

Regional Thematic Meeting: Asia and the Pacific
Diaspora engagement initiatives on labour migration

The [European Union Global Diaspora Facility](#) (EUDiF) is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). EUDiF is the first EU-funded project that works towards fostering an informed, inclusive and impactful diaspora-development ecosystem on a global scale.

In 2020 EUDiF completed a diaspora engagement mapping of 107 countries, exploring policies, practices and trends in diaspora engagement around the world. The table below is a compilation of all spotlight initiatives related to labour migration in Asia and the Pacific, as well as around the world, gathered through our mapping exercise.

We are interested in learning more from you! Should you wish to share details with us on diaspora engagement initiatives related to labour migration, please complete the [diaspora-led projects form](#).



COUNTRY	NAME	DESCRIPTION	LINKS
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC			
Cambodia	Migrant workers resource centres	Migrant workers resource centres (MRCs) have been established in Cambodia to provide information, counselling and legal assistance to visitors and to conduct outreach to schools, training institutions, and communities. Such activities aim to reach potential migrant workers, their family members, and community leaders. Preliminary discussions have been held with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MOLVT) and the International Labour Organisation about establishing an MRC in Phnom Penh to assist migrants prior to departure, and to respond to queries from local labour departments and MRCs around the country on legal issues, procedures, and complaints.	http://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--asia/--ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_228484.pdf
Cambodia	The Employment Permit Scheme	The Employment Permit scheme is a partnership with South Korea to create demand for local labour. In 2014, this scheme had 745 trainees and 307 employees cumulatively from Mongolia, Cambodia and Vietnam. The scheme also offers workers customised training for employment at a local Korean firm so that they can resettle back home securely after their overseas posting.	http://apmigration.ilo.org/resources/koreas-employment-permit-system/at_download/file1
India	Vande Bharat Mission	In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India has put forward initiatives to ensure the safe and secure return of its citizens and their subsequent employment in India post-return. The Vande Bharat mission is widely reported to be the largest repatriation operation effort globally with the return of upwards of 500,000 Indians from over 130 countries.	https://www.businesstraveller.com/business-travel/2020/08/18/vande-bharat-mission-phase-6-begins-on-september-1-2020/



Myanmar	Empowerment Trainings	Conducted since 2016, the Empowerment Trainings include a number of local CSOs training local community leaders to provide information, training and support to potential migrant workers. The CSOs include the Rakhine Womens' Union, Tavoyan Womens' Union, Women's Department of the Northern Shan State Baptist Convention and Mawk Kon Local Development Organisation. CSOs disseminate safe migration information and organise trainings for potential migrant workers and their families. They also train local community leaders to empower them to provide safe migration information and trainings, as well as support services to potential migrant workers. This has improved migrant workers' access to information, as workers can receive immediate responses from their community leaders, rather than travelling to the nearest migrant worker resource centre.	http://apmigration.ilo.org/resources/implementation-of-recommendations-from-the-3rd-to-10th-asean-forum-on-migrant-labour-afml/at_download/file1
Myanmar	Twe Let – Increasing the Development Impact of Labour Migration Through Strengthened Governance and Partnership	The project was launched in 2017 and is led by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, with support from the Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT) Consortium, and aims to strengthen skills development training, safe migration practices and financial management. The project aims to increase the positive role of migration. It provides financial literacy training to households receiving remittances from migrants, provides skills training to migrants to improve their chances of accessing good jobs and provides job-matching support. It aims to reach 50,000 people in Mon, Kayin, Thanintharyi, Shan, Chin states and the Dry Zone by 2020.	https://www.lift-fund.org/news/event-news/twe-let-migration-project-increase-developmental-impact-labour-migration
Myanmar	Happy Return Programme	The programme matches returned Myanmar migrant workers from the Republic of Korea with Korean factories in Myanmar. The programme, instituted by the Republic of Korea in 2009, consists of pre-departure seminars, and skills and business training to prepare the participating workers for their return. Migrant workers can participate in vocational training; pre-return recruitment services (assistance in applying for jobs in Korean companies located in Myanmar); and administrative support for insurance benefit claims. It aims to help workers reintegrate into their home country and continue using their newly acquired skills.	http://apmigration.ilo.org/resources/implementation-of-recommendations-from-the-3rd-to-10th-asean-forum-on-migrant-labour-afml/at_download/file1 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_733917.pdf

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<p>Myanmar</p>	<p>Practical Handbook on the Management of Labour Migration</p>	<p>The Migration EU eXpertise initiative (MIEUX) launched a handbook to support the efforts of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MLESS) in Myanmar in enhancing their management of labour migration. Training sessions were conducted for the staff of MLESS at the central and local levels to develop the handbook. Upon completion, MLESS staff were equipped with skills to develop and implement information campaigns on labour migration and provide services to migrant workers. A second initiative was conducted on Capacity Building on Labour Migration to support the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) in Myanmar to understand the public authorities of partner countries so as to better manage migration. This initiative included bilateral meetings; workshops on labour migration management for staff at the operational level; and sessions on ethical recruitment, prevention of exploitation and protection of migrant workers' rights. A draft prevention and protection plan was produced at the end of the initiative in November 2019.</p>	<p>https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/128-myanmar-labour-migration</p> <p>https://www.mieux-initiative.eu/en/actions/192</p>
<p>Nauru</p>	<p>Seasonal Worker Programs</p>	<p>Nauru has signed various seasonal workers programs with New Zealand and Australia, including the RSE (2014), SWP (2012) and PLS (2018). The policies allow industries to recruit workers from Nauru for seasonal work. These initiatives allow workers to build their skills and earn money to send remittances home to support their families.</p>	



