

GFMD 2014-2015 Thematic Meeting 3:

“Recognizing the contributions of women migrants to economic and social developments in countries of origin and destination and addressing their specific needs”

CO-CONVENERS AND SPEAKER’S BIOS



AMB. CECILIA REBONG assumed her position as Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations on 10 December 2013. A career diplomat, she brings thirty years of professional diplomatic experience to her post. Before her appointment, Ambassador Rebong served as Chief Coordinator at the Office of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 2011 to 2013, a position which she also held from 200 to 2001.

Ambassador Rebong was the Philippine Consul General in New York from 2004 to 2010 with jurisdiction over ten northeastern states of the United States of America. From 2001 to 2003, she served as Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs and Chief of Presidential Protocol at the Office of the President of the Philippines. She served twice at the Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York (as Third Secretary from 1982 to 1989 and as Minister Counselor from 1995 to 1997) where she handled political, social and humanitarian issues, human rights, economic and sustainable development issues, as well as operational activities of the United Nations development agencies. She also held various positions at the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations and Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Likewise, she served as First Secretary and Consul at the Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, D.C.

Ambassador Rebong is a recipient of two awards from the President of the Philippines namely, the Gawad Mabini, Rank of Dakilang Kamanong, for her distinguished accomplishments and exemplary service in the Department of Foreign Affairs, for promoting and advancing the interest of the Philippines and the Filipino people during her service at the Philippine Consulate General in New York, the Philippine Mission to the United Nation, the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., and Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs; and the Order of Lakandula with the rank of Grand Officer (Ranggong Marangal na Pinuno) which was conferred on her after her term as Chief of Presidential Protocol.



Mr. EASTON ROY WILLIAMS is the Director of Social Policy, Planning and Research Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica. He has over 28 years of experience in social policy, planning and research. He holds Post-Graduate Degrees in Sociology, Demography and Multi-disciplinary Social Sciences.



AMBASSADOR EVA ÅKERMAN BÖRJE headed the Secretariat for the Swedish Chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development within the Swedish Government Offices and chaired the GFMD 2013-14. Previously Amb Åkerman Börje has held a position as Director in the Department for Migration and Asylum Policy in the Swedish Ministry of Justice, being the focal point for work on the links between migration and development as well as for cooperation on global migration issues and the external dimension of the EU's migration policy. She has specialized in migration policy and European and international cooperation and has designed and negotiated both national and European policy and legislation in the field of migration and asylum. During the last Swedish presidency of the EU she chaired the High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration in the Council of Ministers. From 2003 to 2004, Amb Åkerman Börje was a Fellow at the Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and has previously served with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the European Commission in Brussels and the EFTA Secretariat in Geneva.



Ms. KATHERINE BRIGUERA BRIMON is the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Program Support and the Cluster on Employability of Workers and Competitiveness on Enterprises of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in the Philippines. She is also the former Director of the Human Resource Development Service of the DOLE from 2013 to 2015 and the Deputy Executive Director of the Institute for Labor Studies from 2009 to 2011. Currently, she represents the DOLE in various committees: as Representative to the Philippine Statistics Authority Board, the Board of Investments Technical Working Group and the Committee on Tariff and Related Matters (CTRM) and in the ASEAN on matters pertaining to labor mobility and capacity building, and as Vice-Chairperson for the Philippine APEC HRD Working Group, particularly the Labor and Social Protection Network

(LSPN), among others. She has a Masteral Degree in Development Studies in the area of Human Resources and Development at the Institute of Social Studies at the Erasmus University in the Hague, Netherlands.



Dr. DAVID KHOUDOUR is the Head of the Migration and Skills Unit at the OECD Development Centre in Paris, France. As such he is responsible for the policy-oriented work of the Centre on migration and development, and on education and skills. He is also the vice-chair of the KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on “Policy and institutional coherence”. Before he joined the OECD, in 2010, he was a researcher at the CEPIL, a French economic think-tank, and a lecturer at Sciences Po in Paris, from where he holds a PhD in Economics. Dr. Khoudour, a French national, has also been a Fulbright scholar at the University of California-Berkeley, a professor of economics and the director of the research centre on international migration at the Universidad Externado de Colombia in Bogota, and a consultant for the ILO and the IOM.



Ms. MONAMI MAULIK is the Founder and former Executive Director of DRUM- The South Asian Organizing Center. Monami Maulik was born in Kolkata, India and grew up as a migrant woman in New York City. She has been an NGO leader and organizer in the fields of migrant rights, racial equity, and global justice for over 18 years. She holds a master degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and an undergraduate degree in International Development, Women’s Studies, and South Asian Studies from Cornell University. In 2000, Ms. Maulik founded DRUM- The South Asian Organizing Center as one of the first South Asian migrant workers’ organizations for social justice in the diaspora. From 2000-2014, she served as the Executive Director building leadership, developing campaigns, and leading national and global policy change work. She has led policy strategy and coalition building on migration, civil rights, national security reform, and educational equity. She currently serves as a board member of the U.S. Human Rights Network and the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and as an Associate for the Global Migration Policy Associates. Ms. Maulik has received the Union Square Award, the Open Society Institute NYC Community Fellowship, the Jane Bagely Lehman Award of the Tides Foundation “Honoring Post 9/11 Organizing for Immigrant Rights and Civil Liberties”, the Community Leadership Award from New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm, and the Asian American Heritage Award from NYC Comptroller John C. Liu, and the Compass Award from Women in Islam. She is published in Howard Zinn’s book, “Voices of a People’s History” and the Journal on Race and Ethnicity. She currently serves as an independent migrant rights policy consultant.



