



**Asian Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Labour Migration**  
***Migrant Workers' Rights to Social Protection***  
15 – 17 September 2011, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**NARRATIVE REPORT**

**Summary**

Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Centre for Migrant Advocacy (CMA), MFA Cambodia (CARAM Cambodia, Legal Support for Women & Children, and Cambodian Women for Peace & Development), and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) welcomed 26 parliamentarians, as well as legislative staff members and select civil society and trade union representatives to Phnom Penh for the 5<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Labour Migration. The program participants were from 8 ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Lao, and Vietnam), and 2 from South Asian countries (India and Nepal). The participants were brought together to address two important issues within the scope of the protection of migrant workers and members of their families: access to social security/protection, and the formalization of a caucus of parliamentarians to foster collaboration across Asia on migrant worker issues.

This program marked the fifth in a continuing series of dialogues co-organized by MFA and FES that began in 2007. Past programs were organized in Manila (2007), Singapore (2008), Thailand (2009), and Vietnam (2010), parallel to the respective meetings of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), and were aimed at identifying a role for parliamentarians on this issue, enhancing participation of MPs in that role, and identifying key issue areas to take on. A related meeting of parliamentarians took place in Manila in 2011, which included the participation of South Asian and ASEAN parliamentarians, to raise the profile of the specific issue of migrant domestic workers as a lead-up to the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization, where deliberations resulted in the adoption of ILO Convention 189: Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

The gathering in Phnom Penh consisted of a series of plenary sessions, collective brainstorming sessions and small group strategizing. This was the first program in which a group of parliamentarians – the Cambodian local hosts – came prepared with their own statement for the AIPA Committee on Social Matters, which the assembled agreed to endorse. Another outcome of the gathering was the formalization of an Asian Inter-Parliamentary Caucus through a resolution that was enthusiastically supported by all MP participants.

## Context of Labour Migration and Social Protection in ASEAN

Ellene Sana (CMA) presented an overview of international migration in Asia and social protection for migrant workers in order to set the context of discussions. This presentation was supplemented by opening remarks by Her Excellency Ho Naun, who provided a robust statistical situationer on labour migration within ASEAN.

Based on 2010 statistics, Asia is home to 28% of the world's migrants, 44.6% of whom are women. There are also significant numbers of undocumented workers, which are difficult to quantify. Migrant labour in Asia is dominated by private recruitment agencies. Most migrate on a contract basis as temporary, circular migrants. Women migrants are mostly independent migrants working as domestic workers in private households, with individuals as their employers. They often work without contracts and are considered part of the "informal" sector.

Migrant workers lack security in their employment and due to their status as migrant workers. In general:

1. Migrant workers get sick, get fired, retire
2. Lack job security – first to be fired, last to be hired
3. Are vulnerable to political-economic shocks
4. Have short-term benefits on a contract basis

For women migrant workers:

1. Concentrated in domestic work & low-skilled jobs
2. Excluded from labour and social laws
3. Have no provisions for social security
4. Must self-enroll in social security schemes

Social protection is a right enshrined in the following international instruments:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - Article 22: *"Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security"*
  - Article 25: *"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and his family..."*
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
  - Article 9: *"States parties recognize the right of everyone to social security including social insurance."*
- ILO C118: Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention, 1962 (37 Ratifications)
- ILO C157: Maintenance of Social Security Rights Convention, 1982 (4 Ratifications)
- ILO C19: Equality of Treatment (Accident Compensation) Convention, 1925 (121 Ratifications)
- ILO C48: Maintenance of Migrants' Pension Rights Convention, 1935 (8 Ratifications)
- ILO R167: Maintenance of Social Security Rights, 1983

**Social Protection:** 'is often interpreted as having a broader character than social security (including protection provided between members of the family or members of a local community) but is also used in some contexts with a narrower meaning (understood as comprising only measures addressed to the poorest, most vulnerable or excluded members of society)... Social protection has the following aspects: (1) interchangeable with "social security;" (2) as "protection" provided by social security in case of social risks and needs' (pg.13).

