



# GMPA

**Global Migration Policy Associates**

*An international research, policy development,  
advisory services and advocacy group*

## **PROGRAMME & ACTIVITY** **SUMMARY REPORT 2013**

### **What is GMPA?**

The rather urgent *raison d'être* for Global Migration Policy Associates is more thematic than topical: to support, encourage and generate knowledge and analysis for a broad-based international defense of the rights-based approach. This during a period in which an instrumental cost-benefit logic of social analysis and "human resource management" has become increasingly prevalent, even among those who consider themselves progressive or humanitarian in their general worldview.

The predominant pragmatism loses sight of a collective responsibility for the human good, in defending an artificially insular conception of national sovereignty that raises urgent questions about defense of the growing numbers of human beings that fall through the cracks in every country, even the most prosperous and politically inclusive, every day.

GMPA members possess the knowledge, experience and commitment to human rights necessary to challenge the rationale that exclusion is the necessary cost for national and international development.

GMPA seeks to think outside the box, reminding colleagues at every level of government and civil society that the world doesn't have to be organized in a relentlessly exploitative way.

In order to 'make a difference' in this context, GMPA is focused on defining a strategic agenda, articulating an analysis and knowledge base independent of the dominant framework, and supporting partner mobilization around common, strategic activities and actions.

### **What has GMPA done?**

Though GMPA has yet to line up the kind of external funding that would support the programme that such a mission deserves, it has accomplished a great deal since its founding Assembly of Members in October 2011, just two years previous.

Most importantly, GMPA managed to organize a unique core network from around the world among a number of the most preeminent migration specialists.

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It initiated inter-organizational synergies that have been manifested at a number of events and by dialogue and cooperation among organizations to work together, not just in rhetoric, but in action, for example identifying a common global agenda on migrants rights.

GMPA facilitated identifying concretely what that migrant rights working agenda is; it was key to the development of the “12 principles for a migrant rights agenda” in mid 2013. GMPA’s ongoing engagement with government agencies, intergovernmental organizations such as PICUM and GCM, trade union confederations, human rights and civil society organizations, etc. suggests that we have been acknowledged, both positively and with constructive apprehension, as a critical force in migration policy.

GMPA is being invited to numerous tables to contribute by presenting views, perspectives and approaches that we specifically represent.

We are invited sometimes to co-organize the tables, for example an Expert Meeting with OHCHR in September 2012 and the Round Table on migration at the 11<sup>th</sup> World Forum Dialogue of Civilizations in Rhodes, October 2013.

### **GMPA’s comparative advantage?**

*We represent and give life to a rights-based agenda rooted in advocacy, practice and the experiences of migrants worldwide. We give emphasis to migrants as human beings first and foremost, addressing discrimination and equality of treatment for all migrants and immigrants. We offer alternatives to emphasis on migrants as agents of development who are praised for their utilitarian value but encouraged to trade away universal rights in exchange for presumed development gains. We uphold rights, democratic approaches and social justice as defining principles for migration whether circular or permanent, and for leadership and action by government, civil society and migrant communities.*

### **GMPA’s three main assets**

1. Our emerging collective analysis, amply demonstrated on the GMPA website and the vast knowledge that individually each Associate brings to the table.
2. Capability individually and collectively to do research, provide advisory services, teach courses, co-organize events, from global, rights-based, multi-disciplinary approaches.
3. Contact with a broad constituency: our potential to reach 5,000 or more contacts in organizations, institutions, governments, social partners, civil society, academia and migrant communities worldwide.

## What we've done in 2013

2013 was the second full year of operations for Global Migration Policy Associates (GMPA). GMPA activity in 2013 built on 2012 work, combining formal research, advisory services and conference activities with development of the GMPA secretariat, website, communications and membership.

