



## SAMReN WORKSHOP UNDERSCORES LINK BETWEEN MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT



Manolo Abella, former Head of Migration, ILO, giving valedictory speech at the concluding ceremony of SAMReN workshop. Also seen are workshop convener Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, chief guest Professor SMA Faiz, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University; and Dr. C R Abrar

The South Asia Migration Resource Network (SAMReN) organised a 10-day residential training workshop on *Migration, Globalisation, Security and Development* from 19 to 28 November, 2005 at Rajendrapur, Bangladesh.

### BACKGROUND

The workshop was aimed at enhancing knowledge and equipping young academics and professionals on voluntary migration processes and migration governance, and developing an improved understanding of

migration dynamics in the context of globalisation, security and development. The initiative was supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of University of Dhaka and Development Resource Centre (DRC) on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty based at the University of Sussex were the collaborating institutions.

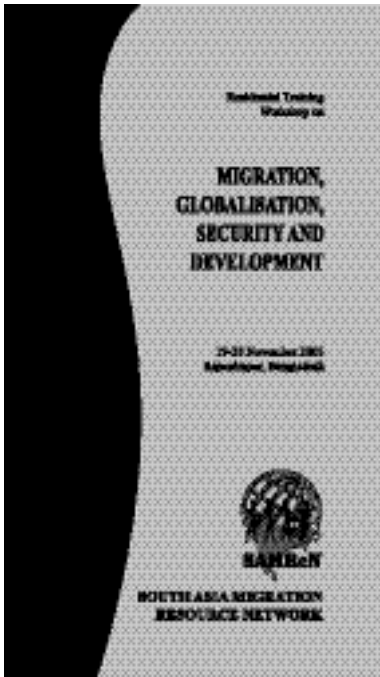
Initially the residential training workshop was planned for four days, but at the inception meeting of SAMReN held in July 2004 it

was felt that such a workshop should be of ten day duration. In view of increase in the number of days it was decided that additional funds will be secured from other sectors of the budget and external sources.

A number of in-house meetings were conducted to develop the objectives and course outline, identify resource persons, detailing the budget, identify potential sponsors, and finalise the venue and date. The workshop was scheduled from 19 to 28 November 2005 and BRAC CDM at Rajendrapur was selected as the venue.

A brochure on the workshop titled *Migration, Globalisation, Security and Development* was produced and circulated among the Core and Sub-committee members for their comments. After receiving comments from the members, the text of the brochure was finalised and uploaded in the SAMReN website. Later, a coloured brochure on the training workshop was published for wider circulation. A notice was sent to over 500 e-mail addresses of individuals and organisations working on migration.

Letters were sent to agencies with request for sponsoring workshop participants. The list included International Labour Office (Geneva), International Organisation for Migration (Geneva), Global Commission on



The Workshop Flyer

International Migration (Geneva), the European Union (Dhaka), UK Department for International Development (Dhaka), United Nations Development Programme (Delhi), office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Dhaka) and Development Research Centre for Migration, Globalisation and Poverty based at the University of Sussex.

## THE PARTICIPANTS

The workshop was attended by twenty-two participants. They came from a diverse range of professional backgrounds - university teachers, researchers, government officials, employees of international organisations and non-governmental organisations, representing both receiving and sending countries. Nine of the twenty two participants were women (41 per cent).

### SELECTION PROCESS

The course was designed for those engaged in research, management and governance of migration at national, regional and global levels: development practitioners, young academics and professionals, government functionaries, and practitioners from labour and human rights organisations. Applications were also considered from those whose work impacted on migration policy.

Applications were received by post, fax and e-mail. The form was downloadable from the SAMReN website. The applications were to be accompanied by a current CV and the deadline was August 15, 2005. Those interested in securing funding support were asked to complete a bursary application form available on the website. Applications were to be sent to the SAMReN secretariat, along with a supporting letter from employer or supervisor. Sixty-nine applications were received. A selection committee reviewed the applications and finally selected twenty-two participants for the workshop, on the basis of academic qualifications, work experience, letters of reference and relevance of the course to their careers. Fifteen bursaries were offered from SAMReN funding and other two bursaries were offered by the DRC on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty on a competitive basis. The remaining seven participants were self financed. All participants bore their own travel costs. The cost of travel of only one participant was partly covered by the organisers.



Mr. Sumit Baudh  
AMAN Trust  
India



Ms. Anjali Borahde  
Director, Disa Foundation  
India



Mr. Pablo Barrera Cruz  
Development Practitioner  
Spain



Ms. Vasuki Devadas  
Legal Officer  
National Human Rights  
Commission, Sri Lanka



Mr. Shiva Kumar Dhungana  
Research Officer  
Friends for Peace, Nepal



Mr. Md. Mosharaf Hossain  
Assistant Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Bangladesh



Ms. Raihana Karim  
Research Associate  
BRAC, Bangladesh



Dr. Furrugh Abbas Khan  
Assistant Professor  
Lahore University of Management  
Sciences, Pakistan



Mr. Chandan Nandy  
Brandeis University and Intern  
Mellon-MIT Foundation, USA



Ms. Sanghamitra Nath  
Ph. D Fellow  
Gauhati University, India



Ms. Nasrin Khandoker  
Lecturer  
Department of Anthropology  
Jahangirnagar University  
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Mr. Ammar Lamichhane  
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National Institute of Social  
Sciences, Nepal



