

**Asia Pacific Regional Review of the Global Compact for Migration
March 10-12, 2021**

Agenda Item 3, in Round Table 4 intervention: *'Strengthening Evidence-Based Policymaking, Public Debate and Cooperation for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (addressing objectives 1, 3, 7, 17 and 23)*

Statement (from the floor) by Ellene A. Sana, Center for Migrant Advocacy

Warm greetings to all!

For the 107M people of the region on the move, the dominant form is labor migration. 43% move within the region; and account for 71% of ALL migrants in the region. The rest go to west Asia, north America and Europe. Clearly countries of destination in our region and beyond, address their shortage of workers by recruiting migrant workers. This must be reflected in our migration narrative in order to build inclusive communities.

In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the important role of migrant workers as frontliners not only in the hospitals but in the households, in the food, agriculture and transportation sectors, has been highlighted as well.

With available formal and informal forums on migration issues in the region, alongside relevant stakeholders, and with a high degree of SOLIDARITY, the implementation of the GCM can significantly improve the following:

1. data collection –to include data on skills of migrants, prior and post-migration for informed policies on sustainable reintegration, and skills upgrading and skills matching
2. dissemination of relevant information should start at the communities with local governments and community-based migrant organizations-- as we are doing in the Philippines; in destination countries, migrant organizations, civil society, and trade unions can partner with the missions and host governments in post-arrival information programs like in Malaysia for Filipino migrants and in Qatar for migrant workers in the construction sector.

Information technology and social media must be maximized such as the ONLINE PAOS (post arrival orientation seminar) developed by our Labor Office in Hongkong for Filipino domestic workers. BUT we must be on guard as well, to detect and report fake news and advertisements of unscrupulous recruiters and traffickers;

Employers should also be provided information such as in Singapore by the Ministry of Manpower.

3. Ensure that decent work programs are inclusive of ALL workers including ALL migrant workers; ARE gender-responsive AND WITH proviso for enabling legal and social environments to effectively access the programs and services; and finally,

4. Government-to-government recruitment programs can promote decent work arrangements for migrant workers IF conducted in consultation with relevant stakeholders and with clear monitoring and implementation mechanism.

Thank you.