A highlight of the year was strategic action: GMPA was key to the development of *12 principles for a migrant rights agenda*, first by convening rights-concerned CSO, trade union and IGO colleagues present at an OHCHR meeting in Geneva for informal consultations, then drafting an initial compilation of key principles and issues of migrants rights identified by CSO colleagues across a range of organizations and regions, then facilitating a jointly revised document circulated for discussion during mid-July civil society meetings and UN-HLD interactive hearings in New York. GMPA further contributed to civil society discussion around the UN High Level Dialogue process by co-initiating preparation of a workshop at the PGA ultimately cosponsored by 12 other organizations; cosponsors coordinated final preparations and presentations while Nunu Kidane of PANiDMIR (Pan-African Network in Defense of Migrants Rights) chaired the event.

GMPA co-organized and/or cosponsored several formal events, symposiums and expert meetings in different places in various regions in 2013. An important portion of GMPA associated activity in 2013 comprised research and advisory service assignments contracted directly to individual Associates in their expert capacities identified with GMPA.

The 2012 Activity listing below shows the considerable number of activities organized or co-organized by GMPA, and a substantive and broad range of other activities in which GMPA participated as organization or as individual Associates in name of GMPA. GMPA Coordinating Team members and associates have participated in a range of major international meetings, and have contributed to shaping the outcomes – as planners and moderators – of many of these.

GMPA activities conducted, initiated or completed during 2013 are listed on pages 5 to 10. Operational activities are noted on pages 11 and 12 of this summary report.

The modest GMPA budget, expenditure and income details are provided in a separate document.

## How GMPA works

The GMPA operational model alluded to in the deliberately chosen name "Associates" is that of law firm and other formal associations comprising member professionals who take on and work their own cases in their own name as well as taking on case-work in name of the Association, individually or in teams. As with other such associations, GMPA as a whole also takes on projects, assignments, and/or case work.

Association of individual Associates activity with GMPA is based on member discretion and identification. The profile, quality and responsibility of each Associate permits individual member judgement regarding which projects, speaking engagements, research papers, etc they wish to take on in name of GMPA. A number of activities listed on this 2013 activity report are those where GMPA Associates explicitly identified or 'signed' as a GMPA member. Names of members who implemented the respective activities listed in this report will be provided upon request.

Public events, symposiums, conferences and workshops where GMPA is identified as sponsor or cosponsor are jointly agreed to by a majority of the GMPA Coordinating Team comprising the five officers: Patrick Taran (President), Nicola Piper and Piyasiri Wickramasekara (Vice Presidents), Lisa Simeone (Secretary) and Abdelhamid El Jamri (Member at Large).

## Challenges Ahead

Reality has shown the significant limitations of building a programme and organization on volunteer-based staffing. Despite efforts of the President and dedicated members of the coordinating team, many organizational follow-up details continue to “fall through the cracks,” such as systematic contact with Associates, inviting Affiliates, dues dunning, raising project and activity financing, follow-up to Assembly decisions, contact data entry, and organizing a formal launch of the website.

Enthusiastic and capable interns have been providing support since mid-2013, but it is critical to remember that they require supervision and cannot do the work of permanent professional staff. While GMPA can attract a steady flow of university and post-graduate student interns in the future, the programmatic heavy lifting remains dependent on a few dedicated Coordinating Team members who already have a great deal on their plate in terms of professional commitments.

Officers of the organization cannot be expected to continue playing roles of full-time GMPA executive employees. More active involvement by Coordinating Team members is required to facilitate communications and activities as well as identifying opportunities for developing the organization in both logistical and programmatic terms.

