

**KNOMAD**  
**Thematic Working Group on Internal Migration and Urbanization**

**Conference on**  
**Internal Migration and Urbanization**  
*(held on April 30 – May 1, 2014)*

**Summary**

1. This note reports the main discussions of the conference, organised by the World Bank's KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on Internal Migration and Urbanization in collaboration with Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit of University of Dhaka, and held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on April 30 – May 1, 2014. The conference brought together researchers, international organizations, government officials and civil societies in order to have balanced discussions (see Annex I and II for the conference agenda and the participant list).

2. The conference aimed to better understand various aspects of internal migration, including resulting impacts. More specifically, the conference discussed the following four topics:

- (i) drivers of, and barriers to, internal migration
- (ii) impact of internal migration on poverty reduction and urbanization
- (iii) the interconnection between internal and international migration
- (iv) data on internal migration

3. The general overarching conclusion was that given diverse effects of migration, policy recommendations can be country-specific; but the implementation of policies needs to be monitored and regularly evaluated in order to enhance their effectiveness.

4. Specifically, three conclusions emerged from this conference: First, given the poverty-alleviating impact of internal migration, it is important to remove constraints to people's mobility – such as removal of rigid residency registration requirements and easing financing constraints. Second, migration is multifaceted and therefore issues related to internal migration can be successfully addressed with migration policies not in isolation but in connection with other policies and strategies, including economic development strategies, infrastructure, urban planning, public service provision, land reforms, and improving the quality of education and amenities in rural areas. Third, good data is the foundation for developing evidence-based policies and this requires not only improving capacity to collect data and translate it into policies but also generating the political will to provide basic services to migrants.

5. The conference identified characteristics of internal migration as follows. People are in constant move from one place to another. Internal migration intensifies with economic development and urbanization. For instance, economic development generates a construction boom in economic centers, which draws unskilled workers from rural areas. Migrants tend to be young and poor. Internal migration is not limited to rural-urban migration but takes the rural-rural and urban-rural forms. As in international migration, female migration has been increasing (e.g., Bangladesh). The discussion confirmed that there is a certain level of self-selection in internal migration, even in the case of migration triggered by violence (e.g., Colombia) and climate change.

6. Participants discussed various drivers of internal migration. While many factors are in play for a person to migrate, a wage differential between origin and sending regions appears to be the most influential driver to internal migration. Others include job availability, family strategies to spread risks and to cope with exogenous shocks, public service availability, education, climate change and natural disasters (such as typhoons), violence (such as violence from military actions leading to forced migration), a higher degree of trust among people, and the better enforcement of labor contracts (especially in the case of long distance migration to Kerala in India).

7. Participants agreed that people should move from one place to another without restrictions. Easing financial constraints, even with a small amount, facilitates their mobility and can promote seasonal migration, as a recent research found in Bangladesh. While a residency registration requirement may not be an essential barrier to internal migration, rigid residency registration requirements prevent migrants from obtaining their residency in the destination; and as a result, they tend to become irregular migrants in the new destination and subsequently limit their access to basic rights (e.g. in China, India and Ukraine). Other binding constraints include the limited availability of affordable housing, wage rigidities, skill mismatches, the lack of social networks, and no information on job opportunities.

8. Participants noted that internal migration and resulting remittances help improve welfare of migrant households, especially the rural poor – such as poverty reduction, more investment in education, and more expenditure in health. Moreover, remittances help cushion households' income during bad times. Migration offers urban income opportunities for females, which consequently offers them stronger decision-making roles in family planning and financing plans, and brings positive changes to behaviours, leading to better gender equality. In countries where the informal sector is large, migrants are likely to engage in the informal sector and to contribute to the expansion of informal settlements in urban areas. This stresses the importance of economic development strategies to formalize the shadow economy and to improve the availability of affordable housing.

9. It appears that the intensity of internal migration rises also with international migration. A possible linkage is that people move from a lagging region to an advanced one in order to gain experience, or to find better security and amenity, which could help facilitate their international migration. Or, workers from a rural area move to a city in response to urban job opportunities that are created by urban workers' out-migration to other countries (e.g., in Kerala, India). In this case, a job mismatch can happen, suggesting the need to improve capacity of the rural poor through education so as to help them to benefit from new opportunities in urban areas and more broadly economic development.

