

Minutes of Philippine Working Group for the GFMD Meeting

Date: 15 February 2008

Venue: Try Muna Café, PGX, 112 Anonas Extension, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City Philippines

Attendees:

1. Migrant Forum in Asia Secretariat: William Gois, Christine Clemente and Tatcee Macabuag
2. Center for Migrant Advocacy: Ellene Sana
3. Kanlungan Center Foundations: Viol De Guzman
4. Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anakan ng mga Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino (KAKAMMPI): Ma. Socorro de la Cruz
5. Batis Center for Women: Andrea Luisa Anolin
6. ATIKHA Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative and PHILCOMDEV: Maya Bans Cortina
7. UNI-APRO: Jun Umali and Bobbit Librojo
8. PS LINK: Jillian Roque and Annie Geron
9. International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN): Clem Novales
10. Jubilee South APMDD: Gerry Arances
11. Building and Wood Workers Union International (BWI): Ambet Yuson
12. Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL): Roger P. Cordero
13. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung: Joanne Carmela Barriga

Organizations invited but unable to make it to the meeting:

14. Unlad Kabayan
15. Focus in the Global South
16. Stop the New Rounds
17. ASEAN Trade Union Congress

Introduction and overview

- The meeting was convened among MFA members and partners as an internal strategy meeting to prepare for the CSO parallel event for the GFMD 2008 on 27-30 October.
- An overview and background of the GFMD was given by William Gois, regional coordinator of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)
- The 2nd GFMD will be hosted by the Philippine government and the dates will be on 27-30 October 2008. The first two days will be for CSO Forum with the last two days devoted to Intergovernmental meetings. From the government side, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) will be in charge of organizing the event. In terms of organizing the CSO forum, Ayala Foundation was tasked by the DFA to lead the organizing of the program
- In terms of the CSO forum, a local organizing committee was set up comprised of NGOs, Church representatives, Church based organizations and the private sector. The International Steering Committee for the CSO Forum is not yet set-up. Ayala Foundation was supposed to convene the International Steering Committee on 31 January 2008 however this did not push through. The process of organizing the pool of experts for the GFMD has started.
- In terms of how CSOs can participate in the formal CSO Forum of the GFMD, an application process is open for CSOS and an *International Steering Committee* takes charge of looking into the criteria for the selection process. This was the process followed in both New York and in Brussels. Currently the Ayala Foundation has not yet started the process of setting up the international steering committee.

- In terms of CSO participation there is also marked difference in the participation of NGOs for the HLD and the GFMD. The first GMFD CSO forum included "non-state actors" which meant: banks, remittance centers, recruiters and the private sector.
- In terms of CSO programs, Migrants Rights International (MRI) and its members organized parallel events for both the UNHLD in New York and the first GFMD in Brussels. In New York the parallel event had workshops, rally/mobilizations and lobbying visits to embassies and consulates. In Brussels the parallel consisted only of workshops. The program in Brussels was organized by MRI, hosted by PICUM and with active participation of December 18 and the ICMC.
- The space for CSOs in the formal GFMD process becomes more limited each year. The GFMD has now become a permanent intergovernmental forum with the third GFMD hosted by Greece. However there is no assurance that the CSO forum as well will be permanent. There is no precedent in terms of CSO participation or structure for the CSO Forums. The 3rd GFMD in Greece might not have the same structure and do away with the CSO forum.
- CSO engagement in the GFMD is vital and for the 2nd GFMD in Manila, Philippines, MRI will once again be organizing a parallel event. There is a need for CSOs to be more active in terms of monitoring the GFMD process. MFA as the lead member of MRI in the Philippines will be among the host of the program.
- In preparing for the Parallel event, the questions there is a need to keep in mind the following questions:
 - What structure do we want for the parallel event?
 - Are we going to have workshops, mobilizations?

Discussion Points

The overview on the GFMD was followed by an open forum and guided discussion on the GFMD process. Below are the questions and discussion points raised during the meeting:

Q: How many will come from the Philippines in the 200 participants for the official process?

A: According to Ayala Foundation, the 200 participants will be from CSOs from the globe. Additional 30 participants will be chosen from Philippine CSOs.

Q: Who will choose the 30 participants?

