Migration and Developing Countries:  
Assessing Opportunities for Growth and Development

Developing countries usually send migrants from the top and bottom of the socio-economic pyramid: a small number of professional elites and a large number of poor, unskilled workers. This workshop will explore the economic factors that generate migration, the role of government in creating incentives for migrants to stay in or leave their home countries, and the relationship between migration and trade. The session will draw conclusions about the significance of emigration for developing countries, their economies and their societies.

Tuesday, July 4, 2006

9 a.m. Welcome and Introduction from GMF Staff

9:20 a.m. **Labor Flows in a Global Economy**
This introductory session will set the stage for the three and half day conference. We examine the flows of economic migrants, and assess the who, where, and why questions of economic migration that will lay the groundwork for later sessions focusing on skilled and unskilled migration, as well as the other sessions that will consider the costs, benefits, and incentives for migration v. staying at home.

*Introductory Remarks: Representatives of WB, GCIM, and UN*  
*Uri Dadush or Dilip Ratha to summarize the GEP 2006, which is on migration and remittances. Backups or for another day: Jeff Crisp on GCIM report and/or Hania Zlotnick on UN High-Level Dialogue*  

**Discussion**

10:30 a.m. **Coffee Break**

11 a.m. **Incentive Structures for Emigration v. Permanence**
If sending countries want to keep their citizens at home, what incentives can they offer for skilled and unskilled laborers to contribute to their home economy? When is it to the benefit of developing countries to send their citizens abroad as laborers, and how can this be facilitated? What length of time should economic migrants be encouraged to work abroad, and when and how should they be enticed to return home (providing both labor, economic, and intellectual resources earned abroad)? What structures facilitate migrant exit and return?

*Case Studies:*  
- India’s Virtuous Cycle: IT Migration Rupa Chandra (India) or A Mattoo, WB  
- Africa’s Vicious Cycle: Health Care Migration Mamphela Ramphele, South African doctor who was VP of WB and co-chair GCIM

**Discussion**

Draft Agenda – All Speakers to be Confirmed
1 p.m.  Lunch break

2:30 p.m.  **Skilled Migration and Development**  We will look at the impact of skilled migration for sending countries: the causes and consequences of brain drain, brain circulation, knowledge diffusion, labor shortage, entrepreneurship, and other factors that enhance or limit the potential for developing countries to climb the political economic ladder.

**Remarks:** “Who leaves, and why? Profile of a skilled migrant” (5-10 mins)  
**Speaker:** Richard Black and/or Ronald Skeldon, *Uni Sussex, on Africa and Asia, respectively*

**Remarks:** Skilled Migration: Impacts for sending countries (5-10 mins)  
**Speaker:**

**Discussion:** To migrate, or not to migrate? When it comes to skilled migrants, which is the better development strategy for sending countries? We will examine the consequences of sending the best and brightest away or keeping them to work in-country; the impact of return migration; the economic aspects of transnationalism. Hypotheses for an ideal-case.  
**Moderator:**

**Participants:** Manolo Abella, or Ibrahim Awad, *Migration Chief ILO*

3:45 p.m.  Break

4 p.m.  **Unskilled Laborers: Push and Pull Factors for Migration**  This session will explore the factors that push unskilled migrants to emigrate, as well as incentives or “pulls” from receiving countries. Temporary and circular migration patterns and their economic significance will also be discussed.

5:30 p.m.  Adjourn

7 p.m.  Cocktails, dinner

8:30 p.m.  **Evening Session: East to West Migration within the EU**

**Case Study: Eastern European Migration to Ireland**  
A speaker will open an informal discussion of the significance of large-scale migration from Eastern European countries to Western Europe, and assess this trend vis-à-vis EU migration and labor policy.

- Case Study: Romanian emigration *Romania is a country of 22 million, with around 10% of its population already abroad and significant migratory pressure. Expected to join the EU in January*
2007, a transition period for the free movement of workers is already in the treaty. However, there has been little debate on the real impact of accession on migration.

Proposed speakers:
Dana Diminescu, Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, Paris
Sebastian Lazaroiu, Director, Centre for Urban and Rural Sociology, Bucharest

Wednesday, July 5, 2006

9 a.m. Migration and Development: Transnationalism in Economic Perspective

Introduction: The Potential for Economic Growth through Migration
This session departs from the idea that migration can produce significant capital inflows for developing countries. How can countries use these inflows to leverage growth and development?

