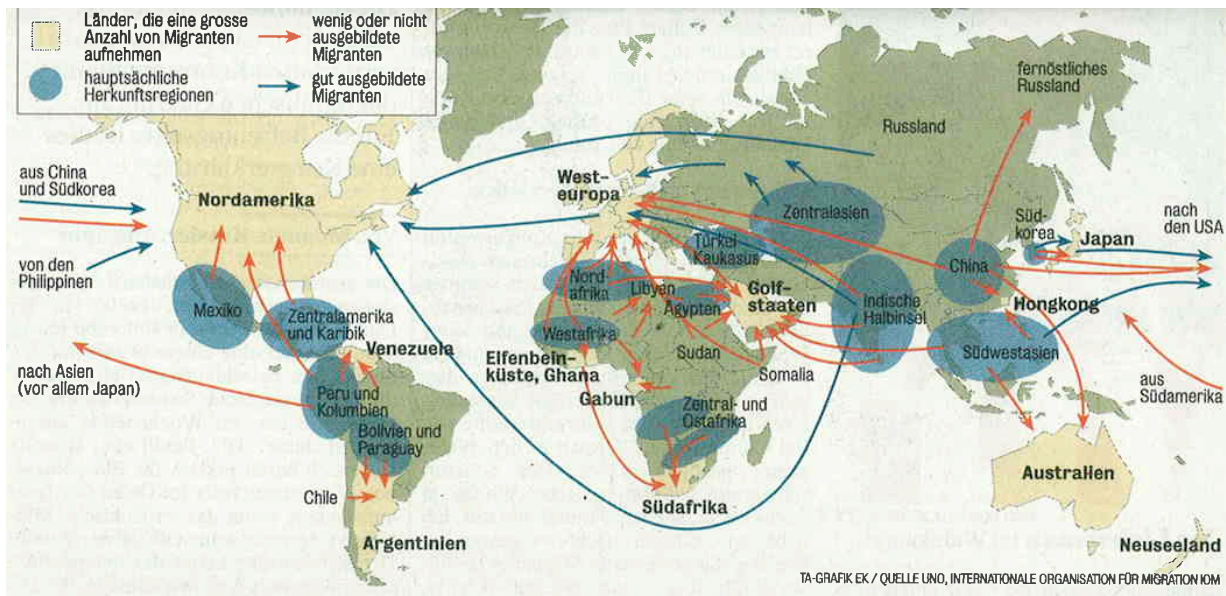




MIGRANT NETWORK

The BWI Global Migration Network was launched in September 11, 2006. 90 trade unions joined the e-migrant net, an email network of trade union leaders and activists who are actively involved in addressing the issues of migrant workers. Many of the affiliates shared information on how their trade unions are organizing and supporting migrant workers.



HOW DO UNIONS ORGANIZE MIGRANT WORKERS?

Most of the unions reported they are organizing legally-hired migrant workers. Many are recruited at the work sites, workers' communities or even from the country of origin. However, many expressed concerns and difficulties in organizing migrant workers particularly the undocumented workers. Many workers refuse or are afraid of joining unions due to threat of employers and in many cases passport are confiscated. Some unions have developed concrete program & services for migrant workers: legal support, information (translated into different languages) about the collective agreements, social security, skills training and the like. Some unions have a specific structure and representation for migrant workers.

HOW CAN BWI SUPPORT?

1. Facilitate Cooperation of Unions between Sending and Receiving Countries

- Training & deployment of Union Organizers

- Develop joint organizing and support project
 - Exchange Union Visit
- ### 2. Provide venue for Information Exchange
- Exchange of experiences & programs
 - Publish education or useful materials on migrant workers
 - Updating unions on the latest development through On-line Forum
 - BWI Migration Website
- ### 3. International Solidarity & Campaign
- Expose the situation of migrant workers at the international arena (e.g. Dubai)
 - Filing of Cases at the IOM, ILO & UNCHR
 - Dialogue and Lobbying IOM and ILO

STATUS OF THE E-MIGRANT NET

The e-migrant net has generated participation from 28 email contributions from union leaders and activists from 16 countries in 2 months period. It was a good start. However, we have encountered some limitations:

- languages / immediate translation
- lack of discussions or exchanges among the affiliates due to different experiences in different regions
- information overload
- lack of concrete useful information
- e-mail overload / spam

MIGRATION ACTIVITIES

2006

- Oct 18 Migration Seminar, Mexico
- Oct 26 European Comte, Skopje
- Nov 27 Fact Finding, Dubai
- Dec 03 ILO Migration Con. Malaysia
- Dec 08 World Council, Geneva
- Dec 10 Human Rights Day
- Dec 18 Int'l Migrants Day
Launching Migration
Website

2007

- Migration Forum (Internet)
- Meditterian Conference
- Bahrain Organizing Project
- Asia Organizers Conference
- Research in Gulf Region

CONTACT PERSONS

- *Chair* - Vasco Pedrina
- *Moderator* - Ambet Yuson
<ambet.yuson@bwint.org>

Contributions

Australia Cameroon El Salvador
Germany India Jordan Kenya
Malawi Malaysia Mexico Nepal
Niger South Korea Sweden
Switzerland United States

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTIVITIES 2007

1. Migrant Workers Website is now online to provide unions as well as migrant workers relevant and detailed information about the union programs and services in selected countries. Regional updates, global news, campaigns and photos will likewise be available in the website. Affiliates are encourage to build-up and contribute to the website <www.bwint.org>.

2. Migration Forum through the BWI website will be set-up in 2007 to facilitate a more comprehensive discussions and debates among the affiliates. The migration forum will have a set of theme or focus to be discussed every 3-6 months. Suggested themes are union structure on migrant workers, union policy and programs, organizing strategies, organizing and assisting undocumented migrant workers and the like. The internet forum is open for membership.

3. Sub-regional e-groups will be encourage to facilitate more relevant, useful and up-to-date information exchange through the Asia Construction Network, Mediterranean Basin Network, East-East Europe Network, ANDEAN Network, US-Mexico and the like.

4. BWI Global Migration Support Program will be developed such as:

- a. *Research & Publication*
- b. *Sub-regional Workshops*
- c. *International Campaigns*