



IOM International Organization for Migration

IOM in the UK

newsletter

London & South East: 21 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, **London** SW1P 1RR Tel: 020 7233 0001 Fax: 020 7233 3001
Scotland: 38 Queen Street, **Glasgow** G1 3DX Tel: 0141 548 8116 Fax: 0141 279 5009
Wales & South West: Park House Business Centre, 10 Park Street, **Bristol** BS1 5HX Tel 0117 907 4777 Fax 0117 907 4778
North West: Regus Reception, 5th Floor, Horton House, Exchange Flags, **Liverpool** L2 3PF Tel: 0151 244 5641
Piccadilly House, 49 Piccadilly, **Manchester** M1 2AP Tel: 0161 212 1463
North East: Citibase, Aspect Court, 47 Park Square East, **Leeds** LS1 2NL Tel: 0113 346 6010 Fax: 0113 246 8663
Midlands: eOffice, Ground Floor, Norfolk House, Smallbrook Queensway, **Birmingham** B5 4LJ Tel: 0121 633 5074



No. 22, September 2009

Freephone: 0800 783 2332

website: www.iomuk.org

IOM UK has a new Chief of Mission

Clarissa Azkoul is IOM UK's new Chief of Mission. Jan de Wilde had been the former Chief of Mission, and upon his retirement in April 2008, Ana Fonseca, his Deputy, temporarily occupied the position of Acting Chief of Mission. Ana will start a new job at IOM HQ in Geneva.



Clarissa Azkoul, IOM UK Chief of Mission

Clarissa Azkoul has been with IOM for nearly 30 years.

She worked for five years at IOM Washington, where she was in charge of operations (return programmes, medical evacuations from Bosnia, etc). Then she moved to IOM's headquarters in Geneva where she has been responsible for donor liaison, external relations and fundraising.

Clarissa Azkoul was born and grew up in Uruguay. She is bilingual (English and Spanish). She is also fluent in French - inevitable, when we learned that she has been living in Geneva for over 20 years, after doing her university studies there. She did her first degree in International Relations. In 2007, she completed an MA in Human Resources.

Outside of IOM her life is surrounded by music. When she has a spare minute, she gets to do some choral singing. Her husband is a classical guitarist, and her two sons are musicians as well.

All the staff at IOM UK welcome her and wish her well in her new position as IOM UK Chief of Mission.

Below: The IOM London team (Photo: Mustafa Jakupaj)



Extracts from recent IOM Press Briefing Notes

IOM & UNHCR agreement

On 27 July 2009, UNHCR and IOM offices in Libya signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement to address the needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are currently in reception and detention centres in Libya.

Joint UNHCR and IOM teams will be set up to conduct interviews in the centres to identify refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, as well as vulnerable persons with specific needs, such as victims of trafficking and gender-based violence, unaccompanied minors and/or single women.

IOM and UNHCR will jointly determine those among migrants and rejected asylum seekers who are willing to return home and will assist them to return in safety and dignity. Both agencies will also work together to secure funding to ensure the voluntary return of migrants and failed asylum seekers is sustainable. The agreement further specifies that IOM and UNHCR will work as a team in the resettlement of refugees from Libya to third countries.

31 July 2009

IOM Backs Training for Women

Migrant Domestic Workers in Bangladesh

IOM hosted a two-day training course in the capital Dhaka designed to prepare more Bangladeshi women for domestic jobs abroad.

Currently women only account for some 4% or nearly 21,000 of Bangladeshi migrant workers abroad. But many more undocumented female migrants are believed to be working in Asia and the Middle East, according to IOM Regional Representative for South Asia Rabab Fatima.

"This kind of training to improve social and professional skills, and provide internationally acceptable certification, will improve the marketability of Bangladeshi migrant workers abroad - particularly women," she says.

7 August 2009

For a wider range of Press Briefing Notes and other information from our HQ in Geneva, please visit the IOM website:

www.iom.int

Regional Counter Trafficking Campaign in Central America

The IOM offices in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua have launched a regional public information campaign aimed at fighting human trafficking in Central America and Mexico.

With the campaign slogan, **No More Human Trafficking** or **No más trata de personas**, IOM, in coordination with National Counter-trafficking coalitions, is advertising the hotline numbers in each country (Guatemala 1552; El Salvador 911; Nicaragua 133; and Costa Rica 911) to raise awareness amongst potential victims and the general population on the dangers of human trafficking for men and women, either for labour or sexual exploitation.

A series of 14 national studies carried out by IOM in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, confirmed the need for improved legislation as the major hurdles to combat human trafficking. The new IOM regional information campaign has received the backing of the countries of the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) and is funded by the US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).

28 July 2009

Live Video Conference with Returnees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

A live video-conference with Congolese returnees in Kinshasa was facilitated by IOM UK on 7 July 2009. UK-based Congolese community leaders and media attended the event which was also coordinated in Kinshasa by IOM staff.

The returnees spoke about their experiences of return in the DRC. The interactive facility allowed the Congolese guests at the IOM London office to ask specific questions which the returnees answered. There was also discussion about IOM UK's AVR programmes and the Reintegration Assistance given to eligible returnees.

It was concluded that this type of direct contact was useful in allowing community leaders to learn more about returnees' return experiences but also more generally about IOM's assistance programmes.



© IOM (Photos: Gabriela Boeing)

UK Acting Chief of Mission Moves to IOM HQ



Ana Fonseca, currently IOM UK Acting Chief of Mission, is moving to IOM Headquarters in Geneva where she will start a new job as Senior Assisted Voluntary Return and Counter-Trafficking Expert.

Ana started her career with IOM in the United Kingdom. She joined the London office in 1999, not long after the IOM Mission in the UK was established, and coordinated IOM's operations in relation to the Kosovo Humanitarian Evacuation Programme.

She was later responsible for the design and development of the Reintegration Fund, a process which led to the addition of a Reintegration Assistance component to IOM UK's standard Voluntary Assisted Return Programme in 2002. Henceforth, the programme came to be known as VARRP (Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme).

Busy as she was, Ana nonetheless found time to help set up an IOM office in Ireland.

In 2007, she presided over the launch of a 'new approach' to the delivery of Reintegration Assistance. This changed from a generic approach to one which is now tailored to a returnee's individual and/or family needs.

Ana has always felt very passionate about her job. During the last ten years at IOM UK, besides overseeing the AVR programme and managing a Project Development team, Ana has proactively maintained an ongoing dialogue with donors, NGOs and other key stakeholders.

Before starting her career at IOM, Ana studied International Relations in her native Portugal and did a Masters in *Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries* at the London School of Economics. She speaks Portuguese, English, Spanish and French.

Ana is married and has three children - three little girls who are looking forward to joining an international school in Geneva!

Ana is a down-to-earth person and fun to be with. At IOM UK, we shall all miss her. With a collective voice, we wish her well in her new job.