10. The conference recognized difficulties associated with gathering data of internal migration and migrants' profiles at the country level. It is evident that data collection and its availability are key to challenge policies. Often times, however, a bigger problem lies with the lack of governments' capacity to collect data and make use of it for policy purposes. The problem becomes amplified when this capacity constraint is coupled with political constraints, such as the lack of political will to address migration issues. There is a greater need to create a channel to let migrants' voice heard and reflected in the policy decision-making process. The conference also recognized the global data on internal migration is incomplete, largely owing to, for instance, the difficulties with defining 'internal migration' as well as the lack of single repository.

11. Next steps. The KNOMAD Thematic Working Group will develop a policy brief reflecting findings from the conference and subsequently will design the next phase of the work. In the process, the team will maintain an open dialogue with the participants.

### Annex I. Conference Agenda

Time	Theme/ Session	Presenter	Title
<b>Day 1: Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2014</b>			
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Registration and Tea/Coffee		
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<b>Inaugural Session</b>	<p><b>Dr. C R Abrar</b> Chair, Thematic Working Group on Internal Migration and Urbanization, KNOMAD and Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, University of Dhaka</p> <p><b>Ms. Sonia Plaza</b> Senior Economist, Co-chair, Diaspora Thematic Working Group KNOMAD, Economic Policy and Debt Department, The World Bank</p>	
	<b>Theme 1: Drivers</b>		
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Session 1: Drivers of Internal Migration	<b>Prof. Loren B. Landau</b> African Centre for Migration and Society, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg	
		<b>Prof. Robert E.B. Lucas</b> Economics Department, Boston University	Internal Migration in Developing Economies: An Overview
		<b>Dr. N. Ajith Kumar</b> Director, Centre for Socio-economic and Environmental Studies, Kerala, India	Interstate Unskilled Migrants of Kerala
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Tea break		
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Session 2: Barriers to Internal Migration	<b>Ms. Marina Faetanini</b> Programme Specialist, Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO, New Delhi	
		<b>Dr. Olga Kupets</b> Associate Professor, Economics Department, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Consultant, World Bank, Ukraine	In Search of Opportunities: How a More Mobile Workforce can propel Ukraine's Prosperity
		<b>Dr Elena Glinskaya</b> Program Leader for Education, Health and Social Protection; China and Mongolia, The World Bank	China: Inclusive Urbanization and Rural-Urban Integration
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch break		
	<b>Theme 2: Effects of Internal Migration</b>		
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Session 3: Impact of Internal Migration	<b>Soonhwa Yi</b> Senior Economist, Development Economics Group, The World Bank and Focal Point, Thematic Working Group on Internal Migration and Urbanization, KNOMAD	

		<b>Dr. Raisul A. Mahmood</b> City University of New York, USA <b>Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui</b> University of Dhaka	Differential Impact of Migration on Household Poverty and Wellbeing: Evidence based on Bangladesh Data
		<b>Dr. Ravi S. Srivastava &amp; Rajib Sutradhar</b> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India with <b>C. R. Abrar &amp; Md. Selim Reza</b> , RMMRU, Bangladesh <b>J. Adhikari &amp; Ganesh Gurung</b> , NIDS, Nepal	Impact of Internal Labour Migration to the Construction Sector on Poverty and Wellbeing
		<b>Dr Joseph Teye, Dr. Mariama Awumbila and George Owusu</b> University of Ghana	Internal Migration and Improved Wellbeing? Evidence from Two Informal Settlements in Urban Ghana
4:00 pm	Tea/Coffee Break		
<b>Day 2: Thursday, 1 May, 2014</b>			
<b>Theme 2: Effects of Internal Migration (continued)</b>			
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Session 4: Remittance, Gender and Justice Issues	<b>Prof. Robert E.B. Lucas</b> Economics Department Boston University	
		<b>Dr. Sanket Mahapatra</b> (via skype) Senior Economist Development Prospect Group, The World Bank	Impact of Migrant Remittance on Consumption Expenditure and Poverty in India
		<b>Ms. Maheen Sultan</b> Lead Researcher BRAC Institute of Governance and Development and Deputy Coordinator, BRAC University	Migration, Conceptions of Masculinity and Femininity and Changing Gender Norms
		<b>Dr. Anwara Begum</b> Senior Research Fellow Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)	Formal and Informal Nexus for a Functioning City: Redistributive Justice Through Planning
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Tea/Coffee break		
<b>Theme 3: Interlinkage between Internal and International Migration</b>			
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Session 5: Linkages between Migration and Adverse Exogenous Shocks	<b>Ms. Sonia Plaza</b> Senior Economist, Co-chair, Diaspora Thematic Working Group KNOMAD, Economic Policy and Debt Department, The World Bank	
		<b>Prof. Alexandra Castro</b> Professor and Researcher in Human Rights and	Colombia's Migratory Experience: When More than 10 Percent of a

