



**KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on  
Mobilizing diaspora resources as agents of social and economic change**

**Concept Note**

**Workshop on Emerging Diaspora Opportunities and Challenges: Host and  
Home Countries**

**Tuesday, May 10 2016, 9:00 -6:00 pm EST**

**Venue: World Bank, 1818 H Street N.W. Washington D.C.**

**Room MC2-800**

**1. Introduction**

The goal of KNOMAD is to develop the evidence base for policy making on migration and development. One obstacle to the development of sound policies and programs for realizing the development potential of diasporas is the lack of reliable information about the location and characteristics of diaspora populations. Policy makers lament the fact that they do not really know where diaspora populations are, which makes it extremely difficult to contact them. Governments often manage to communicate only with a relatively small, and not necessarily representative, group of diaspora members.

Diaspora engagement is a big and growing issue in developed and developing countries, with strong policy interest. But all things considered, the topic is vastly under-studied compared to its economic importance. What do states expect from greater diaspora engagement? Policy makers look to members of the diaspora to help overcome some of the constraints that inhibit development: lack of investment and international business acumen, lack of professional and technical skills, isolation from global networks of knowledge, and exclusion from global supply chains, among others. If people who leave retain a connection with the country of origin, and nurture it in their children and subsequent generations, emigration may not be a loss to the country but rather an investment in productive global connections that will contribute to development.

The life cycle of the diaspora in the destination country is understudied, in terms of the nature and intensity of its engagement. Since the population share of the first- and second-generation diaspora will increase in the next decades, better understanding of the demographic profile and educational and income mobility is needed. Of particular importance is research on ways to ensure greater upward mobility in the context of second generation (particularly given the recent participation of diaspora youth in conflicts in the Middle East).

## 2. Objectives of the workshop

Currently, there is little research on the different programs of diaspora engagement, the contributions of the diaspora to innovation and research, the barriers for first and second generation entrepreneurship and on the importance of upward mobility in the context of second generation. Identifying gaps on research and generating knowledge in these areas will provide information to policy makers on how to interact with their diasporas, and how different mobility experiences of the diaspora facilitate or inhibit the contributions of the diaspora in home and host countries.

This workshop aims to bring together leading researchers, policy makers and practitioners in this field to define key research gaps from a policy perspective and develop ideas on how to improve knowledge in these areas.

- Debate on further priorities and areas of research on diaspora issues.
- How can we measure the development impact of diaspora programs?
- How do different business environments facilitate or deter diaspora entrepreneurship?
- Which policies have facilitated or hindered the upward mobility within diaspora generations and across diaspora generations? Is it a problem of integration or assimilation?

## 3. Participation

The workshop foresees the attendance of researchers, policymakers and practitioners from the field. The following criteria could be used in identification of national experts/countries:

- Representatives of different regions: East Asia, Sub Saharan Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East and North Africa
- Researchers and practitioners involved in diaspora programs, analyzing the contributions of the diaspora to innovation, research and entrepreneurship and analyzing mobility of second generation diasporas

## 5. Venue and date

**Venue:** World Bank, MC2-800

**Address:** 1818 H. Street N.W. Washington D.C.

**Date:** May 10

**Time:** 8:30 am to 6:00 pm, followed by a dinner

**Draft Workshop Agenda**  
**Workshop on Emerging Diaspora Opportunities and Challenges: Host and Home Countries**

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**Venue: World Bank, 1818 H Street N.W. Washington D.C.**

**Room MC2-800 (Main Complex)**

**AGENDA**

- 8:30 – 9:00 am      Registration/Breakfast
- 9:00 – 9:15 am      **Welcome and opening remarks**
- Dilip Ratha, Head of KNOMAD, Lead Economist, Head of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), World Bank
  - Dr. Didar Singh, Secretary General, FICCI and Chair, KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on Mobilizing diaspora resources
  - Sonia Plaza, Senior Economist, MFM, Co-chair Thematic Working Group on Mobilizing diaspora resources
- 9:15 – 10:15 am      **Session 1: What do we know about where the diaspora is? What methodologies exist for counting the diaspora?**
- Migration and Remittances Factbook  
Sonia Plaza, Senior Economist, World Bank
  - Connecting with Emigrants a Global Profile of the diaspora  
Jean-Christophe Dumont, Head of International Migration, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
  - Challenges of Surveying Middle East Diaspora, Mariame Malouche, Senior Economist, Trade and Competitiveness

