

**3<sup>RD</sup> REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON MSAI**  
**(Migrant Savings for Alternative Investment)**  
**“Enhancing Concepts and Strategies on Sustainable Development involving Migrants:  
The Challenge to Migrants and MSAI”**  
**11-13 October 2004, Manila, Philippines**

**CONFERENCE STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

We are 55 delegates representing more than 30 organizations from Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Nepal, The Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Singapore, as well as academic institutions and regional and international organizations promoting migrants’ human rights.

We have come together for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference on MSAI in order to more deeply discuss the topics of “Enhancing Concepts and Strategies on Sustainable Development involving Migrants: The Challenge to Migrants and MSAI.”

**Guiding principles of MSAI**

We affirm the basic principles and guiding framework of MSAI as embodied in the “Chungli Declaration.”

The 3<sup>rd</sup> conference wants to further emphasize the following guiding principles of MSAI:

- Framework of human and social development;
- Gender justice principles; engendering all aspects of the MSAI process;
- Good governance principles;
- Protection and promotion of health of migrants and families as an integral right;
- MSAI is a sharing of the benefits of migration with the whole community and broader society;
- Migrants and their families are central stakeholders in the MSAI process;
- Ensuring the participation of key stakeholders in the development process.

**Action recommendations**

- A. On promoting and scaling up migrant savings
1. Promote the MSAI strategy through media campaigns, seminars among migrants (onsite); improve collaboration between migrants and NGOs in public education campaign on MSAI; advocate fellow migrant groups/NGOs to start or develop MSAI programs;
  2. Help migrant organizations get people/staff to focus on MSAI; collaborate on finding resources/funds to support these people/staff – including learning exchange arrangements for existing staff;
  3. Conduct seminars on MSAI and provide seminar materials (for migrants, families) at every stage (pre-departure, onsite, upon return);
  4. Do policy advocacy at local and national levels (policies in support of migrant savings), both in the receiving and sending countries;
  5. Advocate for creation or expansion of institutional channels for savings mobilization e.g. enabling migrants to open bank accounts; strengthen support for group savings and community-based savings;

6. Create a study group/task force to explore various options/strategies and pros/cons of scaling up or large-scale pooling of migrant savings – e.g. Bank? Financial instruments (e.g. bonds)? National/general migrant fund? Other channels?
7. Improve linkage/collaboration between MSAI partners in sending and receiving countries in mobilizing migrant savings;
8. Advocate for adoption of memoranda of understanding between governments re: procedures and policies on migrant savings;
9. Strengthen role of migrant unions in mobilizing migrant savings, in improving negotiating capacity of migrants vis-à-vis employers, and in protecting migrants' rights;
10. Strengthen migrants' grassroots organizations/unions doing savings/MSAI;
11. Look at the role of international organizations (including UNDP, ILO and UNIFEM) in enhancing MSAI.

B. Links between savers and social enterprise partners

1. Explore diversity of links; suggest that this be one of the tasks of MFA's MSAI Task Force;
  - diversity of relationships among the various types of savers at all stages of the process (from savers to social entrepreneurs);
  - diversity of approaches/relationships on the shift in the identity of savers and migrant families (as savers, as entrepreneurs);
  - institutional approaches/options on how savings are marshaled/mobilized;
2. Develop more effective mechanisms and relationships (including communication/coordination) between migrant savings groups and social enterprise partners;
3. Encourage various types of linkages among the individual savers, savings groups and social enterprise partners;
4. Create a common email group, website to share, discuss information and concepts and to communicate about MSAI efforts.

C. Support infrastructure for enterprises

1. Advocate for and seek stronger support by private sector; engage the private sector e.g. banks and relevant businesses;
2. Advocate for and help develop processes/mechanisms that provide enterprise development services and business incubation support (e.g. management, marketing, business planning, financial management, feasibility studies, appropriate technologies, R&D, product development, best practices, etc.);
3. Harness private sector or group of social entrepreneurs as a reference group for MSAI partners; partners can engage/seek help from this reference group re: MSAI/migrant enterprises;
4. Develop exchange programs, site visits to appropriate enterprises that can help partners learn more about others' experiences; develop benchmarking (good practices);
5. Develop stronger infrastructure in home countries that are essential in supporting migrants' enterprises;
6. Advocate for government policy/institutional support and incentives to support and promote migrant enterprises (e.g. similar to incentives given by governments to foreign investors like tax holidays, utilities subsidies, soft loans, etc.);

7. Advocate for and develop mechanisms/policies that recognize, accredit, and give legal identity to migrant savings groups or enterprise organizations in the sending and the receiving country.

D. MSAI in the wider context

1. Advocate for coherent and comprehensive national policy on MSAI;
2. Advocate for the provision of safety nets (including health insurance) for migrants and families; advocate for better social and health services in the communities to enable migrants and communities to involve in enterprise activities;
3. Advocate for securitization of migrant savings and remittances – e.g. international policies/commitments/guarantees or insurance for migrant savings;
4. Advocate for inclusion of MSAI and related concepts/principles to be included in formal education curriculum;
5. Advocate for mechanisms/processes that help clarify the legalities of migrants' and beneficiaries' claims on savings;
6. Advocate that receiving countries share in the responsibility of ensuring and providing support/mechanisms in support of effective/sustainable reintegration of migrants, including economic alternatives;
7. Support migrant savings/investments that cater to cultural enrichment of migrants/communities;
8. Promote the use of migrant savings also for social service-oriented enterprises (e.g. hospitals, day care, schools, etc.);
9. Advocate that governments be held responsible for providing effective services addressing psycho-social needs of returning/reintegrating migrants and their families so that they can be involved in economically productive endeavors; ensure that the government work with appropriate NGOs in providing such services;
10. Deepen and seek better understanding of existing and alternative market and trading systems in relation to products produced by MSAI social enterprises (fair trade, niche markets, 'nostalgia' markets, etc.).

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