Partnerships in Migration:
Engaging Business and Civil Society
Continuity of IDM Themes

- 2004: “Valuing Migration”
- 2005: “Towards Policy Coherence on Migration”
- 2006: “High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development”
Changed Migration Landscape

- Fundamental changes in migration over past few decades
  - Volume
  - Patterns
  - Type of migrants
  - Countries affected

- Management of population flows across borders: intrinsic to national sovereignty
  - Prerogative of national governments

- Many aspects of migration: of concern to and involvement from other stakeholders
Migration Stakeholders

- New players in the field
  - NGOs
  - Private Sector
  - Diasporas
  - Mass-Media
  - Recruitment Agencies
  - Civil Society

- New Roles
  - Movement: both ways
  - Reception
  - Integration
  - Relation with country of origin
  - Advocacy

- Increased impact and new modes of interaction
Migration Stakeholders

Governments

Role & number of civil-society actors has increased

Other stakeholders

Migration Management

1950s

Present day
1. Private sector

- A principal recruiter
  - Abroad
  - Domestically
  - Increasingly larger numbers of special-category visas
  - Intra-company transfers: people, know-how

- Impact on migration policies - quota systems
  - Best hand on pulse on labour market developments

- Integration through the work place

  - IDM workshop on Integration (July 2006)

- Provides skills: professional, language, social

- Provides status
Migration Stakeholders

Partnerships: Government & Private Sector

- Identify gaps and surpluses in labour markets
  - address skills and labour needs
- Pool resources for increased investment in human resource development
- Engage migrant workers to address challenge of brain drain and promote brain circulation
- IDM Workshop on Human Resources for Health (March 2006)
- Mitigate negative aspects of immigrant labour on wages
- Highlight the valuable contributions of migrants to host societies
- Facilitate the economic and social integration of migrants into local communities
Migration Stakeholders

2. NGOs/Civil Society

- **Assistance**
  - Housing, survival skills, language courses, direct (small-size) financial assistance, administrative paperwork and procedures
  - In a regular and irregular status

- **Integration**

- **Protection of the human rights of migrants**

- **Return & reintegration**

- **Advocacy**
Migration Stakeholders

Partnerships: Government & NGOs/Civil Society

- Main interface between migrants & societies of origin and destination
- Experience with the day-to-day realities of migrants
- Provide migrants with reliable information and realistic expectations about the migration experience
- Source of first-hand information for governments on migration realities
- Network for interacting with migrants
Partnerships: Government & Civil Society

- Set up broad-based consultation mechanisms
  - Representative groups of stakeholders & alliances

- Build broad public support and sustainability
3. Diasporas

Transnational Players: Individual Migrants & Communities

- Major, post-arrival and longer-term support structure in host country
- Substantial role in relations with home country
- Considerable impact on migration decisions
- Main supplier of info on migration realities and procedures
Partnerships: Government & Diasporas

Conducive environment and programmes for:

- Investment and business creation
- Transfer of skills & know-how
  - Example of interactive network of Ghanaian immigrants in Italy
- Transfer of funds through transparent, low-cost channels and appropriate financial structures: microfinance institutions, post office networks and credit unions
- Essential ingredients:
  - Government policies and incentives
  - Respect of diasporas’ own priorities
  - Trust on both sides
Migration Stakeholders

Partnerships: Government & Individual Migrants

- Regard migration policies and processes from the perspective of the migrants
  - Throughout the entire migration cycle
  - Early in the migration process: home country

- Strengthen the protection of human rights of migrants

- Facilitate more orderly migration processes
4. Mass-Media

- Information conveyor belt between government and public opinion
- Increasingly shaping policy and public opinion
Migration Stakeholders

Partnerships: Government & Media

- Better public info on migration policy
  - Stakes, objectives, means, results
- More informed public debate on migration issues
- More balanced view of migration
- Better perception of migrants’ role and contribution
Role of business & civil society in migration management

Increasingly greater role

- More work on account of larger number of migrants
- More attention to migration management
- Certain previous functions of Government now carried out by civil society structures
- New functions to address new needs and new migration realities
Migration Management Partnerships

Partnership between Government and business/civil society structures

- Essential for effective migration management
  - Hard to conceive without the contribution of business & civil society

- Beneficial to all parties
  - Migrants included

- A constant feature of migration management
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