

Parallel Sessions 1.1: Gender Issues and the Contributions of Migrant Women Workers to National Development of Sending and Receiving Countries

Organizers: *Lola Grande Foundation for Women and Children, Inc. (LGF), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), World Bank (WB) and International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

Schedule: *25 September/ 1:00-3:00pm/ Davao Function Room*

Session Abstract

Remittances are one of the most emphasized gauges for development outcomes of migration in the societies of origin. The amounts remitted, their frequency, the channels used and the impact of remittances on the development of the country of origin are all impacted by gender. "While the state of gender and migration studies is fundamentally healthy, a transnational space where gender matters but which has not been so thoroughly explored to date is remittances."

The session will present the latest research from the World Bank on the nexus between women's migration and development, drawing on the recent publication, "The International Migration of Women". It will provide a broad overview of the conceptual framework of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women INSTRAW on migration and development in their approach on local development and global care chains. The Southeast Asian perspective will likewise be presented through a study that examines the gender dimensions of sending, receipt, control and management of remittances. It will delve into remittancesending practices of migrant domestic workers and the receipts, channels, uses and development outcomes of remittances for migrants, their families and local economy. Transfers of skills and entrepreneurship from the diaspora illustrated by IOM's MIDA programme will also be discussed. Women migrant equipped with new competencies, ideas and expertise gained abroad can represent a tremendous asset to the development of their countries of origin.

Session Objectives

1. Highlight the gender dimensions of remittance and transfers and focus on the gender dimensions of remittance outcomes on the micro and macro levels;
2. Discuss major obstacles to remittance transfers for migrant women and remittance-induced development for the sending country;
3. Suggest ways to facilitate gender-sensitive remittance transfers and leverage remittances for development; and
4. Suggest ways to forge partnerships between origin and destination countries and migrants to encourage transfer of skills and social remittances.