

PHILIPPINES

**GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY, AND REGULAR MIGRATION
PREPARATORY STOCKTAKING MEETING**

4-6 December, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Action Group No. 2 - Community Dimension

Delivered by

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**Mister Chairman,
(Salutations)**

Being the actors on the ground, communities play an important role generally on matters relating to integration and inclusion. I wish however to share the experience and practices of Filipino migrant communities in countries where they reside or work that could be developed into concrete recommendations with means of implementation and partnerships.

Filipino communities overseas or *FilCom* as we call them, usually organize themselves into different groups with specific interests or advocacies ranging from a commonality in their regional roots, professional affiliations, socio-cultural, sports and other interests. In almost all destination countries, they register their organizations with embassies and consulates of the Philippine government and provide information about what their organization is all about, who they are, their officers and members, and what activities and projects do they do and implement. Apart from their registration, they maintain their connection with the Philippine government by among others, inviting embassy/consulate officials to grace their activities, attending regular fora and meetings called by the embassy, cooperating and doing volunteer work during consular outreach missions.

Based on the Philippines's experience with its FilCom, migrant organizations and the constituencies that they represent have played a crucial role that could be enhanced and expanded to protect their rights, promote their welfare, foster cultural understanding and tolerance between and among the local community and other migrant communities, achieve inclusion and ensure social cohesion.

Recommendations:

1. Institutionalize a post-arrival orientation/education program for newly arrived migrants to acquaint them with the new environment of their residence or workplace. Conversely, the local community, including employers should be provided basic information about the cultural background of the migrants that they will host or employ.
2. Provide basic information on the host country's labor, immigration and other relevant laws thru information materials, fora and education seminars to empower and capacitate migrants in safeguarding their rights at work and in the community and society where they live in.
3. Conduct skills enhancement trainings, including learning the local language, that would give them new or additional skills, upgrade their job category, increase their productivity, improve their wages, and facilitate their mobility.
4. Promote financial awareness and education, especially the importance of savings and investment, and if viable, entrepreneurship, in order to maximize their financial gains.
5. Support multicultural activities through sports, music, arts, food festivals and other cultural events that will facilitate better understanding and appreciation of the cultures of the migrant and host communities.

In any of the above recommendations, collaboration and partnerships can be forged by and among migrant community organizations, embassies of the governments of the migrants, relevant government institutions of the host country at the community level, NGOs including church based organizations, the private sector and leaders and organizations in the local community.

Thank you very much.