

NEWSLETTER ON MIGRATION



IOM Regional Office for South America

April - July 2015

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- Argentina:** Regional Meetings of Authorities and Technical Teams of Assistance to Human Trafficking Victims
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Other articles



"We congratulate for the progress and renew our commitment to rid the world of all forms of slavery."

IOM Director General inscription and signature on the panel symbolizing the support for the Forced Labor Protocol ratification campaign to end modern slavery, held on 5th June at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

On the occasion of the World Refugee Day last June 20, Pope Francis asked people to "respect migrants' dignity".

He also asked the international community to join efforts and "act accordingly and effectively to hinder forced migration".



The migrants' voice

The story of Sebastián Leytte, the first migrant favored with a retirement thanks to the MERCOSUR Multilateral Agreement on Social Security

Born in the district of Quyuquyhó in Paraguari state, Paraguay, Sebastián Leytte always wanted to know new horizons and improve: "When I was young, paraguá'y, paraguá'y was always on my mind. I longed to know the capital of the country. So, at age fifteen, I got on a truck right to Asunción looking forward to studying and working", he told us. [Read more](#)



IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson met with Paraguay President Horacio Manuel Cartes Jara and senior Paraguayan officials to affirm IOM's support on migration issues



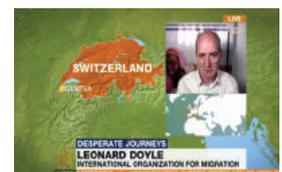
IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, met in Quito with Gabriela Rivadeneira, President of the National Assembly of Ecuador

During the meeting last July 14, IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand congratulated Gabriela Rivadeneira President of the National Assembly of Ecuador on her work in favor of migrants.

IOM and Uruguay Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Migration Policy

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay agreed to a series of joint activities that contribute to the development of the migration policy in the country.

"If individual migrants are at fault then we all are at fault, because human beings have been migrating from millennia, this is the oldest adaptation strategy against hardships, climate change and human rights abuses so let's blame all of us before we blame the migrants."



Leonard Doyle, Portavoz de la OIM
Entrevista en Aljazeera.

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Follow in Twitter the IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand

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SPECIAL VISIT

IOM DDG Meets Paraguay President, Affirms IOM Support on Migration

July 31, 2015

By: Juliana Quintero

During an official visit in Paraguay, IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson met with Paraguay President Horacio Manuel Cartes Jara and senior Paraguayan officials to affirm IOM's support on migration issues.

She was accompanied by IOM Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand and IOM Paraguay Head of Office Richard Velázquez.

During her meeting with President Cartes, Ambassador Thompson affirmed IOM's willingness to support government efforts to modernize migration management in Paraguay, including the creation of modern, integrated migration policies and laws. She also affirmed IOM's commitment to continue working with the government on a common migration agenda.

Ambassador Thompson also met with Interior Minister Francisco de Vargas; Minister of Foreign Affairs Eladio Loizaga; Minister of Labor Guillermo Sosa; Minister Secretary of Social Action Héctor Cárdenas; Minister Secretary of Refugees and Repatriation Luis Alberto Servin; and Jorge Kronawetter, Director of the General Directorate of Migration. She also met with the President of Paraguay's Chamber of Deputies, Hugo Velázquez, and the President of the Committee on Immigration Affairs and Development, Esmérita Sánchez.

Ambassador Thompson invited by the Ministry of Refugees and Returnees Compatriots (SEDERREC) of Paraguay to deliver subsidies to returnees

During the ceremony of subsidies on Friday 31 July, Ambassador Thompson congratulated the Paraguayan government on the implementation of projects for returnees and highlighted the experience of IOM in such programs as well as offered the knowledge of the organization in this type of aid.

Thompson was accompanied by the Minister Secretary Luis Servin SEDERREC, the IOM Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand and the IOM Paraguay Head of Office, Richard Velázquez.



Ambassador Laura Thompson delivers subsidies to returnees



IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson with Paraguay President Horacio Manuel Cartes Jara

In the meeting with Interior Minister de Vargas and DG Kronawetter, IOM's support for a new policy and migration law that under development, including consultations with civil society, academia and state institutions, was discussed. Ambassador Thompson also congratulated Paraguay on its hosting of the 10th Inter-sessional Meeting of the South American Conference on Migration (SCM) to be held next week in Asunción.

IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay signed Cooperation agreement



Deputy Director General of IOM Laura Thompson and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay Eladio Loizaga

Last July 30, the Deputy Director General of IOM Laura Thompson and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay Eladio Loizaga, signed a cooperation agreement that will strengthen joint work on migration.

