

10 December 2010

Celebrating 20th Anniversary of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families

Bangkok (*UN ESCAP Information Services*) – Ahead of International Migrants Day observed annually on 18 December, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Regional Office for South-East Asia, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Regional Thematic Working Group (TWG) on International Migration including Human Trafficking, is organizing a roundtable discussion on Monday, 13 December from 10.00 to 12.00 noon at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok.

The discussion will focus on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of their Families, which was adopted 20 years ago by the UN General Assembly and entered into force in 2003. To date, 43 countries have become States Parties to the Convention globally, including only 7 countries from Asia and the Pacific – although the region is estimated to be home to some 53 million documented migrants and a high number of non-recorded migrants.

The upcoming event is aimed at promoting the landmark Convention, which opened a new chapter in the history of the rights of migrant workers, providing effective means to protect and respect those rights. The event will also contribute to highlighting the linkage between migration and human trafficking, advocating the role of human rights defenders working on the rights of migrants and trafficked persons.

The roundtable discussion will bring together experts and Government officials who will share their unique insight and experience, including from the viewpoint of countries both of origin and destination and of countries which have ratified the Convention or still are to take the step to ratify it.

Panelists include: H.E. Felipe Frydman, Ambassador of Argentina to Thailand; Mr. Abdelhamid El Jamri, Chairperson, UN Committee on Migrant Workers; Ms. Roostiwati, Director, Indonesian Overseas Workers Placement, Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, Indonesia; Dr. Sung Yong Hwang, Deputy Director, Migration Team of Civil Rights Division, National Human Rights Commission, Republic of Korea; and Mr. William Gois, Regional Coordinator, Migrants Forum in Asia. Ms. Thetis Mangahas, Deputy Director, International Labour Organization (ILO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific will moderate the discussion.

Ms. Nanda Krairiksh and Mr. Andrew Bruce, Co-chairs of the above-cited TWG will deliver the opening remarks, along with Ms. Marcia Kran, Director, OHCHR Research and Right to Development Division.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

You or your representatives are cordially invited to attend the event which will take place from 10.00-12.00 noon on Monday, 13 December 2010 at ESCAP Hall of the United Nations Conference Centre, Conference Room 4 (CR4), Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok.

For further information, visit: <http://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/> or www.unescap.org/sdd/

Or contact:

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**Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration of
the International Day of Persons with Disabilities
3 December 2010**

09:00 - 11:00 hours

Conference Room 4, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Programme

09:00 - 09:05	Joint welcoming statement by Ms. Nanda Krairiksh, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP, Mr. Akiie Ninomiya, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) and Mr. Bkom Limpiphiphatn, APCD
09:05-09:13	Keynote Address by H.E. Mr. Seiji Kojima, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Thailand
09:14-09:21	Special Statement by H.E. Dr. Tej Bunnag, Chairperson of APCD Executive Board
09:22 - 09:32	Screening of "An Everyday Journey"
09:33 - 10:40	Roundtable: "Making the Right Real: Legal Perspectives on Promoting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" Moderator: Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn, Host of Inside Asia/Former Senior Editor of the Nation Panalists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Yoshikazu Ikehara, Attorney at Law, Tokyo Advocacy Law Office 2. Senator Monthian Buntan 3. Ms. Panomwan Boontem, President, The Association of Thai Deaf Children & Woman Network Federation (TDCWNF) 4. Ms. Yoshimi Horiuchi, Coordinator, Institute on Disability and Public Policy (IDDP)
10:41 - 10:44	Introduction of "Make the Right Real" and its American Sign Language (ASL) version
10:45 - 11:00	Refreshments