

# **Description on Plenary Sessions in Nagoya**

**August 8, 2016**

## **Opening Speech**

Howard Duncan

Executive Head, International Metropolis Project

Hideaki Omura

Governor of Aichi Prefectural Government, Japan

## **Plenary Session 1      Refugee protection: Our most pressing migration dilemma**

Exceptionally large refugee flows from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan into Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Europe have dominated world news for the past five years. The numbers entering Europe during the first few weeks of 2016 far exceed those from a year ago when over 1 million entered Germany alone. But these are far from the only refugees and internally displaced persons in the world today. UNHCR now estimates that there are now beyond 20 million refugees and that the total number of persons forcibly displaced from their homes has surpassed 60 million. Voluntary return rates are low, resulting in most refugee situations being protracted, sometimes for decades. Most refugees flee to neighbouring countries which bear the burden of supporting them, and the international community has been nearly paralyzed in its responses, so overwhelming have the numbers become. Re-settlement numbers remain low compared to the overall magnitude of the problem, and many European citizens are expressing frustration with the rapidly growing presence of refugees and other migrants in their cities and towns. Their fear, frustration, and anger has led to some governments restricting flows across their borders, raising the spectre of a collapse of Europe's Schengen agreement and, even more alarming, the possible collapse of the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees. This panel will look at what is now the world's most pressing migration dilemma.

**Moderator:** Takahiro Shinyo, Former Ambassador of Japan to Germany, vice president of Kwansei Gakuin University

### **Speakers:**

Petra Bendel (Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nuermberg, Germany)

Dirk Hebecker (UNHCR)

Jean-Christoph Dumont (OECD )

## **Special Lecture**

Annette Kramme

Parliamentary Secretary of State, Federal Republic of Germany

## **Plenary Session 2      Managing Global Risk: Migration in situations of crisis**

In a progressively interlinked world, the repercussions of crises, whether natural, or man-made, inevitably transcend national borders. For example, hundreds of thousands of people were forced to move in the wake of such catastrophes as Hurricane Katrina (2005), the earthquake in Haiti (2010), the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami (2011), and Typhoon Haiyan which devastated parts of the Philippines (2013). Thousands of families from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Eritrea, fleeing from warfare, armed conflict and persecution, made the perilous journey to Europe seeking refuge and safety (2014-15). Emergency responses must take into account not only the welfare of those missing and injured but of those, sometimes numbering beyond a million, who are physically and suddenly displaced by such crises. Often, people leaving a disaster area relocate to cities where they can most likely find the support, shelter, and services they require. This session will examine changing migration trends induced by crisis situations and how they influence economic and political development, security, and stability at a global level. Our speakers will offer advice to governments, members of the international community and other stakeholders on how best to deal with the existing reality of mounting displacement, both internal and global.

**Moderator:** Imelda Nicholas (Co-chair of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis(MICIC) Initiative, Metropolis Asia )

**Speakers:**

Maxine Burkett (University of Hawaii, USA)

Masanori Naito (Doshisha University, Japan)

Oliver Bakewell (Oxford University, UK)

## **Plenary Session 3**

### **Creating Trust through wisdom: Co-development and migration in East Asia**

A history of conflict amongst countries in East Asia has created a legacy of mistrust that endures today and that is a major geo-political concern for the entire world. Expressions of this remaining mistrust are now mostly contained to issues that are largely symbolic such as ownership of small islands and commemoration ceremonies, but the risk of more intense conflict remains. This plenary session will look at the value for building trust of multi-lateral engagement in areas other than those of direct conflict. Migration can be one of those areas given the common interests shared by East Asian countries with regard to their demographic futures, their labour force trajectories, and the growing desire of their citizens to study and work abroad. Co-operation on managed migration within the East Asian and the greater ASEAN region offers a realizable and relatively non-contentious area for building greater trust amongst these peoples. This panel will offer its advice for pursuing an opportunity for creating trust through wisdom on migration management. It will, in so doing, illustrate the potential importance of migration policy for foreign relations.

**Moderator:** Howard Duncan (Carleton University, Canada, International Metropolis Project))

#### **Speakers:**

Sangjoon Kim (Yonsei University, Korea)

Huang Ping (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

Yasushi IGUCHI (Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan)

## **Plenary Session 4**

### **Migration, trade, and diasporas: Engines for economic integration**

The interest in the relationship between migration and development has brought a great deal of attention to the potential inherent in diasporas as engines for economic growth in homelands, a potential that has grown along with the deepening of globalization and the effects of its technologies, in particular, the continued rise of transnationalism. Among the manifestations of transnationalism are business, investment, and trade relationships that transcend international borders as well as the more complex migration patterns of the “new mobility” that can themselves support international businesses and trade. Migrants who return to their homelands following time spent abroad in study or work or managing a business offer economic benefits through their human capital having been enhanced by their experiences elsewhere. But for a homeland economy to fully benefit from either the presence of its diaspora abroad or its retuning migrants requires explicit and continual management. Returnees need support in their re-integration to the homeland society and its economic institutions much in the way that migrants need support for integration into their host society. And diaspora members need to be paid attention to if their activities in their host countries are to offer benefits to the homelands. This panel will look at best practices for how homelands can manage diaspora relations and the re-integration of returning migrants.

