

# Case Studies of Recent Partnerships with Non-State Actors- South Korea

**Mar 27, 2018**

**Takgon Lee**

# Overview of Migration in Korea

- Previously a country of emigration, now a receiving country
- Policy focus on overseas Korean ethnicities and marriage migration; highest ratio of migrants are migrant workers
- Long term migrants now outnumber short-stay migrants; percentage of migrants steadily increasing – now 4%
- Family migration increasing rapidly despite strict policy
- Number of undocumented migrants steady at 200,000; many from Employment Permit System

# Processes of Migration Policy-making

## ■ Basic Plan for Immigration Policy

- 5-year plan drawn up by Foreigners' Policy Committee

## ■ Master Plan for Supporting Multicultural Families

- 5-year plan drawn up by Multicultural Families Policy Committee

## ■ Integrated governance for migration limited

- Individual participation of activists/professionals from CSOs in Committees
- Regional support system for workers and multicultural families – CSOs play subsidiary roles
- Representations of migrants in governance bodies limited
- Public/CSO input during policymaking process limited

# Global Compact on Migration

- **Government participation in GCM drafting process separated from CSOs**
  - No input from CSOs during thematic sessions
  - Some discrepancies with the actual situation and the government's position papers
- **Publishing of CSO Recommendations on GCM**
  - Initial proposal by IOM Seoul Office to various migrant organizations
  - Several NGOs and public interest lawyer groups formed a coalition for drafting CSO Recommendations
- **Consultation process with the government**

# National Action Plan

- **3<sup>rd</sup> National Action Plans for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in consultation process**
  - Rushed effort at drafting NAP in 2017 met with criticisms from CSOs
  - 19 consultation sessions in progress – working-level consultations between relevant ministries and NGOs
  
- **Migrant organizations submit a comprehensive recommendation to be reflected in the NAP**
  - Labor, undocumented migrants, detention, border control, industrial safety, health, crime victims, children, birth registration, women, human trafficking, adoptees, anti-discrimination, refugees, fishing workers, overseas Koreans, etc.

# Current area of focus for CSOs and Partnerships

## ■ **Traditional partnerships between migrant organizations**

- Migrant workers
- Labor unions
- Community movement
- Women and other vulnerable groups

## ■ **Agenda-based coalitions; participation of international organizations and public interest lawyer groups**

- Korea Refugee Support Network
- Universal Birth Registration Network
- Alternative to E-6-2 Visa Network
- Network for Improving Fundamental Rights of Migrant Children



**Thank you!**