcome Remarks
                Dr Anura Goonasekara, Deputy Secretary-General Asian Media Information & Communication Centre |
| 1000 - 1015   | Tea Break                                                           |
| 1015 - 1115   | LABOR MIGRATION IN ASIA: AN OVERVIEW
                Mr Bienvenido Laguensma, Secretary Dept of Labour & Employment Philippines |
| 1115 - 1230   | LABOR MIGRATION IN ASIA: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES
                Ms Atiek Nurhaiti, The Jakarta Post Indonesia
                Ms Sepama Janchitfah, Bangkok Post Newspaper, Thailand |

Day 2, 22 August 2000

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| 0900 - 1030   | MIGRANT RIGHTS IN ASIA: AN OVERVIEW
                Father Graziano Battistella, Scalabrinii Migration Center, Philippines |
| 1030 - 1230   | POLICY APPROACHES TO LABOR MIGRATION
                Mr Nguyen Ngoc Quyuh, Ministry of Labor Vietnam |

Day 3, 23 August 2000

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<tr>
<td>1230 - 1400</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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| 1400 - 1500   | RETHINKING LABOR MIGRATION IN ASIA
                Ms Pet Sio, Tomas, Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration, Philippines |
| 1500 - 1530   | LABOR MIGRATION IN ASIA: BANE OR BOON
                Mr Michael Tan, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippines |
| 1530 - 1600   | Tea Break                                                           |
| 1600 - 1730   | Working Group Sessions                                              |

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ABOUT AMIC

With its headquarters in Singapore and country representatives throughout the Asia-Pacific, AMIC works to keep its members abreast of the communication scene in the region. It functions as a clearing house of information and as a focal point for practitioners and scholars to exchange experience and ideas. Internationally recognised, AMIC enjoys consultative status with UNESCO.

AMIC was established as a non-profit, non-governmental organization in 1971 with the support of the Government of Singapore and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Centre is now housed in the School of Communication Studies of Nanyang Technological University. AMIC has a close working partnership with the School, collaborating in media training, research and publications.

The Organisation coordinates regional research into the way communication and the media in Asia operate and affect individuals and nations. These findings are disseminated in several books and journals, which also serve as platforms for members' articles and research.

Members receive invitations to conferences, seminars and training programmes at substantially discounted rates, offering many opportunities for networking. Membership includes professionals, academics and policy makers both from the region and the rest of the world, representing the global interest in the region.

ABOUT POEA

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration is the government agency which is responsible for managing the country's overseas employment program.

The mission of POEA is 'to ensure quality employment for overseas Filipino workers' with the vision 'to be culturally sensitive, customer-driven and business-oriented advocate of the overseas Filipino workers' well-being'.

POEA's main service is to extend employment and welfare assistance and give professional recruitment services to all of its clients which include overseas job applicants, newly hired workers, victims of illegal recruiters, foreign employers and representatives of private recruitment agencies.

POEA has regional field offices that serve as windows for the public to access their services and to bring overseas jobs in the provinces.

ABOUT FES

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is the oldest of the German Political Foundations, active in international dialogue and development co-operation and committed to the principles and basic values of social democracy.

The FES was established in 1925 in honour and as a political legacy of Friedrich Ebert, who served as the first president of a democratic Germany after World War 1. Banned in 1933 by the National Socialist Regime, it was re-established in 1947 with the aim to support the re-construction of a democratic, prosperous and peaceful Germany through political education, research, political consulting and scholarship programs for students with particular qualifications and political and social commitments, and to contribute to international co-operation wherever possible to avert a fresh outbreak of war and conflict.

Presently, the FES maintains its own representations in some 60 countries of Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, and further 33 offices in countries of Europe, the former Soviet Union, USA and Japan.

In Asia and the ASEAN region, FES concentrates on political dialogue and co-operation, exchange of experiences and policies, the discussion and development of concepts and options in the fields of economic and social policy, foreign relations, international co-operation, regional integration, governance and democracy, human rights and cultural exchange.
Regional Consultation on
Media & Labor Migration
August 21-23, 2000
Manila, Philippines

PROGRAMME