The agreement will allow the implementation of joint cooperation between IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in areas such as management and migration policies and defining strategies to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

ARGENTINA

IOM Deputy Director General IOM Meets with the National Director of Migration of Argentina



Ambassador Laura Thompson with National Director of Migration Martín Arias Duval

July 28, 2015

In a meeting with Martín Arias Duval, National Director of Migration of Argentina, Ambassador Thompson acknowledged the work done by the Argentine Government in the modernization of migration management which includes technological

innovation and improvement of the registration systems, among others.

Ambassador Thompson also highlighted the significant progress of Argentina on its migration policy and confirmed the IOM support to the government to move forward in this effort.

Ambassador Thompson Acknowledges the Contribution of the Argentine Government to the Regional Processes



Ambassador Laura Thompson with the Undersecretary of Foreign Policy of Argentina, Ambassador Carolina Perez Colman

July 28, 2015

Ambassador Laura Thompson, in a meeting with the Undersecretary of Foreign Policy of Argentina, Ambassador Carolina Perez Colman, acknowledged the regional contribution of the Government of Argentina to make

progress in issues such as integration, South American citizenship, and freedom of movement, among others.

Thompson praised the government's involvement in the South American Conference on Migration (CSM) as well as IOM interest to promote good practices of Argentina migration through South- South Cooperation.

Regional Meetings of Authorities and Technical Teams of Assistance to Human Trafficking Victims



July 1, 2, 2015

By: Mariana Beheran

Regional Meetings of Authorities and Technical Teams of Assistance to Human Trafficking Victims were held in the cities of San Salvador de Jujuy, San Juan and Neuquén between April and June this year. The meetings named "Protocols of assistance to victims: tools for restitution of rights", are framed in the project "Strengthening institutional capacities of provinces in matters of Assistance to Human Trafficking Victims", implemented by IOM Argentina, the National Secretary of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (SENAF), depending on the Ministry of Social Welfare of the Nation, 10 and INICEF, with the purpose to strengthen the work undertaken in the provinces of Argentina in relation to the implementation of measures and

integral actions of assistance to trafficking victims and the effective protection and restitution of their rights.

These meetings main objective is advance in the elaboration of a common protocol of joint public policies which delimit the intervention and coordination between organizations and engage health specialists, labor and education, necessary to provide integral assistance to the victims of this crime.

Besides the participation of authorities and professional teams responsible for the areas of prevention of trafficking and assistance to victims in each of the provinces, the meetings counted on the presence of Laura Estomba, Coordinator of Programs and Projects, IOM Argentina; Gloria Bonatto, Coordinator of the Area for the Prevention against the Worst Forms of Vulnerability of Rights of SENNAF, and Lucila Arguello, UNICEF Protection Consultant.

During the meetings, the technical teams of each province joined to work with the objective to reflect on strengths and weaknesses identified in the mechanisms of intervention in their own jurisdictions. The results of this team exchange stressed the need to advance in the improvement of methodologies of intervention, coordination and accompaniment.

BOLIVIA

IOM Bolivia Trained Military Personnel on Trafficking in Persons

June 2, 2015

By: *Andrea Padilla*

Under the institutional work being done by the IOM approach on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in Bolivia training processes aimed at officers and students of military training institutes of the Air Force of Bolivia have been developed.

In coordination with the Ombudsman and the Human Rights Directorate of the Air Force, the training took place in two locations. It began in the Military Aviation College of the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra on 8 and 9 May and ended at the Military Aviation Institute Polytechnic Cochabamba on 28 and 29 May this year.

The Air Brigade General Jose Roberto Torrico, Inspector General of the Air Force, attended both training activities with a total of 410 trainees including officers, NCOs, cadets and students.



The development of the workshops included the implementation of the "Training Module for Armed Forces of the Plurinational State of Bolivia: Combating trafficking in persons" prepared by IOM Bolivia, and was as well complemented thematically with training on Human Rights and Law No. 263 against Trafficking.

Building Community Resilience to Flooding in Bolivia

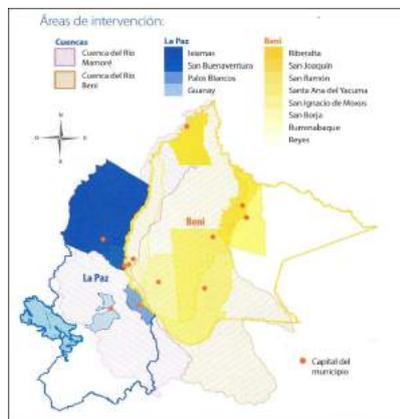
June 23, 2015

By: *Andrea Padilla*

To increase preparedness and resilience in vulnerable indigenous communities in Bolivia, IOM is taking part in the implementation of projects of the disaster preparedness programme of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department, ECHO (DIPECHO).

