Welcome to this latest edition of the Migration DRC Newsletter. The last six months have been busy for the Centre, including hosting the UK launch of the Global Commission on International Migration report; completing our ‘Global Migrant Origin Database’; and working on an overhaul of our website, to better reflect the emerging findings of our research. Both database and website are due to be launched in April.

We hope you find this newsletter a useful guide to the ongoing work of the Centre, and welcome feedback from you on what we are doing. Also, please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further information.

Richard Black

**DRC HIGHLIGHTS**

**Global Labour Mobility**

*Launch of the GCIM Report*

A major event in the last six months was the publication in October 2005 of the report of the Global Commission on Migration, established in December 2003 by the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan. The report, entitled *Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action*, proposes new policies and action on issues such as irregular migration, security, trafficking and temporary migration.

With such an important guide to policy directions appearing on the international stage, we at the Migration DRC were pleased to work with the Commission, and with the Centre for Migration Policy and Society (COMPAS) at Oxford, to host an event to launch the report in the UK. This took the form of a high-profile event held in Central London in early December where GCIM commissioners Jan Karlsson and Mary Robinson presented the report, with responses from representatives of the UK Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Department for International Development, as well as from Sussex Centre for Migration Research and COMPAS researchers and other invited speakers. A full report of the event is now available on our website at: http://www.migrationdrc.org/news/reports.gcim/index.html.

Press liaison activities including a press conference immediately prior to the event resulted in reports in various international media. The Migration DRC director, Richard Black, was interviewed on a BBC World Service programme entitled *Focus on Africa*, whilst detailed reports appeared on the Indian News service *WebIndia* and, as the cover story of the December edition of *Africa Week*.

*The Migration Database*

The World Bank’s annual *Global Economic Prospects* report was devoted to the topic of the economic consequences of remittances and migration, and featured a calculation of the benefits of global mobility based on the 226*226 matrix of stock figures based on place of birth and citizenship, together with recent flow estimates for a limited number of countries, assembled by the Migration DRC. Describing our *Global Migrant Origin Database* as a ‘remarkable piece of detective work’, the report went on to calculate the net benefit of further temporary mobility equivalent to 3 percent of the labour force of developed countries at around $356bn each year. We plan to make the database more widely available this year, with a web interface that allows map-based searches.

*Trade in Services*

Sussex hosted the second of an ESRC-sponsored series of three workshops on the broad theme of international trade and labour markets (1-2 December 2005). The workshop, sponsored by the Migration DRC, included a series of presentations on modelling of trade in services and its empirics,
and the WTO rules. A number of Migration DRC researchers presented their work including L Alan Winters (‘Demographic Transition and the Temporary Mobility of Labour’), Chris Parsons (‘Quantifying the Bilateral Movements of Migrants’) and Terrie Walmsley (‘Measuring the Impact of the Movement of Labour Using a Model of Bilateral Migration Flows’).

Managing Migration

In Autumn 2005, the Migration DRC participated in the UK government’s consultation on its new ‘Managed Migration’ policy, with Richard Black contributing to a consultation meeting at the Institute of Public Policy Research in October, and a group of MA students submitting evidence to the consultation on the international mobility of students. The policy has since been published in March 2006, and the Migration DRC hopes to contribute to research on its effects on poor countries.

Remittances

Chris Parsons attended the first ADB-IDB/MIF-UNDP joint conference entitled ‘Remittances and Poverty Reduction: Learning from Regional Experiences and Perspectives’ in Manila over 12-13 September 2005. The aim of the conference was to share individual country experiences and best practices, to increase dialogue and dissemination among interested parties and to generate new ways in which migrants can remit. It sought to increase both the ease and efficiency through which migrant workers could send funds abroad, while trying to ensure that these funds are channelled toward poverty reduction and development strategies. The programme, presentations and papers of all participants may be found at: http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2005/ADB-IDB-MIF-UNDP/program.asp.

