



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: 5th Floor, DBH Reception, The Corn Exchange, Fenwick Street, **Liverpool** L2 7QL Tel: 0151 225 0142  
 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  
 Midlands: eOffice, Ground Floor, Norfolk House, Smallbrook Queensway, **Birmingham** B5 4LJ Tel: 0121 633 5074



No. 20, March 2009

Freephone: 0800 783 2332

website: [www.iomuk.org](http://www.iomuk.org)

## “Migrants are part of the solution”, says IOM’s new Director-General

IOM is an inter-governmental organisation with more than 400 offices worldwide and 125 Member States. While the core activity of IOM UK revolves around two Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programmes, IOM as a whole is dedicated to four broad areas of migration management, namely *Migration and development*, *Facilitating migration*, *Regulating migration* and *Forced migration* (eg Internally Displaced Persons - IDPs). This translates into a large number of projects for IOM’s 6,000+ field staff.

This edition of our newsletter is largely devoted to the international dimension of migration. Where better to start than with the appointment on 1 October 2008 of Mr William Lacy Swing as IOM’s new Director General. The new DG visited IOM UK at the end of 2008 and told us about his vision for IOM Worldwide. Another important development covered briefly in this newsletter is the publication of the *World Migration Report 2008*, IOM’s flagship publication which surveys the diverse manifestations of migration, including the central part occupied by labour mobility in an evolving global economy.

IOM’s new DG has had a long career in the diplomatic service of the US, and has had six ambassadorial appointments. Mr Swing managed some of the largest diplomatic missions and foreign development and humanitarian aid programmes in two hemispheres, with a record of strengthening bilateral relationships. IOM UK’s staff had a glimpse of his deep understanding of the multiple factors affecting international migration when he addressed them during his visit last year. He pointed out that in the current global economic crisis and financial meltdown, migrants must be seen as part of the solution for both countries of origin and destination.

Mr Swing studied at Yale University and Harvard in the US and at the Tubingen University in Germany. He speaks fluent French and German.



Above: Mr William Lacy Swing, IOM’s new Director General

Below: The DG with the staff at IOM London



# IOM TODAY

**When he started his job as IOM's new Director General, Mr William Lacy Swing immediately set about taking the organisation's pulse, reflecting upon IOM's evolution, looking at the impact of the global economic crisis on migration and formulating his views about the road ahead.**

Mr Swing has embarked upon a vast consultative exercise with IOM's key stakeholders: **Member States, Partners and Staff**. The final results of this exercise will be presented to the Member States at several meetings of IOM Governing Bodies in the Spring.

In the last ten years (1998-2008), IOM has seen a phenomenal growth.

- 86% in membership (from 67 to 125 Member States)
- 262% in the number of projects (from 686 to 1,800)
- 336% in offices (from 119 to 400)
- 412% in total expenditure (from USD 242m to USD 1bn)
- 550% in Staff (from 1,100 to 6,800)

Mr Swing says that this growth is a reflection of IOM's expanding membership coupled with a growing awareness of migration as an international issue. It also shows the will of the Member States for IOM to continue to develop its capacity. The Member States know that IOM has a number of strengths, namely that as an organisation it is fast, efficient, cost-effective, entrepreneurial. It is non-bureaucratic with a light adaptable structure and, last but not least, IOM has a global presence.

IOM has 6,800 staff with the overwhelming majority (95%) working out in the field. They are supported by about 200 staff at IOM HQ in Geneva.



IOM Council in session - Photo © IOM

# WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2008

*World Migration 2008: Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Economy* was officially launched in December 2008 and is IOM's flagship publication. Previous editions of the report were published in 2000, 2003 and 2005.

As the title suggests, at the heart of the 2008 Report we find the central question of labour mobility in the global marketplace and patterns of migration in its myriad manifestations. Migration today is not just international - it is also internal and regional. It is perhaps less and less long-term in the contemporary world and is becoming more and more short-term in nature. It is rarely uni-directional as it manifests itself as a circular phenomenon. And it is regular as well as irregular.

After the free movements of capital, goods and services - in the wake of successive market liberalisations and a breakdown of protectionism to encourage growth through free trade - there is a need, as the 2008 Report puts it, "to ensure that the world is better prepared for managing the human component of globalization [people migrating in search of employment], including the adoption of planned and predictable ways of matching labour demand and supply."

With regard to policy-making and policy measures to face up to these new challenges, the IOM Report highlights "the need for greater policy coherence within government, the development of genuine partnerships with non-state stakeholders and the recognition of capacity-building needs, not only in developing countries of origin but also in countries of destination."