The project, called DIPECHO and Flood

Resilience, is located near the basins of the Beni and Mamore rivers in the Bolivian departments of Beni and La Paz, and was officially launched this week in the city of La Paz, as part of the



Building Community Resilience to Flooding in Bolivia

Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) 2015-2016 for South America. The launch was attended by the Deputy Minister of Civil Defense of Bolivia, Oscar Cabrera, and the Ambassador of the European Delegation, Timothy Torlot.

One of the projects, led by the United Nations for Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), aims at contributing to the development of the capacity and the adoption of resilient strategies for local communities and institutions.

In this joint effort, IOM will be responsible for training in the management and installation of temporary housing (shelters and camps), targeting various local actors at the municipal level.

"Implementation of the Resilience project strengthens the humanitarian role of IOM in response to the emergencies and provides the opportunity to consolidate IOM's position in Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), linked to management risk," said Horacio Calle, IOM Bolivia Head of Office.

CHILE

IOM Finishes Humanitarian Aid in Northern Chile

May 15, 2015

By: Marina Esponda

The IOM mission in Chile received USD 338,220 from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide humanitarian assistance to families affected by floods in Northern Chile in late March this year.

IOM with the NGO's Caritas and Chilean Red Cross, facilitated the return of displaced families in the northern municipalities of Diego de Almagro, Chanaral, Tierra Amarilla, Paipote and Copiapo, and provided emergency assistance to vulnerable people who are currently with host families and in temporary shelters.

IOM humanitarian help included an assessment to 337 emergency housing. At the same time IOM conducted surveys and studies as a basis for granting subsidies, and also the distribution of cleaning kits and non-food relief items (NFIs) and 200 tool kits for reconstruction.

IOM also provided humanitarian help for 165 migrants from Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica, giving funding for consular documents like passports, work permit, and various kinds of documents lost in the flood, as well rental payment and also equipment for housing.

In the municipality of Diego de Almagro, IOM provided a community laundry for three emergency shelters. Building materials were distributed for housing improvement jointly with workshops intended to the self-construction in Chañaral and Paipote.

This way, this project, which started in May this year to provide solutions and



IOM with the NGO's Caritas and Chilean Red Cross, facilitated the return of displaced families in the north

improve life quality of people affected by the floods in northern Chile, expired on July 31 after three months of implementation, leaving communities well-equipped for reconstruction and trained to address the emergency of one of the most affected and isolated areas in Chile.

Migrant Life in Santiago de Chile: IOM Study



IOM Chile and the Chilean authorities carry out an exploratory study of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Santiago

June 5, 2015

By: Marina Esponda

IOM Chile, in support of 12 local governments in the metropolitan area of Santiago de Chile, is completing a first exploratory study of Quilicura, a municipality in the northern part of the capital, which has become a magnet for international migrants. Other high density migrant areas in the city include the municipalities of Independencia, Recoleta and Central Station.

The exploratory study is the first of its kind and aims to profile migrants, refugees and asylum seekers living in the metropolitan area, to better understand their situation and support the development of migration policies that meet their needs and inform them about their rights.

The study was based on a survey of 1,021 migrants, which showed that 68 per cent of them came from Haiti, 10 per cent from Peru, 7.5 per cent from Colombia, 2.2 per cent from Ecuador and the remaining 12.3 per cent from Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Venezuela, El Salvador, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba, Palestine and China.

COLOMBIA

President Santos Acknowledges Contribution of IOM Struggle Against Human Trafficking



President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos

May 12, 2015

By: Jorge Gallo

During the installation of the first Ibero-American Summit of Ombudsmen: Human, Immigration Rights and Human Trafficking, in which ombudsmen (Ombudsman) of 23 Latin American countries participated, the President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos acknowledged the contribution of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for caring about the victims of trafficking and the prevention of this crime.

"Since 2012, we have served a total of nearly 60 victims abroad. The Foreign Ministry together with the International Organization

for Migration has been advancing a campaign through social networks to get a chain reaction," said the president. Also using his Twitter account, which counts on 3.8 million followers, President Santos invited Colombians not to be fooled, while sharing the video of the Colombian Foreign Ministry Campaign called: "Contra la trata, reaccionemos en cadena".

In the same speech, President Santos reiterated the commitment of the Colombian government against human trafficking, which poses great challenges to the country and the international community. The president also noted that his government is working on a decree of national strategy against trafficking in persons, which aims to address the four methods that are more prevalent in Colombia: sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, servile marriage and begging.

In addition, the President said that efforts to combat this crime are put in the implementation of Houses of Justice and municipal prosecutors who work in small towns.

IOM Encourages Reflection on Child Migration in Colombia

July 21, 2015

National and international experts from the Colombian government, international organizations, academia and civil society gathered in Bogota to reflect on the situation and particular risks that children face in migratory circumstances.

