



*2013 St. Bonaventure University
Model United Nations Conference*

International Organization for Migration

March 22 to March 23, 2013

My name is Matthew Edwards, a senior Engineering Physics major at St. Bonaventure, and I will be your chair for the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This is my second year participating in the SBUMUNC, and I hope that you are as excited for it as I am. The IOM is of particular interest to me, as I have acted as a delegate in the committee in a different conference; with luck, and a good amount of research, it will be as rewarding for you as it was for me.

The IOM is a committee, according to their website, dedicated “to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they refugees, displaced persons or other uprooted people.” This organization also bridges together migration issues involving economic, social, and cultural development as they work to freely move to various countries around the world. As a delegate, keep in mind that you should not only know your country's position, but also make sure you know specifically what the IOM is capable of.

Syrian Refugees

Since the Syrian civil war began in the March of 2011, hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled the country to escape the devastation. The conflict began with a protest in Damascus and in Deraa demanded the release of political prisoners. As a result, the Syrian army was ordered to open fire, killing many, and leading to a violent unrest in the rest of Syria which prompted the government to continue to use violence to suppress these rebel groups, which put the country into a state of emergency. In June 2011, the first of the refugees began to flee as 10,000 people sought refuge in Turkey. Since then there has been 2.5 million displaced people within Syria as the fighting escalates, and bombings kill hundreds of thousands of Syrian civilians who were not part of any rebel forces, as the Syrian government has claimed.

As of December 20, 2012, there were 106,724 refugees in Jordan, 119,596 in Lebanon, 66,048 in Iraq, and 141,240 in Turkey, with numbers continuing to rise at astonishing rates. Conditions for these refugees are not satisfactory; for instance, Turkey reports that they are hosting at least 12% more persons than their refugee camps can effectively assist. These refugee camps - for example the ones in Iraq - often have poor health facilities, cuts in the electricity that keep recurring, and shortages of food. Even relocating the Syrian refugees outside of the camps is difficult because they first would need Iraqi citizens to vouch for them, which keeps many of the refugees within the camps. Jordanian refugee camps have been dealing with torrential rain which has flooded hundreds of tents in the Zaatari refugee camp and to aid the situation Saudi Arabia has sent \$10 million in hopes of not having to take in refugees, as many Syrians take refuge in unofficial border camps. As this tragedy continues to unfold, an increasing number of Syrian refugees will be looking to their neighbors for succor. This, of course, puts a strain on these countries' resources, and brings added danger as Syrian government forces attempt to attack refugee camps.

Questions:

- How can your nation, through the IOM, bring aid to these refugees?
- What experiences in the history of your country could apply here?

- How can the conditions in the refugee camps be improved?

Helpful Links:

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/01/04/world/meast/syria-civil-war/index.html>

data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=1305

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/middle-east-live/2013/jan/03/syria-rising-death-toll-live>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/11/us-syria-crisis-idUSBRE90A0NH20130111>

Labor Migration

Around the world there is a total of 105 million people who are defined as labor migrants, because they are working in different country than the one that they were born in. These migrants make up what is known as labor migration, which is defined as the process of leaving one's country to establish residence in a foreign country for the purpose of employment. Currently, there are a total of 70 countries that benefit from programs designed for labor migration. In 2011, these migrant workers have earned a total of \$440 billion, \$350 billion of which is used for remittances to developing countries, according to the World Bank. Unfortunately, there are grave risks that migrants have to endure in finding jobs in other countries, which make them vulnerable. Such risks include abuses of human rights, forced labor, and high levels of exploitation.

In Asia alone there are around 25 million workers who are currently labor migrants, and every year 2 million continue to leave, but unlike most labor migrant situations a similar number of people return. This mainly occurs due to the fact that even with a rapidly growing economy of many of these countries, there are still demands for labor and in wage rates that are much higher elsewhere. Some of the types of jobs that these 2.6 million Asia-Pacific workers take consist of maintenance jobs, store-keepers, guards, domestic helpers, construction workers, and even professional as well as technical jobs throughout the world. In Southeast Asia in countries such as Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand, workers end up traveling to jobs in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and neighboring countries that are in the Gulf to work in unskilled and semi-skilled jobs.

