INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC 2024

16 December 2024, 14:00-16:30 hours,

Conference Room 3, United Nations Conference Centre

Background

International Migrants Day, observed annually on 18 December, is an occasion to acknowledge the contributions of migrants and to reaffirm the commitment to safeguarding their rights and well-being in their countries of origin, transit and destination. In Asia and the Pacific, home to over 58 per cent of the world's population, migration plays a pivotal role in promoting economic growth, social resilience and cultural diversity. The region hosts nearly one-third of the world's international migrants, with most movement occurring within the region. Despite their contributions, migrants and their families often encounter challenges, including discrimination, social exclusion and human rights violations that limit the realization of the full benefits of migration.

At this year's International Migrants Day commemoration at the regional level in Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Regional United Nations Network on Migration will launch the Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024. The report provides an overview of recent progress and challenges in implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Asia and the Pacific. The report examines how emerging global and regional trends, such as demographic shifts, climate change, urbanization, digital transformation, and persistent inequalities, are reshaping migration in the region. The report also provides recommendations on how countries, in partnership with stakeholders, can accelerate the implementation of the Global Compact in the region.

From 4 to 6 February 2025, ESCAP and the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific will organize the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok, using the ESCAP intergovernmental platform. As we look towards the Regional Review, this event intends to foster dialogue between governments, experts, stakeholders and United Nations entities prior to the intergovernmental meeting on how to advance collective efforts for safe, orderly, and regular migration. The focus will also be on identifying regional priorities in advancing Global Compact implementation in Asia and the Pacific.

Objectives

The commemoration of International Migrants Day in Asia and the Pacific will provide an opportunity for member States, stakeholders and experts in the region to reflect on the region's progress, challenges and lessons learned in implementing the Global Compact for Migration and provide updates on the preparations for the Regional Review. With a view to the forthcoming intergovernmental Regional Review, the event will explore the following guiding questions:

- What are the key achievements in implementing the Global Compact for Migration in Asia and the Pacific so far, and what challenges remain?
- How are the global megatrends, including demographic shifts, climate change and digital transformation, affecting migration pathways and the lives of migrants and their families?

- What actions and partnerships are needed to address the current gaps in migrant protections, especially in partnership with civil society and the private sector?
- What are the regional priorities for member States and stakeholders to advance Global Compact for Migration implementation in Asia and the Pacific?

Participants
Heads of Diplomatic Missions or their representatives in Bangkok, international organizations and relevant stakeholders.

Modality/Structure of Event
The event be convened in a hybrid format, i.e. in-person at the United Nations Conference Centre, Conference Room 3, with the option for online participation using the Zoom platform. For those attending in person, online registration is requested by 12 December 2024 through Indico (https://indico.un.org/event/1014771/). For online participants, please register via Zoom at this registration link. The event will be recorded and posted on the websites for the Regional Review.

The Commemoration will be conducted through a hybrid format.

Date
The event will be held on Monday, 16 December 2024, from 14:00-16:30 hours (Bangkok time) in Conference Room 3, United Nations Conference Centre and online.

Background documents and relevant websites
Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024 (forthcoming) – to be released on 16 December 2024
Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration | ESCAP
Concept note: Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

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Programme

13:30-14:00	**Registration (*In-person and online participants join Zoom*)**
14:00-14:20	**Welcome and opening remarks** • **Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij**, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand • **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) • **Mr. Iori Kato**, Coordinator of the Regional United Nations Network on Migration for Asia and the Pacific and Regional Director of the International Organization for Migration, Asia and the Pacific • **Ms. Salsabila Rashid**, Project Officer, Migration Youth & Children Platform (MYCP), Pakistan (*online*) MC – Ms. Elena Harriss-Bauer, Social Development Division, ESCAP
14.20-14.35	**Launch of the Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2024 + photo** • **Ms. Sabine Henning**, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP
14:35-15:45	**Panel discussion: On the road to the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the Global Compact for Migration in Asia and the Pacific** Moderator: **Mr. Srinivas Tata**, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP • **H.E. Mr. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Bangladesh • **Mr. Robert O. Ferrer Jr.**, Assistant Secretary (Director-General) for Migration Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines (*online*) • **Ms. Deepa Bharathi**, Chief Technical Adviser, International Labour Organization (ILO), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific: Presentation of key findings and recommendations • **Ms. Pia Oberoi**, Senior Advisor on Migration and Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (*online*) • **Ms. Fish Pui Yu Ip**, Regional Coordinator for Asia, International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF), Hong Kong, China • **Mr. Klaus Dik Nielsen**, Co-Secretary General, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), Thailand Q&A
15:45-16:00	**Closing remarks** • **Ms. June Kunugi**, Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF • **Mr. Gerd Trogemann**, Manager, Global Policy Network and Regional Programme, UNDP, Asia and the Pacific • **Ms. Christine Arab**, Regional Director of UN Women Asia and the Pacific and UN Women Representative to the Kingdom of Thailand
16:00-16:30	**Refreshment**