Ms. Withanage Samanthi Perera  
University of Colombo  
Sri Lanka



Mr. Mohammad Ashique Rahman  
Bangladesh Institute of  
International and Strategic  
Studies, Bangladesh



Mr. Alex Mathew  
Deputy Country Representative  
Catholic Relief Services, India



Mr. Rajkumar Nagarajah  
National Project Coordinator  
FAO, Sri Lanka



Ms. Talitha Jessica Schaerli  
Freelance Journalist  
Switzerland



Ms. Seon Young Seo  
General Secretary  
Trade Union-Migrant's  
Branch, South Korea



Mr. Abu Zafar Md. Shahriar  
Lecturer  
Department of Economics  
BRAC University, Bangladesh



Ms. Waheeda Farouk Adam  
Education Sector for Afghan  
Refugees, Pakistan



Mr. Vijay Aryal  
Teaching Assistant  
Tribhuvan University, Nepal



Mr. Jeetendra D. Soni  
Ph. D Fellow  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
India

## THE FACULTY

The faculty consisted of SAMReN core members from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and civil society leaders from Hong Kong, representing Migrant Forum in Asia and Migrants Rights International. Through its partnership with DRC on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, based at the University of Sussex, RMMRU was able to bring in experts from Ghana, Albania, UK, Ireland and the Philippines.



Dr. Ganesh Gurung is the head of the National Institute of Development Studies, Kathmandu, Nepal. He is a core member of SAMReN. Dr. Gurung has published widely on labour migration and trafficking from Nepal.

Dr. Ravi Srivastava, core member of SAMReN from India, is a Professor of Economics at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi



Dr. C R. Abrar is Professor of International Relations and the Coordinator of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), University of Dhaka. He has published on refugee, labour migration and displacement issues. He is the key contact of DRC in Bangladesh and core member of SAMReN.

Dr. Sumaiya Khair, a Professor of Law at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, has a Ph.D. from the U.K. She is also an Instructor at the Clinical Legal Education Programme of the Department of Law, University of Dhaka and subcommittee member of SAMReN.



Mr. Manolo Abella was the former Director of the International Migration Programme of the ILO. He steered the organization's work in assisting member states to improve their policies on labour migration and directed its related programme of research.



Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui is another core member of the network from Bangladesh. She is Professor of Political Science at the University of Dhaka. She is the Chair of RMMRU and immediate past Chair of Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN).

Dr. Siddiqui was the workshop convnor.

Rashid Memon did his MA in Development Studies from the University of Sussex, UK. He also received his Bachelor of Science (Honours) Economics from the Lahore University of Management Science. Currently he is working with the Collective for Social Science Research, a private consultancy firm in Karachi. He is one of the core members of SAMReN from Pakistan.



Syed Imtiaz Ahmed is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He received Masters of Arts Degree in International Studies from the Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, USA in 2002.



Ms. Sajida Ally works at the Asian Migrants Centre of Hong Kong. She represented the Manila based Migrant Forum in Asia at the workshop.



Prof. John K Anarfi is currently the Deputy Director of the Institute of Social Science and Economic Research (ISSER) at the University of Ghana, Legon. He is a demographer with specialist experience on the migration of women; sexuality and HIV/AIDS; adolescent reproductive health; and street children. He is the key contact of the Development Research Centre (DRC) of Ghana.

Dr. Maruja M B Asis is the Director of Research and Publications of the Scalabrini Migration Center (SMC), based in Manila, the Philippines ([www.smc.org.ph](http://www.smc.org.ph)). Dr. Asis is a sociologist who has been involved in migration studies in Asia, particularly on topics dealing with migration policies, unauthorised or irregular migration, and the relationship between migrations on one hand, and gender, family relations and social change on the other



Mr. Zahid Babu is a returnee migrant. He spent long time in South Korea and involved in Equality Trade Union-Migrant's Branch (ETU-MB) at Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), Seoul. He was concerned with the problems of undocumented migrant workers

in Korea.

Dr. Michael Collyer is a research fellow in the Department of Geography and the Sussex Centre for Migration Research at the University of Sussex in Brighton, UK. He has published widely on migration in and around the Mediterranean region.



Dr. Ilir Gadeshi heads the Centre for Economic and Social research, a private research organisation in Tirana, Albania. He is also the coordinator of the DRC



chapter in Albania. Dr. Gadeshi has writtn extensively on migration from Albania.

Mr. Mohammad Shahidul Haque is the Regional Representative of the International Organisation for Migration in South Asia. He is a career diplomat and earlier served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh.



Syed Saiful Haque is the founder member and Chairman of the Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE), a grassroots Community based Organization. Currently he is the Chairperson of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) a regional

network on migration.

Ms. Siobhàn McPhee is a post graduate of Peace and Conflict Studies from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. She has researched on re-integration of migrants in the host country. She is currently a DRC Intern at RMMRU.



Dr. Omar Rahman, M.D., M.P.H., D.Sc. (Harvard) is a demographer and psychiatrist who is currently a Professor of Demography, the Executive Director of the Centre for Health, Population and Development, and Director of the Master of Public Health

Programme at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).



