

**A Summer Camp**  
**'South Asian Labour Migration and Maritime Migrants'**  
**Organized by Calcutta Research Group [CRG], Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna [IWM],**  
**Nepal Institute of Peace [NIP], Alliance for Social Dialogue [ASD]**  
21-23 May 2022, Kathmandu, Nepal

Labour migration from South Asia has the highest number of out-migration seeking employment opportunities mostly in the Gulf countries and Malaysia. The migrant worker's movement has been facilitated by the government formally and people have been also moving with the individual decision by taking risks in countries where the government does not encourage people's movement. The migrant workers have been facing several challenges in the course of migration: pre-departure, during the employment period and returning back. The migrant workers have not been well informed about the destination countries, provided clear contracts stating the remunerations, nature of work etc. The migrant workers face several discrimination during the course of employment and harassment. The workers fall under the vicious circle of migration as the workers borrow money to enter the labour market and are not able to pay it back. The workers have been forced to seek another destination or better job after returning back to home or leaving the job and decide to stay undocumented workers in the destinations. The returnee migrant workers also face challenges in getting employment back at home. In the majority of the case, the workers remain for a long period of time in the destination and spend their productive working period and it is difficult to adjust and initiate entrepreneurship at home. There are no recognition and social security schemes for migrant workers at home. This shows that migrant workers have been facing several challenges in the course of labour migration.

The labour migrants from South Asia take different routes like land and sea to reach their destination countries of work and employment. The discussion on people's movement via land has been discussed and regulated. However, there is limited discussion in South Asia about the maritime migration focusing on the Bay of Bengal and using the Mediterranean migration from South Asia to multiple destinations. It is essential to generate discussions on the approaches to understanding the migrants' movement via different routes and the vulnerabilities that workers face through maritime migration.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the situation of migrant workers in the destination countries. Many migrant workers have faced joblessness, wage theft, not ritual of contracts and health-related vulnerabilities. In addition, the women migrant workers face worse situations in terms of violence and ill-treatment as most of the women migrant workers secure a job as domestic workers. COVID-19 posed new kind of challenges to the migrant workers. In the case of Nepal, the migrant workers return back and are not able to pay the loan at home. The government facilitated the return of the migrant workers and some of them have to pay a large amount of money for the flights and remain in quarantine centres. The migrant workers were stigmatized as they were considered the carrier of viruses from other countries. The government claims that it has devised better policies to facilitate and provide support to migrant workers. The government of Nepal is also the state party of several international conventions or declarations regarding migrant workers including the Global Compact on migrant workers. However, the implementation part remains weak in the national context. It is essential to discuss and empower the civil society organization to monitor and observe the GCM constructively.

The Calcutta Research Group and the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna [under its project 'Justice, Protection and Government of the People: A Two Year Research and Orientation Programme on Protection and Democracy in a Post-COVID World (2021-2023)] in collaboration with the Nepal Institute of Peace and Alliance for Social Dialogue held a three-day summer camp in a dialogue-workshop pattern where youth activists associated with NGOs, INGOs, human rights activists, human rights defenders for migrants and refugees at sea, migrant labour union activists, legal activists, scholars, from different parts of South Asia in addition to Europe, and the Indo-Pacific region joined the Meet on 'South Asian Labour Migration and Maritime Migrants' in Kathmandu from May 21-23, 2022. Different organizations like

## **Programme Schedule**

21-23 May 2022,  
Hotel Himalayan, Kathmandu Nepal.