The meeting, organized by IOM Colombia with USAID support, was led by the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), Migración Colombia (the Colombian government agency in charge of border control), and the Pontifical Javeriana University.

The objective was to create a space to exchange knowledge and experiences, national and international, on the issue of children and migration, with emphasis on two sub-themes: regular and organized migration of children, adolescents and youth, and forced migration and rights violations of child migrants in the context of the Colombian armed conflict.

This initiative also aimed to establish a starting point and guiding elements for the implementation of measures to develop policies, programs and intervention strategies to protect the rights of child and adolescent migrants and ensure their special, comprehensive protection in the country, whether as members of a family group or as independent migrants.

During the opening of the event, Alejandro Guidi, Chief of Mission of the IOM Mission in Colombia, recognized the "multiple causes of migration, including armed conflict, which create unfavorable



IOM Colombia Chief of Mission Alejandro Guidi

conditions when migration is forced or irregular. This is particularly the case for children and adolescents, who face greater risks of violations of their rights when they are exposed to these types of migration."

The international experts included Golda Ibarra of Guatemala's Secretariat for Social Welfare who addressed the topic of independent child migration, and Mercedes Álvarez of IOM Costa Rica who discussed migration and youth, both with a focus on Central America.

COLOMBIA

IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, met in Colombia with Ambassador Javier Darío Higuera, Director of Migration, Consular and Citizen Services, and with Christian Krüger Sarmiento, Director of Migration Colombia.

July 7, 2015

Diego Beltrand, IOM Regional Director for South America, accompanied by Alejandro Guidi, IOM Chief of Mission in Colombia, met with Christian Krüger Sarmiento, Director of Migration Colombia and Javier Darío Higuera, Director of Migration, Consular and Citizen Services, last July 7.



Diego Beltrand, IOM Regional Director for South America, accompanied by Alejandro Guidi, IOM Chief of Mission in Colombia, met with Christian Krüger Sarmiento, Director of Migration Colombia and Javier Darío Higuera.

IOM and Colombian Ministry of Interior Sign International Cooperation Agreement for the Assistance to Victims of the Armed Conflict in Colombia

July 8, 2015

IOM Colombia signed an international cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Interior of this country with the purpose of joining efforts to strengthen the institutional capacity of territorial entities and support the territorialization of victims' public policy.

Since the year 2008, IOM Colombia, along with the Ministry of Interior, has been implementing projects dealing with the institutional strengthening for the assistance to victims of the armed conflict in Colombia, migration and human rights, displaced population, ex-combatants reintegration, as well as human trafficking and gender for an amount that exceeds the 13 million US dollars.



IOM Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand, with the Minister of Interior of Colombia Juan Fernando Cristo

ECUADOR

IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, met in Quito with Gabriela Rivadeneira, President of the National Assembly of Ecuador



IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand, with Gabriela Rivadeneira, President of the National Assembly of Ecuador

During the meeting last

July 14, IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand congratulated Gabriela Rivadeneira President of the National Assembly of Ecuador on her work in favor of migrants. Some topics tackled in the meeting, among others, were the Agreement signed some months ago between IOM and the Assembly.

Likewise, it was agreed that IOM will support a meeting between the legislative powers of Ecuador and Mexico aiming at analyzing their migration situations and identifying the best practices in this matter.

The Ministry of Labour signs cooperation agreement with IOM Ecuador



Minister of Labour, Carlos Marx Carrasco, IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand and the IOM Ecuador Chief of Mission, Rogelio Bernal

Within the framework of the visit of IOM Regional Director for South America, IOM Ecuador and the

Ministry of Labour, signed a cooperation agreement through which IOM provides technical assistance on issues related to labor migration.

The signing of this important agreement, held on July 16, was attended by the Minister of Labour, Carlos Marx Carrasco, IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand and the IOM Ecuador Chief of Mission, Rogelio Bernal.

Through this cooperation agreement, new projects are expected to be developed in response to the needs of the Ministry of Labour in the context of the National Plan for Good Living and agendas and priorities at the regional level, with an emphasis on inclusion policies and protection of the rights of people living in human mobility and their access to work.

IOM IN THE MERCOSUR

Ambassador Laura Thompson met in Argentina with Paulo Abrão, Executive Secretary of the IPPDH

During his official visit to Argentina last July 27, the IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson met with the Executive Secretary of the Public Policy Institute of Human Rights (IPPDH) MERCOSUR Paulo Abrão .



IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson and the Executive Secretary of the IPPDH MERCOSUR Paulo Abrão.

At the meeting, Ambassador Thompson and Abrão confirmed joint cooperation to continue the

work that both institutions have been carrying out in the promotion of human rights, through the strengthening of migration management.