The Report is divided into two parts. Part A focuses on established forms of labour mobility, such as the international migration of highly skilled migrants and low and semi-skilled migrants. But it also considers other forms of movement that have been less associated with labour migration in the past, such as tourism and short-term business travel, and student mobility and family migration.

Part B of the Report offers a series of options for policymakers.

We present some of the Report's key statistics about patterns of international migration (*see opposite on this and the next page*). We have also selected extracts about human trafficking, unprotected labour and irregular migration for inclusion in this special edition of our newsletter - *see pages 5 and 6 below*.



There are an estimated **200 million+** international migrants in the world today.

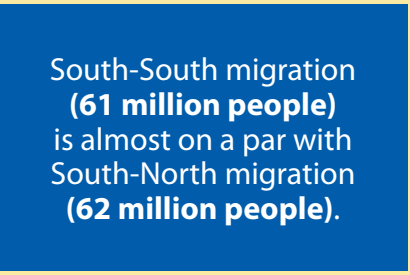
## Geographical distribution (in millions)

<b>Europe (*):</b>	<b>70.6</b>
<b>North America:</b>	<b>45.1</b>
<b>Asia:</b>	<b>25.3</b>
<b>Middle East:</b>	<b>18.8</b>
<b>Africa:</b>	<b>16.9</b>
<b>South America:</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Oceania:</b>	<b>5.0</b>

(\* including Central Asian countries  
The above figures refer to the year 2005



Though it has the smallest number of migrants worldwide, **Oceania has the largest share (15.2%)** of its total population as migrants from other countries



South-South migration (**61 million people**) is almost on a par with South-North migration (**62 million people**).

# WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2008

## Victims of trafficking: caught in the web of cheap and unprotected labour

"Irregular migration, and particularly the trafficking in persons for all forms of exploitation, cannot be separated from the process of globalization in general and the move towards a more global economy. New labour markets emerge, creating new employment opportunities across the globe for skilled and less-skilled workers, both men and women. But such economic growth has not been matched with the evolution of safe, humane and orderly migration channels to facilitate and satisfy this demand for labour. This tension between the growing need for labour and services on one side, and too few regular migration opportunities on the other, creates a niche for intermediaries to intervene and make profit. These intermediaries are the human traffickers, who exploit, abuse and victimize the migrant workers, especially those in an irregular, and hence more vulnerable, situation."

"Traditionally, national and international counter-trafficking activity and policy have sought to combat the phenomenon by addressing the supply side, or what can be referred to as the root causes of trafficking in countries of origin, including economic inequality, gender discrimination, violence and corruption, and the lack of safe and regular migration opportunities. However, there has been increasing international recognition that serious attention must also be given to the root causes in countries of destination, and above all the demand for cheap and unprotected labour."

(Source: *World Migration Report 2008*, Chapter 8)

### Projected annual migrant flows to more developed regions:

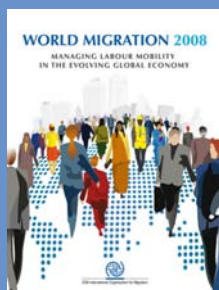
2005-2050	2.3 million
1960-2005	1.6 million

> 40% increase

**49.6%** of all migrants are **women**. There are more women migrants than men in every region of the world except Africa and Asia/Middle East.

**Official Remittances** estimated to have reached **US\$ 337 billion** in 2007, a **99% increase** since 2002.

**74%** (or US\$ 251 billion) of the US\$ 337 billion remitted in 2007 went to **developing countries**.



## World Migration 2008 - Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy

Copies of this report may be obtained from IOM's Publications Coordinator, Valerie Hagger at [vhagger@iom.int](mailto:vhagger@iom.int)

# WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2008

## Irregular Migration: beyond the legal/illegal dichotomy

**IOM's *World Migration Report 2008* introduces an interesting concept to try to capture and explain some of the complexities of irregular migration. This is the vast 'space' along the continuum from strict legality to illegality, which the Report calls "semi-compliance".**

The category of semi-compliance is extremely broad and captures a wide range of violations of the conditions of employment attached to a migrant's immigration status, with varying degrees of severity. Consider the case of four student visa holders working 20, 21, 25 and 40 hours per week, respectively, in the UK. Clearly, there is a substantial difference – in terms of the degree to which the employment restrictions attached to immigration status are violated – between a student who works 21 hours per week and a student who works 40 hours per week. The discussion of where and how the line should be drawn between semi-compliance and non-compliance – or indeed between compliance and semi-compliance – can be highly politicised or rest on a personal judgement. Different actors may draw the line in different places, an example of how illegality is "socially constructed".

