

Project Report: Breakfast Forum on Remittances, Migration and Development, 31 May 2006, Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City Philippines

Results:

1. Migrant-women Initiatives in the Netherlands for Development (MIND), Economic Resource Center for Migrants and Overseas Employees (ERCMOVE), and Record Foundation representing Mindanao Sustainable Enterprise Development (MSED) with the support of Oxfam Novib joined together to conduct the forum attended by a total of forty one participants representing various and organizations that are directly and indirectly involved or interested with remittances, migration and development issues.
2. The invited guests namely, Efrain Jimenez of Federacion de Clubes de Zacatecanos representing Mexican migrants in the US, Ozden Yalim of MIND representing Turk migrants in The Netherlands , Sylvia van den Berg of Ayni Bolivia and Wilde Ganzen representing an NL based NGO and Bolivian migrants in The Netherlands, Corazon Dee of MIND and ERCMOVE representing Filipino migrants in The Netherlands were able to deliver their presentations. Leila Rispens Noel of Oxfam Novib updated the participants about the latest developments on remittances, migration and development issues. Dr. Eddie Cruz of ERCMOVE and CASCO representing Filipinos in The Netherlands and US and Johnny Villanueva of ERCOF representing Filipino migrants in Canada assisted in responding to queries about migrants' initiatives in host countries where they travel very often. Joey Gloria, Chair, of Kapatiran Philippines shared the pioneering initiatives of Kapatiran Netherlands and Philippines in local economic development through basic literacy and microfinance operations. Milamdec representatives confirmed the feasibility of their ongoing partnership with ERCMOVE and encouraged the others to replicate the innovative concept. Ed Prantilla, of Record Foundation (appointed secretariat of the Mindanao sustainable Enterprise Development) in partnership with MIND/ERCMOVE with the support of Oxfam Novib assisted in making the breakfast forum a success.
3. There were a lot of questions raised during the open forum but due to time constraint there was not enough time to exhaustively discuss them e.g. migrants remittances, microfinance and the role of diasporas and alternative financing organizations in developing countries. The open forum also gave the participants opportunities to share their views and projects involvement. The lack of time prompted participants to make appointments for further meetings and discussions e.g. Unlad Kabayan Migrant Services c/o Ma Angela Villalba, MSED/RECORD Foundation c/o Ed Prantilla and Madel Moran Morados re MSED plans and strategies.
4. Rey Teves, Executive Director of TACDRUP and a member of the national board of Directors of the Development Bank of the Philippines invited the guest and participants to for a lunch meeting with the regional executives

of the Development Bank of the Philippines. During the luncheon meeting, Rey shared the recent initiative of DBP to formulate policies that will tap the potentials of migrants in local economic development.

5. Subsequent meetings were held between: May V. of Unlad Kabayan with MIND/ERCMOVE and Oxfam Novib. The results of the meetings were: agreement to share initiatives, coordinate programs and projects and enter into possible partnerships. It was suggested for Unlad Kabayan to discuss future program and project collaboration with Record Foundation as the secretariat of MSED.
6. Debriefing/Next steps meeting of Record Foundation/MSED and MIND/ERCMOVE:
 - 6.1. Present: Ed Prantilla, Madel Moran Morados, Tony, Fr. Franco, Corazon Dee
 - 6.2. Possible projects discussed:
 - Record Foundation to conduct a survey to make prepare an inventory of organizations involved with various aspects of remittances, migration and development issues. Conduct of discussion meetings, fora, and/or conference to present result of survey and to chart out the next steps for partnerships. Submit proposal to Oxfam Novib re the activities above
 - Discussion and revision of Record Foundation's vocational training proposal to include migrants' families and relatives entitled Integrated Development Project fro Indigenous People, Rural Youths and Street Children.
 - Setting up of an International Migrants Institute in one of the universities based in Davao City.
7. The low budget breakfast forum was indeed a success in terms of ideas generated, networking which took place during and after the forum and potential projects discussed. What remains to be done is to sustain the interest, build upon existing initiatives build sustainable partnerships to achieve local economic development that migrants in partnership with development organizations to create jobs and reduce poverty.

