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## Journalism Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

# Roundtable Report

Prepared by the

**ASIAN MEDIA INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION CENTRE, INC.**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>A Roundtable Discussion on Integrating Labour Migration Reporting in the Journalism Curriculum: The Philippine Experience</b>
<b>Host institution</b>	<b>Asian Media Information and Communication Centre, Inc. (AMIC)</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>02 September 2021, 1500-1630 (Singapore Standard Time)</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<p><b>Ramon R. Tuazon</b>, Secretary General, Asian Media Information and Communication Centre;</p> <p><b>Charles Autheman</b>, International Labour Organization (ILO) Consultant;</p> <p><b>Hussein Macarambon</b>, National Coordinator, Integrated Programme on Fair Recruitment, International Labour Organization (ILO);</p> <p><b>Ann Lourdes Lopez</b>, Senior Director, Asian Institute of Journalism &amp; Communication;</p> <p><b>Ben Domingo</b>, Technical Committee for Journalism, Commission on Higher Education;</p> <p><b>Julit C. Jainar</b>, College Instructor, Department of Journalism and Communication, University of San Jose-Recoletos</p>
<b>Summary of discussion</b>	The roundtable discussion covered the following topics: Overview of labour migration in the Philippines; International Labour Organization (ILO) media engagement strategy; the process of designing a syllabus on labour migration reporting; How does labour migration reporting as an elective course fit into the broader journalism curriculum; and Pilot testing the labour migration reporting course.
<b>Discussion outcomes/recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching the course, Reporting on Labour Migration is long overdue.</li> <li>• During the pilot course, students were able to relate with the topics discussed because many of the students have</li> </ul>



	<p>relatives who are migrant workers. The classroom served as platform to discuss issues many students themselves and/or their migrant relatives experienced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Topics in the syllabus varies and includes rights-based approach, economics of labour migration, and responsibilities on how to tell the stories to the public.</li><li>• An issue raised and extensively discussed is: Why teach Reporting Labour Migration instead of migration reporting in general? In the Philippine context, labour migration is a priority and urgent issue.</li><li>• Labour migrants in the Philippines are often called “modern heroes” even though they actually feel they are “labour exports” rather than modern-day heroes.</li><li>• One of the challenges to address with the course on labour migration is to bring more nuances and complexities in the way we view labour migration. Current reporting practices tend to focus only on sensational issues (stories). Labour migration makes the news only when something dramatic happens.</li><li>• The course is going to be taught in different regions in the Philippines. Teachers are encouraged to adopt the syllabus to specific conditions of the regions/provinces where they are teaching.</li><li>• How will the elective course make better labour beat reporters?</li><li>• The fact that labour migration reporting was piloted under the journalism course is part of the ILO mandate.</li><li>• A creative teaching strategy suggested is to link students enrolled in the course with journalists working in destination countries.</li><li>• Enrolled students should also be exposed to labour conditions in destination countries.</li><li>• Myanmar and Bangladesh expressed interest in offering labour migration reporting. Both countries also “export” thousands of citizens to labour markets worldwide. Teachers from both countries were among the participants.</li><li>• A related issue that the UN is looking into is hate speech and discrimination among migrants.</li><li>• Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), we will definitely adopt labour migration reporting as one of its flagship areas.</li><li>• The economic crisis which many (developing) countries are experiencing in the aftermath of the COVID 19</li></ul>
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	<p>pandemic highlighted their dependence on remittances of labour migrants to sustain local economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recently published UNESCO handbook, <i>Reporting on Migrants and Refugees</i> (2021) is highly recommended.</li> <li>• Appreciation to WJEC and AMIC for helping promote the course. Thanks to ILO for the support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Promotion and visibility of the event</b></p>	<p>Social media cards were developed and posted in Twitter and Facebook with tags (@UNESCO and @WJEC)</p> <p>Logos of participating institutions were included in social media cards</p> <p>Social media cards were also included in invitations to participants</p> <p>Social media cards were posted in FB public announcements of various organizations and media networks in Philippines and Asia Pacific region.</p> <p>Posting in Facebook includes, but no limited to, Bangladesh Journalist Group, Asian American Journalists Association, Asian Migrant Coordinating Body, The Journalist-Bhutan, Southeast Asia Media Training Network, Reporting ASEAN, Philippine Press Institute, OFW Journalism Consortium, NCR Secondary School Paper Advisers, Malaysian Mobile Journalist, Myanmar Media In Transition 2021, Malaysian Association of Communication Educators, Journalism Education for All, Institute of Journalist Malaysia, Burma Associated Press, Bangladesh Women Journalist Forum, Bangladesh Journalists, among others.</p> <p>Regular posting in Twitter.</p> <p><u>The wide reach of these marketing initiatives is evidenced in the 247 individuals who pre-registered to attend the forum as of end-August 2021.</u></p>



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<b>Participants</b>	Participants who attended the webinar totalled 122. These participants came from the following:
	Philippines 70
	China 3
	London 1
	India 18
	Indonesia 6
	Bhutan 1
	Qatar 1
	Sri Lanka 1
	Thailand 1
	New Zealand 1
	Myanmar 1
	Bangladesh 6
	United Arab Emirates 1
	Germany 1
Malaysia 3	
Vietnam 3	
Ireland 1	
No answer 3	
<b>TOTAL 122</b>	
Majority of the participants were from academic institutions in the Philippines and Asian region.	
Majority are female participants at 78; male at 41; and unspecified gender at 3.	



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### Important Links Shared with Participants

View the webinar recording on AMIC Youtube Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeYc1hV9s-g>

FAIR Programme and labour migration in the Philippines  
> [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/projects/WCMS\\_405819/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/projects/WCMS_405819/lang--en/index.htm)

The ILO media engagement strategy portal with all the existing resources and activities > <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/fair-recruitment/media-engagement/lang--en/index.htm>

Link to the labor migration syllabus on <https://aijc.com.ph/course-syllabus-reporting-on-labor-migration/>

Link to the Inventory of Global and Local Resources for Reporting on Migration and Labour Migration <https://aijc.com.ph/key-resources/>

The ILO media toolkit « Reporting on forced labour and fair recruitment <https://readymag.com/ITCILO/1292461/>

Also, here are the links to the slides presented:

- [Presentation slides of Prof. Julit Jainar](#)
- [Presentation slides of Mr. Hussein Macarambon](#)
- [Presentation slides of Prof. Ben Domingo](#)