

OVERVIEW OF WORK CONDUCTED BY THE
UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH
IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

The work of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in the field of international migration is designed to support global processes of dialogue and sharing of ideas and practices initiated at the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and now continued through the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The Institute's migration-related training is an example of inter-agency cooperation on matters of critical relevance to United Nations Member States. It falls within the broader mandate of UNITAR to strengthen the United Nations system through appropriate training on social and economic development, peace and security issues.

A. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR SERIES ORGANIZED BY UNITAR IN
COLLABORATION WITH IOM, UNFPA AND THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Through 2008, UNITAR as the main training arm of the United Nations system, supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the MacArthur Foundation implemented the Migration and Development Seminar Series at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Launched in 2005, the series' role is to inform, educate and stimulate critical thinking on migration-related topics among New York's diplomatic community. It brings together various stakeholders involved in migration and development issues —governments, the United Nations and other international organizations, the private sector and civil society, including migrant associations, other non-governmental organizations and academics, and provides an informal platform for dialogue and networking.

Along with its partner agencies, UNITAR collaborated with the Government of the Philippines, the GFMD host in 2008, to identify migration-related priorities on which to train the international community. Since May 2008, the series hosted three seminars on the topics of: Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration; Countering Human Trafficking, and Labour Migration: Protection, Gender and Development. On the subjects of climate change and migration and labour migration, UNITAR and its partners convened informal expert group meetings prior to the respective seminars, which provided an opportunity for exchange of ideas and progress towards an inter-disciplinary understanding and approach to the issues.

In addition, a course on international migration law, facilitated by IOM, complemented the series, examining all international and regional legislation pertaining to international migration, while providing an inter-active and skills-based learning experience for delegates. Two more events are scheduled to take place in 2008: a seminar on Migration Data on 10 December 2008 and a panel discussion on the Political Rights of Migrants, celebrating the occasion of International Migrants' Day on 18 December 2008.

Looking back, the Migration and Development Series in 2008 was well received by the United Nations community and the discussions can be summarized under the following headers:

1. Causes and consequences of migration

When addressing the causes and consequences of mi

migration. In addition, governments should exercise oversight of international recruitment agencies through a licensing and monitoring mechanism. This could help end abusive bond practices by ensuring that recruitment fees are being charged to employers and not to the prospective migrant employee.

While legal instruments should be gender-neutral, policies should be gender-sensitive and take the different situations and needs of male and female migrants into account. In the case of labour migration, this should translate into labour laws covering all forms of work, including domestic work. Also, labour rights should apply to all workers regardless of their status. In the context of the discussions

In addition, a number of country-level pilot projects are envisioned. The pilots will explore new areas of activity and innovative approaches based on, and leading to, the development of long-term and large-scale projects at the country level. In addition, it is planned to transfer and apply existing initiatives and good practices from one implementation context to another. Areas for exploration include:

1. Engaging the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission² to consider the role of transnational communities in consolidating peace and development in the countries currently under the