**Social Security:** '...covers all measures providing benefits, whether in cash or in kind, to secure protection from: (a) lack of work-related income (or sufficient income) caused by sickness, disability, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, old age or death of a family member; (b) lack of access or unaffordable access to health care; (c) insufficient family support, particularly for children and adult dependents; and (d) general poverty and social exclusion... Social security has two main dimensions, namely "income security" and "availability of medical care..." (pg. 13/14).

ILO *World Social Security Report* (2011), as cited in research by Andy Hall.

- UN MWC (42 Ratifications)
  - Articles 25-28, Equal Treatment to Nationals of the State of Employment

## Migrant Workers' Rights to Social Protection

The issue of social protection for migrant workers was elaborated by a presentation by Andy Hall of Mahidol University, Thailand. Mr. Hall's research, jointly commissioned by MFA and FES, lays out the context of social protection in ASEAN by considering the social protection mechanisms available at the regional and international levels, and 4 case studies at the national level covering Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore. The presentation of his preliminary findings was followed by responses from the participants from the case study countries, and then from the other participants in the gathering. These inputs will feed into the next draft of Mr. Hall's research, and will also contribute to expansions of the research in this area. The following highlights are taken from Mr. Hall's presentation and the ensuing discussion among the participants.

### *Social Protection for Migrants in the ASEAN Context*

Social protection for migrant workers is of increasing global significance, and is reflected in the ASEAN region in initiatives like the ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Declarations such as this are concerned mostly about the human and labour rights of migrant workers, and little attention is paid to social protection with the exception of some campaigns on accident victims.

As yet, there is no clear standard within ASEAN for the rights of migrant workers. An ASEAN Framework for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers is being drafted, but negotiations have stalled due to problems in receiving countries. It is important for this to move forward, and for social protection to be considered for inclusion in this framework. In a key intervention, Ellene Sana (CMA) noted that she had recently received word from her contacts in the Philippines that a meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Migrant Workers had taken place, and a new deadline for the drafting (March 2012) was agreed upon.

### *Five Key Principles of Social Protection*

1. Equality of treatment: all workers, migrants and nationals, should have the same rights; this is often enshrined in bilateral and multilateral MOUs
2. Provision of benefits abroad: social protection is usually designed to offer long-term protection, so unless there is a means to access this protection once the migrant worker returns home, it can be difficult to manage across borders
3. Administration of the system: it is important to determine which country will oversee the program over what particular period of time, and when responsibility will pass between the two
4. Totalizing: must ensure that benefits are packaged properly, as some migrants work for long periods of time in one country, while others work for short contracts in multiple countries; it is important that the schemes can work together
5. Assistance for migrants: migrants need help to access social protection systems (e.g. translators for paperwork, access to information in a language they can understand, etc.)

To this list, and related to “equity of treatment,” Dr. Mayong Aguja (former Congress Representative of Akbayan Party List, Philippines, and presently trustee of the Philippines’ Government Service Insurance System, GSIS), added social solidarity and gender equity, indicating that many programs are not sensitive to the particular needs of women. ‘Solidarity’ refers to the notion that those who are paid higher wages should make higher contributions to the system.

*Workers in the Informal Sector/Undocumented Labour*

The informalization of work means that workers are functioning in less secure contexts. Undocumented workers face significant challenges both legally and administratively. Many migrant workers, particularly undocumented workers, are employed in the informal sector, and are denied social protection as a result. Some migrant workers are employed in the formal sector as well, however there is a significant gap between the entitlement to social protection and access to it.

Social protection is generally seen as the domain of the formal workforce (i.e. high-wage sectors and the civil service). It is often argued that migrant social protection is a secondary issue to that of the need for the protection of workers in the informal sector. Others argue that the protection of migrant workers and informal sector workers should be dealt with simultaneously.

Dr. Som Ock Kingsada (MP, Lao) indicated that the undocumented status of so many migrant workers makes it almost impossible for them to create a sustainable livelihood. Discussions on social protection should also focus on the need to protect undocumented workers.

*Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)*

Many sending and receiving states in ASEAN/Asia have entered into MOUs in order to protect the rights and welfare of migrant workers in a variety of sectors. While most of these MOUs fail to directly address social protection, most have provisions for non-discrimination/equality, implying that labour rights, human rights, and social protection rights should apply equally to nationals and migrant workers on the basis of non-discrimination.