10 Years of the MERCOSUR Agreement on Social Security

After a decade of the Multilateral Agreement of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) on Social Security signed by Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay, the progress made in terms of social security for migrants in the region has been analyzed by IOM and the Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS by its Spanish acronym).

This agreement is notable for being the first multilateral agreement in the MERCOSUR on social security, and for ensuring that migrants from countries part of the agreement receive -regardless of the country where they made their social contributions- their benefits related to retirement (voluntary or mandatory), disability retirement, sick-pension and death.

BRAZIL

Regional Technical Meeting on Statistics of International Migration in MERCOSUR

IOM cooperated financially and technically with the Labour Market Observatory of MERCOSUR for the realization of the Regional Technical Meeting on Statistics of International Migration on June 24 in Brasilia.

IOM considers technical meetings like this are important to have reliable migration statistics on international migration in order to develop public policy in the framework of the MERCOSUR to help protect and enforce the rights of migrants.

IOM Participates in the Specialized Migration Forum of MERCOSUR in Florianópolis



IOM was part of the Specialized Forum on Migration in the framework of the XXXVI Meeting of Interior Ministers in Florianópolis, on 10 and 11 June.

OM Participates in the Seminar on Migrant Integration in the Labour Market Organized by the MERCOSUR



June 23, 2015

IOM, invited by the Institute for Public Policy in Human Rights (IPPDH) MERCOSUR and the Presidency of Brazil and President Pro Tempore of MERCOSUR, participated in Brasilia on June 23 at the Seminar on Migrant Integration in the Labour Market.

IOM IN THE UNASUR

IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand Meets with Secretary General of UNASUR, Ernesto Samper

In the July 14 meeting in Quito, Ecuador, the IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand congratulated the Secretary General of UNASUR Ernesto Samper on advances developed in the framework of this organization on the road to a South American citizenship. Beltrand expressed IOM support as the leading global agency in migration for further progress in the realization of free movement within the regional integration and in the promotion and protection Migrants' Human Rights.

Both representatives agreed on the importance of migration in the South and the positive approach of the countries of the region in relation to human mobility in America and agreed on a common agenda in order to train officials and youth leaders on the Residence Agreement MERCOSUR, the South American citizenship and other aspects of human mobility in regional integration.



IOM Regional Director for South America, Diego Beltrand and the Secretary General of UNASUR Ernesto Samper

ARGENTINA

IOM Signs Cooperation Agreement with Latin American Social Security Organization



May 8, 2015

By: Juliana Quintero

IOM and the Latin American Social Security Organization (OISS by its Spanish acronym) have signed a cooperation agreement which will allow for closer collaboration regarding matters of common concern, including social security and social protection for international migrants in the Ibero-American space.

The areas of cooperation included in the agreement relate to increasing the visibility and dissemination of information regarding the multilateral agreements which are supported by the OISS, in particular the Multilateral Agreement on Social Security of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) and the Ibero-American Multilateral Agreement on Social Security, which ensure the protection of migrant workers and their families.

IOM's Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand (left) and the Latin American Social Security Organization (OISS by its Spanish acronym) Gina Magnolia Riaño Barón sign a cooperation agreement

The cooperation agreement will facilitate the participation of both agencies in activities of mutual interest, and promote training and capacity building on social security and migration-related issues to key actors, in particular, government officials from the region.

ARGENTINA

V Congress of the Latin American Network of Immigration Authorities (RIAM)

May 12, 2015

With information from RIAM

Immigration authorities of Argentina, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Cuba, Kingdom of Spain, the Republic of Honduras, Republic of Paraguay, the Republic of Panama and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay attended the V Congress of the RIAM held on 12 and May 13 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

During the event, the Argentine government, host of the event, thanked through the National Director of Migration (DNM) Martín Arias Duval, the valuable collaboration and assistance provided by IOM in organizing the meeting.



ARGENTINA

Reflection Workshop brought together experts in the issue of building citizenship in regional processes

May 22, 2015

By: Juliana Quintero

The reflection workshop "The construction of citizenship in regional contexts, balances and perspectives in the European Union in South America" was held in Buenos Aires, organized by the Program for the Promotion and Strengthening of Migrants, Refugees and Stateless People's rights (PROMIRA) of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina and Prospects for International Migration Governance (MIGPROSP).

The workshop was also funded by the Institute of Public Policies on Human Rights of MERCOSUR (IPPDH), the Institute for Migration and Asylum Policy (IPMA) of Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero (UNTREF), The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (ACNUR) and the Gino Germany Research Institute in Buenos Aires University (UBA).

During the event, scholars and experts representatives of institutes and other organizations dealing with migration reflected on the evolution registered in the treatment of migration matters in the processes of regional integration of South America and Europe.

The topics debated focused the achievements regarding the construction of South American citizenship and the balance in the experience of European citizenship.