Adriana Castaldo attended a workshop on ‘Competing for Remittances: Linking Emigration of Albanians and Development of Albania’, organised by IOM in Tirana, Albania, in November 2005. This workshop, together with a fair on migration management for the integration of Albania, were part of the project, National Strategy on Migration of the Albanian government. The project was financed by the the European Community under the programme, ‘Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation’ (CARDS) and has been implemented and co-funded by IOM. The aim of the workshop was to initiate a discussion among key government and private sector actors on an Action Plan on Remittances, a key step towards linking migration management and development as part of the National Strategy for Migration. Key activities at the workshop included the presentation of the findings of the study ‘Competing for Remittances’, by Nicolaas de Zwager, Ilir Gedeshi, Etleva Germenji, Christos Nikas (June 2005), and the presentation of the Draft Action Plan on Remittances.

Panel on Temporary Labour Mobility, AAG Conference

Mike Collyer (Sussex), together with Amy Freeman of Vassar College, organised two panels on temporary labour mobility at the Association of American Geographers’ annual conference in Chicago from 7 to 11 March 2006. The panels focused on the changing nature of employment regimes and the resulting impact on patterns of migration and temporary migrants, and covered a range of migrations from domestic workers in the Middle East, day labour hired off street corners in the US, temporary worker schemes of different hues, and measurements of the impacts of migration, to the sustainability of return in post-conflict situations. Presenters included researchers from the DRC as well as North American based academics working on similar themes. Mike Collyer presented on ‘New Temporary International Labour Migration: Contrasting Examples of Morocco and Egypt’ and Meera Warrier presented on ‘Global Labour Subcontracting: An Analysis of the H-1B “Guest Worker” Scheme’. Terrie Walmsley presented a paper she had co-authored with L Alan Winters, Amer Ahmed and Chris Parsons entitled ‘Measuring the Impact of the Movement of Labour Using a Model of Bilateral Migration Flows’.

Forced Migration

Under the aegis of the Migration DRC, the Forced Migration and Refugees Studies (FMRS) centre at the American University in Cairo (AUC) hosted a two-day workshop (19-20 October 2005), attended by researchers working on Migration DRC-funded research projects in Egypt, Lebanon and Sudan, as well as by academic experts from the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex and AUC. Amongst the aims of the workshop were, first, to establish coherence in the forced migration sub-theme within the Migration DRC’s research; second, to provide a wider institutional and policy context for the sub-theme and explain the second phase of the DRC collaboration; and third, to gain a better understanding of how to link the various studies under this sub-theme in order to bridge the gap between refugee, IDP, and oustee debates.

Samira Trad’s study on rights of non-Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Jaber Suleiman’s research on rights of Palestinians in Lebanon were submitted as expert papers to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lebanon. The papers, which will also be translated into Arabic, will constitute part of the UNDP national human rights strategy for Lebanon.

Social Protection

Field research on the project, ‘Social Protection of Temporary Work Migrants in Bangladesh and India’ has now been completed. In India, the two research leaders, Abdur Rafique and Deepisme Massey, completed their 8-month-long fieldwork in January 2006. In Bangladesh the research leader Md. Azmal Kabir, and research assistants Nazmun Nahar Lipi and Sadia Afrin, also completed their fieldwork in January 2006. In late January they revisited the field site to discuss their initial findings with research participants.

The research was done under the guidance of Ben Rogaly (for India) and Janet Seeley (for Bangladesh), the principal investigators of the project. Fieldwork was ethnographic, with
detailed life history interviews, participant observation, genealogy diagrams and kinship studies. The study encompassed migrants as well as non-migrant households, Muslims as well as Hindus, and men along with women, children and the elderly. Key informant interviews were carried out with a range of actors including migrant-worker recruiters and hostel owners, government and non-government organisation workers, policy makers and activists.

The teams are now undertaking coding and data analysis. Deeptima has returned to Sussex, and Abdur Rafique will be visiting Sussex to write up his research together with Ben Rogaly over April-June 2006. Md Azmal Kabir will be visiting the University of East Anglia to write up with Janet Seeley this summer.