National laws usually make no distinction between semi-compliance and non-compliance. In the UK, any action that violates the conditions attached to a migrant's immigration status makes the migrant subject to removal and employers subject to sanctions. However, a study based on survey and in-depth interviews with over 600 East European migrants and over 300 employers carried out in April 2004 showed that both migrants and employers perceive semi-compliance as different from non-compliance. Many interviewees felt that they were "bending" rather than "breaking" the rules. (*"There are times when you do twist it a bit ... you work for an extra couple of hours, you know, nudge, nudge and so on,"* as an employer of a student visa holder in the hospitality sector put it).

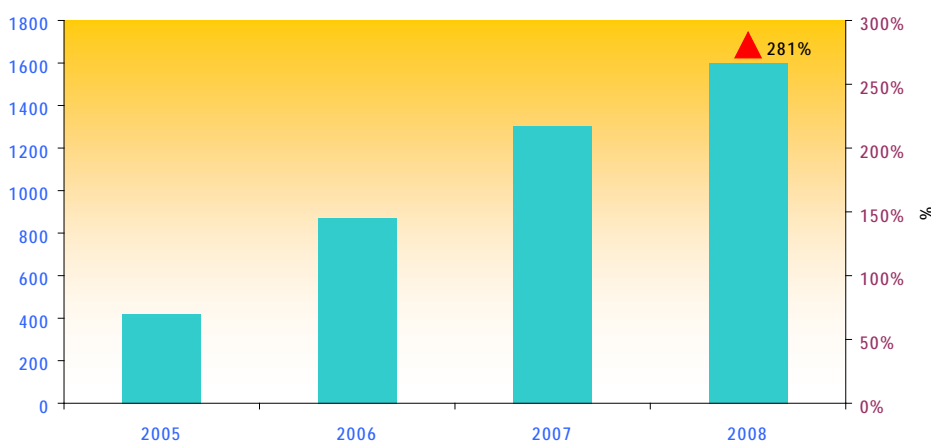
Although some migrants in this situation faced difficulties similar to those of the illegally resident, others perceived semi-compliance as a way of accessing the UK labour market that was preferable to illegal entry or overstaying. From the employers' point of view, semi-compliance was often perceived as a way of circumventing the complex UK immigration laws to suit the needs of the flexible labour market.

If governments are serious about wanting to understand and address what is typically described as "illegal migration", they need to go beyond the simple "legal/illegal" dichotomy and instead recognise the spaces of (il)legality in the migrant labour market. Otherwise, policies and public debates risk being increasingly distanced from the actual practices of employers and migrants. A more nuanced approach to the study of various types of illegality may also help to switch the debate away from viewing illegality as a social "problem" that needs to be eliminated, to analyses and policies that view illegality as a multifaceted phenomenon that can have complex consequences, not all of which are as problematic and undesirable as typically assumed.

# IRREGULAR MIGRATION - AVRIM UPDATE

There has been a clear increase in the number of voluntary returns under IOM UK's Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants programme (AVRIM). In the table below, the countries marked with an asterisk are also among the Top 10 Countries of Return for IOM UK's Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP). Under VARRP, any migrant who has touched the asylum system is able to receive assistance from IOM UK.

Departures under AVRIM, 2005-2008  
(Increase since 2005)



## Top 10 Countries of Return (under AVRIM Jan-Dec 2008)

Brazil	481
South Africa	103
India*	99
Jamaica	80
China*	74
Zimbabwe*	67
Bolivia	64
Nigeria	52
Pakistan*	43
Colombia	38

## Story of Return: Jamaican Returnee

During her five years in Bristol Ms W had worked briefly, but as a visa overstayer she found it increasingly hard to find employment and decided to return to Jamaica.

"When you're not working you can't live and no-one helps – not even your family. When I dressed to go out, I was always worried that something bad would happen and I'd be deported."

Through word of mouth, Ms W heard about IOM's programmes and made contact after seeing a poster in a money transfer shop. Currently staying with family in Portmore, Ms W is now reunited with the two older daughters she left behind and is happy to be back and a part of their lives once more.