Annex 1 Background Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Migration and Development

- There is a growing appreciation of the study of migration and development i.e. not only about the negative effects of migration but as well as its contribution to economic and political development of both the host countries (migrant receiving countries) and home countries (migrant sending countries).
- The debate continues on how migration and development policies can be responsive to the more humane aspects of the mobility of human beings and how these development friendly policies can be the impetus for sustainable economic and political development.
- By debating and deciding through a multi-stakeholder approach where migrants themselves are involved -- the volume, timing, mix, and terms of migration – migration policies may impact on those factors commonly evaluated to be relevant for development.
- These factors include human and social capital formation, remittances (size, value, cost and manner of transfer), trade flows of nostalgic products, foreign direct investments of migrants, knowledge and skills transfers, changing family structures and norms.

Migrants Remittances and Development

- Remittances of migrants and overseas workers have tremendously increased over the years leading some economists to consider remittances as the developing world's most reliable and broadly based source of financing –effectively a new form of foreign aid.
- In the year 2005 the total amount of formal/official remittances reached approximately US\$ 232 billion - these are money send by 200 million migrants to their families, three times official development aid US\$ 78.6 billion dollars). Informed estimates including informal remittances give a figure of the aforementioned amount (Orozco, "Sending Money Home" id21 insights #60 January 2006). These amounts are contributing to national economies with far reaching implications on their national development reflected as 20 to 25 % of GDP and even higher in some countries (Newsweek January 19, 2004 p. 39).
- The potential of migrants and overseas employees contribution to economic and social change has been a neglected aspect of development work both in host countries as well as countries of origin.

It is for the above reasons that a forum and project briefing will be conducted by ERCMOVE and MIND with support from Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands. The main objective that this forum aims to achieve is **to build awareness among migrants partners and potential partners in the Philippines as well as policy makers about the potentials of migration and remittances in development and for them to take a concrete step in contributing towards making local and national economic development happen to improve the standard of living of the poor.**

Expected participants

Representative of migrant organizations based in The Netherlands (Bolivia, Philippines, Turkey) and Mexico, overseas employees or the representatives of organization they belong to, and other stakeholders who are engaged in linking economic projects in the Netherlands with the Philippines.

Policy makers who are in the forefront of formulating development friendly policies related to migration, remittances and development.

Academics who are engaged or are interested in studying the changing paradigms on migration and development

Expected Results

Awareness of the changing paradigms of migration, remittances, microfinance and development

Awareness of the migrants' initiatives in The Netherlands to be economically productive and share their achievements with those who they have left behind
Networking among migrants, policy makers, development workers and academics and discuss subsequent partnership activities on microfinance and local economic development.

Corazon Dee
Chair, ERCMOVE
Postbox 1009
3160 AE Rhooen
The Netherlands
Tel. 010-5013343
Email: info@ercmove.nl
Website: www.ercmove.nl

Özden Yalim
Chair, MIND
c/o Verheulstraat
3552 XW Utrecht
The Netherlands
Tel.+31(0)651005724
Email: info@minddevelopment.org
Website: www.MINDdevelopment.org

Annex 2 Program

A Forum on “Remittances, Migration and Development”

31 May 2006

**Marco Polo Hotel
Davao City, Philippines**

07:00 – 08:30	Arrival and registration
07:30 – 08:35	Short Introduction to the Forum Ed Prantilla RECORD Foundation
08:35 – 08:40	Welcome Remarks Sylvia van den Berg Treasurer, MIND/Ayni Bolivia Nederland
08:40 – 09:00	The Link Between Migration and Development Leila Rispens-Noel Program Officer Oxfam Novib
09:00 – 09:20	Mexican Hometown Associations: 3 x 1 program, The Zacatecan Experience Efrain Jimenez Federacion de Clubes de Zacatecanos del Sur de California
09:20 – 09:40	Q and Answer to be facilitated by Madel Moran- Morados
	Project Partnership
09:40 - 10:00	Presentation of ERCMOVE's Migrants Microsavings and Investment in the Netherlands Corazon Dee Chair, ERCMOVE
10:00 –10:20	Presentation of Kapatiran Philippines Microcredit in Bansalan, Davao del Sur Joseph Gloria Chair, Kapatiran Philippines
10:20 – 10:40	Gender Mainstreaming, Migration and Development Özden Yalim Chair, MIND/Tiye International
10:40 – 11:00	Q and Answer to be facilitated by Madel Moran- Morados
11:00 – 11:10	Johnny Villanueva ERCOF