<p>Papua New Guinea</p>	<p>PNG Labour Mobility Unit</p>	<p>Through its new website, the PNG Labour Mobility Unit provides information to potential seasonal workers on how to apply to seasonal labour schemes in Australia and New Zealand, as well as details of current recruitment processes in each of the country's provincial administrations, which are responsible for selecting and recruiting workers. Final approvals are given by the government through the Labour Mobility Unit, with the objective to send 8,000 workers to Australia and New Zealand each year.</p>	<p>https://www.pngworkers.org/</p>
<p>Philippines</p>	<p>National Reintegration Centre for Overseas Filipino Workers (NRCO)</p>	<p>The National Reintegration Centre for Overseas Filipino Workers (NRCO) was established in 2010 with the aim to support returning migrants' reintegration into society and their employment in the local labour market. The reintegration services and programmes in the Philippines fall under the Comprehensive OFW Reintegration Program (CORP), which serves as a guide for national and local government units, CSOs and development partners that provide reintegration services. In May 2018, the NRCO was transferred from the Department of Labor and Employment to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). An important NRCO initiative is the "Sa Pinas, Ikaw and Ma'am/Sir" project, which aims to re-train domestic workers on the skills required to obtain a Teacher 1 Position and find employment in their hometown.</p>	<p>https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/group/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_713541.pdf</p>



Samoa	Government of Samoa's Work Ready Pool (WRP)	The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour has developed a Seasonal Employment Unit (SEU) which is responsible for supporting the various seasonal employment schemes to which Samoa is a signatory. To this end, the SEU has set up a Work Ready Pool (WRP) of workers to manage all recruitments of Samoan workers for seasonal labour migration programmes abroad.	https://www.mcil.gov.ws/services/labour-export-and-employment-programme/
Timor-Leste	Seasonal Worker Programs (SWP)	Timor-Leste has entered into agreements with the Australian and South Korean seasonal worker programs. Under the South Korean Employment Permit Scheme (2009), Timor-Leste workers sent to South Korea are eligible to work in three areas: agriculture, manufacturing related industries, and fisheries. Timor-Leste, in partnership with Australia, is also part of the Seasonal Worker Programme (2012) and Pacific Labour Scheme (2019). Since joining the programme in 2012, almost 3,000 Timor-Leste workers have helped to fill labour shortages in rural and regional Australia while gaining skills and supporting their families back home.	https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/timor-leste-joins-pacific-labour-scheme
Tuvalu	PACER Plus	Pacific labour mobility arrangements were established as part of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER Plus) between Tuvalu, Australia and New Zealand. The agreement complements the existing seasonal worker schemes and aims to increase the benefits for the labour-sending countries, as well as establish the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting to discuss further initiatives.	https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/pacific-agreement-on-closer-economic-relations-pacer-plus



Tuvalu	Seasonal Worker Programs	Tuvalu has signed various seasonal worker programs with New Zealand and Australia, including the PAC (2002), RSE (2007), SWP (2012) and PLS (2018). The policies allow industries to recruit workers from Tuvalu for seasonal work. These initiatives allow workers to build their skills and earn money to send remittances home to support their families.	
Tuvalu	Tuna Australia Scholarships to Tuvaluan Seafarers	Under the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) scheme, Tuna Australia, an association of Australian fisheries, recruits Tuvaluan fishermen for three-year placements in Australia to address labour shortages. The skills learnt during their time working under the Tuna Australia PLS scheme will help to support the Tuvaluan commercial fishing industry when the workers return home.	https://tunaaustralia.org.au/news/tuna-australia-to-provide-training-scholarships-to-tuvaluan-seafarers/
Vanuatu	National Labour Mobility Summit	The meeting in March 2018 provided an opportunity to take stock of the Vanuatu government's successful efforts to export labour services to horticulture industries in Australia and New Zealand. Recommendations included developing a National Labour Mobility Policy for the country. The summit also highlighted the need for the development of a programme for integration of returning workers.	https://devpolicy.org/vanuatu-grapples-with-seasonal-worker-success-20180316/
OTHER COUNTRIES			



Ecuador	Social Employment Network for Immigrants living Abroad and Returnees (Red Socio Empleo para Migrantes en el Exterior y Migrantes Retornados)	<p>This programme allows Ecuadorians living abroad to register to the national information support system (Soprote informatico), which facilitates the recruitment and selection of the Employment Partner Group (Bolsa de Socio Empleo). This system provides access to the network of offices nationwide that provide employment intermediation and specialised training to find employment in both public and private entities in Ecuador.</p>	<p>https://mexico.consulado.gob.ec/programa-red-socio-empleo-para-migrantes-en-el-exterior-y-migrantes-retornados/</p> <p>http://www.trabajo.gob.ec/gobierno-nacional-promueve-el-empleo-para-migrantes-retornados/</p>
Kyrgyzstan	Loyalty program for migrants to buy housing	<p>Initiated by the private construction company TS Group in Kyrgyzstan, within this programme, labour migrants abroad can purchase a house without down payment for up to 3 years, without bank commissions, any additional non-refundable transaction costs and/or administrative fees.</p>	<p>http://ts-group.kg/o-nas.html</p>
Tajikistan	Protecting rights and interests of labour migrants	<p>In the time of the COVID pandemic, the staff of the Representation office of the MoLMEP in the Russian Federation launched a call centre to provide information to migrants on available services and support provided by government agencies, diaspora and NGOs in the Russian Federation.</p>	<p>http://taimigration.ru/</p>

