

## CARAM Asia Engaging In GFMD Processes

The first Asian consultation on the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was held on 4 February in Bangkok, Thailand. It was held during the Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA) Working Group on Migration and Labour (WGML) meeting, which CARAM Asia is a member.

CARAM Asia was represented by a group of eight persons representing diverse regions and organisations in the network. They are from the secretariat, Raks Thai, Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), Migrant Assistance Program (MAP) Foundation, Lawyers for Human Rights & Legal Aid (LHRLA), CARAM Cambodia and St. John's Cathedral HIV Education Centre.

It was confirmed that the 2nd GFMD will comprise of two parts:

27-28 October 2008 – Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Forum, organised by the Ayala Foundation

29-30 October 2008 - Intergovernmental Forum, organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

This year the CSO forum will span two days, following a string of complaints that the one day meeting held in Brussels was terribly insufficient to get CSO messages and debates heard. It is likely that on the second day there will be spaces for interaction with State delegates.

Suggested plans from the Asian consultation in order to engage into the GFMD in the preparatory process:

- National level consultations. This is important to broaden participation and get consensus at the national level process. Emphasis was placed on migrant participation. It would be ideal to have one consultation per country to express a unified position, but it is an open process where more than one consultation can be held in a country, depending on the situation. A suggested common framework will be used for the national consultations. This will help greatly in synergising processes and demands at national and then regional levels.
- Findings from the national consultation will be used to develop lobby and advocacy actions with governments. Other types of interventions include media advocacy, lobby MPs, talking to trade unions, etc. should be strongly considered at national level.
- It was also expressed that information sharing was crucial to ensure better preparedness among all groups. The SAPA website was suggested as a central point for uploading information.

- A joint Asian CSO position paper on the GFMD. A drafting committee comprising Mekong Migration Network, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) and Union Network International Asia Pacific (UNIAPRO) will work on a draft that will be circulated by end April 2008. A final statement will be available by end of June.
- A further process of linking up all national process into another follow up Asian Consultation was also made. It was suggested that a second consultation will be held in mid 2008.
- Interventions at key selected forums to raise the profile of our concerns and participation at the GFMD.
- Lobbying 'friendly' governments' during the GFMD, was also a suggested strategy.
- At the end of the meeting a committee was formed to follow up on information, and keep the group updated on all developments. DAWN had volunteered to be in that committee.