



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Expert Group Meeting on Facilitating Migration Management in North and Central Asia

7-8 April 2015

Moscow, Russian Federation

REPORT ON THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON FACILITATING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

CONTENTS

I. ORGANIZATION

A. Background	1
B. Objective of the Meeting	1
C. Attendance	1

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

D. Session 2: Key issues related to international migration in North and Central Asia.....	1
E. Session 3: The contribution of migrant workers to the economies of countries of destination.....	2
F. Session 4: Skills profile of migrants and skill needs on the labour markets in countries of destination	3
G. Session 5: Data availability and data needs related to international migration in North and Central Asia	3
H. Session 6: The legal framework governing international migration in North and Central Asia	4
I. Session 7: Strengthening regional cooperation on international migration in North and Central Asia	4

Annex: List of Participants

I. ORGANIZATION

A. Background

1. The Expert Group Meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the framework of the project on “Facilitating Migration Management in North and Central Asia”. It was held from 7 to 8 April 2015 in Moscow.

B. Objective of the Meeting

2. The purposes of the Meeting were:

- (a) To develop policy options for migration management in North and Central Asia; and
- (b) To act as a forum for peer review of papers produced under the project on “Facilitating Migration Management in North and Central Asia”.

C. Attendance

3. The Meeting was attended by experts on international migration in North and Central Asia from the Government of the Russian Federation, research institutions and international organizations to review draft working papers prepared in the framework of this project, and to develop policy recommendations. The list of participants is attached as annex I.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

D. Key issues related to international migration in North and Central Asia

4. Ms. Marina Manke, Regional Labour Migration and Human Development Specialist International Organization for Migration (IOM), delivered a presentation on “International Migration in North and Central Asia: Key Issues, Trends and Policy Challenges”. She outlined the socio-economic and demographic drivers of migration in the region, noting that although the number of migrants had remained relatively stable, the composition of the migrant stock in the region had changed in terms of age structure and country of origin. She noted that remittances were an important source of funds in the region for countries and families, and discussed the governance concerns around migration management, such as the lack of data and the need for reforms to make migration regular, orderly and protected, and to ensure the maximum benefits for all stakeholders.

5. The subsequent discussion focused on the phenomena discussed in the presentation. Several participants expressed the view that labour migration from several Central Asian countries was male-dominated and did not share the view of increasing feminization of migration. Other participants also mentioned that in many cases whole families migrated due to the visa-free regime, but it did not mean that every migrant actually worked in the destination country. Some participants also pointed out that women often migrated as the result of the breakup of families. Participants also stressed that data on migrant stock was sometimes misleading, particularly in the context of North and Central Asia, as the foreign-born population was in many cases related to migration that took place in the time of the

Soviet Union or right after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Experts agreed that there was a need to produce more reliable and sex-disaggregated data on migration. Steps being taken in the Russian Federation through processes such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the CIS Council of Heads of State of Migration Services to engage in dialogue on migration were also outlined.

E. The contribution of migrant workers to the economies of countries of destination

6. Mr. Sergei Ryazantsev, Center of Social Demography and Economic Sociology, Institute of Social-Political Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences, delivered a presentation on the “Role of Labour Migration in the Development of the Economy of the Russian Federation”. He discussed the trends in labour migration to the Russian Federation, including the size of migrant worker populations and their distribution across different sectors of the economy and the Russian Federation, as well as estimating the size of irregular migration flows. He explained that the largest population of migrant workers was found in Moscow Federal District. Most migrants are working in sectors such as construction (the largest single sector of employment of migrant workers), trade, services, municipal services, agriculture and forestry, and transport.

7. Mr. Ryazantsev argued that migrants were attractive as employees as they could be paid lower salaries than Russian workers, and be dismissed more easily, especially if they are in an irregular situation. Moreover, migrant workers are willing to work in industries that are unpopular with Russian workers. He further argued that migrant workers had become a structural part of the Russian economy, estimating that the contribution of migrants to the economy of the Russian Federation was as high as 7.3 per cent of GDP. Migrants contributed both through their work and through their consumption of goods.

8. He also discussed governance issues, noting that the introduction of working patents allowed migrants working for physical persons in the household economy to regularize their status and that quotas of labour migrants for countries with a visa-free regime with the Russian Federation had been cancelled. Mr. Ryazantsev concluded that reforms based on labour market needs and regional cooperation were required.

9. In the discussion, several participants provided comments related to the methodology used in the paper. Experts in the discussion agreed that migrants made significant contributions to countries in destination in North and Central Asia, but these contributions were often difficult to measure and should not only be measured as a number in terms of contribution to GDP, but social aspects should also be considered.

10. In the discussion, some participants pointed out that the labour laws and regulations of the Russian Federation applied to both migrant workers and Russian workers. Employers who did not abide to existing rules and regulations should be punished, if detected.