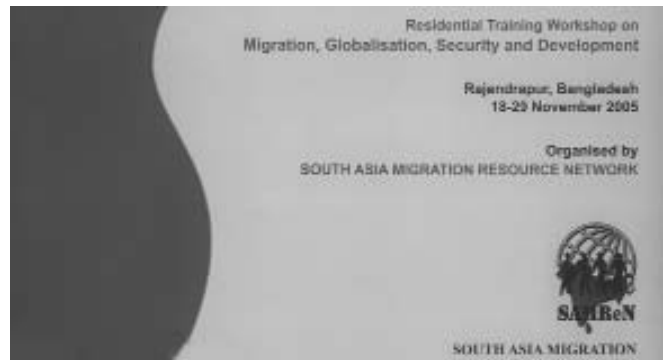
Ms. Sheikh Rumana is a returnee migrant. She spent seven years in Malaysia. Currently, she is working in Bangladeshi Ovivashi Mohila Sramik Association (Bangladesh Women Migrants Association) as General Secretary to protect the wellbeing of women

migrants.

Dr. Meera Warriier is Research Manager for the DFID-funded Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty at the University of Sussex, UK. She has a multi-disciplinary background with previous degrees in English Literature, Sociology and the History of Science.



Benjamin Zeitlyn is a post graduate in migration studies from the University of Sussex. He is a SAMReN fellow working on Bangladeshis in Spain and Italy.



Programme schedule of the Workshop distributed at the time of registration

In the morning of 19 November Professor Ganesh Gurung gave the welcome address and inaugurated the workshop. Professor C R Abrar provided the background of SAMReN, its activities that included fellowships, website <[www.samren.org](http://www.samren.org)>, publications and training workshops. He introduced the partner institutions the Department for International Development (DFID), UK and the Development Research Centre (DRC) on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty.



Inaugural Ceremony of the Workshop

Dr. Abrar also introduced the host institution, the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) that acts as the secretariat of SAMReN. He acknowledged the support of DFID to SAMReN and the contribution of SAMReN partners.

The Workshop Convenor, Professor Tasneem Siddiqui highlighted the objectives and rationale of the workshop. She outlined the programme planned for the next ten days and introduced the training methods i.e. lectures, reading material, group work, brain storming sessions, video documentary shows, case studies, overhead/ multimedia projector shows and flipcharts. She encouraged the participants to be actively involved and be punctual to make the workshop a success. In the morning Mr. Nadeem Siddiqui, Project Director of SAMReN requested the participants to introduce

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP



Workshop Registration

In the afternoon of November 18, 2005, registration of the participants of the workshop was completed at BRAC CDM at Rajendrapur. Nadeem Siddiqui of SAMReN conducted the registration and briefed the participants about the workshop venue, mal tims and facilities available.

themselves by name, country and affiliated organisation along with their migration experience or of their families. The inauguration ceremony was followed by a tea break.

In the first working session on the theme *International Migration*, Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui spoke on *Introduction to Migration*. She elaborated the definitions of migration, internal migration, types of migration and agents of migration. Dr. Abrar then talked about *International Migration: Patterns and Trends*. He discussed the evolution and patterns of human migration. Dr. Abrar dealt with several issues that impinge on migration: human rights, labour shortages and unemployment, brain drain, brain circulation, refugee flows and asylum, human trafficking, national security and human security. In conclusion he laid emphasis on strengthening multilateral cooperation between countries of emigration, immigration and transit.

The last presentation of the day was made by Prof. Ganesh Gurung on *Contemporary International Migration from South Asia*. He noted that South Asian migrants can generally be characterised as rural, unskilled/semi skilled, moderately literate men belonging to lower income group, aged between 20-35. He addressed a number of reasons for movements of people from Nepal to India, between Bangladesh and India and Pakistan and from Afghanistan to Pakistan. Gulf, USA, East Asia, South East Asia, West Europe, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, South Asia, Malaysia and Europe are main destinations for South Asian migrants, he said. Access to the poor, political commitment, MoU, government mechanisms, remittances, HIV/AIDS, skills and cheating are the main issues in migration in South Asia, he noted.



Dr. Ganesh Gurung speaking at the workshop

The **Day 2's** theme was *Globalisation and Migration*. At the very beginning of the day, the previous day's

deliberations were summarised. This was followed by a discussion on *Theories of Migration*. The session was attended by Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, Dr. Ganesh Gurung, and Mr. Jeetendra Soni. They spoke on *Causes of Migration, Consequences of Migration, and Recent Theoretical Approaches* respectively. The session was chaired by Dr. Ravi Srivastava. The presentations were followed by a lively discussion.

Dr. Siddiqui stated that migration decisions are arrived through a complex process. She then discussed various theories of causes of migration that include historical-structuralist, push-pull, rational choice, and social-network. Dr. Gurung showed that economic well being, multiculturalism, community development, new skills and knowledge are positive results of migration. Among the negative consequences he highlighted loss of family ties and brain drain. Mr. Soni traced the evolution of the Indian Diaspora.

After lunch Dr. Ravi Srivastava spoke on two topics: *Reflections on Globalisation* and *Globalisation and International Migration*. The presentations covered the history of globalisation, trends in migration, policy discourse on globalisation, structural features of capital in developed countries, implications for demand for migrant labour, economic responses to the demand for immigrant labour, and socio-political responses to immigrant workers.

