COVID-19 AND THE MIGRANTS IN ASIA

The Corona Pandemic has disrupted lives and livelihoods in an unprecedented manner, impacting most on precarious livelihoods and mobility. Migrant workers, at the lower end of the labour market live and work in congested and precarious conditions, exposing them to the virus along with loss of livelihoods. Their labour is vital to destination areas and provides sustenance to the countries/areas of origin. The panel discusses various contours of the linkages between pandemic, migration and livelihood.

Please Register: https://forms.gle/s3En6s2unzBmVRK99

Last date of registration: 25 September 2020

QR code for Registration link

IIPS-APA Webinar on 30 September 2020

Time: 2.00pm-3.30pm (IST) | 3.30pm-5.00 pm (ICT) | 4.30pm-6.00pm (SGT & PST)

Speakers



Dr. Ravi Srivastava



Dr. Maruja M.B. Asis



Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui



Dr. Ram B. Bhagat

Moderator



Dr. K.S. James

(स्थापना/ Established in 1956)
बेहतर भविष्य के लिए क्षमता निर्माण
Capacity Building for a Better Future

ASIAN POPULATION ASSOCIATION

Organized by: International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) Mumbai, and Asian Population Association (APA)

Speakers



Dr. Ravi Srivastava

Professor and Director,
Centre for Employment Studies
Institute of Human Development, New Delhi

Topic: The Pandemic, Economic Crisis and Migrants in Asia

Asia is home to the largest number of internal migrants and low skilled international migrants. As the crisis persists, the continued well-being of the migrant workers and their families remains a critical issue. This talk focuses on the current economic crisis and its implications for migrants' employment and consequences for the countries and regions from which they come. It concludes on the need for concerted domestic policy responses.

About the Speaker
Ravi Srivasta, Ph.D (Cambridge, UK) is former Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and former Member of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) Government of India (2006-09). His main areas of research and publication include labour and employment, migration, social protection, agriculture, rural development and rural poverty, the informal sector, regional development, decentralization, human development, and land reforms.



Dr. Maruja M.B. Asis

Director,
Scalabrini Migration Center Manila,
Philippines

Topic: Uncertain new world: Protecting overseas Filipino workers amid the pandemic

The Philippines is regarded as an exemplar of good policies and practices in providing protection to overseas Filipino workers at all stages of the migration process. COVID-19, however, has rendered the existing institutional framework inadequate in dealing with the unprecedented and massive displacements caused by the pandemic. This presentation will provide an overview of the Philippine government's response to displaced workers, repatriated workers, and stranded workers, and indicate some examples of emerging good practices under these incredibly challenging circumstances.

About the Speaker
Maruja Asis is a sociologist who has long been working on international migration and social change in Asia. Her areas of interest and research work include gender, family and migration; migration and development; and migration governance. She is Editor of the Asian and Pacific Migration Journal. She has authored various publications and has participated in many international conferences.

Topic: Impact of COVID 19 on left behind short-term international migrant households.

Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Bangladesh Civil Society for the Migrants (BCSM) have recently conducted a study on 'Impact of COVID 19 on left behind household members of the short term international migrants of Bangladesh'. This presentation will share the findings of the study jointly carried out by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Bangladesh Civil Society for the Migrants (BCSM) among 100 arbitrarily returned migrants, mostly from the Gulf and other Arab countries, and 100 left behind migrant HHs with at-least one member who are currently working abroad. The lived experiences of these HHs and the anxiety are portrayed in the presentation. The presentation highlights that policy intervention is long overdue to support these left-behind HHs tide through this crisis situation.

Moderator



Dr. K.S. James

Director & Sr. Professor,
International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India



Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui

Professor of Political Science, University of Dhaka & Director, Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit Dhaka, Bangladesh

About the speaker
Tasneem Siddiqui works on climate change adaptation and migration, drivers and impact of internal and international male and female labour migration, migration governance, diaspora, remittances, safe and sustainable cities inclusive to migrants. She has published widely in the journals of Population and Environment, Development Policy Review, Urban Studies and in different volumes of Palgrave Macmillan, Edward Edgar, Routledge, Springer etc. She is in the Global Editorial Board of Oxford Journal of Migration Studies.



Dr. Ram B. Bhagat

Professor and Head, Department of Migration and Urban Studies International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India

Topic: COVID-19 Pandemic, Urban Exodus of Migrants in India: Challenges and Response.

There was a massive reverse flow of migrants from the big urban centres in India to the rural areas due to the lockdown following the out-break of the pandemic during the month of May and June 2020. Govt sources indicate 12 million have returned mostly of inter-state migrants by buses and railways arranged by the Govt. In addition, few millions have also returned by private vehicle, bicycle and even walking for which figures are not available. The presentation examines the urban exodus of migrants and its challenges and response to it.

About the speaker
Ram B. Bhagat works in the area of migration and urbanization; demography, ethnicity and politics analysed through the lens of space and place as a critical framework of analysis. His two recent books incudes 'Climate change, vulnerability and migration', published by Routledge 2018 and 'Migration and urban transition: A development perspective', published by Routledge, 2020.