

Abu Dhabi Dialogue
Interim Guidelines for Operating Modalities
(as of 18 April 2012)

The Abu Dhabi Dialogue is a voluntary, non-binding and informal state-led consultative process engaging seven Asian countries of labour destination: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen; and eleven countries of origin: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Japan, Singapore and Korea participate as observers.

The broad purpose of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue process is to provide a forum for the discussion of new ideas and concrete activities towards the enhancement of bilateral and regional cooperation and partnerships. It aims to improve the administration of the temporary contract employment cycle and maximize its benefits to contract workers, employers and the economies of countries of origin and destination.

Recognizing that well defined and agreed-to terms of reference for the oversight of the Abu Dialogue process will serve to sustain and strengthen such regional cooperation and partnerships, and that the attainment of a consensus on the appropriate operating modalities requires further and diligent effort by member governments, the current Chair-in-Office (the Philippines) and the outgoing chair (the UAE) shall be entrusted with the task of developing a set of Operating Modalities to be submitted to the Third Ministerial Consultation in 2014, following due consultation among senior officials of the said governments and consistent with the following guidelines:

- 1- The Chair-in-Office shall assume responsibility for the preparation and implementation of the subsequent Ministerial Consultation, in collaboration with the hosting government. The Chair-in-Office shall be assisted by a representative group of co-chairs from Countries of Origin (COOs) and Countries of Destination (CODs) member governments in providing leadership for, and oversight of the process in-between Ministerial Consultations. The latter shall be convened every two years.

- 2- The Chair-in-Office should, in principle, alternate between a COO and COD.
- 3- A support structure comprised of administrative staff and competent subject matter experts shall be set up in Abu Dhabi, to be designated the official site of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, to assist with the coordination of bilateral and multilateral initiatives that are generated by member governments. The UAE has kindly agreed to bear the cost of establishing and operating the support structure in Abu Dhabi.
- 4- International and civil society organizations are invited to participate in Abu Dhabi Dialogue meetings and activities as observers and thematic experts.

The Chair-in-Office (Philippines) shall, in collaboration with the outgoing chair and official site of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (UAE) and the next host government, exercise its demonstrated and able leadership in steering the Abu Dhabi Dialogue process until the next Consultation in 2014 and implementing the agree-to framework for regional cooperation.