## **GMPA & ASSOCIATES' GMPA ACTIVITIES 2013**

### **Conducted, initiated and/or completed January to December 2013**

#### **I. Research & Advocacy Activity: Reports, Papers, and Presentations**

prepared by GMPA and/or Associates on behalf of GMPA

1. *Labour migration for decent work in Afghanistan: Issues and challenges*, Piyasiri Wickramasekara and Nilim Baruah, ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok: ILO, 2013
2. *Decent work, youth employment and migration in Asia*, Piyasiri Wickramasekara, International Labour Office, International Migration Programme, Geneva: ILO, 2013.
3. *Migration, Rights, Governance and International Development*. Keynote address paper, Roundtable on Migration, Rights and Social and Economic Development, Dublin, 11 January.
4. *Extending Social Security for Migrants in the Asia-Pacific context*. Patrick Taran. Paper prepared for APC-ITC trainings for NGO and government officials in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea (March)
5. "Role Of Migration Statistics For Treaty Reporting And Migration Policies--What's Needed: Migrants Human Rights Statistics" Panel presentation by Patrick Taran at UN Committee On Migrant Workers Day of General Discussion, Geneva, 22 April 2013
6. "Circular Migration in Asia: Approaches and practices", paper by Piyasiri Wickramasekara for the Conference "Revisiting Theories on International Migration: A Dialogue With Asia", Manila, 25-26 April.
7. *Testimony on migration, globalization and decent work in Europe*, at the Hearing on European migration policy of the EESC-European Economic and Social Committee. Patrick Taran. Brussels, 7 May.
8. *International mobility barriers, economic viability and trafficking in persons*. Patrick Taran. Paper/panel presentation at the OSCE Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons conference, Vienna, 25 June.
9. *Protecting Migrants Rights in an Era of Attack on the Rights-based Approach*. Paper by Patrick Taran at «Africa Regional Seminar, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Entry into Force of the ICRMW», Rabat, 5 July.
10. *Immigrant health professionals: impact on labour market and health sector performance in destination countries*, paper by Piyasiri Wickramasekara at Roundtable of Experts, Mobility of health professionals between India and selected EU member states, New Delhi, 26 July 2013
11. *Assessment of the impact of migration of health professionals on the labour market and health sector performance in destination countries*, report prepared Piyasiri Wickramasekara for the EU-ILO Project on "Decent Work Across Borders: A Pilot project for Migrant Health Professionals and Skilled Workers" July 2013 (forthcoming as ILO Working Paper).
12. *Thinking Migration, Demographics and Development; Some Elements For Discussion* (Version II). Patrick Taran. GMPA monogram. September 2013 (revised)

13. *Migration and Societies, Adaptation and Integration: introduction to challenges, issues, policy and practical responses; North America perspective.* Lisa Simeone, presented at Rhodes Forum, 4 October.
14. *Addressing discrimination, equality of treatment, integration: what is needed.* August Gachter, at Rhodes Forum migration roundtable, 4 October.
15. *Integration policy in the Russian Federation: why anti-migrant attitudes grow?* Irina Ivakhnyuk, at Rhodes Forum migration roundtable, 4 October.
16. *Economies, Labour Markets, Demography and Mobility: Global Realities, Challenges Today and Tomorrow.* Patrick Taran. Presented at Rhodes Forum migration roundtable, 4 October.
17. *Mobility of Health Professionals between Asia and Europe: Trends and Issues* prepared by Piyasiri Wickramasekara for the Final Conference of the Project "Developing a Knowledge-base for Policy Making on India-EU Migration," 17-18 October, New Delhi
18. *Regulation of the recruitment process and reduction of migration costs: Comparative analysis of South Asia Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment,* Research report prepared by P Wickramasekara for the ILO-SDC Project Promoting Decent Work through Improved Migration Policy and Its Application in Bangladesh, ILO, Dhaka, October 2013 (to be published in seminar proceedings).
19. *Migration: Economic and Social Impact.* Main presentation paper (by Patrick Taran) at European Liberal Foundation Conference «Migration: Economic and Social Impact», Barcelona, 15-17 November.
20. *Global Migration Context Assessment Note: Key Issues, Situations And Responses,* GMPA brief for Global Coalition on Migration meeting in Bangkok, 30 November, 2013
21. *Migration Today, Key Issues for Europe.* Context background note by GMPA for UNITEE European Parliamentary Luncheon Roundtable «Skills to unleash: New European Entrepreneurs» Brussels, 26 November.
22. *Migration-Discrimination - a Global Context Assessment: key issues, situations and responses.* Patrick Taran. ENAR Equality at Work 5th Conference, Brussels, 5-6 December 2013
23. *A contribution to Evaluating the Stockholm Programme Regarding Migration.* Patrick Taran. Prepared as a contribution to the Migration Conference, The Hague, 9 December
24. *Closing Summation, Review of the Stockholm Programme.* Patrick Taran, co-rapporteur, Migration Conference organized by the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice, The Hague, 9-10 December
25. *Global Migration Context Assessment Note: Key Issues, Situations And Responses.* Patrick Taran, for the AU-RECs Consultative Meeting on Labour Migration in Africa, Addis Ababa, 16 December 2013
26. *Circular migration in Asia: approaches and practice,* Chapter by Piyasiri Wickramasekara in: Graziano Battistella (edited), *Theoretical Perspectives on Asian Migration,* Springer (forthcoming).

