

## Preface

Human mobility is a fundamental feature of globalisation. Like the movement of goods, services and capital across national borders, the movement of people presents tremendous opportunities to many – not least of whom the migrants themselves. But as is the case of those other dimensions of globalisation, international migration is viewed with trepidation, both in migrants' home countries and in their countries of destination.

A critical but often missing element of the debate surrounding international migration – in particular from low- and middle-income countries to OECD countries – is a better understanding of the impact of migration on economic and social development in countries of origin. While few would go so far as to argue that mass emigration is a viable development strategy, it is nevertheless reasonable to ask how migrants' countries of origin could gain more from the migration phenomenon.

Accordingly, this OECD Development Centre Perspective reviews the evidence from the field, including the results of a number of regional and country case studies co-ordinated by the OECD Development Centre, in order to distil from this stocktaking a number of proposals for policy innovations in sending and receiving countries alike. The goal of these policy recommendations is neither to increase nor decrease current migration flows, but to enhance the benefits and minimise the risks for all parties concerned.

*Migration and Developing Countries* is the third title in the OECD Development Centre's new series, *Development Centre Perspectives. Policy Coherence for Development and Human Security* (the activity area that produced this volume) is one of the three main activity areas of the Development Centre's 2007-2008 Programme of Work. The others are *Business for Development* and *Financing for Development*. The *Policy Coherence* series will explore the interaction of policy decisions taken in OECD and non-OECD countries (e.g. the interaction of migration and development policies) and their joint impact on economic and social progress in the developing world. The series is critically concerned, furthermore, with the social dimensions of globalisation, including the interaction of policies with informal institutions such as, in this volume, migrants' diaspora networks.

It is our hope that *Migration and Developing Countries* serves as the basis for a deep and wide-ranging discussion on the gains to be sought, and the pitfalls to be avoided, for those countries with significant inflows or outflows of migrants.

Javier Santiso  
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