

**International Workshop on
ASIAN TRANSNATIONAL FAMILIES**

**2 – 4 February 2005
York Hotel, Rose Ballroom I & II, Singapore**

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2005

- 08:30 – 09:00** **Registration and Welcome Snacks**
- 09:00 – 09:10** **Welcome Note**
Brenda YEOH
Principal Investigator, Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, and Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, SINGAPORE
- Shirlena HUANG
Head of Department and Associate Professor, Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, SINGAPORE

Session 1: Transnational Families and the Geographies of Care

Chairperson: Richard BEDFORD
University of Waikato, New Zealand

- 09:10 – 09:30** **Alien Mothers: Uneven Geographies of Transnational Families**
Rachel SILVEY
University of Colorado, USA
- 09:30 – 09:50** **“Knowing One’s Place”: Sojourning of Eastern Indonesian Migrants**
Catharina Purwani WILLIAMS
The Australian National University, AUSTRALIA

- 09:50 – 10:10** **Long Distance Intimacy: Class, Gender and Intergenerational Relations between Mothers and Children in Filipino Transnational Families**
Rhacel Salazar PARRENAS
University of California, USA
- 10:10 – 10:40** **Discussion Session 1A**
- 10:40 – 11:00** **Tea Break**
- 11:00 – 11:20** **Who Cares? Managing the Family in Transnational Space: Stories from Migrants in Hong Kong**
Maggi LEUNG
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, CHINA
- 11:20 – 11:40** **“The First Taiwanese Wives” and “the Chinese Mistresses:” The International Division of Labor in Marital and Familial Relations Across the Taiwan Strait**
SHEN Hsiu-hua
National University of Singapore, SINGAPORE
- 11:40 – 12:10** **Discussion Session 1B**
- 12:10 – 13:10** **Lunch**

Session 2: Transnational Perspectives on Marriage and Migration

Chairperson: Josephine SMART
University of Calgary, Canada

- 13:10 – 13:30** **Married to the Military: Filipinas Negotiating New and Old Families in a Transnational Context**
Sallie YEA
RMIT, AUSTRALIA
- 13:30 – 13:50** **Philippine Women on the Move: A Transnational Perspective on Marriage Migration**
Andrea LAUSER
University of Marburg, GERMANY
- 13:50 – 14:10** **Family Life of Foreign Brides in Taiwan: A Study on Outcomes of Marriage Migration**
TSAY Ching-lung
The Institute of Economics, Academia Sinica, TAIWAN
- 14:10 – 14:40** **Discussion Session 2**

14:40 – 15:00 Tea Break

Session 3: Transnational Families and Inter-generational Politics

Chairperson: Nicola PIPER
Asia Research Institute, Singapore

- 15:00 – 15:20 Intergenerational Transnationalism: The Experiences and Inclinations of 1.5 Asian Migrants in New Zealand**
Allen BARTLEY and Paul SPOONLEY
Massey University, NEW ZEALAND
- 15:20 – 15:40 Construction of Transnational Identity: Bangladeshi Sylheti Families in UK**
Tasneem SIDDIQUI
University of Dhaka, BANGLADESH
- 15:40 – 16:10 Discussion Session 3**
- 16:10 – 16:20 Short Break**

Session 4: Transnational Families and Social Networks

Chairperson: Noorashikin ABDUL RAHMAN
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore

- 16:20 – 16:55 Minahasan Community in Oarai, Ibaraki, Japan: The Importance of Family Networks in Migration of Minahasan from Indonesia to Japan (Including a Video Presentation)**
Riwanto TIRTOSUDARMO
Indonesian Institute of Sciences, INDONESIA
- 16:55 – 17:15 Transnational Families of Burmese Migrants in Thailand and Social Network's Role**
Maliwan KHRUEMANEE
UNHCR, THAILAND
- 17:15 – 17:35 Discussion Session 4**

THURSDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2005

Session 5: Households, Economies and Transnational Strategies

Chairperson: Rhacel Salazar PARRENAS
University of California, United States of America

