

INTERVENTION NOTE
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS MALAYSIA
PLENARY SESSION
GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT
MANILA, PHILIPPINES, 27 – 30TH OCTOBER 2008

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very delighted to be here today in the city of Manila and would like to congratulate the Government of Philippines for its effort in organizing the second forum on migration and development. It is a privilege for me to be among the distinguished international delegates to discuss and exchange views toward this global phenomenon which is very complex in its own nature.

Today the global migration, as I can say, it has become a key feature to meet the need of economic development, productivity challenges and labour demand of a single developed country. We can see, for a country like Malaysia, the growing industries in all sectors such as

manufacturing, construction, plantation, services and agriculture have created a vast demand for labour supply.

At present, the number of documented non-skilled or semi-skilled migrant workers has exceeded 2 million, representing about 18 percent of the total country's workforce. Malaysia government tries our best to fulfill the demand of workforce by industries without neglecting the right of local citizen to fill the vacancies. Employers are aware that the permission to recruit migrant workers can only be done after the efforts to employ local citizen have been failed.

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Malaysia has long recognized the contribution of migrant labour with regard to the development of the country. We can see the physical and economic contribution of them in all sectors. Let us see the buildings, roads, highways, skyscrapers and others; they are the manifestation of a successful coordination between the locals and migrant workers. Continuous cooperation with source countries had been forged to ensure that labour migration would

benefit all stakeholders involved especially both the sending and receiving countries. We strongly believed that inter-state cooperation of labour migration could provide an orderly movement of labour, promoting goodwill and cooperation between all parties involved. All countries also should play an inter-related role in combating the fraud demands, money-making agents and other 'parasites' involved in this activity.

Indeed, Malaysia has implemented several measures and mandatory regulations toward the employer to manage the employment as well as to provide protection to the workers. Recently, The Malaysian Government is in progress to review its Labour Act to recognize domestic maids as formal workers which will ensure all rights and benefits of workers such as competitive wages and compensation scheme. For security and mobility of workers, the government has introduced a new I-card, consists of the latest security features as the identity card for the workers in Malaysia beside the passports so that all documented migrant workers can be identified online across states easily using this new technology.

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

We should be wary of circumstances where migrant labour could be manipulated by irresponsible parties and individuals that could lead to human trafficking. Malaysia has already enacted the Trafficking in Person Act 2008 regulated by all enforcement agencies such as Royal Police Department and Immigration Department. Indeed, Malaysia always assists and give its fullest cooperation to the international bodies and organizations especially UN in combating this crime.

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Finally, I hope that this forum will achieve its objectives and provide us, all participants and delegates with a better future cooperation, especially between sending and receiving countries as anticipated by the organizer.

Thank you.