In the morning session of **Day 3**, Dr. Maruja M B Asis of the Scalabrini Migration Centre of Manila spoke on *Migration and Prospects of Gender Equality*. She stated that 49% of the world's international migrants are women, most trafficked persons are women and children, and that labour migration is not gender-neutral. She also highlighted gender biases in migration outcomes. Finally, she suggested the incorporation of gender aspects in the migration process.

After the tea break, Sheikh Rumana, General Secretary of Bangladesh Ovivashi Mohila Sramik Association (Association of Bangladesh Women Migrant Workers) narrated her experience in organising the returnee female migrants of Bangladesh. In the afternoon session, *Another Horizon* a RMMRU documentary on female labour migration, was screened. It was followed by explanation, comments and a discussion.

At the end of the day, Dr. Asis spoke on *Irregular Migration: An Overview*. In her presentation she defined irregular migration and stated that obtaining data on irregular migration from South East Asia and

South Asia as a major challenge. She also argued for conceptual clarity on irregular migration, trafficking, human smuggling. She provided interesting examples from the country experiences of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Dr. Asis noted that state responses to irregular migration has been essentially in the forms of border control, crackdown, stiffer punishment, forced repatriations, and in certain cases regularization. In conclusion, she mentioned that contradictions of globalisation expose limits of national approaches and that assertion of the right to migrate is very important. While the need for bilateral/regional cooperation is critical for a comprehensive approach; one must not lose sight of migrants' rights, she contended.

**Day 4**, started with Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui making a presentation on *International Migration and Development*. She linked migration with development, provided statistics of workers' remittances to developing countries and the sources of remittances, noted the importance of remittances for national development, and highlighted both positive and negative impacts of migration. She also underscored the contribution of Diaspora to development and also laid emphasis on national, regional, bilateral and multilateral instruments for governance of migration.

After the tea break Dr. Meera Warriar of the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty provided an overview of emerging landscapes in migratory movements. She highlighted demographic pressures, labour shortages and development imperatives as factors contributing to migration. Dr. Warriar also spoke about changes in policy that reflected shift in discourse from humanitarianism to demand for skills and a shift from permanent to temporary immigration policies.



Dr. Meera Warriar of DRC on Migration

In the afternoon session, Benjamin Zeitlyn, a SAMReN fellow and Siobhan McPhee, a DRC intern spoke on

*Social and Cultural Effects of Immigration* that covered the definition of culture in various conditions, relationship between culture and immigration, different types of identity like national identity, post modern identity and multiple or hybrid identities, integration between immigrants and host societies, and the difference between multiculturalism and assimilation. Later, Abu Zafar Shahriar, Lecturer of BRAC University and one of the participants, spoke on a research project on *Identifying and Quantifying the Factors Affecting Seasonal Migration of Labour in the Autumn Lean Period in Northern Bangladesh*. The presentation was based on a research proposal prepared by the Economics and Social Science Research Group, BRAC University of Bangladesh and was aimed at identifying the characteristics of the seasonal migrants, and quantifying the effects of the factors affecting such migration decisions using econometric tools. Another participant, Anjali Borahde spoke on *Internal Labour Migration in Nasik, India*. She dealt with causes of migration and an overall situation analysis. At the end of the day a documentary on *Stories of the Broken Self: Women and Partition* was shown. The documentary was directed and produced by Dr. Furrukh Khan of the Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan. He explained the reasons and shared his own experiences in making the documentary on the partition of 1947.

**Day 5** of the workshop was reserved for a pleasure trip and accordingly on November 23, 2006 the participants were taken to the National Park at Gazipur, National Memorial at Savar, and Fantasy Kingdom at Ashulia. They were accompanied by the SAMReN personnel.

On **Day 6**, Dr. Omar Rahman of the Independent University of Bangladesh made a presentation on *Return of Professional / Skilled Migrants to Bangladesh*. The speaker presented a concrete example of a study on return trends of migrant students of an elite school of Dhaka, the St. Joseph's High School. He explained why some skilled migrants come back and others do not. He emphasised on ensuring political stability, providing more and diverse employment opportunities, extending education opportunities for children, and providing health care facilities (especially for emergencies) to make the skilled migrants come back.

After the tea break, Prof. John K Anarfi of University of Ghana spoke on *Migration and its Relation to Pro-Poor Policy: The West African Context*. In his informative presentation, he discussed the importance of migration

for the region, the concept of pro-poor migration policies, and provided definitions of the three forms of migration: economic, forced and trafficking. He also talked about the trends and perceptions of migration, socio-economic characteristics of migrants, problematic aspects of migration and various Pan-African and West African initiatives undertaken on the issue. He underscored the need for statistics/data on both internal and international migration, a policy on displaced people, monitoring systems on flow of remittances and more coordinated regional policies on forced migration.



Trip to Dhaka

In the afternoon, Dr. Michael Collyer of the Sussex Centre for Migration Research made a presentation on *Migration from and through North Africa*. He began by informing the participants about the distribution of Moroccan, Tunisian, Algerian and Egyptian emigrants in different countries of Europe. He then explained the evolution of EU's Mediterranean policy, and provided a detailed account of a series of recent events involving migrants aspiring to enter Spanish territory in North Morocco. The session continued with Professor John K. Anarfi making a presentation on *Migration Expectation of Trainee Health Professionals in Ghana*. Findings of a recent research on the topic were shared.