Hon. Charles Santiago (MP, Malaysia) affirmed that MOUs are the most likely means of attaining social protection for migrant workers, because governments are already signing such agreements. It is through MOUs that governments of sending countries can insist on higher standards and social protection mechanisms. Governments can also look at including social protection for migrant workers in free trade agreements.

**Barriers to Migrant Social Protection**

Legal Barriers:

- programs are open only to nationals
- residency requirements (low/semi-skilled migrant workers are often ineligible for permanent residency)
- lack of proper documentation (particularly for those who are irregular migrants or working in the informal sector; also, some rules prevent those who are injured from maintaining their status as ‘worker’)
- eligibility periods (some schemes require multiple years’ worth of contributions before the worker can make a claim)
- work sector (workers in the informal sector are often not eligible in any way for social protection arrangements)

Administrative Barriers:

- some migrant workers cannot certify the documents they need to claim their benefits (e.g. a lack of consistency across states in the issuance of marriage or birth certificates)
- problems transferring money
- communication difficulties (language issues, etc.)

Overcoming the Barriers:

- bilateral social security agreements between host & sending states are to be encouraged
- look to examples of regional agreements (e.g. the social security set-up of the European Union)
- look to upholding the core standards set by the ILO

### *Implementation of Social Protection Policies / Problems of Corruption*

Even when migrant workers are entitled to social protection, it can be difficult to access. In reality, the enforcement of regulations is questionable, and in many contexts there is no genuine attempt by sending or receiving states to actually implement specific measures to facilitate access. One explanation for this is that migrants are mobile populations, and there is no specific measure to target them at a practical level.

Wahyu Susilo (Migrant Care, Indonesia) indicated that the schemes in place in Indonesia do not, in reality, offer protection, but are rather another site of exploitation of migrant workers. This is due to corruption in the administration of these programs. Mr. Susilo cited 2 scandals involving migrant insurance schemes. This was supported by MP Lily Chadidjah Wahid, who indicated that people cannot access the services to which they are entitled.

Mr. Hall indicated that the problems of exploitation, particularly in the Indonesian program to be administered at the airport, are well known, and that research about this particular scheme would likely easily reveal corrupt practices. This was identified as an area that should be revisited through field research.

Senator S. Ramakrishnan (Malaysia) also brought out the issue of undocumented migrant workers and issues of corruption. In Malaysia, almost 50% of migrant workers are undocumented. This subjects these workers to harassment by law enforcement agencies, in spite of any government protections decreed, or MOUs in place. He indicated the importance of acknowledging the corruption in law enforcement agencies, and that while receiving countries must work on this, sending countries must be aware and look at the conditions under which their migrants will be working. Sending states should try to empower NGOs/agencies to monitor the welfare/conditions of these migrant workers.

### *Recommendations Emerging from the Research*

1. ASEAN destination countries must have a multilateral framework on social protection, following from the examples of the European Union, the Caribbean states, etc. Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand seem best positioned to take the lead on this, as they have the most advanced schemes and large numbers of migrants.
2. MOUs should be signed that prioritize social protection. The current MOUs in place address many issues, particularly with respect to human and labour rights, but fall short of extending social protection mechanisms.
3. Involvement with UN Agencies and embassies to facilitate access to social protection for migrant workers. Reaching out to the diplomatic community is a good place to start.
4. While there is much work to be done with respect to undocumented migrants, perhaps the issues of social protection are better dealt with for documented migrants first, as those populations are the most accessible and are being denied the rights to which they are entitled.

Her Excellency Ho Naun, Cambodia, recommended as well that research take into account regional best practices that could serve to better inform policy-makers on the options available for migrant social protection.

## Summary of Case Study Findings

### Indonesia

Social Protection in Indonesia is provided for workers in the formal sector and the civil service; a special scheme is provided for members of the military. However, most workers are not protected. For those who are covered, the basic benefits are included in their schemes (health insurance, income security, old age pension, unemployment benefits, etc.). In 2004, a voluntary scheme was implemented for workers in the informal sector.

