



## 11th ADBI-OECD-ILO Roundtable on Labor Migration in Asia: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Building Back Better

Jointly organized by:

Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

**7-8 April 2021**

9am-12pm (Paris), 2-5pm (Bangkok) 4-7pm (Tokyo)

**Zoom Videoconference hosted by ADBI**

7 April 2021	
16:00 (JST) 9:00 (CET)	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <p><i>Welcome address and presentation of the program</i></p> <p><b>Tetsushi Sonobe</b>, Dean &amp; CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute</p> <p><b>Stefano Scarpetta</b>, Director, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</p> <p><b>Panudda Boonpala</b>, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, International Labour Organization</p>
	<p><b>Group Photo</b></p>
16:15-16:30 (JST) 9:15-9:30 (CET)	<p><b>Keynote speaker:</b> <b>Nedret Emiroglu</b>, Director, Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization</p> <p><i>Resuming international mobility in the persistence of Covid-19: health passports, travel bubbles and quarantine measures</i></p>
16:30-17:15 (JST) 9:30-10:15 (CET)	<p><b>Session 1: Labor Migration Trends and Policies in Asia</b></p> <p><i>This session will focus on recent trends in migration and its governance at regional and global levels in the context of the pandemic as well as remittances flows in the region. Questions addressed in this session include: What are the main global trends in international migration, in terms of channels, their magnitude and direction and how have migrant workers been impacted by the pandemic? How have remittance flows been affected by changing labor markets and opportunities in destination economies?</i></p>

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jean-Christophe Dumont</b>, Head, International Migration Division, OECD</li> <li>• <b>Nilim Baruah</b>, Senior Regional Labour Migration Specialist, Decent Work Team, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ILO</li> <li>• <b>Pitchaya Sirivunnabood</b>, CBT Economist, ADBI</li> </ul>
<p>17:15-17:25 (JST) 10:15-10:25 (CET)</p>	<p><b>Q&amp;As and discussion</b></p>
<p>17:25-18:40 (JST) 10:25-11:40 (CET)</p>	<p><b>Session 2: Overview of the 2020-2021 Deployment and Recruitment Trends</b></p> <p><i>This session will go around the “table” and delegates will present the main trends in 2020-2021, describing the impact of Covid-19 on inflows and outflows of labor migrants. Each will have 5 minutes to provide an overview of how trends changed in 2020 and the extent to which they have returned to pre-pandemic levels. Delegates can also mention specific provisions taken to change targets or levels.</i></p> <p><i>Delegates are invited to share additional information (statistics, policy responses and protocols) in the chat box.</i></p> <p><b>Session chair:</b> Jean-Christophe Dumont, OECD</p>
<p>18:40-19:00 (JST) 11:40-12:00 (CET)</p>	<p><b>Q&amp;As and discussion</b></p>
<p><b>8 April 2021</b></p>	
<p>16:00-16:45 (JST) 9:00-9:45 (CET)</p>	<p><b>Session 3: Repatriation and Support for Returning Workers</b></p> <p><i>Many countries had to repatriate their nationals who were stranded abroad due to job loss or other difficulties created by the pandemic. This session will discuss the related issues around return and repatriation under pandemic conditions, from the perspective of both sending and receiving country, and what happened after return. Delegates will discuss how governments organized repatriation efforts, how costs were shared among different actors (state, migrant, etc.), and what steps were taken to communicate to citizens abroad about options for repatriation. The session will also address reintegration measures in the home country, including cash benefits and job placement. Further, the session will also address efforts to ensure payment of severance and final wages and other benefits in the face of difficulties in pursuing payment after return or due to employers acting illegally.</i></p> <p><i>After the introductory presentations, each delegate will have 3 minutes to present the efforts taken to support repatriation and reintegrate returning labor migrants. Additional information (statistics, policy responses) can be posted in the chat box.</i></p> <p><b>Session chair:</b> Shabarinath Nair, Regional Labour Migration Specialist, Decent Work Team for South Asia, ILO</p>