In the last session of the day, Dr. Ilir Gadeshi of the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Albania, made a presentation on *Competing for Remittances in Albania*. He stated that research findings suggest that most emigrants in Albania were young, male and relatively well educated; they primarily migrated to Greece and Italy; the main sectors of Albanian male emigrant employment in Greece and Italy were construction, agriculture and industry while women were primarily occupied with domestic work; 68.6% emigrants sent remittances to the parents, and then spouses and children, followed by brothers and sisters; remittances have been a major factor in the financial

survival of Albania and played a key role in alleviating poverty; emigrants preferred to send remittances through informal channels (77.4 percent) – primarily by 'hand-carry'; remittances were used generally for financing of family daily needs, building, upgrading and furnishing the home, followed by investment in real estate; and 56% of long-term emigrants have stated a wish to return to Albania and there was significant variance in the savings levels of Albanian households.



Dr. Ravi Srivastava speaking on globalisation and migration

**Day 7** started with the theme *Securitisation of Migration*. The first presentation of the morning was made by Syed Imtiaz Ahmed of the Department of International Relations of the University of Dhaka on *Non Traditional Approaches to Security and the Problem of Securitisation*. He discussed the terms traditional and non-traditional security by identifying the differences between two approaches. He explained the normative dilemma of the non traditional approach. He also discussed the role of bureaucracy, the executive, the media, the law-makers and extremist groups in securitising. He contended that these groups usually make subjective interpretations by making securitisation an issue. Ahmed also introduced the concept of de-securitisation and suggested strategies for de-securitisation.

In the same session, Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui made a presentation on *Securitisation of Migration*. After defining the concept of securitisation she discussed the different approaches to securitisation of migration. She also talked about human security as propounded by UNDP. She concluded by drawing examples of securitisation of migration in various countries of South Asia.

After the tea break, a presentation on *Irregular Migration and Non-traditional Threats to State Security: the case of Karachi*, was delivered by Mr. Rashid Menon of the Collective for Social Science

Research, Karachi. After a brief introduction on the methodology of the study, he discussed how irregular migration works as a source of non-traditional threats to state security. He also talked about the human insecurity of irregular migrants. He pointed out the legal status and living conditions of the Bangladeshi migrants in Karachi. He concluded by claiming that on one hand these migrants are considered as a source of security threats while on the other, they themselves are victims of human insecurity.

After lunch, the session started with a presentation by Dr. Michael Collyer on *Migration and Security in Europe*. He discussed the contemporary security discourse, security referent, and impacts of securitisation. He also dealt with the responses of the British state to undefined threats from non-nationals. He also explained the trends in securitisation of migration in Europe.



Participants of the Workshop

The session continued with a presentation of Chandan Nandy, a participant from Brandeis University, USA on *Irregular Migration of Bangladeshis in India*. After discussing the role of the partition, he talked about the pull and push factors which lead to migration of Bangladeshis to India. He pointed out that the use of migrants as vote banks by the political parties in India. Nandy's presentation was followed by a talk on *Victimization and Unlawful Deportation of Linguistic and Religious Minorities* by Sumit Baudh of AMAN Trust of New Delhi. From his own experience as a human rights activist Baudh showed how human rights of the migrants are violated throughout the whole process of detection, arrest, and deportation. He also highlighted the growing tendency of securitising the irregular migrants in India and underscored the need for civil society organizations to ensure the human security of migrants.

*Governance of Migration* was the theme for **Day 8** of the workshop. In the morning session, Prof. Sumaiya Khair of the Department of Law, University of Dhaka,

made two presentations. Her first presentation was on the *Rights of Migrant Workers: ILO Interventions*, where she discussed various aspects of 'Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) 1949' and the types of rights that migrant workers deserve prior to departure, at the time of departure, during the journey and on arrival and at the place of immigration, 'under Obligations of 1949 Convention'. She further discussed annex I and annex II under the same Convention which depict recruitment, placement and conditions of labour migrants for employment recruited under Government sponsored arrangements for group transfer. In her discussion she explained the 'Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975' and the 'Obligations under the 1975 Convention'.

In the second lecture, Dr. Khair presented findings of a RMMRU research on *Human Security Concerns of Trafficked Women and Children: A Synthesis for Bangladesh, India and Nepal* that examined the specificities of human security concerns of trafficked women and children, and to address the gaps in regulatory mechanisms and provide a benchmark for possible redress of the problem. The multi-dimensional threats at personal and societal levels were found as threats to human security during pre-departure, transit, arrival at destination and post return stages. She reiterated policy and legal implications for these countries and challenges in the implementation of laws/policies at domestic, regional and international levels. Finally, she underscored the possible ways to eradicate the root causes, prevention, prosecution, victim protection and assistance for trafficked women and children.

In the same session, Sajida Ally of Migrant Forum in Asia spoke on *The UN Migrant Workers Convention and Other Key International Instruments Promoting the Rights of Migrant Workers*. She stated that migration as a fundamental right for every human being. She expressed concerns over recruitment fraud and abuse, trafficking and forced labour, exploitative wages, poor working conditions, social exclusion, and ethnic and racial discrimination as violations of migrants' rights. She underscored the need of right based international standards. She informed that 1990 UN Convention by now has been ratified by thirty-five countries and emphasised the need for universal ratification.