Migrant workers are not covered by any social security schemes. The government provides some pre-departure training for those going abroad. Some (not all) destination countries require that migrant workers be covered by social insurance schemes, and as such, before these migrants leave Indonesia, they must buy an insurance policy for \$47. Onsite in destination countries, embassies and consular offices provide assistance for migrant workers in distress. Upon return, migrant workers are entitled to assistance at the airport that is to include transportation, legal aid, financial support, etc., however this is not properly implemented. Much of the problem stems from the fact that Indonesia is geographically spread out, and coordination from the central to local areas is lacking. Government officials involved in these programs are generally ineffective in providing social protection.

Indonesia has instituted MOUs with many receiving countries, some with basic provisions for social protection. However, officials who are supposed to deliver these programs are often complicit in the abuses that the migrants face while they are abroad.

The national migration laws of Indonesia are concerned primarily with reducing unemployment through the promotion of work overseas. However there is no real commitment/policy to bring in protection mechanisms for migrant workers.

### The Philippines

As is the case of Indonesia, the formal sector in the Philippines has strong social protection mechanisms. However, the low skilled workers of the country have no mandatory coverage. The main social security systems in the Philippines are the SSS (for the private sector) and GSIS (for the civil service), and both have been in place for half a century.

Currently, there are 8 million Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in 214 countries. These migrants remit a significant amount of money annually. There is a program through which OFWs can voluntarily contribute to a social security scheme while they are overseas. The Philippines has a large network of liaison officers and consular officers overseas to support OFWs. There are 15 social security offices overseas as well to facilitate access to the social security system. This is quite advanced compared to other migrant sending countries. In spite of this set-up, many OFWs, particularly migrant domestic workers, still have difficulties accessing social protection.

### Singapore

The percentage of migrant workers is very high in Singapore, and the government has a clear economic policy that is dependent on migrant labour. Migrant workers are a part of the economic policy of the country, and most are concentrated in low and semi-skilled jobs.

Like the Philippines, Singapore's social protection mechanisms have been in place for half a century. The national program, called the Central Provident Fund, is a savings scheme that workers contribute to. It is open to all Singaporeans as well as to permanent residents. The main issue with this fund is that migrant workers do not have access to it. Most migrant workers are not permanent residents, and cannot become permanent residents because they do not meet the skills requirements. The government has instituted skills development programs for migrant workers to help to resolve this issue, and have created some incentives for employers to take advantage of these programs for their workers. Migrant workers are protected under general labour laws, and medical insurance is a requirement.

In sum, there is some social protection for migrant workers in Singapore, but little compared to that given to national workers. Restrictions are generally due to residency requirements. In addition, domestic workers and seafarers, who are part of the informal sector, do not have access. There is also no minimum wage in Singapore for any workers.

### Thailand

In Thailand, there are good social protection mechanisms in place for the civil service, following international standards. These protections include workplace injury coverage, maternity benefits, child allowances, pensions, unemployment insurance, etc. There is also a social protection mechanism for informal sector workers, who can pay into the SS fund; this scheme does not provide as much protection as that enjoyed by formal sector workers, but at the very least a program exists.

Thailand hosts many undocumented workers every year who are smuggled across the border. A process is in place to regularize these workers (mostly from Cambodia, Lao, and Myanmar). Through a national verification process, smuggled migrants have their nationalities verified and are issued identity documents giving them access to work. Once legally verified, these workers have equal access to social protection – that is, they are entitled to the same benefits and services as local Thai workers. There is also a universal health care policy for all – citizens and undocumented workers. That said, in interviews conducted by Mr. Hall and his team, migrant workers did not seem to know about the availability of these social protection benefits, even if they were working legally. Employers make deductions, but the social protection scheme is not accessible.

## *Further Insights Based on National Contexts*

### Singapore

Florence Tee Li Fong (SNTUC) noted that domestic workers and seafarers are covered under Singapore's Employment Act, and that there is a Foreign Manpower Act in place to provide for the welfare of foreign workers. With respect to domestic workers, the penal code has been recently amended such penalties are 1.5 times harsher for offences committed against domestic workers than for similar offences against others. This is meant to act as a deterrent against the abuse of domestic workers. Also, in 2009, the Migrant Workers Centre was set up to provide humanitarian assistance to both members and non-members of the SNTUC.

