



## **Overview of the Meeting**

by **Dr. CARMELITA S. DIMZON**

*Administrator, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration*

*Philippines*

*Chair, GFMD Meeting*

GFMD Migration and Development Seminar Series

“Migration Profile as a Tool for Informed Policy Making, Migrant Integration and Reintegration, and Emergency Response”

20-21 October 2011

Makati City, Philippines

---

I am pleased to provide an overview of the GFMD Migration and Development Seminar entitled “*Migration Profiles as a Tool for for Informed Policy Making, Migrant Integration and Reintegration, and Emergency Response*”.

This 2-day international event, which is co-organized by the Philippine government with the 2011 GFMD Swiss Chair in Office and ably supported by the IOM, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and members of the Global Migration Group, is part of a series of thematic meetings under Cluster III (Planning tools for evidence-based migration and development policies) and linked with the efforts of the Working Group on Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development which is chaired by the Philippines and the UAE.

There are 3 other thematic Migration Profile Workshops held as part of the 2011 GFMD Work Plan; these were in New York last June; in Georgia last July; and Moldova this October. In each workshop, I understand that content varied

depending on the level or extent of work done by the participating countries in generating a systematic and comprehensive migration information.

For the Manila workshop in the Philippines, we have gathered participants from Asia, and we are joined by our partners in Mexico, Switzerland, the international organizations, and civil society. The program is designed to allow each one to fully participate and have an active exchange of views and country experiences thru open forums, focused workshops and action planning.

In very simple terms, this workshop aims to promote the development and use of MP as a tool for evidence-based policy making on migration and development. The presentations on the Migration Profile concept, process, and templates by our resource experts in **Session 1** will lead to an active discussion in **Session 2** on the practical use of Migration Profile as a government –owned tool specifically on 3 important areas: 1) mainstreaming migration into development planning; 2) designing more responsive integration and reintegration programs; and 3) improving crisis preparedness and response strategies. These discussions shall flow into a workshop where we shall identify the requirements, opportunities, challenges and difficulties that each of our countries face today relative to the implementation of a systematic, integrated and comprehensive migration information.

To allow us to reflect on our readiness in undertaking Migration Profile activities, **Session 3** will have presentations on the state of affairs of migration data management systems in the different parts of Asia. Towards the end, we shall go through an action planning activity where we can talk about an indicative road map for preparing our country migration profiles.

Ladies and gentlemen, the GFMD's strength is its inclusive, informal, non-binding and outcome-oriented dialogue among the members of the global community. These meetings allow us to debate with candidness on a broad spectrum of questions concerning migration and development. The topics under Cluster III would expectedly sound daunting or too technical because these are about policy development tools, but the Chair is confident that thru this meeting each one of us will realize that Migration Profile is something that we deal with everyday, this is the work that we do. For practitioners like us, the data and the numbers have faces: these are our emigrants and migrants. Some are refugees, some are asylum seekers, and millions are permanent migrants and contractual workers. These are our citizens exiting and entering our ports everyday. Who they are, what they are, where they are, how many they are, and how we use this information in government: this is what Migration Profile is about.

Let us learn lessons from each other. Let us share our country experiences whether good or bad, let us be candid about our views, and let us ask questions on how we can better systematize the collection, processing and application of migration data so that we can continuously improve the quality of lives of our people in this community of nation.

We are very fortunate to have our resource experts from the international organizations in this meeting. Let us maximize the opportunity for learning and collaboration with them because even long after this meeting is done, the communication and cooperation should continue.

The sessions shall now begin.