- 09:00 – 09:20** **Families in Motion – A Comparative Study of Transnational Chinese Households in Hong Kong, China, and Canada**
Josephine SMART
University of Calgary, CANADA
- 09:20 – 09:40** **“Transnational Families” among Professional, Dual Career Couples in Ho Chi Minh City**
TRAN Phi Phuong
University of South Australia, AUSTRALIA
- 09:40 – 10:00** **Transnational Family Strategies in Fiji**
Carmen VOIGT-GRAF
University of the South Pacific, FIJI
- 10:00 – 10:30** **Discussion Session 5A**
- 10:30 – 11:00** **Tea Break**
- 11:00 – 11:20** **Indonesian Migrant Families in Southern Philippines: Mobility and Settlement**
Misael RACINES
University of the Philippines, PHILIPPINES
- 11:20 – 11:40** **Family Strategies of Nepalese Migrants in Japan: Split Households, Dual Wage Earners and Kin Networks**
Keiko YAMANAKA
University of California, USA
- 11:40 – 12:00** **The Asian Transnational Migrants and Development in Fiji Islands: The Case of Contemporary Chinese Immigrants**
Manoranjan MOHANTY
University of the South Pacific, FIJI

- 12:00 – 12:20** **The Reproduction of a Translocal Moral Economy among South Indian Migrants in Singapore**
Selvaraj VELAYUTHAM
University Western Sydney, AUSTRALIA and
Amanda WISE
Macquarie University, AUSTRALIA
- 12:20 – 13:00** **Discussion Session 5B**
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch**
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Session 6: Transnational Families, Education and Cultural Capital

Chairperson: Diana WONG
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia

- 14:00 – 14:20** **Education as “Cultural Capital” in the Transnational Strategies of Hong Kong Immigrant Families in Vancouver**
Johanna WATERS
University of Liverpool, UK
- 14:20 – 14:40** **Asian Transnational Families in New Zealand: Changing Dynamics and Policy Challenges**
Elsie HO and Richard BEDFORD
University of Waikato, NEW ZEALAND
- 14:40 – 15:10** **Discussion Session 6**
- 15:10 – 15:40** **Tea Break**
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Session 7: Families, Nations and Transnationalities

Chairperson: Rachel SILVEY
University of Colorado, United States of America

- 15:40 – 16:00** **Bengali-speaking Transnational Families in Singapore: Home, Nation and the World**
Habibul Haque KHONDKER
National University of Singapore, SINGAPORE
- 16:00 – 16:20** **Flexible Citizenship, or Familial Ties that Bind? Singaporean Transmigrants in London**
Elaine Lynn-Ee HO
University College of London, UK

16:20 – 16:50

Discussion Session 7

18:00

Workshop Dinner

FRIDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2005

APMRN BUSINESS MEETING

9:00 – 11:00

Chair: Tasneem SIDDIQUI
(All are invited)

1. Welcome to everyone and introductions
2. Report of the Secretariat and follow-up from 2002 Fiji meeting (Robyn IREDALE and Gareth LARSEN)
3. Report on the 2002-03 UNESCO project on the 1990 UN Convention (Nicola PIPER)
4. Report on 2003-04 UNDP project on Migration Patterns and Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in NE Asia and S Asia (Tasneem SIDDIQUI)
5. Country reports from coordinators/others:
 - SE Asia
 - S Asia
 - NE Asia
 - Pacific

11:00 – 11:15

Tea Break

11:15 – 12:45

Chair: Tasneem SIDDIQUI
(Restricted to APMRN members only)

6. Discussion about future direction and role of the APMRN:
 - 3 new projectsⁱ on the 1990 UN Convention (Robyn IREDALE)
 - IOM/CASS conference in Guangzhou, 16 – 17 March 2005 on Internal Migration and Development (Robyn IREDALE)
 - RRMMU/DFID conference in Bangladesh on Sustainable Return Migration (Tasneem SIDDIQUI)
 - Korean proposal for June 2005 from In-Jin Yoon
 - Other suggestions for projects, publications, etc?
7. Suggestions on the future role of the Secretariat?
8. Collaboration with Metropolis – future options?
9. Discussion of venue and host for next meeting
10. Expression of thanks to Tasneem SIDDIQUI
11. Rotation of the chair position – to be decided at the meeting
12. Other business

