

Linking Migration and Public Policy: Why Does It Matter?"

Seminar Series on Migration and Development

I. Rationale

FOCAL is introducing a new component to its labour mobility project in 2010: a Seminar Series on Migration and Development. The first seminar, which will be held **Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.** at FOCAL, will focus on the question "Linking Migration and Public Policy: Why does it Matter?"

The new initiative aims to share expertise and good practice on migration and development management with stakeholder groups in Canada (including government, development practitioners, Diasporas and civil society) through a series of dynamic video conferences between January and August 2010.

The initiative intends to encourage meaningful civil society participation in an ongoing global debate on the migration-development nexus, which was evidenced by the large civil society turn-out at the 2009 Global Forum on Migration and Development in Athens, as well as by recent efforts of many countries to include migration issues into their existing development agendas (e.g. MDG plans).

This seminar series is also based on the thesis that linking development outcomes to migration processes – which involves creating incentives for positive impacts as well as mitigating negative impacts – is learned in large part through the sharing of effective practices, knowledge and regional expertise, including from civil society.

II. Objectives

The Seminar Series aims to identify and share:

- a) New and innovative policies or programs that support migrant groups in ways that contribute positively to home communities, and
- b) Research that can help policymakers improve policies or programs contributing to the migration-development nexus.

III. Selection criteria of topics

- 1) Related to one of the Canadian International Development Agency's three thematic priorities: children and youth (including child health), increasing food security and sustainable economic growth
- 2) Under-researched academic field or emerging example of "effective practice"
- 3) Regional topics (Latin American and Caribbean) will be prioritized

Presenters will be asked to incorporate a gendered analysis (i.e. addressing questions about gendered outcomes and impacts) into their presentations.

IV. Outputs

Seminars will link presenters from around the world with Canadian stakeholders using video conferencing from the Canadian Foundation for the Americas' boardroom.

Presenters are asked to submit at least one of the following: a PowerPoint presentation and/or a paper on their topic, to be posted on the FOCAL website and distributed to a listserv.

VI. Impacts

Increased knowledge and tools to better consider the migration-development nexus in program or policy formulation among government and civil society stakeholders, or on new areas of action-oriented research, among academics.

VII. Calendar of Seminars

The first seminar will be held on **Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010 from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** at the FOCAL boardroom, located at 720-1 Nicholas Street. Ottawa, Ontario.

Laura Chappell is a Senior Research Fellow at ippr. Since 2006, she has authored and edited a number of publications on migration and development and the economics of migration to the UK, both for ippr and for organisations such as the OECD and UNDP. Previously Laura worked as an ODI Fellow at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Fiji and for the Liberal Democrat Policy and Research Unit on Treasury issues. Laura holds an MSc with Distinction in Development Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, and a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford.

Alex Glennie is a Research Fellow at ippr, where she has worked on a range of international and security issues since 2006. During this time, she has served on the Secretariat of ippr's Commission on National Security in the 21st Century, contributed to a programme of research on migration and development and has led the Institute's work on political Islam in the Middle East and North Africa. Prior to this she worked at AccountAbility, an international NGO committed to promoting accountability for sustainable development. Alex holds a Masters degree in International Studies and Diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies, and a BA honours degree in International History from the London School of Economics.

To RSVP, please send an email to Fatima Gardaad at [fgardaad \[at\] focal.ca](mailto:fgardaad@focal.ca) by Monday, Feb. 8, 2010