**Link Between Migrations**

The anthropology department at Jahangirnagar University in Dhaka organised a seminar entitled ‘Inter-relationships between Overseas and Internal Migration: The Case of Sylhet, Bangladesh’ on 4 January 2006. The seminar was led by Zahir Ahmed, the Bangladesh-based researcher on the Migration DRC project, ‘Replacement Seasonal Labour Migration in Sylhet, Bangladesh’. It was attended by over 100 participants and built upon ethnographic research in the Biswanath district in Sylhet, to look at the dynamics determining different types of internal migration into areas of overseas migration. It also asked how poverty and vulnerability, as well as perceived opportunities, affected decisions to migrate into areas like Sylhet that had high overseas migration.

**Migration, Poverty and Livelihoods**

*Migration and the MDGs*

Ron Skeldon and Saskia Gent submitted a paper to the consultation by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health in March 2006. It addressed population growth, migration and the millennium development goals.

*Migration and Poverty*

As part of the consultation process on DFID’s White Paper ‘Eliminating World Poverty’ Saskia Gent attended a discussion hosted by the DSA and ODI and raised issues relating to the diaspora and remittances as well as pointing the audience to DFID’s consultation on its migration policy paper ‘Moving out of Poverty’.

Clare Waddington attended an informal workshop on ‘Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction’, a joint initiative from the Migration, Rural and Urban Change, and Pro-Poor Growth Teams within Policy Division at DFID-London in March 2006. The workshop considered a discussion paper on ‘Employment Growth and Poverty Reduction’, which examined different policy dilemmas and challenges, advocated a relaxation of constraints on employment mobility between and within sectors, as well as spatially (through migration). The paper was discussed by DFID advisors, academics, and representatives from several donor agencies (who also presented their own work on employment policy and labour markets).

**Migration and Development**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Home Office, organised a scoping seminar on migration in October 2005 to assess the scope of existing research on migration, focusing on some key areas of interest to policy makers across the government. The day’s sessions considered the economic, social and security impacts of global and intra-UK migration on the UK, and the impacts on source countries of migration to the UK. Meera Warrier represented the Migration DRC at this session, and was rapporteur for the break-out group assessing the impact of migration on source countries.

Ron Skeldon was keynote speaker at the SSCR-IOM-ESRC workshop on ‘Migration and Development Within and Across Borders: Concepts, Methods and Policy Considerations in International and Internal Migration’ in November 2005, which Richard Black also attended. Richard travelled from this workshop to give seminars at Princeton and MIT.

Meera Warrier made a presentation on ‘Migration and Development’ at the Policy Delivery Migration Seminar, organised by Oxford University and the National School of Government, at Oxford on 20 January 2006. The day’s presentations to senior civil servants addressed four critical migration concerns -- the labour market, integration and diversity, migration and asylum, and migration and development.

**DRC PEOPLE**

Sarah Sadek, FMRS/DRC Research Assistant, started her post-graduate studies in forced migration at the Forced Migration Research Studies centre in September 2005.

Economist and mathematician Adriana Castaldo will rejoin the team at Sussex from 1 July this year, following a spell teaching in the Sussex Economics department. She will be providing support on various projects through analyses of data sets, research on and preparation of statistical material, and training in quantitative skills.

Clare Waddington, who has been working for the Migration DRC since its inception, first as Research Officer and then as Internships Coordinator, comes to the end of her contract in June 2006, after which she will be concentrating on finishing
writing up her DPhil thesis. We are delighted, however, that she will continue to coordinate the internships programme on a voluntary basis.

Two new researchers join the Migration DRC team in the second phase (April 2006-May 2008). Ray Jureidini, who recently joined as Visiting Professor at the AUC, will be working on a project entitled ‘A Social Profile and Analysis of Migrant Domestic Workers in Cairo’. Nitya Rao, lecturer in Development Studies at the University of East Anglia, will be lead researcher on a project entitled ‘Gender Differences in Migration Opportunities: Implications for Educational Choices and Outcomes’, with Janet Seeley.

**Visiting Fellowships**

Zahir Ahmed, recently promoted to the position of Professor of Anthropology at Jahangirnagar University, and chair of the department of anthropology, was Visiting Fellow at Sussex for a month this spring, writing up his findings on Sylheti migration with Katy Gardner.