### Philippines

Cong. Carlos M. Padilla (Philippines) indicated that for the constituents of MPs, the day-to-day concern related to labour migration tends to be first, pre-departure (issues of illegal recruitment, fees, etc.), and second, onsite (complaints of abuse and mistreatment). The issue of social security is only brought forward by those workers who are happily employed, and only upon their return. While it is an important issue, this partially explains why parliaments are slow to take up the issue. Also, there are logistical considerations for the primary migrant sending countries. Governments cannot have social security offices in all countries where migrant workers are based, as this would be too costly and difficult to manage.

Dr. Mayong Aguja (Philippines) indicated discussed the relationship between social security systems and the nation-state paradigm, and how this causes difficulties in coming up with social security solutions for migrant workers. He also noted the importance of thinking in terms of sustainability, as a general problem in the region is that money put into social security systems is invested, and given the volatility of the markets, this can limit the capacity to service members in the future. Dr. Aguja agreed with Mr. Hall that a common advocacy agenda – migrant workers and informal sector workers – is a strong approach towards social protection.

### Thailand

Ms. Sirisaranya Paknirat (Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population & Development) highlighted the challenges in the process of legalizing undocumented migrant workers in the country. She indicated that many migrant workers lack the financial resources necessary to procure their documents, and that the human resources allocated to facilitate the documentation process are thin (3-5 officials working at the Ministry of Labour to process all of the applicants). It is important to convince local authorities to take up the challenge of the management of migrant workers.

### Malaysia

Hon. Charles Santiago (MP, Malaysia) suggested that another way to advocate for social protection is to put pressure on multinational companies in the region who employ migrant labourers to maintain minimum standards. Campaigns can address floor wages (in setting floor wages, social security can be built into the breakdown of food, non-food, and savings, and then countries sending workers can ensure that these categories are being followed – build social security into the concept).

### Cambodia

Her Excellency Mu Sochua (Cambodia) raised the point that specific gender issues pertaining to migrant domestic workers were not adequately covered in the paper/discussion, and that gender-based violence and sexual assault need to be considered in discussions on social protection. Offering

compensation for abuse and death is insufficient, and not enough is done after the fact to ensure that it does not recur.

### India

Mr. Thomas Thampan (Former MP, India) highlighted the common interests of migrant workers in ASEAN and South Asia, particularly their discriminatory treatment as second-class citizens, and the competition among workers from different countries for wages. One way to provide social protection for migrant workers is to involve them in trade union activities. A specific proposal is for states to set aside a portion of migrant worker remittances for a migrant worker social security program. Mr. Thampan indicated that he would formalize this suggestion as an input for Mr. Hall's paper.

### Nepal

Mr. Padma Lal Bishwokarma (Constituent Assembly, Nepal) indicated that many Nepalis are working in the Gulf and suffer for a variety of reasons. Workers face bonded labour, discrimination, poverty, and these issues all need to be addressed in forums such as these.

Mrs. Binda Pandey (Constituent Assembly, Nepal) reiterated Mr. Thampan's view that unionization is key to social protection. She called attention to MOUs signed between trade unions in order to provide social protection for migrant workers.

## Strategy Building

To move towards a concrete suggestions/strategies on how to move forward as a caucus of parliamentarians, and how to address the issues of social security for migrant workers, participants were split into 3 groups and asked to answer the following questions:

1. What specific strategies can be developed in promoting the rights of migrant workers in ASEAN and South Asia?
2. How can we advance the issue of social security/protection for migrant workers/informal sector workers?
3. What should be the role of parliamentarians in sending and receiving countries in developing social safety nets and skills development?

The matrix of the workshop results is appended to this report. Following the presentation of the matrix, the MPs were each asked to identify their top 3 priorities, which have been condensed into the following areas for action:

### **1. Parliamentarian Exchange Visits / Study Tours**

Exchange visits should be highly publicized and should bring significant media attention to the issues of migrant labour in the region. Teams of parliamentarians—made up of MPs from both sending and receiving countries—should visit states with high concentrations of migrant workers and monitor activities and write reports on their findings. Visits can be to government offices, migrant worker communities, workplaces employing migrant workers, etc.

### **2. Form National Parliamentary Caucuses/Committees on Labour Migration**

Committees at the national level should be formed within parliament to monitor government policies with respect to migrant workers and social protection.

