



Opening Remarks by

Ms. Nanda Krairiksh and Mr. Andrew Bruce

Co-Chairs of the Thematic Working Group on International Migration

including Human Trafficking

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All

Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW)

13 December 2010

Time: 10:00 - 12:00 hours

Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok



Distinguished panelists,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking, it gives us great pleasure to welcome you here today to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

This event is being jointly organized by the South-East Asia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Asia-Pacific Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking, and it aims to raise awareness of the Convention and allow the exchange of countries' experiences on measures they have taken to protect the rights of migrant workers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Some one in four of the world's migrants live in the Asia-Pacific region, and the region receives some 42 percent of the world's remittances. Although migration from and within the Asia-Pacific region has a long history, it is now characterized by a relatively new phenomenon, which is temporary labour migration. Millions of migrant workers have left their countries in recent years to work abroad

– a large number of them in the oil-producing countries of Western Asia.

Migration plays an important role in the economic and social dynamics of our region. Migrant remittances provide Governments with foreign currency resources and keep current account deficits under control. In some countries the monetary value of migrant remittances is even higher than export revenue. These remittances help households afford better nutrition, better health care and better education for their children.

As a result of economic and demographic developments, several countries in the Asia-Pacific region have become countries of destination for migrant workers. In these countries, migrant workers are filling jobs in labour-intensive industries and in the expanding health and care sector, thus making important contributions to their host countries' economies.

We must keep in mind that international migration is, at its root, about human stories. These are sometimes positive: such as in cases where migrants have successfully lifted entire families out of poverty; first through remittances, and later by establishing businesses of their own.

However, we must also be conscious that for too many, the migratory experience is not a positive one. Many of them work in

countries where labour codes are not adequately enforced, and they can also find themselves in the hands of unscrupulous migrant smugglers and human traffickers. Many suffer from ill health and have limited access to health services, and children who migrate with their parents do not have access to public education. We must also recognize that women migrant workers are among the most vulnerable for a number of reasons including due to the nature of their work, particularly domestic work, which is not covered by the labour codes of many countries.

Migrant workers are recognized as development actors who make important contributions to their countries of origin and destination. While recognizing this we also have to recognize that migrants are persons with rights.

The Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and their Families provides a comprehensive framework for sound, equitable and humane conditions for international labour migration. However, currently, only 7 countries in the Asia-Pacific region have ratified it. Encouraging more countries to ratify the Convention would be an important step towards better protection of these important development actors.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking is an inter-agency group that examines the links between migration and development and seeks to maximize the benefits and minimize the negative impact of international migration with special attention to gender perspectives, cultural diversity, human rights and the rule of law.

One recent activity organized by the Regional Thematic Working Group was the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 September 2010. In its outcome document, the Bangkok Statement, delegates recommended that both sending and receiving countries promote understanding of, and consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

Although our region has already made substantial efforts to address the obstacles faced by migrant workers, further improvements must be made in order to foster understanding of the need for protection of

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7855