12:45 – 14:00

Lunch (All are welcome)

14:00 – 16:00

**Chair: Paul SPOONLEY
(Restricted to APMRN members only)**

Workshop on Project 2 – ‘Promoting a process to develop action plans for Bangladesh, Korea and New Zealand to encourage them to ratify the 1990 International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families’

This workshop will involve all APMRN members and will be devoted to assisting the coordinators/others from the three countries involved, to work out a strategy for promoting ratification of the Convention. Patrick Taran from the ILO and Patrick Earle from Diplomacy Training Program, University of NSW will also attend to assist us.

16:00 – 16:30

Tea Break

16:30 – 17:30

**Chair: Nicola PIPER and Robyn IREDALE
(Restricted to APMRN members only)**

**Comments on the Evaluation Framework for
Project 1**

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1. Impacts of Ratification of the 1990 Convention in the Philippines and Sri Lanka

Aim: one of the major obstacles to ratification of the 1990 Convention is the view that such ratifications will involve heavy costs of implementation/monitoring and will also lead to the loss of markets for overseas workers. Some countries have had experiences of being advised not to ratify or their workers will be rejected. At the same time, there have been moves to bring sending countries together to create some sense of solidarity, and concerted ratification within this region has at least been discussed.

Research Method:

- (1) Analysis of data - to examine changing patterns in terms of numbers (including skill levels) and destinations before and after ratification;
- (2) Interviews with 20 Key Informants in government, trade unions, NGOs, overseas worker groups, etc to evaluate the costs incurred in both implementation and monitoring and potential loss of markets and the benefits that have flowed since ratification;
- (3) Investigation of governmental action vis-à-vis worker abuse abroad as well as governmental encouragement of other sending states in this region to ratify;
- (4) Investigation of expressed interest by non-ratifiers (sending of delegations etc.)

A framework for evaluating the impacts will be developed by the investigators.

Personnel: Nicola PIPER and Robyn IREDALE in cooperation with in-country assistants

2. Promoting a process to develop action plans for Bangladesh, Korea and New Zealand to encourage them to ratify the ICMR

Aim: This project would be an action project to promote ratification of the 1990 Convention in three countries from the first stage.

Method: The APMRN would act as a facilitator in this process by using its country coordinators and other appropriate people to set up and run a set of two workshops in each country. UNESCO, ILO, IOM and other players in this field would also be encouraged to be involved in this process.

Workshop 1 in each country would be conducted with government officials to talk through the obstacles, objectives and implications of ratification. The country coordinator would set up and manage this meeting and invite a facilitator from inside the country to conduct this workshop. This would be held in the first nine months of the project (September 2004-May 2005). After the workshop a report would be circulated to government officials.

Workshop 2 would bring together NGOs, trade unionists, migrants, etc to discuss issues that were raised in the first workshop. The aim would be to highlight opportunities for making progress towards ratification and strengthen networking amongst non-government players so that they could become more effective lobbyists.

Personnel: Robyn IREDALE/Nicola PIPER to coordinate -
Bangladesh - Prof. Tasneem SIDDIQUI, RMMRU, University of Dhaka;
Korea – Prof. Dong-Hoon SEOL (dhseol@chonbuk.ac.kr) and Ms Gui-Soon CHUNG (sangtism@hanmail.net)
New Zealand – Prof. Paul SPOONLEY

3. Obstacles to Ratification of the 1990 Convention in Australia, China and Mongolia

Aim: This project would be the first step in conducting research in China and Mongolia and would also be used as a means of bringing Mongolia into the APMRN. The Australian case study will provide more information about attitudes and obstacles in receiving countries.

Method:

The same method as applied before will be used but it will require two people to work together in each of China and Mongolia. The lack of data and networks make the project hard to conduct. It would also require involving a few outside people with expertise.

Personnel: Nicola PIPER and Robyn IREDALE
Australia – Professor Graeme HUGO
Mongolia - July 2005
China – August 2005