## II. Advisory Services

GMPA Associates:

1. Co-designed with the ILO International Training Center (Turin) an NGO short course on migration, comprising training modules and presentation materials and background texts on Social Security; delivered training in Abuja, Kinshasa, Dili, Port Moresby and Port of Spain (January-May).
2. Co-conducted evaluative assessment of implementation of AU-EU strategic partnership on MME /mobility, migration and higher education (April-May)
3. Prepared proposals for ACP advisory project for Trinidad and Tobago government on developing a national labour migration policy framework (June)
4. Reviewed and assessed the ILO proposal to establish an Institute of Labour Migration in Sri Lanka, for the Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare, Sri Lanka.
5. Drafted proposed agenda, content and participation for Rhodes Forum 2013 Round Table on International Migration, consultation with Russian counterparts (June-July/Forum held in October)
6. Conducted consultative process with some twelve international civil society and trade union organizations and drafted a 12 point action and advocacy agenda (July-September)
7. Drafted terms of reference for the national consultant/expert for development of a national labour migration policy and action plan for Afghanistan; reviewed several drafts of the "National labour migration policy for Afghanistan" submitted by the national expert.
8. Co-edited forthcoming Global Migration Group report «Youth and Migration: Challenges and Opportunities», (September to December, continuing in 2014)
9. Prepared a proposal for an ACP sponsored labour migration training project for Lesotho (October)
10. Initiated consultations and design of an Africa labour migration development programme on behalf of an AU-ILO-IOM-UNECA partnership (December)

## III. Conferences, Symposiums, Workshops: GMPA organized or co-organized

1. **Special Conference**, Oakland, California, 22 August: **Migration in Turbulent Times: *political landscape, demographics, inequities in the Middle East & North Africa***. Speaker: **Tamirace Fakhoury** (GMPA Associate, Visiting Professor at University of California Berkeley. Cosponsored by Priority Africa Network, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (NNIRR) & Global Migration Policy Associates.
2. **Workshop on 12 principles for a rights based agenda**, at the PGA on migration, Development and Human Rights, 4 September, New York, parallel to the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development. GMPA defined and co-organized the event with eleven cosponsoring international civil society and trade union organizations.
3. **International Migration Round-Table at Rhodes Forum Dialogue of Civilizations**, Rhodes, 2-7 October 2013. GMPA Associates participated in design and preparation of Symposium, identified participant experts, prepared and presented three research papers, presented opening address, co-chaired sessions, provided note-taking and prepared the summary report of proceedings.

#### **IV Expert Support to Academic, Training, and Organizational/Network activities**

*Listed by event and month, where GMPA expertise was provided as speaker, lecturer, resource person and/or contribution of paper. In some cases, Associates contributed to programme design.*

