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The Economic Crisis and Migration: Where Do We Go From Here?

A new IOM/ THP sponsored joint study

The present economic crisis, the worst in several decades, has wide implications for future migration and its management, going far beyond remittance flows. The governments have so far responded to the sudden challenge mostly on an *ad hoc* basis, often with panicky and knee-jerk measures. And migration specialists too have found it hard to come up with timely and sound advice to help governments deal with it-- not just because of the relative paucity of relevant information on experiences during the previous recessions but also because no two economic crises are exactly alike. .

The Hague Process has been following these developments with some concern. After a preliminary discussion of the issues involved at the Club's meeting last year THP, jointly with IOM, invited Club member Bimal Ghosh to prepare a full study on the subject. The study is now well advanced and would be issued as a joint IOM/THP publication, hopefully, by early next year.

In addition to a succinct analysis of the economic crisis as it affects migration, the study is expected to shed light on the specific consequences of the crisis for both migrant-sending and receiving countries as well as for the world society, and suggest a series policy and practical measures to deal with these consequences and turn the crisis into an opportunity for better management of international migration.

Meanwhile, at the invitation of the organizations concerned, Professor Ghosh has already made two presentations ---one at the World Bank in Washington D.C. and the other at a special United Nations meeting in New York, organized in conjunction with the recent UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. The presentations, which were based on the research undertaken for the study jointly sponsored by IOM and THP, were well received, and evoked wide interest in the study itself. (END)