Abdur Rafique will be joining the team at Sussex for two months over April–June to write up his findings on social protection of temporary work migrants in West Bengal, together with Deeptima Massey and principal investigator, Ben Rogaly.

**Internships**

The first round of internship applications for the summer of 2006 have just come in. Interns are to be selected for all partners except Sussex, where Zana Vathi is working part-time as an intern for the summer till the end of June 2006.

Siobhan McPhee, current intern with RMMRU, Bangladesh, has this to say of her experience so far as an intern:

I had just completed my MPhil in International Peace Studies from Trinity College, Dublin, when word arrived early November that my internship application to RMMRU (Bangladesh) had been successful. With no idea of what to expect, I arrived in Dhaka with the intention of staying six months. Since my arrival I have been involved with a number of projects. As well as the Globalisation, Security and Migration Workshop hosted by RMMRU in November, I am working on a project with the British Council entitled Transnationalism and Development; aimed at creating links between young Bangladeshis and young British-Bangladeshis. I am also working on a research paper for the British High Commission aimed at creating Awareness against Irregular Migration, in which I focus on labour migration from Bangladesh to the UK.

My experience so far in Dhaka has been fantastic and has surpassed all my expectations. I have managed to see quite a lot of the country, which is very much still unexplored by tourists and the outside world. Having lived most of my life in Africa and the Middle East, Asia is a completely new experience for me, one which I will walk away from having gained not only amazing professional insights, but also a wealth of personal and cultural experience. I now plan to extend my stay until the end of June. I have not yet decided where I would like to go after Dhaka, but a PhD is high on my list and a career in research is a definite ambition. The DRC and RMMRU have given me the opportunity to pursue these objectives.

A paper emerging from Siobhan’s MA thesis, entitled ‘Muslim Identity: The European Context’, has been published as a Sussex Centre for Migration Research working paper (www.sussex.ac.uk/migration/documents/mwp34.pdf).

**NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS**

**CESS, Albania**

- Ilir Gadeshi is participating, with Richard Black, in a study of ‘brain gain’ in Albania, sponsored by the United Nations Development Program. The objectives of the study are to review experiences in other countries in establishing links with diaspora, and to explore the potential of diasporic engagement within Albania, in the government, private sector, public companies, academia and civil society. A draft report has recently been submitted to UNDP, Tirane. This study, it is hoped, will lead to more ongoing collaborative work in the area for both CESS and Sussex.

**RMMRU, Bangladesh**

- In November 2005, Tasneem Siddiqui, together with Rozana Rashid (Migration DRC DPhil bursary-holder) and Benjamin Zeitlyn (Visiting Fellow from Sussex) published a report on ‘Information Campaign on Safe Migration and Pre-Departure Training’. The report was commissioned by the International Labour Organisation in Dhaka, and looks at Sri Lankan and Philippine experiences in information campaigns for safe migration and pre-departure orientation in order to identify best practices.

- Representatives from international organisations including ILO, IOM and Save the Children, members of the academic community and human rights activists were among those who attended a workshop on ‘Migration for Livelihood: The Case of Children in Bangladesh’ in Dhaka on 17 December 2005. The workshop, organised by RMMRU, showcased work conducted by Sumaiya Khair on an autonomous child migration project of the Migration DRC. Speakers at the workshop urged the government to formulate a national policy on migrant child workers to protect their wages, health and safety and minimum workplace standards.

- ‘Recent Labour Migration Policies of Developed Countries’ was the title of a seminar organised by RMMRU at the Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities under the aegis of the Migration DRC on 25 February 2006. The main speaker at the workshop was Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, who conducted research on the opportunities and challenges posed by the migration of nurses from Bangladesh as part of a Migration DRC project on the mobility of the highly skilled.

- ‘The mobility of nurses from Bangladesh was the theme of a workshop organised by RMMRU on 16 February 2006. The main speaker at the workshop was Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman, who conducted research on the opportunities and challenges posed by the migration of nurses from Bangladesh as part of a Migration DRC project on the mobility of the highly skilled.