### **Day-1: 21 May 2022**

**5:30-6:00 PM: Tea & Registration**

**6:00-6:20 PM: Welcome Remarks**

Shyamalendu Majumdar, *Sivanath Sastri College & Calcutta Research Group, India*

**6:20-6:45 PM: Introduction of the Participants**

Moderator: Neetu Pokharel, *Alliance for Social Dialogue, Nepal*

### **Day-2: 22 May 2022: Labour Migration to the Gulf and Maritime Migrants**

**9:00–9:30 AM: Tea and Registrations**

**9:30-10:00 AM: Objectives of the Summer Camp**

Ranabir Samaddar, *Calcutta Research Group, India*

**10:00-11:30 AM: Labour Migration from South Asia to Gulf Countries and Other Regions**

Speakers: S. Irudaya Rajan, *International Institute for Migration and Development, India*, Syeda Rozana Rashid, *University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*, Padma Prasad Khatiwada, *Tribhuvan University, Nepal*

Moderator: Som Niroula, *Alliance for Social Dialogue, Nepal*

**11:30 AM–12:30 PM: Maritime Migration across the Mediterranean**

Speaker: Sandro Mezzadra, *University of Bologna, Italy*

Moderator: Suman Mandal, *Affiliation*

**12:30-1:30 PM: Lunch**

**1:30-2:30 PM: Migrations Across the Bay of Bengal**

Speakers: Sucharita Sengupta, *Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva*, Niloy Ranjan Biswas, *University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Moderator: Shyamalendu Majumdar, *Sivanath Sastri College & Calcutta Research Group, India*

**2:30-3:00 PM: Tea Break**

**3:00-4:00 PM: Reflecting on Research Practices on Maritime Refugees and Migrants at Sea [Open Discussion]**

Moderator: S. Irudaya Rajan, *International Institute for Migration and Development, India*,

**4:00-4:30 PM: Closing of the Day and Way Forward**

Moderator: Som Niroula, *Alliance for Social Dialogue, Nepal*

**Day-3: 23 May 2022: Labour Migration Scenario in Nepal**

**9.00-9:30 AM: Tea and Registrations**

**9:30–11:30 AM: Revisiting the Global Compact on Refugee and Migrant Workers-Civil Society and Government Perspectives**

Speakers: Som Niroula, *Alliance for Social Dialogue, Nepal*, Jeevan Baniya, *Social Science Baha, Nepal*,  
Moderator: Syeda Rozana Rashid, *University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*

**11:30-11:45 AM: Tea Break**

**11:45 AM–1:15 PM: The Vulnerabilities of Migrant Workers in Nepal**

Speakers: Shom Luitel, *People Forum for Human Rights, Nepal*, Neetu Pokharel, *Alliance for Social Dialogue, Nepal*, Kul Prasad Karki, *Pravasi Nepali Co-ordination Committee, Nepal*, Sujit Saxena, *Nepal Institute of Peace, Nepal*  
Moderator: Ajit Acharya, *Nepal Institute of Peace, Nepal*

**1:15-2:15 PM: Lunch**

**2:15–4:00 PM: Policy and Practices in ensuring the rights of migrant workers**

Speakers: Rajan Prasad Shrestha, *Foreign Employment Board, Nepal*, Kamal Thapa Chettri, *National Human Rights Commission, Nepal*, Neha Chaudhary, *International Labour Organization, Nepal*,  
Moderator: Rameshwar Nepal, *Equidem Foundation, Nepal*

**4:00–5:00 PM: Migrations Across Indo-Pacific**

Speakers: Robertus Robet, *Asia Research Centre, University of Indonesia, Indonesia*, Rhino Ariefiansyah, *Asia Research Centre, University of Indonesia, Indonesia*  
Moderator: Niloy Ranjan Biswas, *University of Dhaka, Bangladesh*

**5:00-5:15 PM: Tea Break**

**5:15-6:15 PM: Digitization of the Migrant World**

Speakers: Ranabir Samaddar, *Calcutta Research Group, India*, Sandro Mezzadra, *University of Bologna, Italy*  
Moderator: Manisha Pandel, *Nepal Law Campus, Nepal*

**5:30-5:40 PM: Vote of Thanks:** Som Niroula, *Alliance for Social Dialogue, Nepal* & Shatabdi Das, *Calcutta Research Group, India*

**Rapporteurs:** Sadikshya Bhattarai, *Centre for the Study of Labour Mobility, Nepal*, Prajesh Aryal, *Centre for the Study of Labour Mobility, Nepal*

**Interpreter:** Ramchandra Gaire, *Blind Youth Association, Nepal*