

**International Dialogue :  
The Third Ministerial Consultations  
Meeting on Overseas Employment  
and Contractual Labors for  
Countries of Origin in Asia  
Bali, 21 – 22 September 2005.**

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- Indonesia is honored to host the Third Ministerial Consultations Meeting of IOM conducted in Bali, 21 – 22 September 2005, and very pleased to many distinguished participants who present and contribute to the fruitful discussion during the event.
- The Bali Forum was attended by ten sending countries of Asia and eight of them were Labor's Ministers.

- The Bali Forum focused on issues relating to welfare services, facilitating movement of labor and optimizing their benefits, institutional arrangement and capacity building, including state relationship in the area of migration.
- The Bali Forum was able to attract attention of receiving countries to join.
- The receiving countries who are able to join are : Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

- This is an evidence that both receiving and sending countries have the same concerns regarding protection of employment of migrant's workers and the entire problem that may arise.
- I think, we are of the same opinion that such an endeavor should be continued and enhanced in the future, and particularly interested to see that such a deliberation be conducted in one of the receiving countries.

- The employment of overseas workers from Asian countries has significance experiences in term of numbers, type of works, countries of destination and problem arise.
- Therefore, we have to be able to create a better-management of overseas workers effectively, and cooperation among countries should also be closely intensified.

- It is believed that the presence of migrant workers on the one hand, has opened alternative for unemployed labor in sending countries to obtain jobs, on the other hand, the presence of overseas workers have also provided workforce for the countries of destination, which have major problem of labor shortage.
- From the receiving countries perspective, they are more likely to appreciate and acknowledge the contribution of migrant workers to support economic growth and the process of development as well.

- The receiving countries also concern regarding the problems faced by the employers, such as inaccurate information provided by employment agencies in the sending countries.
- The problems are also related to worker's qualification, health and safety, working condition, and the use of fraudulent means by such agencies to bypass and circumvent the laws in the receiving countries.

- From the perspective of sending countries, overseas employment provides significant contribution to the welfare of the workers and their families.
- However, some issues arise from overseas employment such as breach of contracts, harassment, non-payment of wages, keeping workers beyond the contract period, legal issues and imprisonment, deaths or serious illness and illegal cross border migration.



- Discrimination and violation of basic human rights, including freedom of association and bargain collectively are also major concerns.
- Other issues include the process of recruitment, for instance, we have experienced that some years ago, all expenses for working overseas were borne by employers; today the position has been reversed.
- Some receiving countries also imposed levies, visa, and residence permit fees to be paid by workers.

- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are concerned in regard to a solid cooperation between labor sending in Asian Countries and GCC Countries, such as appointment of contact person and follow up officers by both parties to encourage a better relationship.
- While the issue of the establishment of the Oversea Workers Resource Center in Kuwait is still not finalized.

## **Recommendation :**

Following the Colombo and Manila Recommendation, the Bali Forum has recommended the following items:

1. Dissemination of information to the prospective overseas workers through information resource center on the right of employment procedures, risk of illegal workers, social aspect and regulation of the receiving countries.
2. Developing and introducing module on pre-departure orientation program.

3. Establishing minimum wage levels and ensuring safe and decent conditions of employment for contract workers, particularly women, in low skill and low wage sectors.
4. Hold an annual round table meeting between the administrative bodies responsible for overseas employment in GCC countries and countries of origin in Asia.
5. Establishing Overseas Worker's Resource Center in the GCC countries and other major countries of destinations.

6. Promoting regional cooperation efforts among countries of origin and countries of destinations in availing legal labor opportunities and reducing irregular movement.
7. Ensuring that potential workers are well-informed on legal overseas employment opportunities and procedures to apply for it, and the risks of resorting to irregular movement.
8. Developing capacity building of national authorities in origin countries to assess current and projected foreign labor needs in the countries of destinations.

- Organizing annual senior official consultations meeting among Asian countries of origin and main destination countries in Europe.
- Organizing a round-table on the management of overseas work, including prevention of irregular flows, in South East and East Asia.

## **Priority of Programs:**

1. Round-table meeting on :
  - a. Cooperation between the GCC countries and Asian countries of origin.
  - b. Overseas labor in Southeast and East Asia.
2. Proceeding with the consultation on the establishment of an overseas workers' resource center.

3. A senior official meeting of Asian countries of origin with senior officials of European states and main destination countries for Asian workers in Europe.

Indeed, the most importance thing is the implementation of those recommendations.

Therefore, we call on international organization such as IOM, ILO, UNIFEM and others to participate and facilitate our program.



## **Conclusion:**

From the Bali Forum, it can be concluded that cooperation between the sending and receiving countries is very importance and conducting mutual dialogue on ministerial level followed by technical officers will be of fruitful in the future.

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