

GFMD 2009

Global Forum on Migration and Development



Astir Place, Vouliagmeni Athens, Greece
November 2-3, 2009

Background

Prologue:

My sincere respect and appreciation to the bravery of our nurses particularly the Sentosa 27++ whose story is institutionalized as a case study for nursing and legal profession. When you presented your case to PNA-NY during my term in 2007, PNA-NY together with 38 chapters of PNAA made the commitment to support the campaign and raise public awareness. Rosario May Mayor, Lolita Compas, and Virginia Alinsao lobbied for recruitment reforms at the Academy Health. Educational presentations at local, regional, and national levels led by PNAA leaders sustained moral and financial support. As current chair of PNAA Human Rights Committee, I continue to make that commitment and raise the bar by sharing your story globally. This is your forum and your accomplishments.



What is the Global Forum on Migration and Development?

The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) is an annual international meeting for voluntary, non-binding and informal discussion which investigates the methods through which migration may contribute towards development goals. It was established following a proposal made to that effect by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan, in September 2006.

What are the aims of the Civil Society Days (CSD)?

200 delegates from non-governmental organizations and other Civil Society Groups met in Athens on 2-3 November 2009 for two days in order to exchange views on the ways migration policies adopted by countries may be integrated with their development strategies with a view to benefiting migrants, as well as, origin and destination countries.

Delegates will draw on examples from their own experiences in the field of migration and development in order to make concrete proposals that may strengthen policy making with regard to migration and development on a national, regional and international level. Certain proposals will also be put forward for short-term and mid-term measures to be taken before the next annual International Forum.

What issues will be discussed?



The Civil Society Days and the Governmental Forum this year have as their common overarching theme “Integrating Migration Policies in Development Strategies for the Benefit of All”. The general topic will be analyzed in roundtable discussions with the following individual issues:

- > Utilizing the nexus of migration-development in order to accomplish the Millennium Development Goals
- > Integration, reintegration and mobility of migrants for the benefit of development

- > Political and institutional cohesion and partnerships

The agenda of the Governmental Forum and the Civil Society Days is the same so that there can be common ground for discussion. In addition, the proposals that will arise from the Civil Society Days will be centered on those issues that will be dealt with by the officials during the following two days during policy-making.

Source: gfm2009

Nov. 2, 2009

Opening Session: “At the Starting Line”

Day 1 kicked off with the presence of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic Dr. Karolos Papoulias. Over 200 delegates were welcomed by Mr. Anthony S. Papadimitriou, President of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, Dr. Demetriou Papademetriou, President of the Migration Policy Institute, & Mr. Costa Gravas, Chairperson of the Civil Society Days. Mr. Jim Clifton Chairman & CEO of Gallup, Inc. together with Ms. Neli Esipova, Director of Research for Global Migration & Regional Director for Gallup World Poll discussed “Emerging Trends in Migration. The research findings identified statistics on the following:



Potential Departures

Gallup World Poll findings in 135 countries (representing 93% of the world’s adult population) reveal that about 16% of adults would like to move permanently to another country if they had the opportunity. This translates to approximately 700 million adults -- more than the entire adult population of North America and South America combined.

Climate for Immigrant Integration

Are adults in destination countries open to accepting migrants into their communities? Gallup asks

respondents in more than 150 countries whether they think the city or area where they live is a good place or not a good place for immigrants from other countries.

- **Of the top desired countries** for permanent migration, according to Gallup’s research, residents of **Canada** are most likely to say their communities are good places for immigrants, at 90%.
- Eighty-one percent of those in the **United States** -- **the top desired destination** -- say their communities are good places for immigrants.
- Majorities in other top desired destination countries such as **Spain** (78%), the **United Kingdom** (72%), and **France** (67%) also say their communities are good places for immigrants.
- **While Greece is not among the top desired destination countries, 62% of residents also say this about their communities, placing Greece slightly above the world median percentage (58%).**

Source: Excerpts from the Gallup World Poll Findings



Roundtable 1: “How to make the migration-development nexus work for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals”

I attended session 1.2 on “Engaging diasporas and migrants in development policies and programs - their role? their constraints? Citing the Sentosa 27++ campaign and the recent NLRC decision in the Philippines, I emphasized the need for an ethical code of recruitment process for agencies enforced by government’s involvement thru monitoring and applying rules and regulations

for non-compliance. Although The Code for recruitment of foreign

educated nurses is endorsed by the Academy Health, continuous campaign for education and public awareness of unscrupulous practices particularly from the sending countries needs to be sustained.

Diasporas contribute to development through remittances, investment, transfer of knowledge and technology, building networks and more. Key players like the government international organizations, NGO’s diaspora organizations can organize regional forums to share experiences, good practices, and lessons.

Roundtable 2: “Migrant integration, reintegration and circulation for development”

I focused on session 2.2: Reintegration and circular migration - effective for development? Based on the discussion, all people who move - regardless of legal category (permanent, circular, temporary or irregular) should be accorded basic human rights; additionally refugees are accorded special protections under international law. Although majority of the reasons for migration are motivated by economic and social development, others are driven and forced to leave because of war and political reasons.

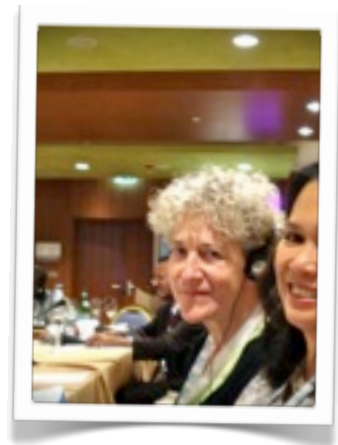
I emphasized the importance of being aware of the definitions of fair labor practice as well as establishing alliances with resources (local, government, grass-roots organization) to move agenda development forward.