		International Law Externado University in Bogota-Colombia	Country's Population is Moving
		<b>Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, T. Islam &amp; R. A. Bhuiyan</b> University of Dhaka <b>R. Black, D. Kniveton &amp; Maxmillan Martin</b> University of Sussex	Migration: From Threat of Climate Change to Adaptation Tool
		<b>Dr. André Gröger and Dr. Yanos Zylberberg</b> Chair of Economic Development and Integration, Research Assistant, Goethe University Frankfurt	Internal Migration as a Risk-Coping Strategy: Evidence from Typhoon
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch break		
	<b>Theme 4: Data</b>		
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Session 6: Evolving Patterns and Trends of Internal Migration	<b>Dr. Ravi S. Srivastava</b> Professor of Economics Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	
		<b>Mr. Bela Hovy</b> , UN DESA <i>Presenting the work of</i> <b>Dr. Martin Bell</b> Director, Queensland Centre for Population Research School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, The University of Queensland, Australia	Measuring Internal Migration Around the Globe: A Comparative Analysis
		<b>Prof. Loren B. Landau</b> African Centre for Migration and Society University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg	The Data Are Not Enough: Southern African Perspectives on Institutional Obstacles to Migration Data Use in Local Government Policy and Planning
		<b>Ms. Sandhya Mahapatro</b> Research Scholar, Institute for Social and Economic Change, India	Contemporary Patterns & Issues of Internal Migration in India: Evidence from NSSO
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>Concluding Session</b>	<b>Dr. C R Abrar</b> and <b>Soonhwa Yi</b>	
4:30 pm	Tea/Coffee break		

## Annex II. List of Participants

No.	Name	Affiliation	Email address
1	Sonia Plaza	KNOMAD; PREM, The World Bank	splaza@worldbank.org
2	C R Abrar	Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, University of Dhaka; KNOMAD.	<a href="mailto:crabrar@gmail.com">crabrar@gmail.com</a>
3	Soonhwa Yi	KNOMAD; DEC, The World Bank	syi@worldbank.org
4	Robert E.B. Lucas	Economics Department, Boston University	rlucas@bu.edu
5	N. Ajith Kumar	Centre for Socio-economic and Environmental Studies, Kerala, India	<a href="mailto:ajithcses@gmail.com">ajithcses@gmail.com</a>
6	Marina Faetanini	Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO, New Delhi	<a href="mailto:m.faetanini@unesco.org">m.faetanini@unesco.org</a>
7	Olga Kupets	Economics Department, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy; The Ukraine World Bank Office	kupets@kse.org.ua
8	Elena Glinskaya	Education, Health and Social Protection for China and Mongolia, The World Bank	eglinskaya@worldbank.org
9	Raisul A Mahmood	City University of New York, USA	raisul.mahmood@gmail.com
10	Ravi S. Srivastava	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India with	ravisriv@gmail.com
11	Joseph Teye	Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana	<a href="mailto:teyesejoseph@yahoo.co.uk">teyesejoseph@yahoo.co.uk</a>
12	Sanket Mahapatra	Development Prospects Group, The World Bank	smohapatra2@worldbank.org
13	Maheen Sultan	BRAC Institute of Governance and Development and Deputy Coordinator, BRAC University	<a href="mailto:sulhuq@bol-online.com">sulhuq@bol-online.com</a>
14	Anwara Begum	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)	<a href="mailto:anwarabids@gmail.com">anwarabids@gmail.com</a>
15	Alexandra Castro	Human Rights and International Law Externado University in Bogota-Colombia	alexandra.castrof@gmail.com
16	Tasneem Siddiqui	Political Science, University of Dhaka and Founding Chair, RMMRU	<a href="mailto:tsiddiqui59@gmail.com">tsiddiqui59@gmail.com</a>
17	André Gröger	Economic Development and Integration; Goethe University,	agroeger@wiwi.uni-frankfurt.de

