

# International Labour Organization Decent Work Across Borders Project

*“The ILO and our social partners strongly believe that migrants are less vulnerable when they are moving out of choice, and not out of necessity. The provisions on migration and development included in the Philippine Development Plan and the Philippine Labor and Employment Plan 2011-2016, are important means to promote inclusive and sustained growth through decent and productive work”*

Mr Lawrence Jeff Johnson,  
Director of the International  
Labour Organization office,  
in Manila



The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations' international organization responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards. It is the only 'tripartite' United Nations agency that brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers to jointly shape policies and programmes promoting Decent Work for All. The ILO was created in 1919.

The ILO is the only United Nations agency with a constitutional mandate to protect migrant workers, and this mandate has been re-affirmed by the 1944 Declaration of Philadelphia and the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The ILO has been addressing labour migration issues and the protection of migrant workers since its inception. All major sectors of the ILO - standards, employment, social protection and social dialogue - work on labour migration within its overarching framework of Decent Work for All. ILO adopts a rights-based approach to labour migration and promotes tripartite participation in migration policy.

In 2011, the European Union awarded the ILO funds to work on circular migration. The ILO *Decent Work Across Borders project: A Pilot project for Migrant Health Professionals and Skilled Workers* seeks to better understand schemes concerned with the circular migration of health professionals. This will be undertaken by engaging governments, trade union and employer organizations in pursuance of three main objectives:

- To strengthen mechanisms of policy dialogue among stakeholders
- To strengthen employment services for healthcare professionals and skilled workers
- To enhance labour market information systems with regards to the migration of healthcare professionals and skilled workers

Through this project, the ILO seeks to facilitate an approach to migration that benefits the migrant workers, and the source and destination countries within a rights-based framework for labour migration governance.

The project focuses its activities on three Asian countries with significant outflows of health professionals and skilled workers for foreign employment, namely: the Philippines, India, and Viet Nam.

These countries are pursuing cooperative arrangements/arrangements on the hiring of health care professionals in various destination countries, and in particular, European countries. The Decent Work Across Borders project aims to uphold the balance between the right of everyone to movement and residence, right to health and the right to decent work.



International  
Labour  
Organization

## Objective

The purpose of this documentary is to capture the images and messages related to the migration experiences of health professionals from their own perspective and that of relevant stakeholders in source and host societies in order to promote a more balanced vision of the migration journey.

The documentary will be short and informative highlighting the different experiences of migrant nurses from the Philippines.

## Tale of a Journey, Migrant Health Workers' Voice through Images: A documentary



The Philippines has a long migration history. The migration experience is passed on to generations such that now many generations have at least family member who is a migrant. Among the health professionals, nurses and doctors have crossed borders the most and have gained socially, economically and financially from finding work abroad. In countries like the Philippines, migration has almost been turned into a “compulsory rite of passage”. In the mind of many, migration has been raised as an easy way to address personal, family, professional and social development shortages. Migration is seen as this fundamentally positive process bringing about much needed growth. It has too often ceased to be something that commands a thorough reflection, a well-planned pre-departure assessment of the benefits, challenges and dangers.

There appears to be a need for a more balanced view of migration. Migrant workers themselves, as they are going or have gone through the process of migration, possess the essential information to redress this overtly positive bias toward migration. Other relevant stakeholders such as government, trade union and private and public employers of migrant health professional, as they are immediately impacted by the migration process, also own a part of the migration narrative that can contribute to a more balanced discourse on migration.

The end product, a documentary respecting international standards, will showcase, as the main anchor of the visual document, few health professionals from the Philippines who are and/or have been involved in migration to Europe. Other relevant actors' testimonies will support the story brought about by the main protagonists in the documentary. As such, the documentary will seek to also bring in the perspectives of the trade union, employers and government.

This documentary will generate interest and foster action among the intended audience which includes health professionals, students and practitioners, ILO constituents, professional organizations, donors, media, policy makers and the public in general.

The **Asia Pacific Film Institute** has been selected as the service provider for this documentary through competitive bidding. It is a renowned film school in the Philippines which was established in 2001 by producer/ director Mr Ben Yalung. It prides itself with practical and comprehensive filmmaking education. For more information, please see <http://www.asiapacificfilm.com>.

For more information about the Decent Work Across Borders project, please follow this link: <http://www.ilo.org/manila/whatwedo/projects/>

Or you may contact:

Ms Catherine Vaillancourt-Laflamme, Chief Technical Adviser at [vaillancourt-laflamm@ilo.org](mailto:vaillancourt-laflamm@ilo.org)  
Ms. Jennifer Frances dela Rosa, National Project Coordinator at [delarosa@ilo.org](mailto:delarosa@ilo.org)