**Moderator:** Binod Khadria ( Jawaharlal Nehru University, India)

**Speakers:**

Philip Martin (UC Davis, USA)

Dvora Blum (Ruppin Academic Center, Israel)

Howard Li (Ryerson University, Canada)

## **Plenary Session 5**

### **Asia's demographic precipice: Migration, technology, and greater workforce participation**

Japan, Korea, and China each face a future of ageing populations, shrinking populations, shrinking labour forces, and a rapidly declining ratio of workers to dependents. With UN-reported fertility rates of 1.3, 1.2, and 1.6 respectively, these countries will see their populations decline this century, dramatically in Japan's case. In an era characterized by sluggish global economic growth and a slowing growth in China, this demographic scenario is worrying for economies that increasingly are reliant upon innovation and investment. Population ageing is not normally associated with high levels of innovation. In addition, Thailand, a strong industrial power in the ASEAN is also faced with rapid demographic changes. These economies, must respond to their demographic realities, and how they do so will determine their future economic fortunes. However, the balance among raising workforce participation, for example among women and older workers, relying on new technologies to carry out functions once performed by people, and international migration that would seek to introduce not only more workers but more innovators and investors to their economies, might be different according to countries. This panel will look at the realities of demographic changes and international migration and at the current thinking on how each should respond to the realities.

**Moderator:** Jan Rath (University of Amsterdam, Metropolis Europe)

#### **Speakers:**

Reiko Hayashi (National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan)

Yongyth Challamwong (Center for Economic Development, Thailand)

Rafael Chomik (University of New South Wales, Australia )

# Special Report

Ovais Sarmad

International Organization for Migration



## **Plenary Session 6    Inclusive development: a new perspective on immigrant integration**

The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was established in a context of concern for not only enhancing the development of countries in the global south but in doing so inclusively, and not only for the benefit of a few. Rising inequality throughout the world and within countries remains a top priority for many concerned not only about social justice but about the political stability of societies characterized by high levels of inequality. Broadly speaking, inclusive development is defined as “a pro-poor approach that equally values and incorporates the contributions of all stakeholders - including marginalized groups - in addressing development issues. It promotes transparency and accountability, and enhances development cooperation outcomes through collaboration between civil society, governments and private sector actors.” With regard to migration, the issues range from access to labour markets through to the cost of migrating and sending remittances through to the quality of the integration of migrants in their countries of destination. This panel will examine the issue of immigrant integration from the perspective of inclusive development and will offer suggestions to ensure that migrants and their families are among the beneficiaries of economic and social development, particularly when that development is dependent upon their labor.

**Moderator:** Aya Okada (Nagoya University, Japan)

### **Speakers :**

Jung-Eun Oh (IOM MRTC, Korea)

Caglar Ozden (World Bank)

Brenda Yoeh (National University of Singapore)

## **Plenary Session 7**

### **When internal and international migration meet: best practices for cities**

In 2007, the world reached the milestone of 50% of its population residing in urban centres. With most OECD countries having already reached very high rates of urbanization – Belgium at 98%, Iceland at 94%, Australia at 90%, France and Sweden at 86%, the Netherlands at 84% - most future urbanization will take place in countries in the Global South, led perhaps by China whose deliberate policy of sustained urbanization has witnessed the creation of nearly 100 new and large cities and an urbanization rate climbing from 20% in 1980 to nearly 60% today, an exceptionally rapid increase. Urbanization is fuelled by migration, both internal and international, and today the majority of the world's migrants are destined for cities. More than ever, migration and urbanization are the same thing. Migrants prefer cities because it is there that their human capital is most rewarded, that they can find members of their families and co-ethnic groups, and that they can find employment for themselves and schools for their children. This session will look at best practices for cities to manage migration to reap its benefits and to contain its costs.

**Moderator: (TBC)**

**Speakers:**

Chizuko Kawamura (Daito Bunka University)

Anton Roux (ADC Forum, Melbourne, Australia)

Nonceba Molwele (Vice Mayor, Johannesburg, South Africa)

## **Plenary Session 8    Comprehensive migration policy-making for a re-vitalized Japan (revised )**

Japan's increasing embrace of immigration as part of its solution to having experienced a long-term economic plateau is less-well recognized than it deserves. Even public opinion, for a long time less than enthusiastic about increased immigration, is warming to the idea as a response to population ageing and decline, particularly as Japan's experience with limited immigration continues and with considerable success. This panel will look comprehensively at migration policy for Japan, casting its attention to immigrant selection, setting immigration levels, managing integration both socially and economically, and the role of citizenship policy. The working assumption of this closing session is that immigration to Japan will increase over time; the question is how it is to be best managed for the mutual success of the immigrants and Japanese society. In realizing such multifold discussions, the experiences of city alliances in North America, Europe and Japan should be discussed.

**Moderator:** Yasushi Iguchi (Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan)

### **Speakers:**

Christine Maeda and Naomi Yamaguchi (Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, Japan)

Ratna Omidvar (Cities of Migration, Canada)

Anu Riila (EUROCITIES, Belgium )

## Closing remarks

Jan Rath (University of Amsterdam, Metropolis Europe)