



MIGRANT WORKERS IN NEPAL AND JORDAN



Ulandssekretariatet
LO/FTF Council

The number of migrant workers worldwide has continued to grow rapidly in recent years, reaching 258 million in 2017, up from 220 million in 2010 and 173 million in 2000. In 2017, of two out of five migrants were born in Asia. Less than half of the migrants are women.

Lack of employment and economic opportunities are major push factors for migration of low and semi-skilled workers. In sending countries, remittances have become an important source of income. At household level, the remittances support families left behind. In destination countries, migrant workers are both perceived as an opportunity for obtaining cheap labour as well as way to address skills shortage. However, migrant workers may also contribute to social dumping by decreasing domestic wages and increase local competition for jobs.

Migrant workers are among the most vulnerable in the labour market. They often face exploitation and abuse and they have to work for less pay, for long hours and in worse conditions than native workers, with limited possibility for improving the situation.

Trade unions are engaged in advocating for migrant workers' rights. Trade unions throughout Asia advocate for safe labour migration and have initiated information campaigns to raise awareness among potential migrant workers about their rights in destination countries. Trade unions are also identifying ways to reach out to and support migrant workers regarding issues with employers and authorities in destination countries.

During the SDG8 conference, the possibilities and challenges related to migration will be discussed. The point of departure will be migrant workers from Nepal and the situation for migrant workers in Jordan.

THE PANEL CONSISTS OF:



Mr. Buddhi Ram Acharya
Consultant for the LO/FTF Council

Buddhi has vast knowledge about the labor market in Nepal as well as the pull and push factors for migration among Nepali workers. Buddhi has since his early youth been an active member of the Nepali trade union confederation GEFONT and has later gained additional knowledge about migrant workers from his employment as Assistant Education Secretary in the Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) with focus on Nepali migrant workers in Malaysia, Korea and Hong Kong.

During the last four years, Buddhi has worked for the LO/FTF Council specifically with capacity building programmes of trade unions in Asia.



Mr. Jørgen Juul Rasmussen
President of the Danish Union of Electricians

Jørgen is the President of the Danish Union for Electricians (Dansk El-Forbund) and has substantial knowledge about the challenges of trade unions in relation to preventing social dumping.

The Danish Union for Electricians has supported several solidarity projects in Asia and is currently supporting the General Trade Union for Electricity Workers in Jordan (GTUEWJ) in developing its capacity to negotiate better collective bargaining agreements and improve the living and working conditions of their members.

Ms. Benammar Hind
Arab Trade Union Confederation



Hind is the Assistant Executive General of the Arab Trade Union Confederation. She coordinates projects related to trade union rights in the Arab region, focusing on women and migrants. She specializes in using new technologies and media tools to promote trade unions.