Syed Saiful Haque of the Welfare Association for Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees then spoke on *Civil Society Organizations for Migrants' Rights*. He summarised the activities of civil societies at local, regional and global levels who have taken a strong

stand on migrants' rights. At the end of morning session, Mr. Zahid Babu, a returnee migrant from Korea spoke on *Migrants Trade Union Activity in Korea*. The speaker stated that more than 450,000 migrant workers from different countries are working in Korea and most of them are engaged in odd jobs. He underscored the need for industrial training to improve this situation. He then narrated his own experience of trade union activism among the migrants in Korea. Finally, he made an appeal to express solidarity with the trade union activists of Korea.

The last presentation of the day was made by Mr. Shahidul Haque, Regional Representative of the International Organisation for Migration on *Bilateral Labour Agreement (BLA) for Employment Abroad: Potentials and Challenges*. He explained the concept of BLA and argued that both origin and destination countries can mutually benefit through BLAs. He concluded by stating that the success of BLAs depend on the overall negotiation among the countries of origin and destination.



Participants Performing in a Cultural Show

A cultural programme was arranged in the evening. All participants and some resource persons rendered songs and dances in the programme. Some were dressed in their national costumes on the occasion.

The **Day 9**, November 27, 2005 was reserved for a trip to Dhaka and a dinner to mark the presentation of Mr Manola Abella, on *Does the International Community need a Separate Agency for Voluntary International Migration?* The speech preceded the dinner. Barrister Monzoor Hassan chaired the session.

On **Day 10**, the morning session was reserved for group presentations. Earlier, participants of the workshop were divided into four groups.

Group 1, consisting of Furrukh Khan, Ammar Lamichhane, Chandan Nandy, Ashique Rahman and Talitha Schaerli, made a presentation on *Opening New Vistas: Expanding IOM's Communications Management*.

Group 2 comprised of Soni Jeetendra, S. W. Perera, Shiva K. Dhungana, Seon Young Seo, Sanghamitra Nath and Shahriar Abu Zafar. The group made a presentation on *Aberration from the general trends of migration: The Displaced Nepalese in India*;



Group Presentation by the Participants

Group 3 consisted of Anjali B, Waheeda Adam, Raihana Karim, Rajkumar, Musharaf and Sumit Baudh. The group dealt with *Addressing the Vulnerability of Internal labour migrants in South Asia*.

The *Group 4*, consisted of Vijay Aryal, Alex Mathew, Nasrin Khandoker, Vasuki Devdas and Pablo Barrera made a presentation on *Promoting fair migration by bringing close the position of origin and destination countries: A win-win Migration Policy*. After the presentations, the participants expressed their views on the last nine days and returned the Participant Evaluation Forms, which were provided to them earlier. After lunch, the whole team moved to Dhaka for the concluding session.

### CONCLUDING CEREMONY

The Concluding Ceremony was held at Bangladesh Shilpakola (Arts) Academy, Dhaka. At the beginning of the ceremony, Professor Tasneem Siddiqui summarised all the activities of the workshop. She underscored the need for a better understanding of the complexities of voluntary international migration in a rapidly globalising world. She also stressed the need for increased appreciation of the contribution of migrants in the global, social, economic and cultural development and in reducing poverty. The workshop underscored that migration should not be securitised and that challenges faced should be dealt within the bounds of regular political, legal and administrative structures of the states concerned.

Mr. Abella gave the valedictory speech on *The Future Challenges of International Migration*. In his speech, he stated that in this fast globalising world the international community has to re-think the way it looks at migration. Recent studies of ILO noted that globalisation has so far led to divergence, rather than to convergence of incomes between developing and developed countries.



View of the workshop venue

He argued that “intuitively moving workers has a potentially bigger impact on increasing productivity than moving goods across borders because wage differentials are enormously much larger than differential in the price of goods”. Mr. Abella quoted figures that suggest that the “world would be \$150 billion richer if only countries were to liberalise the temporary movements of migrant labour, the equivalent of only three percent of their work force”.

**Can we expect the opening of markets for migrant workers?**

It has been estimated that there are some twenty-eight million migrant workers from the developing countries working in the industrialized countries—making up about six percent of the latter’s total labour force. What is the likelihood that the rich countries would accept more?

Liberalizing the movement of workers can mean many things, but in most instances what is on the table is usually reduced to a choice between admitting workers for indefinite periods or only for short periods of time. Unfortunately, the time when countries welcomed permanent settlers is long gone. Today there are only a handful of immigration countries – US, Canada, Australia- and the rest only accept temporary migrants, making exceptions are among the most restrictive in this regard.

-Manolo Abella



Professor SMA Faiz, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka distributing certificates among the participants. Also seen in the photo are Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, Mr. Manolo Abella and Dr. C R Abrar.

