

**Statement by
Ms. Gwi-Yeop Son
UN Resident Coordinator
at
the Closing Session of the Regional Dialogue on
the Health Challenges for Asian Labour Migrants
Room C@7 (7th floor), Amari Watergate Hotel
14 July 2010, 16:45 hrs**

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me congratulate you on your hard work over the past 2 days and the successful adoption of the Joint Recommendations to address the health challenges of Asian labour migrants and their families.

We hope that the Dialogue has provided a space for you:

- To build and strengthen your ties with colleagues from the region;

- To deepen your understanding of the issues at hand; and
- To clarify what actions you need to take to help improve the health and well-being of labour migrants of this region.

The Joint Recommendations are a comprehensive, forward-looking document.

At the same time, it is only a tool. It can only be as good as what each and every one of you do with it.

We therefore call upon you, the participants, to take the outcomes of this Dialogue to the next level.

You have already identified various venues, such as the upcoming Colombo Process meeting in Dhaka, where you would be able to raise awareness and bring the key messages of the Joint Recommendations to discussions with national, regional and global counterparts.

Please share the Joint Recommendations with your ministries and partners in your countries, and brief them of this Dialogue. Use it as a framework to build consensus and commitment among your national partners, and to inform your policies and programmes that affect labour migrants.

Health challenges and labour migration are complex issues that affect large numbers of people in our region. Such issues cannot be dealt with by one ministry or one country alone, and I hope that this Dialogue provides an example of the benefit of collaboration and discussion across traditional borders.

In the end, we should always remind ourselves that all these efforts bear fruit at the level of the individuals and the communities. When we are successful, we will see it in the improved lives of the labour migrant, his or her family and their communities, all of which will contribute to a better society and state.

We look forward to building on what has been achieved in this Dialogue and working further with you towards this vision.

Thank you and have a safe journey home.

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