Asian countries are not the only ones affected by labor migration as several African nations are too, as it is considered as a dynamic and complex situation. It is said that migration is consisting of more women than men as these workers compete to feed their families. For instance, in countries such as Nigeria and Ghana, women are taking more professionalized jobs as many leave their spouses at home in order to care for their children. Women who are trained nurses and doctors will often times be recruited to work in Saudi Arabia whereas males will often times get better pay by working in the United Kingdom and the United States. This trend can make it difficult for gender roles in Africa, because women are not typically considered as the provider for their families, or at least as far as public policy is concerned. For instance in Cote d'Ivoire, many women migrate to Burkina Faso where they have to compete with male migrants for work in the country's current economic crises which puts pressures on the African family structure. This also results in many women having to stay at home to take care of the family as they work daily farming their land, and eventually become resource managers and decision makers in their agricultural sector that was once male dominated.

Questions:

- How does labor migration affect your country? Is it a negative or positive effect?
- What is your country currently doing to prevent labor migration?
- What laws and procedures are in your country concerning labor migration?
- What is the cause of labor migration in your country? Are people migrating because of factors involving environmental, economic, medical, or political instability?
- What is your relative global economic and social status of your nation and level of income gap within the population?

Helpful Links:

<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/what-we-do/labour-migration.html>

<http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21565685-where-slavery-persists-all-name-toil-and-trouble>

<http://www.pstalker.com/ilo/h-flows.html>

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/feature/display.cfm?ID=251>

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is an issue that takes many shapes and forms as there are currently 2.4 million people trafficked around the world, mostly from Asia and Pacific regions amounting to 56% of the trafficked population in the world. There are a total of 161 nations that have human trafficking in their country as either a source, are a transit nation, or a destination country. Many of the victims of human trafficking are between the ages of 18 and 24 years of age. The largest populations of trafficked victims are children who estimated to total about 1.2 million around the world. Also, many of those who are trafficked have at least a middle-level education. Those who are the traffickers are mostly nationals of the country where the trafficking is occurring and aid in the \$31.6 billion industry of human trafficking. This money has been tracked, and at least half of the industry comes from industrialized economies which make a total of \$15.5 billion in profit.

In terms of child trafficking and labor trafficking there is a large increase in those who are being trafficked as labor trafficking rose 43 per cent. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), most of those who are trafficked are women, who make up nearly two thirds of the trafficked population especially in countries in Europe and Asia. In 2011 the top countries of destination for human trafficking victims consisted of the Russian Federation, Haiti, Yemen, Thailand, and Kazakhstan, whereas the top countries of origin are Ukraine, Haiti, Yemen, Laos, Uzbekistan, and Colombia. In most of these countries when it comes to labor trafficking, many victims are forced to work in manual labor such as agriculture, construction, domestic work, fisheries, and mining. The task of counteracting human trafficking can be difficult for several reasons because there is a lack of government communication in data collection and research; the reluctance of victims in their reports of experiences to the authorities; there is a lack of anti-trafficking legislation in several countries; and most trafficking is done underground in the utmost illegal nature.

Questions:

- Is your country a source for trafficking, a transit nation, or a destination country for human trafficking?
- How many are trafficked in your country?
- How does human trafficking effect your population, economy, and politics of your nation?
- What has your country done to counter human trafficking?
- What policies can be put in place in high trafficking countries?
- What actions would your country be supportive of as a member of the IOM?

Helpful Links:

<http://humantrafficking.org/updates/894>

<http://www.humantrafficking.org/publications/639>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/03/human-trafficking-victims_n_1401673.html#s842340

<http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/human-trafficking-faqs>

<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/news-and-views/press-briefing-notes/pbn-2012/pbn-listing/labour-exploitation-main-reason.html>