A: The Ayala Foundation was tasked to organize the CSO Forum and the Foundation has convened a local organizing who will assist them in selecting the local participants for the program. The members of the local organizing committee include the following:

1. Washington Sycip
Founding Chairman, SGV & Co.
2. Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala
Chairman and CEO, Ayala Corporation
3. Doris Teresa Magsaysay-Ho
Chief Executive Officer, Magsaysay Maritime Corporation
4. Imelda Nicolas
Trustee / Treasurer
International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGOV)
5. Ambassador Narcisa Escaler
Co-Chair, Lola Grande Foundation

- Former Philippine Representative to the International Organization on Migration (IOM)
6. Dr. Ma. Lourdes Carandang
Professional Lecturer and Psychologist, University of the Philippines
 7. Bishop Precioso Cantillas, SDB, DD
Chairman, Ecumenical Commission on Migrant Workers
Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
 8. Fr. Edwin Corros, CS
Executive Secretary, Ecumenical Commission on Migrant Workers, Catholic Bishops
Conference of the Philippines
 9. Ildefonso Bagasao
President and CEO, Economic Resource Center for Overseas Filipinos Philippines, Inc.
(ERCOF)
 10. Fr. Fabio Baggio
Director, Scalabrini Migration Center
 11. William Gois
Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia
 12. Victoria Garchitorena
President, Ayala Foundation, Inc.
 13. Guillermo M. Luz
Executive Vice President, Ayala Foundation, Inc.
 14. Esteban Conejos
Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs - Department of Foreign Affairs
 15. Estrella Lajom
Special Assistant to Usec. Conejos – Department of Foreign Affairs
 16. Mario Deriquito
Director – Center for Social Development, Ayala Foundation, Inc.
 17. Jose Miguel dela Rosa
Consultant, Ayala Foundation, Inc.

In addition to the above a committee of experts was set-up by Ayala Foundation to prepare the background papers for the CSO Forum of the GFMD. The committee of experts had its first meeting in Tagaytay Philippines on 12-13 February 2008. The second experts meeting will be in August 2008.

In terms of giving inputs to the roundtable papers for the GFMD 2008, the Ayala Foundation was tasked to set-up an online forum for participants to be able to provide inputs for the online forums. However, CSOs who have been part of the GFMD 2008 process reports that governments were not given ample time to read the CSO reports prior to the actual intergovernmental forum.

Q: The papers written by the experts committee, what will be its significance, its role?

A: The papers written by the experts committee will be the basis for discussion in the CSO Forum. A website will be set-up for to discuss the papers. The final papers will be used as background paper for the GFMD CSO Formal process.

Q: What happened in Brussels should not happen for the 2nd GFMD. We should be given more time to interact with governments. What is the structure of the CSO forum for the 2008 GFMD?

A: The 2008 CSO forum will be on 27-28 October 2008. The 2nd day of the CSO program will be devoted to dialogues with selected govts. Expectations for more open process and more NGO participation were high as the forum will be in Philippines however, it seems that CSO participation is

again limited. Due to the limited participation of NGOs and CSOs, there is a need for CSOs to have its own parallel program, own strategy.

Q: How do we assert our space as Philippine CSOs in the 30 CSO delegates for the formal CSO process?

A: CSOs can be more active in terms of following up with the DFA, the Ayala foundation in terms of asking for updates and participating in the process. CSOs will also need to be more pro-active in terms of participating in the application process.

It was also explained that MFA and MRI have an inside/outside strategy wherein the network engages the official process at the same time it organizes its own programs parallel to the GFMD. The MFA network for its part will also be having its 11th Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) on 24-25 October 2008. The RCM is open to participation to TUs and other CSOs. MRI will be having its parallel activity after the RCM allowing partners in the region to join the program. The unions might also want to have a back to back program during the same dates to allow for stronger presence in Manila.

Parallel Program

The MRI parallel event had different structures, in New York for the HLD and in Brussels for the GFMD. During the UNHLD parallel event had workshops, rally/mobilization and lobbying visits to embassies and consulates. During the first GFMD the parallel program event only had workshops. For the Brussels parallel program, MRI was the lead organizer but it was co-organized by December 18, International Catholic Migration Commission and ITUC. For the Philippines MFA/MRI members and partners will have to decide what model to follow for the parallel event. The parallel event can have different structures. (E.g. Hong Kong WTO program, World Social Forum, etc). It will not only be MFA/ MRI who will be mobilizing for this but other organizations as well who are working on migrations issues.

Q: What is the role of the UN on the GFMD?

