



# ***Migration and Development:***

## ***Looking Ahead***

Expert Meeting  
OECD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

10-11 July 2008

**OECD Development Centre  
NEA Conference Room B  
Issy-les-Moulineaux, France**

## I. Context: the OECD Development Centre and Migration

The OECD Development Centre conducts comparative analysis and promotes informal policy dialogue on development issues of mutual interest to OECD member countries and emerging and developing economies. Several developing countries are full members of the OECD Development Centre, represented on its Governing Board; the centre also has an extensive network in other developing countries, both in academic and policy-making circles.

The Development Centre presented the first *Policy Coherence for Development* Flagship in November 2007 in Berlin. This publication, on *Migration and Developing Countries*, argued for greater integration between policy-making bodies and the incorporation of migration issues into the policy-making process. Conclusions and policy recommendations have been warmly received in presentations in various OECD country capitals. The findings of the report have also steered constructive debate on key development issues for policy coherence and generated extensive media coverage.

Migration continues to be an important staple at the Centre. In September 2008, the OECD Development Centre will contribute to the OECD horizontal project on *Managing Migration to Support Economic Growth* with inputs related to the development impact of return migration and migration management. The project's aim is to bring together new insights and policies regarding return migration, the management of migration and the challenge of governance associated with it.

Additionally, and building and expanding on one of the main themes in the 2007 report, the *Policy Coherence for Development* Flagship 2008 will focus on informality and well-being. Looking forward, in 2009 the OECD Development Centre will start a new series entitled *The Global Development Outlook*, integrating several development themes in the policy arena. Migration and labour market analysis will form an integral component of these innovative products.

This workshop is intended to generate critical feedback on ongoing work for the Development Centre's agenda on migration, gather new insights from both academia and field practitioners and provide a platform for dialogue on key issues surrounding policy coherence in developing countries.

## II. Migration and Development: leading questions

What are the costs and benefits of migration for developing countries? How can these flows be better organised to yield greater benefits to all parties concerned – migrant-sending countries, migrant-receiving countries, and the migrants themselves?

The 2007 edition of *Policy Coherence for Development* encouraged migrant-receiving countries to look at their migration policies through a development lens; migrant-sending countries, conversely, should be encouraged to look at their national development policies through a migration lens. Interlinking migration and development policy-making promises a more effective pursuit of the objectives of both sets of policies.

Given that migration is at the heart of household poverty-reduction strategies, the OECD Policy Coherence and Poverty Reduction Team aims to continue working on gaining better insights on its link with development.

The experts gathered at this meeting are invited to explore linkages between migration and different dimensions of development in developing countries.

### III. Structure of the meeting

The format of the workshop is informal and participants are encouraged to actively engage into the discussions. The meeting is organised in three topical sessions. The first two sessions are organised around three OECD Development Centre-commissioned case studies, which will be included into the OECD's Horizontal Project on Migration. The last session will revolve around the current work being developed at the Centre and will focus on migration, labour markets and mobility. A final session will take place in the form of a panel with the objective of synthesizing the debate from the previous sessions and raising yet unanswered migration questions.

Session I will focus on **Return Migration**. The discussion will aim to identify the ways return migration can promote growth and development in developing countries. The aim will be to bring together new empirical insights and policies regarding rates of return migration, its determinants and its impact on economic and social progress in migrants' countries of origin.

Session II continues with a focus on **Migration Governance**. The objective of this session is to analyse the migration management options open to developing countries. These fall in three categories: migration policies narrowly conceived, international agreements and non-migration policies. The session will focus on the use of these policy instruments and the possibility of reform in the governance of international migration.

Finally, session III, on **Migration and Labour Markets in China**, brings forth the debate on emerging and pressing issues related to migration in China. The objective will be to see what lessons can be learned and applied for development beyond. It will also lay out potential work programmes for the future as well as discuss current initiatives taken by the Development Centre.

Session IV will consolidate the debate and offer a roadmap for future work on migration.

The meeting will be held in English.