11. A discussion also evolved around Russian language skills of migrant workers from several countries of origin and how workers from China, Viet Nam or the Philippines could compete with migrant workers from Central Asia, who at least had a fair knowledge of the Russian language.

F. Skills profile of migrants and skill needs on the labour markets in countries of destination

12. Mr. Dmitry Poletaev, Researcher at the Russian Academy of Science, delivered a presentation on “Skills profile of migrants and skill needs on the labour markets in countries of destination”. Mr. Poletaev outlined the need for migrants in the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan given the demographic and labour market trends in these countries. He noted that most migrants, regardless of their actual skill levels, tended to take up low- or semi-skilled work at first in countries of destination, given the nature of labour demand. He also addressed the issue of educational systems in countries of origin, noting that the quality of the training provided by these systems was in decline, although he noted a number of promising initiatives involving both countries of origin and destination aimed at upgrading the skills of migrants. He also stressed the need for systems of mutual recognition of skills, upgrading labour market information systems, and ensuring that migrant workers are able to access the formal labour market, especially in the context of regional integration.

13. Subsequent discussions focused on the potential role of the Eurasian Economic Union in creating a common labour market in the North and Central Asia subregion, with reference to other regional integration initiatives in Asia and the Pacific. Other participants raised the importance of data; while good practices in relation to pre-departure training and collaboration on training initiatives between countries of origin and destination within the region were also highlighted. Participants also provided comments on the presentation. A debate also evolved on who should be responsible for training migrant workers. Some participants expressed the view that it was not the responsibility of countries of origin to adapt their education system to the needs of labour markets in countries of destination. Others suggested that it would be a win-win-situation if migrants could be better trained and arrived with better job prospects in the country of destination.

G. Data availability and data needs related to international migration in North and Central Asia

14. Ms. Olga Chudinovskikh, Researcher at the Higher School of Economics, delivered a presentation on “Data availability and data needs related to international migration in North and Central Asia”. She noted that work on assessing the state of international migration statistics in the subregion had increased in recent years, driven by an international interest in the topic. She outlined several gaps in capacity related to gathering and analysing data on international migration such as fragmentation of data, and differing definitions of key concepts which could lead to discrepancies when comparing data between countries. She then described the main areas of interest for migration data; the sources that could be used to gather them in the countries of the subregion, such as censuses, surveys, population registers, administrative sources, and border statistics; and the results from analyses based on data from national statistical offices, which showed that although the numbers of migrants showed little long-term change, there had been a qualitative shift in the nature of migrant populations. She concluded by providing recommendations for further work on strengthening migration data collection and analysis.

15. Subsequent discussions focused on the reliability of specific data sources, such as central bank data on remittances, as well as issues such as data protection. Participants also provided further examples of good practice from the region. The potential of developing a central data bank in the Eurasian Economic Union was discussed in the context of tracking migration within this zone of free movement.

H. The legal framework governing international migration in North and Central Asia

16. Mr. Vadim Ni, Chairperson, Ecoforum of NGOs of Kazakhstan, delivered a presentation on “The legal framework governing international migration in North and Central Asia”. He distinguished between the regulation of migration in countries of destination of migrants in the subregion, primarily the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, and countries of origin. He noted a harmonization of legislation in the countries of destination, although there was a greater variety of permits in the Russian Federation and authority in relation to migration was more centralized in the Russian Federation. He further noted that the rights of migrants were not outlined in a single source but diffused across a range of legal documents. He also discussed efforts to address irregular migration. In relation to countries of origin, he noted that Uzbekistan was the only country to have an explicit policy aimed at shaping migration flows, and that the role of private employment agencies was relatively limited across countries of origin. Finally, he considered the role of regional agreements such as Conventions in the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent State, noting that their role was to provide a framework for bilateral agreements and they often lacked monitoring mechanisms. Mr. Ni concluded with recommendations on information campaigns to ensure that migrants are sensitized as to their rights and obligations, provisions to ensure that migrants have access to social protection and healthcare, support private employment agencies, upgrade the skills of migrants, and ensuring the application of regional and international agreements on migration.

17. The subsequent discussion focused on issues such as the access of migrant children to education in countries of destination, the role of diaspora networks in shaping migration flows compared to formal institutions in countries such as Georgia and Armenia, the future role of the Eurasian Economic Union, and potential institutional reforms. Participants also provided information on reforms and initiatives that had already been undertaken.

I. Strengthening regional cooperation on international migration in North and Central Asia

18. Mr. Paul Tacon, Social Affairs Officer, ESCAP, delivered a presentation on “Prospects for Regional and Subregional Cooperation on Migration Management in North and Central Asia”. He discussed the rationale for regional and subregional cooperation on migration management, as well as the prerequisites and challenges. He also outlined the different forms, formal and informal, that regional cooperation could take. Coming to the region, he noted the strong potential for cooperation given the historical and migratory links

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_2619