Ms. MICHELLE LEIGHTON is Chief of the Labour Migration Branch. Ms Michelle Leighton received her LL.M degree from the London school of Economics and Political Science, London, England, her J.D. from Golden Gate University Law School with honors, and B.A. from the University of California at Davis.

Ms Leighton has taught on many law faculties in Asia, Europe and the United States. She has served as an adviser and consultant to international institutions, government, and non-profit organizations since 1992. Ms Leighton coordinated various research projects with academics, government agencies and local experts on migration, including in the Americas, Africa, Central Europe and Central Asia. Most recently, Ms. Leighton co-founded and was Deputy Director of the American University of Central Asia's Tian Shan Policy Center and Professor of law, after serving as the United States Fulbright Scholar in Kyrgyzstan. She served as the Munich Re Foundation Chair on Social Vulnerability for the United Nations University-EHS Institute, Bonn, Germany from 2009-2012.

M. Leighton's expertise is in labour migration, democratic governance, human rights and human security and she has conducted global and field research into best practices and the linkages between human migration and development, including impacts to rural livelihoods from unsustainable agricultural land and water management, and climate change.



M. EL HABIB NADIR is the Secretary General of the Ministry in charge of Moroccan living abroad and migration affairs. He is a doctor engineer from Polytechnic Institute of Grenoble, France. He was counsellor on management in the ministry of equipment and the General Director of National Agency of Alphabetization.



Dr. O.Can ÜNVER is a member-elect of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW). He held various capacities both at the national and international levels. Among many other public and international duties, he served as the Director General of Services to Turkish Workers Abroad at the MLSS, Ankara. He also chaired the Committee of Experts on the Application of European Convention on Social Security (SS-AC) at the Council of Europe.

Ms. JASIYA KHATOON is the Director of WARBE (Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants) Development Foundation and handling different projects and programs, including “Promoting Safe Migration for Potential Migrants and Reintegration for Returnees” funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation, “Combating Trafficking in Persons for Labor Exploitation Among Vulnerable Workers Activities” funded by Solidarity Centre Bangladesh and “Promote Migrants Rights by Enhancing Awareness on Safe Migration, Reintegration & Livelihood Options” supported by DanChurchAid. As WARBE Director from 2008 to date, she has been primarily focused on grassroots advocacy, where she has had the opportunity to raise awareness amongst migrant stakeholder groups and help organize them in advocating to the national government to change relevant laws and policies on migration. On these occasions, her duties have primarily centered on overseeing the project guidelines and implementation of these advocacy programs. She has participated in different regional and international conference and training like Asian domestic workers (ADWA) conference in Indonesia, Training on Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in Philippines, Diplomacy Training Program on Capacity Building Program on Human Rights Advocacy and Migrant Workers in the Middle East in Qatar, World Social Forum (WSF) in Philippines, Exchange Program in USA etc.



Mr. LARS JOHAN LÖNNBACK is Head of Division for International Processes within the International Cooperation and Partnerships Division at the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM’s) headquarters in Geneva. He joined the IOM in 2010. Between 1996 and 2010, Lönnback was employed in the Swedish Foreign Service. He most recently served as the Swedish Permanent Representative as Counsellor, and prior to that, as Detached National Expert in the European Commission. Previously, he was a political officer in the Office of the High Representative for the Dayton Peace Accords, based in Sarajevo. He has served with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Russian Federation (1994) and in Iraq (1991). Mr. Lönnback received his LL.M. in international law from the University of Stockholm.



Ms. GRETCHEN KHUNER is the Founder and Director of Founder and Director, Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración (IMUMI).



Ms. JIN SOOK LEE - Since 2010 Jin Sook Lee is the Global Director Migration, Gender, and Campaigns for the Building and Wood Workers International (BWI), a Global Union representing 12 million members in the building, building materials, wood, forestry, and allied sectors in 135 countries based in Geneva, Switzerland. Currently the BWI Chairs the Council of Global Unions Working Group on Migration. Prior to this position Lee was the Regional Coordinator for two regional projects focusing on migration and development of construction networks for the BWI Asia Pacific Region in Seoul, Korea from 2003 to 2010. At the same time, Lee served as the International Director for the Korean Federation of Construction Industry Trade unions. Prior to moving to South Korea, Lee was the Executive Director for the Asia Pacific Labour alliance, AFL-CIO, a constituency group representing Asian American and Pacific Islander workers in the United States.



DR. JENNA HENNEBRY is an Associate Professor with the Balsille School of International Affairs, and is the Director of the International Migration Research Centre (IMRC) at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research focuses on international migration and mobility, with a specialization in labour migration. Dr. Hennebry's research portfolio includes comparative studies of migration policy and labour migration with an emphasis on migrant worker rights and health, gender and migration, and the role of migration and remittances in development. Her work has been funded by provincial, national and international agencies, and has been published in a range of journals, such as *International Migration*, *International Journal of Sociology*, *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, among others. Ongoing projects examine the role of bilateral labour mobility agreements in protecting migrant rights and access to social protections for migrant workers, the role of non-state actors and the expanding migration industry in labour migration, and shifting regimes of labour migration governance worldwide. She has recently completed a project for the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) examining coherence across bilateral labour migration and development policies. Dr. Hennebry is currently working with UN Women on an international comparative project involving Moldova, Mexico and the Philippines, 'Promoting and Protecting Women Migrant Worker's Labour and Human Rights'. See: <http://www.balsillieschool.ca/people/jenna-l-hennebry>