A: The Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) report included recommendations on the setting up of a permanent forum on migration and development. The UN was supportive of this thus they had the High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD). In the HLD it was announced that the Brussels government will be hosting the 1st GFMD and the Friends of the Forum (FOF) were tasked to organize the GFMD. The FOF are UN member states who meet regularly in Geneva or New York to prepare for the GFMD. The GFMD is now outside the UN and UN frameworks and human rights not discussed. This is one of the reasons why MRI and its partners is calling for the GFMD to be brought back under the auspices of the UN. This is also the reason why CSOs need to monitor the discussion in the GFMD.

Q: What is the process of choosing/selecting CSOs for the CSO forum? Is there a criteria for selection?

A: As previously mentioned Ayala Foundation has set-up a local organizing committee who will help them determine the 30 CSO participants for the CSO forum of the GFMD. Ayala is also calling for a national consultation in the National Capital Region (NCR) of the Philippines for to prepare for the GFMD. MFA and its member CMA will also be organizing CSO process but will not be limited to the capital. It will be conducted at 3 levels in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Q: If CSOs, migrants groups and their families will engage in the process, capacity building in understanding the issues around the process will be necessary. How can CSOs and migrants, migrant families be capacitated to engage in the process?

A: Resource persons are available for capacity building and each of the partners can conduct information education among their partners. Educational discussions among migrants and families can also be organized. CSOs can also participate in the country consultation in the different provinces and regions.

It was also discussed that MFA is also targeting 14 country consultations for 2 years in countries where there are MFA members and networks. In 2008, 8 country consultations will be conducted. The results of the country consultations will be put together and made available. This will be given to the governments prior to the GFMD 2008. It will also be given to embassies and consulates of these governments who have reps here in the Philippines. In terms of the country consultation in the Philippines, CMA will be leading the process.

Activities happening at the same dates as the GFMD 2008 was also discussed:

DATES	Activities
25-26 September	International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development NCRFW / Lola Grande / UNIFEM / ILO / WAGI /MFA - 200 pax total - 50 for CSOs and TUs -
24-25 October	12th Regional Conference on Migration MFA - Open to participation to TUs and CSOs - Theme: Migration and the Right to Development
27-28 October	CSO Forum GFMD
29-30 October	Intergovernmental Meeting GFMD MRI Parallel Event

Strategies and Action Points

The discussion and open forum was followed by the planning and identification of strategies and action points. Several activities were proposed for the parallel event among them:

- Press Conference
- Rally / mobilization
- Workshops
- Booths / tents
- Forums

Suggested venues included the following: Luneta , MOA, Quirino Grandstand, CCP complex, Malate Fountain (?).

Working Groups / committees were also set-up for the preparatory process in the Philippines. Below are the various committees and organizations who have volunteered to be part of the committees:

Logistics:

- Look into permits for venue
- Planning and organizing of venue:
- Members:
 - o PSI /PSLINK (Annie)
 - o CMA (Ellene)
 - o APL (Roger and Josua)
 - o UNI APRO (Bobit)
 - o MFA
 - o WG – note: ask peaceboat to support parallel event
- Bobbit / UNI APRO will call and host the next consultation meeting
- *coordinator: CMA? UNI?

Program Committee

- For the Parallel event
- BWI
- MFA
- MRI
- PSI / PSLINK
- Kanlungan
- IGTN
- Focus in the Global South (to invite)

Mobilization

- APL (MARINO)
- SNR (to invite)
- Jubilee South (to invite)
- FDC (to invite)
- AMEND (to invite)
- NOVA (to invite)
- PM (to invite)

Information dissemination

- MFA
- CMA
- MRI
- PSI / PSLINK
- UNI APRO
- BWI
- PHILCOMDEV (Maya)
- FDC (to invite)
- Jubilee South (to invite)

Education

- CMA
- ATUC (to invite)
- BWI
- UNI APRO
- PSI / PSLINK

- APL
- PHILCOMDEV

Outreach committee

- CMA - Philippines
- FES
- Jubilee South
- SNR (to invite)
- FDC (to invite)

It was decided that the group will share information concerning schedules and initiatives happening on the GFMD 2008. A media committee will also be organized once plans are more firmed up. The group felt that media will play a big role in terms of disseminating information and highlighting the CSO process.

The meeting ended at 1PM with partners agreeing to come for a second meeting on 26 March 2006, Tuesday. The meeting will be hosted by UNI APRO and will be from 9 am to 12 noon. (UNI-APRO / NUBE office is at the PNB Aurora Boulevard Branch, near Gateway Mall) MFA will write up the minutes of the first meeting and circulate among the Philippine working group for finalization. The group will be given 3 days to comment and finalize before the minutes will be circulated to the broader group.

/end/prepared by: MFA Secretariat/15 feb08/