

**Statement to Establish the
Asian Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Labour Migration**

We, Asian Parliamentarians meeting in Phnom Penh to discuss the issues of labour migration and social security:

Recalling the previous meetings of parliamentarians in Manila (2007), Singapore (2008), Bangkok (2009), Hanoi (2010), and Manila (2011) wherein our work as an informal gathering of Parliamentarians was initiated, recognize the strategic importance of the shift from an ASEAN to an Asia-wide focus, that has materialized in this meeting;

Reiterating calls to review national laws and labour codes to include migrant workers and to work towards harmonization of national regulations with core international labour and human rights standards;

Recalling the commitments made in previous meetings to strengthen legal redress mechanisms for migrant workers, and strategies put forward to encourage parliamentarians to be more proactive in collaborations with stakeholders, including migrant workers, trade unions, civil society organizations, media, and placement agencies;

Reaffirming pledges made in previous programs to exercise parliamentary oversight functions to monitor Memoranda of Understanding, bilateral agreements, and national laws and policies to ensure that migrants' rights are upheld;

Hereby resolve to:

Establish an Asian Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Labour Migration with the following aims and objectives:

- i) to promote the cause of migrant workers in our respective national parliaments;
- ii) to collectively engage at the regional and international levels in the development of agreements and legislation;
- iii) to acknowledge the need to consider national, economic, and human security in the management of migration issues

Commit to pursuing the following activities:

- i) Undertake field visits to migrant worker communities in order to gain a more robust understanding of the lived realities of migrant workers and in order to bring attention to migrant worker issues in the country and region;
- ii) Organize seminars on key issue areas in collaboration with CSOs, trade unions, and migrants' rights advocates to share information and raise our collective

consciousness on the relevant and emerging issues related to migrant workers and members of their families;

- iii) Undertake inter-parliamentary exchange visits to raise the profile of the issues of migrant workers in Asia;
- iv) Exercise our oversight functions to monitor the programs of our respective governments in line with local and national legislation relating to migrant workers;
- v) Explore possibilities for the establishment of a common fund by sending and receiving countries to set up social safety mechanisms skills development programs;
- vi) Urge our governments to ratify ILO Convention 189: Decent Work for Domestic Workers, and to engage in parliamentary debate on the UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, as well as core conventions of the ILO, in particular Conventions 87 and 98, and migrant worker conventions, 97 and 143;
- vii) Continue to energetically consider other proposals/actions that would enhance the rights and welfare of migrant workers within the region

Entrust the administrative work of the caucus to Migrant Forum in Asia, designating it as the secretariat for the caucus, which is hereby tasked to provide copies of this statement to various agencies and respective national parliaments for visibility and recognition of this caucus.

Singed at Phnom Penh by:



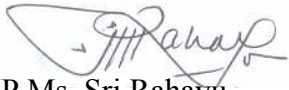
Her Excellency Ms. Ho Naun
Cambodia



Her Excellency Ms. Chuonh Socchay
Cambodia

His Excellency Mr. Son Chhay
Cambodia

MP Ms. Lily Chadidjah Wahid
Indonesia



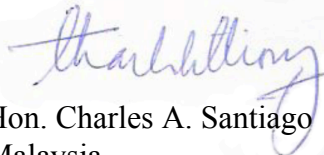
MP Ms. Sri Rahayu
Indonesia



MP Mrs. Bouaphanh Likaya
Lao

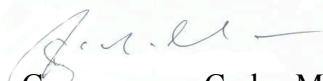


Professor Dr. Som Ock Kingsada
Lao



Hon. Charles A. Santiago
Malaysia

Senator S. Ramakrishnan
Malaysia

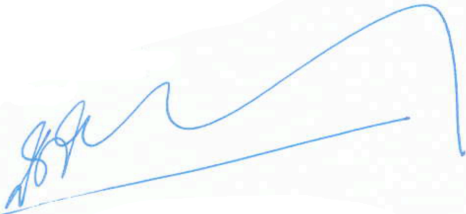


Congressman Carlos M. Padilla
Philippines

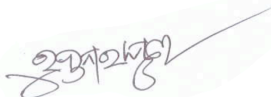
Dr. Mayong Aguja
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Hon. Bui Sy Loi
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Hon. Dinh Ngoc Quy
Vietnam



MP Shri Rudranarayan Pany
India



Mr. Thampan Thomas
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Ms. Binda Pandey
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Mr. Padam Lal Bishwokarma
Nepal

17 September 2011