



MSI Seminar

Securing migrants' rights: Information campaign through community-based organisations

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12:00–1:00 pm, Thursday, 5th August 2010

Monash Sustainability Institute, Building 74, Clayton

All welcome. No RSVPs necessary.

Abstract

Migrant workers contribute immensely to the economy of Bangladesh; however they face great hardship in every step of migration. Not only their rights are violated in the countries of destination, they are cheated by the unscrupulous recruiting agencies, middlemen and human smugglers. Successive governments have also failed to provide necessary information to the migrants to avoid many of the risks of migration.

This presentation will describe the achievements of an innovative information campaign undertaken by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit of the University of Dhaka, which aimed to reduce the risks associated with migration and enhance its developmental outcomes.

The campaign helped formation of community organisations at the grass-roots

level in four migration intensity districts of Bangladesh. These organisations link the migrants and their left behind families with information and services.

Through establishment of linkage with wider social groups these communities have successfully influenced public policies on migration and remittance. Now Bangladesh has an Overseas Employment policy; migration is being incorporated in the upcoming Five Year National Development Plan; and the central bank of Bangladesh has undertaken various reform programmes.

Prof. Siddiqui is visiting Monash as part of an AusAID Australian Leadership Awards Fellowships program (ALAF) addressing the theme: "Developing proactive policy and practice for land and water management responsive to climate change".