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IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

COUNCIL

CONSEIL

CONSEJO

103RD SESSION

**APPLICATION BY CARAM ASIA
FOR REPRESENTATION BY AN OBSERVER**

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1. In a letter received on 30 September 2013, a copy of which is appended as Annex I, the Regional Coordinator of CARAM Asia made a formal application for his Organization to be accorded observer status at meetings of the IOM Council. The Director General's reply thereto, dated 17 October 2013, is appended as Annex II. An appropriate item will be included on the provisional agenda of the 103rd Session of the Council.
2. This matter falls under rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure for the Council which provides that the Council may admit, upon their application, international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, concerned with migration, refugees or human resources as observers at its meetings.
3. An appropriate draft resolution will be submitted to the Council when this matter comes up for decision.

Annex I

**LETTER RECEIVED ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2013 FROM THE REGIONAL
COORDINATOR OF CARAM ASIA TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**

Dear Mr Swing,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, CARAM Asia (Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility) is pleased to submit a letter of request for Observer Status to the IOM Council. CARAM Asia's Vision, Mission and Objectives of working for the overall wellbeing of migrant workers are in firm consistency with the goals of IOM. Both organizations have collaborated with each other at various occasions and thus we believe that a more formal working relationship is important to facilitate ongoing collaboration between both organizations.

CARAM Asia is a regional network and NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It is a growing dynamic network of 42 civil society organizations, migrant organizations and migrant support organizations from 19 countries across the Asian continent which includes migrant workers' sending and receiving countries.

CARAM Asia has worked extensively to institutionalize a rights based approach from which to address migrants' health concerns and advocate for appropriate and effective protection measures for migrants. The regional secretariat of CARAM Asia is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and is staffed with a good combination of well trained professional personnel and human rights activists from around the region.

The organization is working for the protection of migrant workers' rights by doing advocacy at national, regional and international level for reform of laws and policies to enhance their access to justice and right to redress in case of violence, abuse, exploitation and violation of their rights. CARAM Asia has conducted various regional research studies on migrant workers' health including their access to health services and on information to prevent HIV and other transmittable infections. In addition, CARAM Asia has been doing advocacy for the removal of mandatory medical testing of workers during migration cycle etc. The aims and objectives of CARAM Asia are enclosed as an annex* to this letter.

CARAM Asia has been working in close collaboration with IOM for long time; both organizations not only actively participate in each other's conferences and consultations, give inputs and feedback but also complement each other's work by contributing to annual reports and research reports. For example, CARAM Asia contributed an editorial "Asian Migrant Worker's Health Rights – not excess baggage" for the special 60th Anniversary edition of IOM's Report of Activities on migration health in 2010. In October 2011 the Director of IOM's Migration Health Division participated as speaker and delivered a keynote address in two regional consultations organized by CARAM Asia in Malaysia on "Migrant Worker's Access to Justice and Women Migrants' Participation to Association of Southeast Nations

* Not reproduced.

(ASEAN). CARAM Asia's Regional Coordinator participated in the National Consultation on the Health of Migrants in Amman, Jordan, organized by IOM in August 2012. In May 2013, IOM's Chief Migration Health Officer in Bangladesh participated as guest speaker in the Consultation on Strengthening Regional Cooperation between Migrant Sending and Receiving Countries with Focus on SAARC Region (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation).

Furthermore CARAM Asia is an active member of the Joint United Nations Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS in South East Asia (JUNIMA) and works closely with all JUNIMA members especially IOM, UNDP and UNAIDS to address migrant worker's health issues with focus on HIV & AIDS.

We are aware that IOM works with its partners in the community for the wellbeing of migrants, by assisting in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management, advancing understanding of migration issues, encouraging social and economic development through migration and upholding the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

CARAM Asia also works for these common goals in the context of migrants' sending and receiving countries in Asia. There are lot of similarities in objectives and approach between IOM and CARAM Asia; therefore the observer status will be beneficial for strengthening the mutual relationship and coordination among both organizations for the cause of protecting migrants' rights and wellbeing.

Keeping in view the importance of cooperation and collaboration to work jointly for the greater cause; CARAM Asia would like to request IOM Observer Status. We hope that this request is met with success and looking forward for continued partnership building opportunities with IOM.

Kindly let us know should you have any questions or need any further information.

Thank you very much for anticipated cooperation as always.

[Complimentary ending]

Annex II

**LETTER DATED 17 OCTOBER 2013 FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION TO
THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR OF CARAM ASIA**

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter seeking observer status for CARAM Asia (Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility) in the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Indeed, I can only note with appreciation the relationship between CARAM Asia and IOM in the field of migration, especially in the area of migrant health and human rights. I also highly appreciate the contribution of CARAM Asia particularly with regard to advocacy on migrants' equal access to health and HIV services, as well as possible future collaboration on programmes of mutual interest. It is therefore my belief that both our organizations could benefit from a further strengthening of this already close and cordial relationship.

It will be possible to take the necessary action to place your request before the IOM Council during its next regular session, to be held in Geneva from 26 to 29 November 2013. An appropriate document formally presenting your application will be distributed to all Member and Observer States prior to the November 2013 Council session. You will receive a copy of this document, together with further details and procedural information concerning the Council session.

A formal invitation to attend the session, during which CARAM Asia's application for Observer Status is presented to the Member States, will also be sent to you.

It gives me great pleasure to receive your request for observer status. Allow me therefore to express my satisfaction at the prospect of furthering the relationship between our two organizations.

[Complimentary ending]