- ‘Recent Labour Migration Policies of Developed Countries’ was the title of a seminar organised by RMMRU at the Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities under the aegis of the Migration DRC on 25 February 2006. The main speaker at the seminar called for the creation of conditions facilitating the mobility of people, and underscored the need for better understanding between labour surplus developing countries, and labour deficit developed countries. Delivering his keynote address, Dr Daniel Cherot, professor at the Washington University in Seattle, stated that while poverty and relative poverty in many developing countries are working as push factors, other factors such as lower fertility rates and an increase in the proportion of the aged are creating demands
explore the interconnections between poverty and vulnerability on the one hand, and the process of migration on the other. The aim is to stimulate dialogue between actors and stakeholders working in the areas of poverty and migration, including researchers, government bodies and non-governmental organisations.

Rights Across the Borders: Policies and Implications Panels on Forced Migration at 10th IASFM 18-22 June 2006, University of York, Refugee Studies Centre, Toronto, Canada

Two panels on ‘Rights Across the Borders: Policies and Implications’ will showcase papers from the Migration DRC under the forced migration theme at the 10th IASFM conference. The papers will specifically address issues of policies on forced migration, focusing on the inadequacies of current top-down approaches. The panels will explore challenges of moving away from these frameworks towards rights-based and bottom-up approaches. They will also attempt to create dialogues across the different strands in refugee and oustee studies to investigate synergies and differences in the policy arena. Instead of viewing refugees and oustees as problems, an alternative perspective proposes to bring out the developmental potential of forced migrants.

DRC TRAINING EVENTS

The Migration DRC was well-represented at the residential training workshop on Migration, Globalisation, Security and Development, held from 19 to 28 November 2005 at Rajendrapur in Bangladesh. The workshop was organised by the South Asia Migration Resource Network (SAMReN), of which RMMRU is a member, and had sponsorship from DFID and the Migration DRC. The workshop, designed to enhance understanding of migration processes within the South Asian context and international frameworks, and to equip young academics and professionals in migration research and management, was attended by over 20 participants from across South Asia, Korea, Spain and Switzerland. Apart from presentations by hosts, RMMRU, there were presentations by DRC partners John Anarfi (ISSER, Ghana) and Ilir Gadesshi (CESS, Albania) on West African and Albanian migrations respectively. Presentations were also made by Sussex representatives, Mike Collyer and Meera Warrier. Mike spoke about trans-Saharan migration towards Europe, and was discussant on a session on the securitisation of migration. Meera spoke on the Northern receiving country perspective with regard to migration.

FMRS organized two short courses in January 2006: Cultures of Exile (16-21 January 2006) and Refugee Camps and ‘Warehousing’ (22-26 January 2006).

OTHER DRC INVOLVEMENTS

The Brookings Institution and the International Commission of Jurists organized the Human Rights Expert Group in October 2006 to prepare the human rights section of the Global Governance Report. The meeting was attended by FMRS Director, Fateh Azzam. Fateh also presented his study entitled ‘The Right to Development and Practical Strategies for the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals’

for labour in many sectors in European and North American economies. But rather than facilitating the flow of labour, increasing restrictions on mobility have been witnessed, often shaped by extra-economic considerations.

FMRS, Egypt

• In response to a sit-in near the Regional Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by a group of Sudanese refugees, FMRS organized a seminar on 26 October in which the organisers of the protest were given the chance to talk about their increasingly difficult situation in Egypt. Three months later, on 30 December, the sit-in was forcibly dismantled by the Egyptian Security Forces. Refugees were transferred to several detention centres on the outskirts of Cairo. Some 28 persons were confirmed dead (mainly women and children) and hundreds more injured as a result of the intervention. Those detained were to be deported back to Sudan by the Egyptian government. In the wake of this tragedy, FMRS researchers and students undertook a study to investigate the organisation of the sit-in, the forced eviction as well as the aftermath. The Migration DRC-funded research on refugee rights and policies in Egypt was used as background for the report, which was presented to the public in an open seminar on 8 February 2006, attended by over 200 people. The report is expected to be published in April 2006.