Diego Acosta Arcarazo and Adriana Alfonso

THE MIGRANTS' VOICE

The story of Sebastián Leytte, the first migrant favored with a retirement thanks to the MERCOSUR Multilateral Agreement on Social Security among Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay.

By: Eduardo Carrillo
IOM Paraguay

Born in the district of Quyquyhó in Paraguari state, Paraguay, Sebastián Leytte always wanted to know new horizons and improve: "When I was young, paragua'y, paragua'y was always on my mind. I longed to know the capital of the country. So, at age fifteen, I got on a truck right to Asunción looking forward to studying and working", he told us.



"We were eleven siblings home and, being in Asunción was how I could help support that home", says Sebastian who did so for 25 years. During his staying in the capital, he joined the army and then he started to work in a hospital doing anything he could: he was a stretcher bearer, telephone operator, and also worked in a laboratory. "I was never out of work, I can't complain", he says proudly today. "However, my income was not enough so I decided to go to Buenos Aires", he says, a Megalopolis where so many migrants went over the XX century wanting to improve their life conditions and their loved ones.

"I undertook my journey on April 13 in 1962, on the famous train Carlos Antonio Lopez from Asunción to the city of Posadas where we got on another train to Buenos Aires. It took us three days to arrive there", Sebastian remembers, and adds: "But it doesn't matter. When I travel, I feel such a joy, I feel uncertain for the unknown and for not knowing what is waiting for us, I feel the excitement in the search of new horizons".

But not everything was easy when he arrived in Buenos Aires. Sebastian, as many migrants of that time, arrived in the city without a stable job and documents for a legal stay, which pushed him to accept whatever job he was offered. "I slept on the floor on a corner of a friend's house because I didn't even have a bed", he remembers.

A month and a half following his arrival in Argentina, he got a job in a carpenter's shop where he got the so-longed stability and worked as a carpenter for 14 years. It was during that time when, thanks to an amnesty granted by the government of Argentina, he got his Argentine residence and his citizenship. "From the bottom of my heart, I say that Argentina is my second country", says Sebastian.

In 1972, Sebastián married Selva Caballero with whom he still shares a home in the city of Capiatá, Paraguay. After getting married, they lived for three years in Buenos Aires and then, invited by his wife's brother, returned to Paraguay due to the boom of a great hydroelectric power plant construction requiring a lot of workers including experienced carpenter like Leytte.

His three-year work period there between 1977 and 1980 allowed him to buy a piece of land and build the house where he is still living.

In 1986, Leytte arrived back in Argentina due to the setting up of the austral as legal currency and the exchange benefits in relation to the guarani.

There he arrived again as he did at age 25, jobless but with the firm purpose to succeed. He worked for six months in a manufacturer of lift gates; then got back to Paraguay and a year later, back to try luck at the manufacturer, but the income was not enough so, seven months later, he decided to go back to his



home country.

It was in 1992 when Sebastián decided to try luck for the last time. "I always pay attention to the news and by that time, the economy in Argentina dollarized and I thought it was my best chance to make earnings for my home". He returned to the capital, Buenos Aires; but as years did not pass in vain, homesickness was always felt and the income was not enough, he stayed for another three months to definitely set up in Asunción where he worked for twenty years more until his retirement at age 68 in 2006.

Thanks to the Multilateral Agreement on Social Security among Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay, Leytte got his retirement which could be estimated proportional to the time worked and the social security contributions made in each country where he worked.

PARAGUAY

IOM, Paraguay Chamber of Deputies Sign Cooperation Agreement

May 27, 2015

By: Eduardo Carrillo



The President of the Honorable Chamber of Deputies, Hugo Velázquez Moreno and IOM Head of Office in Paraguay, Richard Velázquez at the signing ceremony

The President of Paraguay's Chamber of Deputies, Hugo Velázquez Moreno, and the IOM Head of Office in Paraguay, Richard Velázquez, have signed a cooperation agreement to allow closer collaboration concerning matters of mutual interest in the field of migration.

The agreement foresees areas of cooperation leading to the elaboration of joint proposals to carry out actions concerning current migration laws and regulations, such as the creation of a migration policy for Paraguay, as well as the updating of migration laws.

The agreement will also provide for coordinated action and maximize cooperation between both parties, with the purpose of achieving common goals regarding migration.

Richard Velázquez highlighted the importance of the agreement in improving migrants' welfare. He also underlined the importance of working with Paraguayan migrants abroad. Some 12 per cent of Paraguayans currently live and work outside the country.

Hugo Velázquez thanked IOM for its cooperation and stressed the importance of implementing a Migration Policy to benefit migrants. Paraguay's migration regime is currently embodied in the outdated Law 978/96, which focuses on security issues and was introduced by a previous authoritarian regime.

