

## **Sessions 1.3: Gender Issues and New Dimensions in Addressing Trafficking in Persons**

*Sponsor: International Labour Organization (ILO)*

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

### **Session Abstract**

Prevention remains to be the most crucial component in combating trafficking in persons. By focusing on effective prevention strategies, situations of vulnerability and risks factors to trafficking are addressed. It further reduces the chances for people to come within the trafficking cycle. Prevention activities are carried out in a number of ways. These may include, among others, policies and programmes promoting social development and poverty reduction, addressing supply and demand factors, removing discrimination and inequality, empowering the vulnerable sectors, raising awareness and educating potential migrants about their legal rights and safe migration.

This parallel session will look at some approaches and good practices and move prevention as a component of anti-trafficking efforts to the next level. It will draw out relevant information and lessons learned primarily from experiences in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and from the perspectives of a development bank and the workers and employers/business groups. The session will also focus on the impact of these prevention strategies on gender and labour exploitation dimensions of the problem. Broader approaches and engagement of a wider spectrum of actors are, therefore, seen as strategic to preventing trafficking in persons.

### **Session Objectives**

The session generally aims to present and examine good practices, successful strategies and new perspectives in preventing trafficking in persons. Specifically, the session seeks to:

1. Examine practices and lessons learned in the Greater Mekong Sub-region developed through eight years of implementing anti-trafficking programmes across countries in this region as well as the experiences of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in this area; and
2. Provide new perspectives in addressing trafficking for forced labour and labour exploitation especially from the workers and employers/business groups.