• FMRS and The Open Society Justice Initiative Program also hosted the Human Rights Fellows Retreat Conference at the Ramses Hilton Hotel, Cairo (26-28 January 2006).

ISSER and RIPS, Ghana

• A cross-disciplinary Migration Centre is to be set up at the University of Ghana, Legon, in which the Migration DRC partner, ISSER, will be a key player. The Centre received formal approval from the University earlier this year, and will receive initial funding from the Dutch Embassy in Accra.

UPCOMING DRC EVENTS

Poverty, Vulnerability and Migration Choice 18-19 May 2006, Geneva

This workshop, sponsored by the Migration DRC in collaboration with the European IMISCOE network seeks to

Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman (centre, in blue shirt) at the workshop showcasing his study on the migration of nurses from Bangladesh.
to the High Level Task Force of the UN Working Group on the Right to Development in Geneva (15-18 November 2005). Later in the same month, Fateh attended a Palestinian Human Rights Organization conference in Ramallah entitled ‘From Theory to Practice: The Implementation of International Humanitarian Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories’.

Richard Black made a brief appearance on the BBC programme Newsight in November as part of a discussion on the issue of ‘environmental refugees’. In another media appearance, Richard was interviewed ‘live’ on BBC World Service’s News Hour on ‘brain drain’ of skilled professionals from poor countries on 23 March 2006.

Ben Rogaly was in Kolkata to deliver a public lecture as part of the Third Winter Course on Forced Migration run by the Calcutta Research Group. At the lecture Ben wove together the themes of forced labour, labour migration and social protection, drawing on his own research with migrant workers in the agriculture and food sectors of West Bengal and the UK. As India is currently considering allowing big foreign companies to enter the food retailing industry there, it was possible to tie together earlier findings on the relatively greater freedom of migrant workers in West Bengal when capital was more diffuse, with speculation about how such workers would fare if the food chain were governed by large-scale corporations. Ben used his work in the UK and drew contrasts with studies in other parts of India to illustrate his points. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion.

Continuing the series of lunchtime seminars at the Department for International Development featuring researchers from the Migration DRC, Ron Skeldon presented a paper entitled ‘Globalisation, Skilled Migration and Poverty Alleviation: Brain Drain in Context’ in October. Later, in November, Ann Whitehead presented on ‘Child Migration, Child Agency and Intergenerational Relations in Africa and South Asia’. Details for 2006 will soon become available on our website.

Ayman Zohry led a study entitled ‘Attitudes of Egyptian Youth Towards Migration to Europe’, under the aegis of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Italian Government as part of a project on Information Dissemination for the Prevention of Irregular Migration (IDOM).

RECENT DRC PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Working Papers
WP-T13 (September 2005): ‘Quantifying the Bilateral Movements of Migrants’ by Christopher R Parsons, Ronald Skeldon, Terrie L Walmsley and L Alan Winters


Coming soon will be WP-T16 ‘The Positives and Negatives of Children’s Migration: An Assessment of the Evidence from Ghana and the Debates’ by Iman Hashim. All our working papers are available to download as PDF files from http://www.migrationdrc.org/publications/working_papers.html

DRC Policy Briefings
Briefing 4 (November) GATS Mode 4: How Trade in Services Can Help Developing Countries. This document highlights recent findings that liberalisation of services could provide global welfare benefits of $300 bn.

Briefing 5 (March): Skilled Migration: Policy Options. This takes a critical look at the terms of the brain drain debate, reviews existing policy options and suggests a way forward.

Briefing No.6 (March): Skilled Migration: Healthcare Policy Options. This focuses specifically on healthcare. It questions the simplistic association between the presence or absence of health personnel and the health status of a population, and looks at options for outsourcing.

Our briefings are available to download from our website at: www.migrationdrc.org/publications/briefing_papers.html.

Other Papers/Publications by DRC Members


Siddiqui, T, R Rashid and B Zeitlyn (2005) Information Campaign on Safe Migration and Pre-Departure Training. Dhaka: ILO.


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