This is the second agreement that IOM has signed in South America aimed at supporting the highest national legislative body on migration-related matters. The first agreement was signed with the National Assembly of Ecuador last March.

PERU

Early Warning System Needed for Flood-prone Punchana, Peru



By: Inés Calderón

Peru, one of 13 countries recently surveyed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) ahead of World Humanitarian Summit regional consultations for Latin America and the Caribbean, is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and droughts.

Coordinated with World Vision, the survey focused on displaced people, residents, and returnees from 634 communities in the 13 countries within Latin America and the Caribbean with the aim of improving the humanitarian response coming from international and not for profit organizations through a broad data gathering process, required to identify principal strengths as well as weaknesses.

One area of Peru that faces a high risk of natural emergencies and disasters is Punchana, a district located in the Loreto region in northeastern Peru and is part of the Amazon rainforest. The district has a tropical climate and receives rainfall most of the year which sometimes can lead to flooding.

Most of its 78,446 inhabitants live in extreme poverty face a high rate of malnutrition and a low level in education. Although 90% of Punchana population lives in urban zones and 57% lack safe drinking water while 55% of the residents cannot access basic water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. About 26% of the people have no power with half the population heavily reliant on firewood and charcoal for cooking.

PERU

Peru Launches "Peru with You" Campaign

June 9, 2015
Peru

By: *Inés Calderón*

In order to respond to the information needs of migrants in Peru and Peruvians abroad, the Peruvian Government, with IOM's support, has launched an information campaign: "Peru with You" (Perú Contigo).

The initiative included the development of four information videos on topics including informed and safe migration, human trafficking, social security agreements signed by Peru, and the implementation of the agreement on residence in the (South American) Mercosur region.

While access to information is vital to reduce the risks associated with migration, the videos were designed to explain the channels and mechanisms through which the migrants can exercise their right to safe migration.

"Peru with You" is an easily accessible information tool that aims to sensitize people to the importance of human rights in the migration process. It also seeks to provide migrants and their families with knowledge about how they can benefit from agreements signed by Peru, in areas including remittances, the right to work and retirement, and the right of entry, transit and exit from host countries.

The launch of the campaign was chaired by Peru's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Julio Martinetti Macedo and the IOM Peru Chief of Mission, Jose Ivan Dávalos. Congresswomen Maria Soledad Pérez Tello and María Luisa Cuculiza also took part.



 Videos Peru Contigo:
www.youtube.com/user/iommigration

"While migrants continue to look for opportunities for themselves and their families, it is vital that we continue to provide them with information on their human rights and the mechanisms that exist from which they can benefit," said Dávalos.

"Peru with You" was created by the Migration Management Multisectoral Commission (MTIGM by its Spanish acronym), which is attached to the Peruvian Foreign Affairs Ministry. MTIGM was set up in 2011 to propose, coordinate and monitor public policies linked to migration matters and is supported by the IOM Development Fund-backed project: "Strengthening Migration Management in Peru."

URUGUAY

Human Trafficking: Challenges in the Justice System *Specialists meeting*

June 2, 2015

By: *IOM Press Unit Uruguay*

Specialists of the Justice System and other actors engaged in the human trafficking matter, met on Thursday May 28, 2015 in Montevideo, Uruguay with the objective to deepen the debate on human trafficking and foster the articulation among the Justice System actors in particular topics such as access to justice for victims of trafficking and internal trafficking cases, their identification and approach within the country.

The meeting, held in the framework of the project "Uruguay united to end violence against women, girls and adolescents", counted on the participation of the National Consultative Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (CNLCVD for its Spanish acronym), the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES for its Spanish acronym) of the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES for its Spanish acronym), the System for Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents against Violence (SIPIAV for its Spanish acronym) of the Institute of Child and Adolescent in Uruguay (INAU) and the IOM.



Alba Goycochea, IOM Uruguay Head of Office

The project is funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and also counts on the support of the Uruguayan Agency of International Cooperation (AUCI) and the United Nations.

URUGUAY

IOM and Uruguay Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Migration Policy



Director Regional de la OIM para América del Sur, Diego Beltrand, y Ministro Interino de Relaciones Exteriores de Uruguay José Luis Cancela, durante la firma del Memorando

July 2, 2015

By: Juliana Quintero

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), IOM and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay agreed to a series of joint activities that contribute to the development of the migration policy in the country.

The lines of action set out in the MoU – signed this week by IOM's Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand, and the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs José Luis Cancela – are framed in the international, regional and national commitments on respect for human rights of migrants undertaken by the Uruguayan government.

The MoU includes, among others, the modernization of migration management, particularly the processing of residence, linkage programs with nationals abroad and consular management as well as the strengthening of the statistical information system and the support to the Technical Secretariat National Migration Board.