1. Roundtable on Migration, Rights and Social and Economic Development organized by the Migrants Rights Centre Ireland (MCRI), Dublin. 11 January: GMPA keynote speaker on migration challenges, trends and concerns for Irish EU Presidency; also conducted a training for MCRI staff 10 January.
2. UNRISD Conference regional migration dynamics Geneva 14-15 January. Co-organized by GMPA vice-president; a GMPA officer chaired a session. GMPA Associates also conducted a consultative meeting with some participants.
3. ACP-ITC training on migration for Nigeria NGOs, Abuja, 21-22 January: lead trainer GMPA executive Patrick Taran
4. ACP-ITC training on migration for Democratic Republic of Congo NGOs, Kinshasa, 15-16 February: lead trainer GMPA executive Patrick Taran
5. UN preparatory meeting on “Human Rights of Migrants» for the High Level Dialogue, New York, 20 February; GMPA delegate contributed comments in general discussion.
6. (UN) International Coordination Meeting on Migration, New York, 21-22 February: presentation by GMPA on key international issues for policy development and advocacy.
7. IDHEAP/Swiss Graduate Institute for Public Administration, Lausanne, 27 February. Presentation by GMPA executive on migration issues for government administrators.
8. ACP-ITC training on migration for Timor Leste NGOs, Dili , lead trainer was GMPA executive Patrick Taran (7-8 March)
9. ACP-ITC training on migration for Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, GMPA lead trainer was GMPA executive Patrick Taran (13-14 March)
10. UN Committee on Migrant Workers Day of General Discussion Geneva (22 April). Panel presentation by GMPA executive
11. Conference “Revisiting Theories on International Migration: A Dialogue With Asia”, Scalabrini Migration Centre, Manila, Philippines, 25-26 April: presentation.
12. ACP-ITC training on migration for Trinidad and Tobago NGOs, 1-2 May: lead trainer was GMPA executive Patrick Taran
13. European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Hearing on labour migration to Europe, Brussels, 7 May. Invited expert testimony by GMPA executive.
14. School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Sydney, 23 May 2013: GMPA Presentation on Combating Exploitation of Migrant Workers in Asia: Role of Bilateral Agreements and MOUs,
15. Graduate Institute Summer School course on international relations, Geneva, June. GMPA executive gave lecture on migration trends, issues and policy challenges.
16. International Conference, “Mainstreaming Migration in Development Agendas: South Asia”,



Colombo, Sri Lanka, 13-14 June 2013 (Organized by Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung): GMPA resource person & presentation on mainstreaming migration in development agendas: South Asian experiences.

17. IOM Diaspora Ministerial Meeting, Geneva, 18-19 June: GMPA executive was guest speaker at ministerial luncheon organized by Mission of Romania to the UN in Geneva, 18 June.
18. OHCHR Migration Governance Conference, Geneva, 20-21 June. GMPA members provided contributions to discussion and a written submission with recommendations on draft document. Also conducted informal meetings with delegates.
19. *Vienna Plus 20* CSO Consultation (re 1993 World Conference on Human Rights), Vienna, 24 June. Contributions to discussion on recommendations on migrants rights.
20. OSCE Conference: Trafficking and forced labour, Vienna, 24-25 June: GMPA executive delivered plenary address.
21. APC Programme Management Unit project consultative meeting, Brussels, 26 June. Short presentation by GMPA executive on labour migration challenges and policy issues; consultations with participants.
22. MEWOE/ILO Intergovernmental Regional Seminar on Promoting Cooperation for Safe Migration and Decent Work, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1-2 July 2013 (Organized by Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment): GMPA Resource person & presentation on on regulation of recruitment process and reducing migration costs.
23. Africa Regional Seminar, «10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Entry into Force of the ICRMW» Rabat, Morocco, 5 July. Plenary address by GMPA executive on global migrant rights issues, challenges and action responses.
24. ILO *Decent Work Across Borders* project Roundtable of Experts, Mobility of Health Professionals between the Philippines and Selected EU Member States, New Delhi, 26 July 2013: GMPA resource person and presentation.
25. National Labour Migration training seminar for Czech Republic, Bratislava 20-21 August. GMPA executive was Lead trainer on international labour migration law and policy.
26. III Global Conference on Child Labour, 8-10 October 2013, Brasilia, Brazil: GMPA Resource person and Presentation on Semi-Plenary Session on Migrations and Child Labour
27. Final Conference of Project “Developing a Knowledge-base for Policy Making on India-EU Migration” (Feb. 2011 – Oct. 2013): “India – EU Migration and Mobility: Prospects and Challenges”, 17th & 18th October, 2013, New Delhi, organised by India Centre for Migration, New Delhi; GMPA vice-president was lead expert and presenter.
28. ILO Tripartite Technical Meeting on Labour Migration, Geneva 4-8 November: GMPA Officers and intern staff attended as NGO observers; Consultations and advocacy with delegates.
29. European Liberal Foundation Conference: Migration in Europe. Barcelona, 15-17 November: GMPA executive was Lead expert, made various presentations.
30. Asian Parliamentary Caucus on labour migration, Bangkok, 21-23 November. Presentation by GMPA executive of global overview and policy action recommendations.
31. UNITEE (Turkish-European Business Federation) luncheon with Members of the European

Parliament, Brussels, 26 November: remarks by GMPA executive at luncheon, interviews given for UNITEE web news.