	<p><b>Introductory presentations (7 minutes each)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jitender Singh, Director, Social Infrastructure, Employment, &amp; Human Development Unit, Economic Division, Department of Economic Affairs, India</li> <li>• Nasreen Jahan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates, Welfare, and Overseas Employment, Bangladesh</li> <li>• Hans Leo J. Cacdac, Head, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Philippines</li> </ul> <p><b>Delegates</b></p> <p><b>Q&amp;A and discussion</b></p>
<p>16:45-17:15 (JST) 9:45-10:15 (CET)</p>	<p><b>Session 4: Housing and Accommodation</b></p> <p><i>Housing quality for migrant workers is a long-standing issue that has been magnified by the pandemic. Ensuring that housing is adequate became even more urgent during COVID-19 as outbreaks were facilitated by – and often concentrated in – overcrowded and substandard housing, whether arranged by employers or by migrant workers themselves.</i></p> <p><i>This session will look at standards and regulations on housing, measures taken during the pandemic to address short-term and longer-term concerns, and how accommodation for migrant workers might be reorganized post-pandemic.</i></p> <p><i>After the introductory presentations, delegates will have 3 minutes each to present on how to improve housing conditions for migrant workers. This will also include whether future MOUs and BLAs or model contracts should contain more information on housing and accommodation in light of the experience during Covid-19. Presentations will be followed by discussion. Additional information (statistics, policy responses) can be posted in the chat box.</i></p> <p><b>Session chair:</b> Nilim Baruah, ILO</p> <p><b>Introductory presentations (5 minutes each)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alex Chen, Director Plans, Assurance, Care and Engagement (ACE) Group, Ministry of Manpower, Singapore</li> <li>• Seori Choi, Migration Research and Training Center, Republic of Korea</li> </ul> <p><b>Delegates</b></p> <p><b>Q&amp;A and discussion</b></p>
<p>17:15-17:45 (JST) 10:15-10:45 (CET)</p>	<p><b>Session 5: Resuming Deployment: Health Considerations</b></p> <p><i>Health requirements imposed by destination countries and by airlines are imposed until the pandemic is over. This session examines what governments are doing to support migrant workers in meeting the health requirements imposed in destination countries. Among the topics are testing availability, quarantine facilities and the means for covering the cost of such measures. The issue of domestic workers and their exposure to potential risk in the workplace is also covered in this session.</i></p> <p><i>The discussion will also address the inclusion of migrant workers in vaccination programs in both origin and destination countries.</i></p>

	<p><i>This session will go around the table and delegates will have 3 minutes to present efforts by their governments to provide and ensure testing, tracing, quarantine and treatment. Additional information (statistics, details on policy responses, links to information campaigns) can be posted in the chat box.</i></p> <p><b>Session chair:</b> Pitchaya Sirivunnabood, ADBI</p> <p><b>Introductory presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patarapom Samantarath, Assistant Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Thailand</li> <li>• Dharendra Wardhana, Senior Planner, Directorate of Manpower, National Development Planning Agency/BAPPENAS, Indonesia</li> </ul> <p><b>Delegates</b></p> <p><b>Q&amp;A and discussion</b></p>
<p>17:45-18:30 (JST) 10:45-11:30 (CET)</p>	<p><b>Session 6 (Breakout sessions): Impact on Long-term Planning for Deployment</b></p> <p><b>Session chair:</b> Jonathan Chaloff, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD</p> <p><i>Reactivating labor migration pathways will mean some changes. The pandemic has reshuffled the map of destination and caused a rethinking of the types of migrant workers which are priority and essential. Entry quotas may have been changed in destination countries. In some origin countries, quotas on exits of health care workers have been imposed.</i></p> <p><i>Delegates will break into <b>4-6 small groups (8-10 persons)</b> to discuss what they see as the possible medium- and long-term impact of the pandemic on deployment and recruitment plans and strategies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How will labor migration look in 2022? Will it go back to 2019 “normal”? What will be different and what will be the same?</li> <li>- How will health provisions be part of migration? How will any additional costs be met, keeping in mind international standards?</li> <li>- How can countries/ IOs support the role of digitalization to facilitate post-COVID-19 labor migration management? How can digital tools help migrant workers protect their rights? How can digital tools help authorities to communicate with, and provide support to, migrant workers?</li> </ul>
<p>18:30-18:35 (JST) 11:30-11:35 (CET)</p>	<p><b>Break</b> Breakout room facilitators and notetakers can use this time to prepare for the following session.</p>
<p>18.35-18.50 (JST) 11:35-11:50 (CET)</p>	<p><b>Reporting back</b> – notetakers will present in plenary a summary of points covered in the different breakout groups.</p>

18.50-19.00 (JST) 11:50-12:00 (CET)	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>
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