Likewise, the MoU includes technical support for the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements within MERCOSUR, including the effective implementation of the Agreement on Residence for Nationals of States Parties of MERCOSUR.

Furthermore, measures are foreseen to promote training and awareness on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. In this topic, it is expected to work on the formulation of a draft of a comprehensive law against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in Uruguay.

VENEZUELA

IOM Supports Venezuela Migration Management Training

By: Juliana Quintero

IOM, together with the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela and Venezuela's National Experimental Security University (UNES), has taken part in a migration training program for 40 Venezuelan government officials.

The event was part of the Cooperation Program for Strengthening the Institutional Capacity and Modernization of Migration Policies, funded by the IOM Development Fund (IDF).

Two manuals – Basic Aspects of Public Policy and Migration Management and Basic Context of Migration in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – were produced as part of the program.

IOM Regional Director for South America Diego Beltrand and IOM Colombia Chief of Mission Alejandro Guidi attended the program's closing session, at which IOM made a donation to the UNES library of 150 books related to migration.

Beltrand noted that the project was an important step in the training of Venezuelan government officials on migration issues and laid the groundwork for a permanent education program in public policy and migration management. "Participants came from various government offices related to migration. This will ensure a context of inter-institutional coordination in future, which is needed to develop a modern migration policy," he said.



Diego Beltrand, IOM Regional Director for South America

More Europeans Migrate to Latin America, Caribbean than Other Way Around: IOM Study

IOM has released a study today that reveals a trend of increased migration flows from the European Union (EU) to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region, and a marked decrease in the movement of people in the other direction.

The new study, "Migratory Routes and Dynamics between Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Countries and between LAC and the European Union" explores migratory flows in and between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU, with a particular focus on movements in the last five years.

"Over the past few years, changes in migration flows between LAC and EU countries show, once again, how the flows naturally adapt to the fluctuating socioeconomic realities and their potential as an adjustment tool and a response to economic and structural crisis," says IOM Deputy Director General Laura Thompson.

The study shows that since 2010 – and for the first time in 14 years – more people emigrated from the EU to LAC than the reverse. In 2012, 181,166 European nationals left for LAC countries, as compared to 119,000 Latin and Caribbean nationals who moved to the EU. This marks a 68 per cent decrease from 2007, when the number of LAC migrants to the EU reached historic highs.

Spain is the EU country that sends the most migrants to LAC, followed by Italy, Portugal, France and Germany.

The research shows that the profile of the migrants from the EU to LAC is not necessarily that of a return migrant – in fact, the study confirms that not many LAC migrants are returning to their home countries.

The study also notes a shift in migrant stocks in LAC countries. Countries that have historically hosted higher numbers of European immigrants, such as Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela, have seen a decline in the number of EU nationals residing there. But there was a marked increase in the number of EU nationals in Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador.

The data reveals that in 2013, 8,548,000 international migrants lived in LAC, which is half a million more than in 2010, and 2.5 million more than in 2000. Today, there are also more LAC migrants living in their own region than in EU countries, confirming that the character of most LAC migration today is intraregional, with the main countries of destination being Argentina, Venezuela, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. The shift can be attributed, in part, to the economic crisis affecting the EU.

Regarding emigration from LAC to the EU, the four largest sending countries remain Brazil (23 per cent), Colombia (11 per cent), Peru (9 per cent) and Ecuador (9 per cent.) LAC migrants are highly concentrated in just six EU countries, with slightly more than the half of them living in Spain (53 per cent). The other 41 per cent live in the following EU countries: Italy (15 per cent), the UK (9 per cent), France (7 per cent), the Netherlands (6 per cent) and Portugal (4 per cent). Just 6 per cent of all LAC migrants reside in other EU countries.

Touching on the link between migration and development, the study notes that immigrant women from LAC have higher levels of employment than immigrant men in four of the main EU destination countries: Spain, Italy, Portugal and UK.

In Spain, for instance, the unemployment rate of immigrant women from LAC is 12 per cent lower than that of immigrant men from LAC. Additionally, women immigrants from LAC tend to have a 10 per cent lower unemployment rate than Spanish women. This is especially relevant, as women are able to maintain their important role in the development of their home countries as senders of remittances.

Moreover, the research analyses how the integration frameworks at regional and sub-regional levels impact migration flows from the perspective of development and human rights.

Released ahead of the EU-CELAC Summit, which opens on 10 June, the report is intended to serve as a policy tool and reference to enable a better understanding of migratory dynamics, characteristics and trends in and between the two regions.

The study is published as part of the project: "Strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to establish management models on migration and development policies" funded by the EU and implemented by IOM, in a partnership with the International and Ibero American Foundation for Administration and Public Policy (FIIAPP).



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