Thursday, 10 July 2008

OECD Development Centre, NEA Conference Room B

**8.45-9.00** **Welcome coffee**

**9.00-9.15** **Introductory remarks and brief intro of participants**

Jeff Dayton-Johnson

*Senior Economist and Head of Latin America and Caribbean Desk, OECD  
Development Centre*

**9.15-12.30** **Session I – Return Migration**

This session will set a framework for analysing the role of return migration in promoting growth and development in sending regions. Participants will address the following questions:

1. *How many migrants return home?*
2. *What are the determinants of return migration, particularly those which have to do with changing conditions in the home economy?*
3. *What is the impact of return migration on the home economy with respect to labour markets, entrepreneurship, investment, remittances and fiscal policy?*

**Session 1—Panel**

**9.15-10.45**

*Chair: Jason Gagnon*

*Research Associate, OECD Development Centre*

**Presentations**

Florin Vadean and Matloob Piracha: Albanian Case Study (20 mins.)  
*Economist, University of Kent*

Ariane Tichit: Moldovan Case Study (20 mins.)  
*Maitre de Conférences, Université d’Auvergne/CERDI*

Jorge Eduardo Mendoza: Mexican Case Study (20 mins.)  
*Economist, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte*

**Discussant**

Gilles Spielvogel (15 mins)  
*Economist, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs*

**Coffee Break**

**10.45-11.00**

**Session 1—Open Discussion:**

**11.00-12.30**

**12.30-14.00 Lunch**

**14.00-17.00 Session 2 – Migration Governance**

This session discusses the role of migration management in promoting development. The goal of this session is to analyse the options open to developing countries. In particular the following questions will be addressed:

1. *Have developing countries with meaningful emigration flows used migration policy instruments to favour development?*
2. *If so, how?*
3. *What might countries do better? What can they learn from other sending countries' experiences?*
4. *What kind of reform to the governance of international migration would make sense to promote development, as well as to manage migration? What is the responsibility of receiving countries?*

**Session 2 – Panel:**

**14.00-15.30**

*Chair: Denis Drechsler  
Policy Analyst, OECD Development Centre*

**Presentations**

Francisco Alba: Mexican Case Study (20 mins.)  
*Professor, El Colegio de Mexico*

Yaël Tovias: Mediterranean Case Study (20 mins.)  
*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

Graeme Hugo: Indonesian Case Study (20 mins.)  
*University Professorial Research Fellow, University of Adelaide*

**Discussant**

Thomas Lacroix (15 mins.)  
*Research Officer, International Migration Institute – Oxford University*

**Coffee Break**

**15.30-15.45**

**Session 2—Open Discussion:**

**15.45-17.15**

**17.30-18.30 Cocktail**

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8:45–9:00 *Welcome Coffee*

9:00–12:30 **Session 3 – Migration and Labour Markets from a Chinese Perspective: What Lessons for Development?**

Along with its tremendous growth, China has seen a sharp increase in internal migration, along with social and economic pressures in both urban and rural regions. This session will discuss internal migration in China and its links with development.

1. *What are the current trends and patterns for internal migration in China? Who migrates? For how long? What is the size of internal return migration?*
2. *What is the impact of internal migration and internal return migration on labour markets in sending regions?*
3. *What lessons does China offer for thinking about migration and development in other countries?*

**Session 3—Panel:** **9:00-10.30**

*Chair: Theodora Xenogiani  
Economist, OECD Development Centre*

### **Presentations**

Jason Gagnon: Migration and Labour Markets in China (20 mins.)  
*Research Associate, OECD Development Centre*

Chunbing Xing: Are Migrants Really Worse Off in Urban Labour Markets? (20 mins.)  
*Visiting Scholar, Beijing Normal University/OECD Development Centre*

John Giles: Internal Migration in China (20 min.)  
*Senior Labour Economist, World Bank*

### **Discussant**

Sarah Cook (15 mins.)  
*Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies*

**Coffee Break** **10.30-10.45**

**Session 3—Open Discussion:** **10.45-12.15**

12.15-13.45 *Lunch*

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**13.45-15.30** **Session 4 – Final Panel (Looking Ahead: Emerging Issues and Current Research Agenda)**

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This session aims to stir debate on migration issues with a particular attention to the three sessions from the workshop.

- 1. What are the current questions surrounding migration research? Where is the debate? What do we know and what should we know?*
  - 2. What role does policy have for migration and labour markets? Are these policies compatible with other policies?*
  - 3. How can we tie-in other current development issues (eg. food prices) to migration?*
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*Chair: Johannes Jutting  
OECD Development Centre*

**Panelists**

Jean-Pierre Garson  
*Head of Division, OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs*

Laura Chappell  
*Research Fellow, Institute for Public Policy Research*

Bachir Hamdouch  
*Professor, University of Mohamed V*

Ben Davis  
*Economist, Food and Agriculture Organisation*

**15.30-15.45** **Closing Remarks**