A REVIEW OF 2012 ON THE APMAGNET PORTAL

As 2012 draws to a close, ApMagnet would like to wish all members and friends a safe and happy new year and best wishes for 2013.

With 326 current members and an expanding virtual library of more than 460 knowledge resources, AP-Magnet remains committed to its original goal of providing a forum for sharing and leveraging technical and practical knowledge on labour migration.

Encouraging debate on relevant, contemporary issues is also an important part of Ap-Magnet’s vision. This year we’ve hosted two online discussions, on Circular Migration of Health Professionals and Labour Mobility in Asia. Watch out for our next discussion on Social Protection, coming up in February 2013.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions for improvements. We look forward to seeing you on AP-Magnet in 2013!

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY, 18 DECEMBER 2012

On the occasion of International Migrants Day 2012, United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon reminded us all that "as budgets tighten, we are seeing austerity measures that discriminate against migrant workers, xenophobic rhetoric that encourages violence against irregular migrants, and proposed immigration laws that allow the police to profile migrants with impunity. During economic downturns, it is worth remembering that whole sectors of the economy depend on migrant workers and migrant entrepreneurs help to create jobs." Read the whole message from Ban-Ki Moon here.

News from across Asia also highlighted the integral role that migrant workers play in our global economy and society, with many migrant workers, advocacy groups and members of the public using the occasion of International Migrants Day 2012 to voice concern regarding protection of migrant workers’ rights. In Malaysia, more than 130,000 signed a petition to the government to extended verification'. Although this deadline has now reportedly been extended for another three months, some commentary suggests that uncertainty over the deadline can leave migrant workers vulnerable to corruption and illegal practices.

Later data from the World Bank suggests that remittance flows to the developing world will exceed earlier estimates for the year 2012, and show an increase of approximately 6.5 per cent on the previous year. Commentary suggests that migrant workers have proven very resilient in the face of the continuing economic crisis in advance counties. Top recipients for officially recorded remittances within Asia include India, China, Bangladesh and Vietnam.

Read more news from the world of migration on Ap-Magnet’s News page, or follow us on Twitter.

FEATURED RESOURCES

- The OECD’s International Migration Outlook 2012 provides an analysis of recent developments in migration and policies in OECD countries.
- Le monde diplomatique’s Profession, Maid: a photographic film is a film based on photographs and interviews gathered during an earlier investigation in the Philippines, ‘Filipino maids for export’.
- Human Rights Watch’ For a Better Life: Migrant Worker Abuse in Bahrain and the Government Reform Agenda provides an in depth analysis of abuse and exploitation suffered by predominantly South Asian migrant workers in Bahrain, and details the government’s efforts to provide redress and strengthen worker protections.
- IOM Migration Policy Institutes, latest Issue in Brief #7 examines diaspora engagement in Asia, reviewing current and potential government mechanisms for facilitating diaspora engagement.

Find more migration-related knowledge products in Ap-Magnet’s Resources library.

WORKING TOGETHER, WALKING TOGETHER: MIGRATION WORKS FOR US ALL

In December 2012, ILO launched Working Together, Walking Together: Migration Works For Us All, in partnership with other UN Agencies and civil society organizations.

This social awareness campaign aims to promote positive attitudes towards migrant workers in Malaysia, engaging with Malaysian youth in particular to highlight the positive contribution that migrants make to the Malaysian economy and society.

To follow the campaign, visit and like its page on Facebook.

http://apmagnet.ilo.org/