I also emphasized the economic impact that healthcare professions have contributed in terms of remittances, medical missions, and other charitable activities. There is limited research findings

differentiating the amount of monetary remittances nurses send to their country of origin and the tangible and intangible benefits that these remittances contribute to the economic growth of the country. On the

other hand, sending countries continue to address the social impact of migration due to brain drain but there are no concrete policies regulating the quality of education particularly nursing schools. Professional organizations like PNAA has a social responsibility to ensure that human capital is protected by ensuring the quality of education of future nurses.

Research data is needed to portray the relationship between the quality of education and its impact on the economy and brain gain for both sending and destination countries.



Nov. 3, 2009



Roundtable 3: "Policy & Institutional Coherence and Partnerships"

This session was moderated by Susan Martin, Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Discussion focused on concrete measures and the latest state of the art practices in the areas of policy and institutional coherence, including: data collection and research. My recommendation is to identify universal data elements necessary to create a diaspora database. This will help organizations obtain accurate data efficiently. Despite past and ongoing research, it is not clear how results of data on social justice and immigration laws are addressed by sending and destination countries.



Roundtable 4: "The Future of the Forum"

The recurring feedback from everyone focuses on identifying the progress that GFMD had made in addressing the issues raised from the previous forums by providing a report. This will institutionalize the contributions of civil society groups and promotes accountability with government representatives. The Manila experience was cited by several participants as a model for future forums. The importance of regional forums prior to the actual civil society days contributed to better communication and productive dialogues exchange among participants.

The Core Package and GFMD Themes				
	W1: Migration, development, policy and practice	W2: Migrant integration, regularization and protection	W3: Policy and institutional coherence and partnership	W4: Building alliances
Operational and regulatory reform efforts	○	○	○	○
Securing basic rights for migrants	○	○	○	○
Reducing transaction costs	○	○	○	○
Improving outcomes for migrants and destination communities	○	○	○	○
Creating benefits from internal mobility	○	○	○	○
Putting mobility into National Development	○	○	○	○

Plenary Session

Two presentations focused on Human Development Report 2009 and Remittances and Development in Good and Bad Times. The 1st session focused on human mobility & development, its impact on access, capacity building, and expanding choices for migrants on leading the life that they value. Migration is affected by barriers - paper barriers, admission policies that favor highly skilled workers, and ambivalence from the government. The 2nd session analyzes the effects of economic recession on migration flows. Existing migrants are not returning due to limited income and opportunities back home. Mobility control is enforcing stricter policies to protect jobs potentially leading to migrants losing their legal status & going underground.

Highlights - Day 1



Mai Dizon & Chato Basa
Atikha/Filipino Women's Council



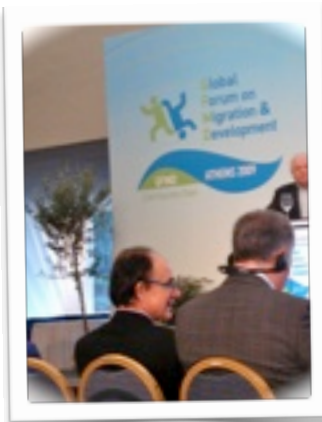
Marianna Moschou
Secretariat, Organizing Committee



Vicky Garchitorena, Costa Gavras, &
Kathleen Newland
International Organizing Committee



"Journey Map Trace"



Dr. Demetrios Papademetriou
President, Migration Policy Institute



Aurora de Dios
Chair, Migration Studies Department
College of International, Humanitarian &
Development Studies



Poster Presentation
Except U



Acropolis Museum



The Parthenon at Night

Highlights - Day 2



Mary Joy Garcia-Dia
Chair, PNAA Human Rights Committee



Research Poster Presentation
Bangladesh, Philippines, Mexico



Delegates from
Non-Government Organizations



Filipino Diaspora with
Susan Martin



Sir Peter Sutherland
UN Special Representative for
International Migration & Development



Poster Presentation
"They Take Our Jobs"



Poster Presentation
I'MMIGRANT



Fabrice de Kerchove - Belgium
Nguyen Van Bon - France



Natividad Gonzalez
President, Asociacion Civil De Derechos Humanos
Mujeres Unidas Migantes Y Refugiadas En
Argentina

Recommendations



The Baton is passed to Mexico for the next GFMD

Human rights issue as a result of migration is a global responsibility undertaken by different key actors. At the national level, governments of both source and destination countries have the socio-economic and political power to influence and protect its human capital. At the regional level, non-government and civil society groups are the links connecting migrants and channeling migrants' concerns through interaction and constant dialogues. Issues faced by nurses such as illegal recruitment, human trafficking, and unfair labor practice are not unique to our profession but also exist with other migrant workers.

The magnanimous responsibility that the PNAA Human Rights Committee bears will expand as we interface with key actors at the national, regional, and local levels. Our collaboration with key players - Migrant Heritage Commission, National Alliance for Filipino Concerns, American Nurses Association, NCEMNA, Damayan, Kalusugan Coalition and other migrant grassroots organization will keep PNAA abreast of issues related to migrants' quest for social and economic development and assimilation within the society. Although we have scratched the surface and addressed the issues faced by our nurses, we have a greater role to play on influencing policies favorable to recruitment, migrant development, and reintegration not only to our homeland country but also to our adopted country.

Special thanks to President Leo-Felix Jurado for giving me the opportunity to represent PNAA, President-elect Reynaldo Rivera, and Immediate Past-President Rosario May Mayor for being my extended family and accompanying me on this journey. Both stepped up to the plate at the last minute when work and school priorities prevented my own family to join me on this travel.