*Coffee Break 10:15 – 10:30 am*

10:30 – 12:15 pm      **Session 2: Diaspora initiatives: opportunities and challenges**

International policy makers and practitioners will share their insights on diaspora programs and policy initiatives to mobilize their diaspora

such as matching grants, training, advisory services, investments, skills and diaspora philanthropy. This will be a round table where different representatives from the embassies will exchange their experiences.

Questions:

What are the challenges of implementing policies for engaging with the diaspora? What are methodological challenges when measuring diaspora programs impact?

- Ambassador Lourdes Yparraguirre, Ambassador to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Philippines to the United Nations
- Nina Matiashvili, Chief Adviser of the State Minister, Georgia
- Ms. Sadia Faizunnesa, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
- Abderrahim Rahhaly, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Morocco
- Guillermo Reyes Castro, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the International Organizations
- Dorin Toma, Head of the Analytics and Programme Division, Moldova, Diaspora Relations Bureau, State Chancellery

*Brown Bag Lunch 12:30 -2:00 pm*

*Seminar: Presentation of the book – “Politics of Migration” by Dr. A. Didar Singh, Secretary General of FICCI*

2:00 – 3:15 pm

**Session 3: Leveraging the diaspora as source of innovation, technology and research  
Joint Session FICCI and KNOMAD**

This session will discuss the contributions that diaspora make through innovation, research, trade, entrepreneurship, science and technology in home and host countries. Panelists will highlight how firms can harness diaspora talents to improve results

- Jacob Kirkegaard, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics

- Dr. Devesh Kapur, Director, Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania
- Prof. Eun-Suk Seo, Vice President, Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association
- Dilip Ratha, Head of KNOMAD, Lead Economist, Head of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), World Bank

*Coffee Break 3:15 – 3:30 pm*

3:30 – 5:00 pm

**Session 4: First generation, Second generation diaspora: mobility, opportunities and challenges**

This session will discuss the opportunities and challenges of first- and second- generation diaspora including recent efforts to have a better understanding of the demographic profile and educational and income mobility (particularly given the recent participation of diaspora youth in conflicts in the Middle East). Panelists will discuss the importance of labor market integration challenges and strategies for advancing first generation migration who do not fit into their new society and second generation diaspora that is not integrated. This session will also explore the role of the diaspora at the firm level including a discussion on how the business environments facilitates or deter diaspora entrepreneurship.

**Roundtable Panelists**

- Kapil Sharma, Vice President of Government & Public Affairs - North America, WIPRO
- Professor Klaus Zimmerman, Harvard University and UNU-MERIT
- Faith Nabbis, Director of the Forced Migration Innovation Project, Department of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University
- Dr. Lorenzo Vidino, Director, Center for Cyber and Homeland Security, George Washington University
- Frederick Wherry, Professor of Sociology, Director of Undergraduate Studies and Co-Director of the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University
- Representative from the team– African Diaspora Business Dialogue, Trade and Competitiveness, World Bank



5:00 – 5:45 pm

**Session 5: Discussion on expanding research scope/methodology, and elaboration of areas for further work in a possible second phase**

Didar Singh and Sonia Plaza

5:45 – 6:00 pm

**Conclusions and Next Steps**

*6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Cocktail*

To RSVP and for further information please contact:  
Organizing Team: email: [splaza@worldbank.org](mailto:splaza@worldbank.org) Tel: +1 202 473 4671;  
External participants, please contact Irma Carrasquero email: [lcarrasquero@worldbank.org](mailto:lcarrasquero@worldbank.org); Tel: +1 202 473 0110 or Malkiat Singh, email: [malkiatsingh@worldbank.org](mailto:malkiatsingh@worldbank.org); Tel: +1 202 473 7711