Professor SMA Faiz, Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka presided over the ceremony and distributed certificates and crests among the participants. Professor C R Abrar conducted the session and offered the vote of thanks. Among others, Prof. M. Asaduzzaman, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Touhid Hossain, Additional Foreign Secretary, Stephen Bridges, the Deputy High Commissioner of the UK, eminent litterateur Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui and Dr. M. A. Samad, Advisor to the leader of the opposition of parliament attended the ceremony which was rounded off with a dance performance on ‘Migration in Bangladeshi folk culture’, performed by renowned dance group Nrittanchal. The 10-day workshop ended with hosting a conference dinner in Dhaka that was attended by many resource persons, including Mr. Manolo Abella and the workshop participants.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORKSHOP**

- 22 participants from nine countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Spain, South Korea, Switzerland and the United States) representing a diverse range of professions (academics, researchers, government officials, NGO activists and members of international agencies)
- 21 resource persons from Albania, Bangladesh, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Switzerland and United Kingdom representing academia, research institutions, migrants rights organisations and international agencies such as the ILO and IOM.
- Five key themes: migration, globalisation, security, development and governance
- Methods included lectures, group works, sharing of real life experiences and documentaries
- Five participants shared their own work on migration.
- Leisure activities included a cultural night by participants, one day site seeing tour of national mausoleum and a theme park at Savar and national park at Rajendrapur and a half day trip to Dhaka City. BRAC CDM games facilities included badminton, squash, carrom and rowing.
- Concluding ceremony was held at the National Fine Arts Academy presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka. Manolo Abella, former Head of Migration of ILO, presented the Valedictory Speech on *Future Challenges of International Migration*. After awarding of the certificates among the participants the dance group *Nrittanchal* presented a cultural soiree attended by more than 300 people.
- Formation of an e-group by the participants.



Performing Dance by Nritanchal at the Concluding Ceremony

## EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP

Evaluation is an integral part of any workshop. It helps the organisers assess if the workshop met its goals. The workshop was evaluated in three ways, viz: review of previous day's deliberation, open discussion on the final day and post-workshop evaluation through a structured questionnaire.

### Review of Preceding Day's Deliberation

Daily Evaluation on previous day's proceedings was presented by rapporteurs, nominated by the participants themselves. After the rapporteurs' presentation, the participants were invited to give their comments. It was a transparent method of evaluation in which participants expressed their views. In some instances they pointed out that a few resource persons exceeded their presentation time. This, in turn, took away time allotted for open discussion. Such feedback from the participants helped the organisers request the resource persons to maintain time. Some participants expressed their interest to make presentations on their current research projects that were linked to the workshop themes. Accordingly, adjustments were made in the original workshop schedule to accommodate these interests. Needless to say, this made the workshop more participatory and rich experiences were shared.

### Open Discussion

On the final day, a review of the workshop took place in presence of Mr. Manolo Abella. There were candid discussions about various aspects of the workshop. The participants expressed overall satisfaction about the theme, contents, quality of resource persons, methods employed and logistics. Some concrete suggestions were offered that included more participation of grassroots level activists as resource persons and increased group activities. The participants also stressed that efforts must be made to ensure that such workshop is organised in the future too. They also expressed an interest in developing an e-group of SAMReN alumnus.

## Structured Questionnaire

As stated earlier, a structured questionnaire was distributed among the participants. These were collected on the last of the workshop. A questionnaire evaluation committee analysed the responses. The findings are presented below:

All the participants stated that the workshop met their expectations. Four stated that the workshop surpassed their expectations— one noted that it was 'very fruitful for him or her to understand the reality and inter-linkages of migration, globalisation, security and development'. Another stated that the ten-day intensive programme 'equipped' him or her in a major way that 'will be of immense benefit in the future'. One of them claimed that he or she was very impressed with the diverse range of resource persons and the rich experiences they brought with them. Another participant stated that the workshop exposed him/her to various contending perspectives on migration. One noted that the workshop had given him/her a lot of information on two major interest areas – migration and development.

Of twenty-two participants six found *Securitisation of Migration* session to be the most useful session. *Migration and Gender* session was rated second most useful by three participants, while *International Labour Migration, Globalisation and Migration* and *Migrant's Right* were also found to be very useful. One participant stated that the securitisation of migration session was the best because it was a very topical issue. Another thought the *Migration and Gender* session provided new ideas for research in his/her own country context. One participant found *Globalisation and Migration* as the most useful session because it would help him/her develop his/her Ph.D research proposal.

When asked about the session found to be least useful, none noted any; but some mentioned that a few sessions were little bit lengthy and boring.

Asked to what extent (in the scale of 1-4 with 4 being the highest) the workshop was able to cover the theme – Migration, Globalisation, Security, Development and Governance. 72.72% participants rated 4 for migration, while 45% ranked the same for globalisation. The rest of the themes were rated at 3.

The participants were asked to comment on the overall performance of the resource persons. In this regard, most of the participants expressed their satisfaction with the quality of resource persons. One participant commented that the best part of the workshop was the competence of most of the resource persons and their

## Questionnaire for Participant's Evaluation Form

Your honest evaluation will help us to continue improving the programme in the future.

1. Has the workshop met your expectations?
2. Which sessions did you find most useful and why?
3. Which sessions did you find least useful for you and why?
4. To what extent was the workshop able to cover the following themes (on a scale of 1-4 with 4 being the highest)?

Theme	4	3	2	1
Migration				
Globalisation				
Security				
Development				
Governance				

5. Please comment on the overall performance of the recourse persons.
6. Please give your opinion on the extent of involvement of the participants in the following issues (on a scale of 1-4 with 4 being the highest).

Issues	4	3	2	1
Chairing sessions				
Giving lectures				
In question / answer sessions				

7. Comment on the usefulness of the methods employed in conducting the course (on a scale of 1-4 with 4 being the highest).