### **3. Further Engagement of Appropriate Bodies**

As a caucus, and as individual MPs working at the national, regional, and international levels, it would be beneficial to engage the appropriate bodies (examples cited include SAARC, ILO, ASEAN, EU, and AIPA).

### **4. CSO/Trade Union Collaboration**

Collaboration with CSOs working on migrant worker issues to understand the challenges that migrant workers face, and to find new and innovative ways to work together.

### **5. Put forward legislation that ensures social protection of migrant workers and migrant domestic workers**

Work with our respective Parliaments to prepare the necessary legislation/bills to ensure social protection for migrant workers.

## **Previous Commitments & Spaces for Parliamentarians' Engagement**

Ellene Sana (CMA) made a brief presentation on the history of MFA/FES engagement in this program over the past 5 years, highlighting the commitments made in previous programs. These include:

- To sustain exchanges inside and/or outside AIPA (2007, Manila)
- To improve cooperation among MPs with CSOs and other stakeholders (2007, Manila)
- To attempt to fast-track the negotiations on the ASEAN Framework for Protection (2008, Singapore)
- To enhance parliamentary oversight functions (2009, Bangkok)
- To strengthen relations between sending & receiving countries (2010, Hanoi)
- To look beyond ASEAN to the rest of Asia for wider cooperation (2010, Hanoi)

William Gois (MFA) followed this up by presenting various spaces for advocacy that parliamentarians can incorporate into their strategies to advance the situation of social protection for migrant workers and informal sector workers. Referring to these in MFA parlance as “spaces of resistance”, he set out a number of forums in which parliamentarians can engage. These are as follows:

- **ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**
- **UN Committee on Migrant Workers** – a treaty body that meets on a regular basis; parliamentarians can follow up by encouraging debate in parliament on the MWC and try to create a critical mass in terms of discourse
- **ASEAN** – ASEAN Commission on Human Rights, ASEAN Commission on Women & Child Rights, ASEAN Committee for the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Migrant Workers
- **South Asia Social Forum** – This group recently met; parliamentarians can suggest items for the SASF to take up
- **Global Forum on Migration & Development** – a forum in which governments come together to exchange information on migration policies and programs; a good place for parliamentarians to ask what commitments have been made, and to develop their thinking on their own policies from a human rights perspective

- **Colombo Process** – sending state governments discuss how to optimize development benefits from organized overseas employment, and work to enhance dialogue with countries of destination
- **SAARC** – a very slow, South Asian process; the top agenda is women’s issues, so this might be something worth looking into

## Statement & Resolution

At this gathering, the participation of the MPs was formalized through the adoption of a resolution to establish the **Asian Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Labour Migration**. The Caucus will be Asia-wide, and will be open to all parliamentarians who participated in the past programs, as well as their colleagues who are interested in engaging. The objectives of the caucus include promoting the cause of migrant workers in their respective national parliaments, collectively engaging at the regional, national, and international levels in the development of agreements and legislation, and acknowledging economic and human security issues related to labour migration. The resolution entrusts the administrative work of the caucus to Migrant Forum in Asia.

The first action of the newly formed caucus was to endorse the statement to AIPA that drafted by the Cambodian delegates to the program. This was the first of the MFA/FES parliamentarians’ programs in which a group of parliamentarians came prepared with their own statement for the AIPA Committee on Social Matters. This marks a significant step in the growth of the program, and the calls in the statement reflect many of the issues brought forward in previous program discussions.

Briefly, the Cambodian statement (appended) calls for ASEAN member states to:

- Implement policies that promote safe migration
- Work together to curb illegal recruitment
- Form an ad hoc committee within AIPA to deal with the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers
- Fast track the establishment of the framework for the protection of migrant workers

## Next Steps / Follow-Up

- MFA to circulate the resolution among various agencies and respective national parliaments for visibility and recognition of the caucus
- MFA to upload all relevant documents from the gathering to the caucus website (currently located at <http://asianparliamentarians.mfasia.org>)
- MFA to circulate the resolution among previous participants in the program to solicit more endorsements
- MFA to follow up with all participants regarding the key activities identified in the strategy session in order to move programs forward
- Program participants to provide inputs to Social Protection paper in writing to MFA
- On an ongoing basis, program participants to send any documents, statements, reports on migrant labour issues to MFA for inclusion on the caucus website