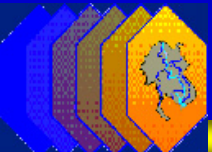


Labor Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion

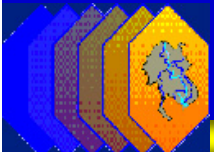
The Fourth GMS Development Dialogue

Thailand Delegation



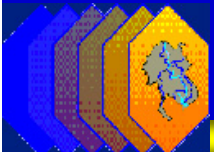
Presentation Coverage

- The GMS Development Dialogue and the Phnom Penh Plan
- The GDD structure and mechanics
- Highlights of the Dialogue



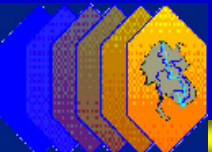
The GMS Development Dialogue and the Phnom Penh Plan

- An initiative under the Phnom Penh Plan for Development Management (PPP)
- PPP is a region wide capacity building program for GMS development managers and policy makers
 - Learning experiences (training programs, lectures by distinguished speakers, multisectoral dialogues such as the GDD)
 - Knowledge products (Journal of GMS Development Studies; research grants)
 - Advocacy and outreach (alumni networking, learning centers such as in Cambodia and one to be established soon in Lao PDR)



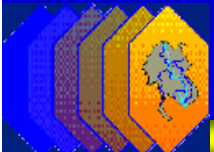
The GMS Development Dialogue (GDD)

- provides a platform for a cross-sectoral dialogue and debate on development issues among government, academe, private sector, civil society organizations, and media.
- helps decision makers broaden their perspectives and appreciate the wider implications of critical policy choices



4th GDD: Labor Migration in the GMS

- Emergence of a regional labor market is accelerating migration
 - Greater physical connectivity
 - Trade liberalization and economic integration
 - Economic and social differences in stages of development
- Migration has outpaced policy responses and institutional capacity to deal with migration issues
- Migration has an important role in economic growth and the reduction of poverty



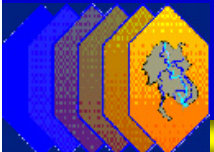
4th GDD Format

Session 1: Regional Integration and labor migration in the GMS

Session 2: The economic role of migration

Session 3: The protection of migrant workers

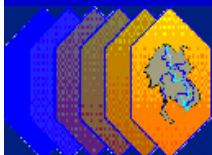
Session 4: Towards a regional approach to sustainable migration management in the GMS



GDD Highlights

Key Insights (1)

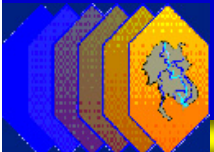
- Important **insights** that emerged during the Dialogue
- A holistic and comprehensive labor migration policy is essential to realize the benefits of migration for development.
- The economic downturn has affected migration in two ways:
 - Decline in migration flows in sectors affected by the recession
 - No change in migrant stock/level in host country but increased ratio of undocumented migrants



GDD Highlights

Key Insights (2)

- Employers of migrant workers are not necessarily motivated by cheap labor. Productivity is more important for competitiveness. Consumers' social awareness mitigate against products produced under exploitative conditions.
- Migration flows within the GMS seem to be moving towards the category of semi-skilled workers.
- Gender aspects of migration policy require careful attention.

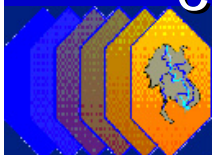


GDD Highlights

Key Action Points (1)

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SYSTEMS

- The national policy framework should be based on the recognition that migration can contribute positively to development and poverty reduction.
- Well-functioning coordination mechanisms for migration management are essential for policies to be effective.
- Regular, systematic and inclusive national consultations should be a key feature of national coordinating mechanisms.



GDD Highlights

Key Action Points (2)

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SYSTEMS

- Developing and strengthening databases on labor migration should be an important item in the migration management agenda. Databases should be gender sensitive.
- Governments should identify the full scale of factors causing irregular migration and the conditions that promote it. A facilitative, rather than a control-oriented approach to migration management could be more effective.
- Labor migration needs to be linked with policies on education and technical and vocational skills training.

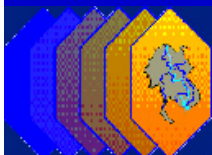


GDD Highlights

Key Action Points (3)

EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTING AND EXPANDING BILATERAL MOUs

- Implementation of bilateral MOUs can be improved by reducing the cost of migrating through legal channels, improving national-level coordination, and improving awareness and implementation capacity of local officials.
- Bilateral MOUs among GMS countries (or with Yunnan and Guangxi) could be expanded (e.g. between Cambodia and Viet Nam, PRC and Viet Nam, etc.)

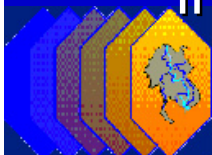


GDD Highlights

Key Action Points (4)

TOWARDS A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

- A roadmap with clear building blocks for working towards a regional framework could be established as part of the WGHRD work plan over the medium-term.
- Strengthening national frameworks is a starting point. A national consultative process which is regular, systematic, well-focused and inclusive of all stakeholders should be initiated.
- Implementation of bilateral arrangements should also be improved.
- Discussions on the role of a regional framework should be initiated.



THANK YOU

