

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue  
Among Asian Countries of Labor Origin and Destination  
on the Administration of Temporary Contractual Employment Cycle

**Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting**  
*(as of 18 April 2012)*

1. The Second Senior Officials' Meeting of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue was convened from 17 to 18 April 2012 in Manila with the theme, "Sustaining Regional Cooperation Towards Enhanced Management of Temporary Contract Employment Cycle in Asia".
2. In attendance were delegations from governments of eleven countries of origin (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam) and six countries of destination (Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates). Present as observers were delegations from Malaysia and Singapore.
3. Also in attendance were representatives from ten (10) international and regional organizations as observers including the Arab Labour Organization (ALO), the European Union (EU), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), International Labor Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).
4. Civil society organizations (CSOs) were likewise invited as observers to the Meeting. The Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines, Migration Forum Asia Philippines and the Solidarity Center in Washington were in attendance.
5. The Meeting was opened and called to order by Hon. Danilo P. Cruz, Undersecretary of the Department of Labor and Employment, Philippines. In his opening statement, Undersecretary Cruz outlined the tasks of the Meeting as follows: review of the draft Regional Collaboration Framework of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue; discussion of the proposed Operating Modalities; and preparation of the report and recommendations for consideration of the Ministers to be known as the "Manila Communiqué Outlining the Framework of Regional Collaboration and Operating Modalities of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue".
6. The Report of the First Abu Dhabi Dialogue Senior Officials' Meeting held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates last 25 January 2012 took note of the general, cross-cutting, as well as clustered issues (Cluster 1 to 4) that were put forward by the delegations to improve the draft technical report. It also tackled the draft framework of regional cooperation as well as the support structure for the ADD.

*On the Revised Technical Report for the Abu Dhabi Dialogue II*

7. Prof. Philip Martin and Mr. Manolo Abella, consultants to the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, made an introductory presentation of the final draft Revised Technical Report for the Abu Dhabi Dialogue II that took into account the comments and submissions made by ADD participants during and after the previous meetings.

8. The introduction highlighted the report's approach, which reviewed the major challenges of the four phases of the contract employment cycle and the options available to COOs and CODs to address these challenges. The review highlighted initiatives and measures that could be undertaken to achieve positive outcomes for employers, workers, COOs and CODs. The consultants underlined gaps between migration policy goals and outcomes, potential mutual benefits of contractual labor mobility both for COOs and CODs; and the enhancement of these mutual benefits with an improved management of the cycle.

9. Comments and additional inputs were invited from the floor and several views and issues were provided by the delegations of Indonesia, Thailand, India, Philippines, Bangladesh, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

10. Further discussion highlighted issues related to the training of contract workers, recruitment laws and practices; protection for workers in vulnerable occupations, particularly women; and protection of workers in CODs in cases of natural disaster, political unrest and other emergency situations.

11. It was also expressed that there is need to take into consideration the best practices in subcontract employment; issues relating to transfer system of visa and permits; job and skills matching; the use of standard employment contract; and the development of addressing grievances in countries of employment. India further expressed the need for the adoption of mechanisms to link wage to cost of living in CODs.

12. A view was further expressed that issues and problems should be seen as challenges to be addressed both by COOs and CODs and that the Regional Framework for Collaboration and the proposed Operating Modalities are significant steps for the Dialogue.

*On the Draft 2012 Regional Collaboration Framework of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue*

13. The technical report, which summarized issues and measures on contractual labor mobility, pre-employment and pre-departure, employment and residence abroad, preparation for return as well as return and reintegration was presented. It was followed by a presentation of the revised framework of collaboration resulting from the previous discussions and the submissions of ADD participants, highlighting specific changes therein.

14. Interventions from the delegates of Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, India, China, Kuwait, Bangladesh, the ILO, IOM, Philippines, Vietnam and UN

Women raised substantive issues prompting the creation of a small group to finalize the document.

15. The small group was composed of representatives from three countries of origin (Bangladesh, India and Indonesia) and three countries of destination (Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) as members, with the Philippines as Chair, and the consultants as resource persons. The Philippines as Chair of the Small Group presented to the SOM the revised Regional Framework for Collaboration.

16. The Framework of Regional Cooperation was approved for endorsement to the Ministerial Meeting as modified.

*On the Interim Guidelines for Operating Modalities of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue*

17. The delegation from the United Arab Emirates presented a proposal for the Guideline of the Operating Modalities for the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

18. Participants agreed to invite civil society organizations and international organizations to participate as observers and thematic experts.

19. After discussion, the Chair declared that the Interim Guidelines for Operating Modalities, as modified, is submitted to the Ministerial Meeting for consideration.

20. The participants expressed their appreciation to the government of the United Arab Emirates for its support and to the government of the Philippines for its hospitality and efficient arrangements to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Abu Dhabi Dialogue.