Case studies:
- Mexico’s 3 x 1 program, Augustin Escobar
- Turkey’s Turkish Workers Companies, Nermin Abadan-Unat
- South Africa, Ann Bernstein

10:30 a.m. Coffee break

11 a.m. Part I: Economic Growth through Migrant Remittances?
What is the potential for individual migrant remittances to contribute to the development of sending countries? This session will examine innovation through the remittance-based funding of investment and entrepreneurialism. It will also assess some of the shortcomings of remittance-based development.

- Case Study: Remittances sent through banks/ microfinance organizations


1 p.m. Lunch break

2:30 p.m. Part II: Alternative Means of Economic Growth through Migration: Transnational Entrepreneurship, Migrant Banking, Fundraising
This session will examine non-remittance based mechanisms for economic growth through migration.

Best practice examples from U.S., Europe and sending countries
- Case Study: Mexican Hometown Associations’ investment projects

Discussion: Augustin Escobar

- Case Study: European approaches to migrant banking and remittances

Draft Agenda – All Speakers to be Confirmed
Discussion: Marco Zupi

4 p.m. Assessing the Benefits and Drawbacks of Migration for Sending-Country Economies
Panel Discussion (with specific case studies)
Panelists:
Thomas Straubhaar, President of the Hamburgisches Welt-Wirtschafts-Archiv (HWWA)
Richard Black, Co-director of the Sussex Centre for Migration Research

5:30 p.m. Adjourn
7 p.m. Cocktails, Dinner
8:30 p.m. Evening cultural event/informal session

Thursday, July 6, 2006

9 a.m. Globalized Economies: Migration and Trade

Part I: The Impact for Sending Countries
We will briefly revisit some of the ideas presented in the introductory panel – how are labor flows changing as a result of new communications and transportation technologies? What options do these changes present for migrant sending and receiving countries? What is the overall impact of labor migration for sending countries?
• Case Study 1 – North African country
  Remarks: Philippe Fargues, CARIM (the EU funded network of Mediterranean migration scholars, based at EUI, Florence)
• Case Study 2 – Costa Rica
  Remarks: Ricardo Cordero, Costa Rican economist, IOM Cairo
• Case Study 3 – Philippines
  Remarks: Manolo Abella

Discussion

10:30 a.m. Coffee break
11 a.m. Continued
1 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. Part II: The Role of Trade Agreements
For developing countries, the anticipated outcomes of trade agreements include the rights to export agricultural crops and the ability to put policies in place to allow for the development of new industries. When successful,
these outcomes foster economic growth and provide incentives for would-be migrants to remain in their home countries. Other agreements promote open-door policies to facilitate the movement of service sector laborers.

This workshop will examine the effects of various trade agreements for sending country economies and international migration flows. In particular, we will assess the effectiveness of trade agreements to achieve their intended impact on labor flows and sending country development.

Remarks:
Discussion:

3:30 p.m.   Break

4 p.m.   **Options for States: Trade and Policy**
This session will begin with a brief overview followed by discussion of political efforts to address trends in trade agreements. Focus on Mode Four falling under the Services pillar in the Doha Round (movement of highly skilled labor) and others, as well as the significance of these patterns, their short-, medium- and long-term impacts on the global economy, and appropriate policy options.

5 p.m.   Assess a piece of legislation from the EU and one from the U.S; brainstorm characteristics of best practices for sending and receiving countries. Participants meet in 4 break-out groups, come together to discuss solutions.

6 p.m.   Adjourn

7 p.m.   Cocktails, dinner

8 p.m.   **Keynote address:** Gary Hufbauer, **IIE, expert on trade and migration**

**Friday, July 7, 2006**

9 a.m.   **Moving Forward: Working Group Reports and Conclusions**

Working group reports on best practices for sending states’ economic policy, development strategies and immigration policies,

Best practices for receiving countries (mitigating brain-drain, encouraging return migration or direct investment, etc).

10:30 a.m.   Coffee break

11 a.m.   Continued

Draft Agenda – All Speakers to be Confirmed
12:30       **Concluding Remarks**

1 p.m.      Workshop concludes, Lunch