		Germany	
18	Bela Hovy	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)	hovy@un.org
19	Loren B. Landau	African Centre for Migration and Society, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg	<a href="mailto:loren@migration.org.za">loren@migration.org.za</a>
20	Sandhya Mahapatro	Institute for Social and Economic Change, India	sandhyamahapatro@gmail.com
21	Habtemariam Kassa	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	<a href="mailto:habtekassa@yahoo.com">habtekassa@yahoo.com</a>
22	Sarah Rosengartner	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	sarah.rosengaertner@undp.org
23	Nazia Haider	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	nazia.haider@eda.admin.ch
24	Shabarinath Nair	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	shabarinath.nair@eda.admin.ch
25	A T M Nurul Amin	Economics, North South University	<a href="mailto:aminatmn@gmail.com">aminatmn@gmail.com</a>
26	A Q M Mahbub	Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka	<a href="mailto:aqmahbub@yahoo.com">aqmahbub@yahoo.com</a>
27	A. N. M. Azizul Haque	Ministry of Labor and Employment, Government of Bangladesh	Azizulhaque2004@yahoo.com
28	Moinul Islam	Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh	N/A
29	Zahid Hussain	PREM, The World Bank Dhaka Office	<a href="mailto:Zhussain@worldbank.org">Zhussain@worldbank.org</a>
30	Samiha Huda	International Organization for Migration, Dhaka	shuda@iom.int
31	Md. Zakir Hussain	Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh	mzhossain.bds@gmail.com
32	Syed Saiful Haque	WARBE Development Foundation, Bangladesh	warbe@bangla.net <a href="mailto:migrants@bangla.net">migrants@bangla.net</a>
33	Kakoli Saha	Terre Des Hommes, Italy	<a href="mailto:Saha.kakl@gmail.com">Saha.kakl@gmail.com</a>
34	Md. Towheedul Islam	Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka	<a href="mailto:towheedul@gmail.com">towheedul@gmail.com</a>
35	Mohammad Jalal Sikder	Dept. of Development Studies, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh	<a href="mailto:mdsikder@yahoo.com">mdsikder@yahoo.com</a>

36	Md. Rashed Alam Bhuiyan	Political Science, University of Dhaka	<a href="mailto:rashedgreen@yahoo.com">rashedgreen@yahoo.com</a>
37	Syeda Rozana Rashid	Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) University of Dhaka	<a href="mailto:srr21rozana@gmail.com">srr21rozana@gmail.com</a>
38	Zohra Akhter	East West University, Bangladesh	<a href="mailto:zakterbd@gmail.com">zakterbd@gmail.com</a>
39	Bayazid Hasan	Centre for Gender and Social Transformation, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development	<a href="mailto:bayazidhsn@gmail.com">bayazidhsn@gmail.com</a>
40	Wajid H. Shah	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies	<a href="mailto:wajids@gmail.com">wajids@gmail.com</a>
41	Disha Sonata Faruque	International Labour Organization, Dhaka	<a href="mailto:faruque@ilo.org">faruque@ilo.org</a>
42	Umme Salma Tarin	Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) University of Dhaka	<a href="mailto:tarin_bd43@ymail.com">tarin_bd43@ymail.com</a>
43	Md. Muhidur	Odhikar, Bangladesh	<a href="mailto:odhikar@gmail.com">odhikar@gmail.com</a>
44	Jasim Uddin Ahmed	DSHE, Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh	<a href="mailto:a-jasimuddin@yahoo.com">a-jasimuddin@yahoo.com</a>
45	Md. Parvez Alam	Refugee and Migratory Movements research Unit (RMMRU) University of Dhaka	<a href="mailto:alam@rmmru.org">alam@rmmru.org</a>
46	Sultana Adnan	Agrani Bank	<a href="mailto:Shajsultana@gmail.com">Shajsultana@gmail.com</a>
47	Md. Ansar Uddin Anas	Refugee and Migratory Movements research Unit (RMMRU) University of Dhaka	<a href="mailto:Anasbd1990@gmail.com">Anasbd1990@gmail.com</a>
48	Shahreen Khair	BRAC University	<a href="mailto:shahreenkhair@gmail.com">shahreenkhair@gmail.com</a>