32. IDHEAP/Swiss Graduate Institute for Public Administration, Lausanne, 27 November. GMPA Presentation on migration issues for government administrators.
33. Global Coalition on Migration Meeting, Bangkok. 30 November 1 December. Participation by two GMPA officers; presentation of GMPA brief on global migration issues.
34. Asia-Gulf States Regional Dialogue on Standard Terms of Employment for Migrant Domestic Workers, Colombo, Sri Lanka 3-4 December 2013 (organized by Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare and UN Women): GMPA Resource person, presentation on good practices in standard setting for domestic worker contracts.
35. Equality at Work conference organized by European Network Against Racism, Brussels 5-6 December; GMPA executive delivered closing address.
36. Conference on European Migration Policy *Post-Stockholm*, organized by Netherlands Ministry of Justice and Security, The Hague, 9-10 December. GMPA executive was Co-rapporteur, also made presentation in working group.
37. EUROMED Migration III Second Migration and Development training/workshop, Madrid, 10 – 13 December 2013: GMPA Resource person.
38. African Union-Regional Economic Communities' Consultation on AU-ILO-IOM-ECA Labour Migration Governance Programme, Addis Ababa, 16-18 December. Overview address by GMPA executive, presentation on normative and policy frameworks, summary of key issues and proposed programme content.

## **Ongoing network and advocacy support activity**

GMPA Officers and/or Associates:

- ▲ Participated in Meetings of the IGO-CSO inter-agency Steering Committee for the Global Campaign on the Migrants Rights Conventions, Geneva (April, June, November).
- ▲ Participated in 'PGA' NGO International Committee conference calls preparing PGA programme at the UN HLD held in New York in October. (July to September)

GMPA was invited to become an organizational member of the Global Working Group on Women and Migration.

# **GMPA OPERATIONAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY 2013**

## **Membership**

1. Maintained communications and coordination with Associates (all regions)
2. Met with members of Advisory Council on various occasions (January, May, October).
3. Identified Affiliate category candidates

## **Governance**

1. Regular written correspondence and telephone consultations with Coordinating Team
2. Coordinating Team meeting held October 4-5 in Rhodes
3. Informal Meetings with Advisory Council participants, Geneva: January, June and October
4. Established GMPA activity planning for 2013 and initial projections for 2014
5. Prepared financial and activity reports for 2012

## **Secretariat**

1. Developed and organized documentation center
2. Organized *open-house* reception in November
3. Provided basic activity support as well as assisting in arrangements, materials and logistics for a number of member-driven activities.

## **Staff**

1. Maintained executive function among Coordinating Team members based in Geneva
2. Recruited, trained and supervised interns: Thatcher Mweu and Chloe, Smith College, USA (fall semester 2013); Rakesh Krishnan, Geneva School of Diplomacy (continuing to June 2014)

## **Communications and advocacy**

1. Posted documentation compilation on GMPA website
2. Prepared additional texts for GMPA website navigation and topical theme pages
3. Solicited member information and papers for website posting
4. Posted member material on website

5. GMPA Website online at: <http://www.globalmigrationpolicy.org/>

### **Official & Diplomatic Affairs**

1. Submitted application for GMPA observer status at ILO
2. Applied for and obtained special ECOSOC NGO accreditation for the UN High Level Dialogue on migration October 3-4.
3. Participated in and contributed background context paper to the meeting of the Global Coalition on Migration in Bangkok (November 30-December 1)

### ***Final Edition, 2014-2015***

*Prepared by Patrick Taran, GMPA President and Lisa Simeone, Secretary*