Method	4	3	2	1
Lectures				
Case study				
Documentary				
Group work				

8. How would you rank the following? (on a scale of 1-4 with 4 being the highest)

	4	3	2	1
Cultural night				
Dhaka trip				
National park - Savar excursion				
Service of BRAC CDM				
Leisure activities				

9. What in your opinion were the strengths of the workshop?
10. What were the weaknesses of the workshop?
11. Do you think that the length of the workshop was (tick one box)

- Sufficient   
 Too long   
 Too short

12. How could the workshop be improved?

ability to communicate with the participants. They provided rich insights into and about different aspects of migration. Three of the participants noted that the resource persons were a good mix of representatives from government bodies, civil society activists and academics. Some participants, however, felt that one

resource person made a lengthy presentation. Asked about the extent (in the scale of 1-4 with 4 being the highest) of involvement of the participants in chairing sessions, giving lectures and in question/answer sessions. The chairing of session was rated 4 by about 64% participants, question / answer session was

rated 4 by about 45% participants and lecture session received the same rating by 41% participants.

The participants were asked to comment on the usefulness of the methods employed in conducting the course based on the scale (Scale of 1-4 with 4 being the highest). Most participants (77%) found the documentary as the most useful (scale 4) method in conducting the course followed by lecture method that was rated 4 by 55% participants. Group work and case study methods were also highly endorsed, being rated 4 by 50% and 45% participants respectively.

Most participants (77%) rated 4 when asked about the quality of the services of BRAC-CDM, the workshop venue. The trip to Dhaka also received 4 from 73% of the participants, the cultural night from 64% and leisure activities from 59%.

Asked about the strengths of the workshop participants cited manifold strengths. Some of them are presented below:

- Time maintenance and administrative management were excellent
- Leadership and organisational skills were highly satisfactory.
- The knowledge and experience of resource persons with varied backgrounds were of high quality.
- Facilities provided were very good.
- Reading and other materials were very relevant.
- Documentation support was excellent.
- Open and candid environment.
- Excellent handling by hosts Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui and Dr. C R Abrar and the whole team of RMMRU.
- Excellent logistic support.
- Proper theme selection.
- Presentations with case studies.
- Sharing of people's experiences.
- The sequences of topics related to migration.
- Representation of resource persons and participants from various parts of the world.
- Very good networking opportunity of persons with common interests.
- Cultural exchange.
- Good selection of participants from diverse background (NGO personnel, teachers, students, lawyers, social activists, journalists, diplomats etc.)
- The venue BRAC-CDM was excellent.

- Great commitment on the organiser's side.
- More methodological programme.
- Staying of Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui and Dr. C R Abrar for the whole duration of the workshop with the participants.

The participants were also requested to mention the weaknesses of the workshop. In this regard, a few weaknesses were noted:

- Too much emphasis on promotion of migration.
- Dealing with so many issues provided constraints to focus on specific issues.
- Lack of field study and visit to migrant's residence.
- Less group work.
- Less focus on the problems of receiving countries.
- Fewer participants from the migrant receiving countries.
- No session on migration and public health.

In responding the question on length of the workshop, 77% participant thought that the length of the workshop was sufficient and rest of the participants (23%) thought that the workshop was rather long.

Lastly, in the structured questionnaire, the participants were requested to suggest what improvements could be brought about in holding another such workshop. In this regard several suggestions were put forward. Among them the most common were the following:

- Minimising the above mentioned weaknesses.
- Creating a balanced group of participants from the North and the South.
- More group work.
- More participation and sessions with NGO activists, workers associations and migration related associations.
- Provide airfare support
- Keeping in touch with each other after the workshop.
- Addressing the issues of internal migration and migration due to natural disasters.
- Addressing more on brain drain (migration of talent).
- Involvement of the recruiting agencies and policy makers as resource persons.
- Inclusion of migration related field work.
- Inclusion of individual assignments.
- Continuation and follow up workshop.

**October – December, 2005****Workshops**

South Asia Migration Resource Network (SAMReN) organised a 10-day residential training workshop on *Migration, Globalisation, Security and Development* from the 19 to 28 November, 2005 at Rajendrapur, Bangladesh. The initiative was supported by the Department for International Development (DFID), UK. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of University of Dhaka and Development Resource Centre (DRC) on Migration Globalisation and Poverty based at the University of Sussex were the collaborating institutions.

A workshop on *Women's Studies in Public and Private Universities* was held on October 8, 2005 at the Faculty of Arts, University of Dhaka. The workshop was organised by RMMRU. Among others faculty members of the various private and public universities and Dean of Social Sciences of Dhaka University and Chair of the University Grants Commission attended the workshop.

**Project Activities**

The fifth Management Committee Meeting of NTS project was held on 14 December, 2005. The committee welcomed Mr. Syed Imtiaz Ahmed, who came back after completion of his Asia Fellowship programme in Malaysia. The committee approved the financial report of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> quarters. The committee also approved the activity report of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> quarters of the project with minor changes.

**Seminar Participation**

Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) organised a regional conference on *Cross Border Migration and Protection of Human Rights in South Asia* on 27-28 December 2005 in Dhaka. Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui and Dr. C R Abrar made two presentations on the findings of NTS studies, which were followed by questions and comments.

**Visit**

Nadeem Siddiqui, Project Director of South Asia Migration Resource Network (SAMReN) attended at a consultation organised by Coordination of Action Research on AIDS & Mobility-Asia (CARAM) held in Kuala Lumpur on 2-3 October 2005.

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