Whilst Ms W spent much of her first few weeks re-acquainting with family members, she wasted no time in making career decisions. Using the skills she acquired from a computer training course, she has secured a job in tele-marketing and is now saving towards buying a home for her family.

Ms W had only been back in Jamaica a week when her six-year-old daughter started attending the local school in which she settled well with other children from the neighbourhood.

With plans to continue her studies in English, Maths and Computing, Ms W is now optimistic about the future.

Although she found the process of acquiring new documentation slow in the UK, she would fully endorse the voluntary return programme as it has helped her to regain her dignity and self-esteem.

Since 1999, IOM UK has helped more than **30,000** individuals to return to some **140** countries

# IOM UK's offices celebrate Chinese New Year

## Nigeria Independence Day at IOM Wales & the South West

The Nigerian Independence Gala held in Bristol was a spectacular evening with attendance by more than 260 people, mostly Nigerian nationals, representatives of several African & Caribbean nations and Bristol City Council officials. It was organised by Nigeria Association Bristol in cooperation with IOM Wales and the South West.

The evening got underway when hundreds of mostly Nigerian families, men, women and children in their colourful national dress streamed into the venue which by 7pm was already overflowing.

The IOM team made up of Edias Mushayanyama (Communications Officer), Ayo Audu (Outreach Assistant Nigeria) and Brian Malama (Outreach Assistant Zambia) had a stall at the entrance and were kept busy handing out IOM information packs, leaflets, returnees' stories of return and other items.

After the formalities of the evening, it was time for IOM to give a presentation and to show a DVD to the audience. The IOM team responded to individual questions and offered clarifications where necessary throughout the evening.

The overwhelming response exceeded the expectations of the IOM team who were pleased to be able to explain VARRP and AVRIM programmes as well as show the DVDs directly to such a large group of people.

Afterwards, Billy Odumuzor, Chairman of the Nigerian Association in Bristol could not hide his joy at the success of the event when he wrote to say:

"Many thanks for all your efforts in making the event such a success. This event has put your organisation (IOM) in the hearts of Nigerian people (...) who now know it is there to assist them if need be.

It has been a pleasure for me to work in partnership with IOM."

## Chinese New Year in the Midlands...

IOM Birmingham celebrated Chinese New Year with the East Asian communities in the Midlands. As well as attending the Birmingham celebrations, we were invited to events in Nottingham and Leicester.

IOM Birmingham has worked together with both the Nottingham Chinese Welfare Association and the Leicester Chinese Community Centre in the past and we were very pleased to have an opportunity to display our information at their events. With traditional dragon dances, fireworks, Chinese opera performances and visits by the Mayors of the two cities, the communities had put in a lot of work to make these celebrations truly memorable. With hundreds of people attending, they were also an excellent opportunity to inform the communities about the assistance available through IOM.

Since our opening in May 2008, IOM Birmingham has been able to assist many Chinese migrants who wanted to spend the "Year of the Ox" with their families in China.

\*

On 27 November 2008, IOM Birmingham also participated in a 'Kurdish Culture' event which attracted 470 people.

## Chinese New Year in Scotland...

IOM Scotland also participated in Chinese New Year celebrations. The photo below - of an event in Belfast - has been supplied by them.



# IOM UK's offices celebrate Chinese New Year



## ... and in the North West

IOM's two North West Offices (in Liverpool and Manchester) have been busy over the last couple of months.

At the end of January we were delighted to be able to support Liverpool's Chinese New Year celebrations and to work with Liverpool Chinese Business Association to wish everyone 'Kung Hey Fat Choi!' Liverpool's Chinese community was out in full force on Sunday 25th January to mark the celebrations in Chinatown, and many visited IOM's information stall on Great George Street.

Over in Manchester the IOM office has been working very productively with the Wai Yin Chinese Women Centre. A fortnightly drop-in service is now up and running for anyone wishing to get information on being assisted with voluntary return to China. We very much look forward to continue working with the Centre, and will be helping them to celebrate their 20th Anniversary this month (March).

IOM North West has also been working with the Kurdish and Iraqi communities across the region. Meetings have been held in Kurdish restaurants in Manchester, Liverpool and Bolton, attracting over 230 community members who came along to share a meal with us and listen to the stories of people who have made successful returns to Iraq.

For further information on IOM work in the North West, and for details of our drop-in services in Liverpool, Manchester, Blackburn, Bury and Rochdale, please contact us on **Liverpool 0151 225 0142** or **Manchester 0161 212 1463**.

\*\*\*

The photo on this page was also supplied by the IOM office for Scotland