

**DR. ALFREDO J. GANAPIN ADVOCACY FORUM 1 SERIES 2007 (Year 3)**  
**“ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. What's Next?”**

**February 22, 2007, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon**

**Balay Kalinaw, Guerrero corner Dagohoy Sts, UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City**

**Background.**

The Heads of States and Governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), during its 12<sup>th</sup> Summit on January 13, 2007 in Cebu City, adopted the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

We welcome the Declaration as a positive statement of intent by ASEAN countries on migrant workers. To wit, the Declaration recognizes migrants' contributions to the societies and economies of ASEAN countries. It affirms the ASEAN countries' commitments to human rights as well as the need to address cases of abuse and violence against migrant workers. As a regional body, it commits to promote decent, humane, productive, dignified and remunerative employment for migrant workers.

The Declaration however is a non-binding document and many of the provisions cited above are subject to existing national laws and policies on migrant workers in each of the ASEAN member states. The Declaration limits its scope to cover only documented migrants and their families who are already residing with them.

Notwithstanding the limitations of the Declaration, we believe we can use the positive elements therein for our advocacies as we remain vigilant in monitoring state practices that run counter to the Declaration.

It is for the purpose of moving forward the Declaration that we are organizing this forum.

How do we make the Declaration relevant to our advocacy for the rights and welfare of the migrant workers? How do we utilize the Declaration in our lobby for national legislations promotive and protective of the human rights of migrant workers?

Forum participants will be from migrant organizations, civil society organizations doing advocacy on ASEAN, representatives of Philippine government agencies on migration, Congress committees, media and the academe.

## **Forum Organizers:**

*Center for Migrant Advocacy* – A Philippine-based migrant NGO whose work focuses on lobby-advocacy and assistance to distressed migrants ([www.pinoy-abroad.net](http://www.pinoy-abroad.net))

*Migrant Forum in Asia* – is a regional network of some 260 migrant NGOs, CSOs, trade unions and other advocates in 15 countries in Asia. CMA is a member of MFA. ([www.mfasia.org](http://www.mfasia.org))

*Friedrich Ebert Stiftung* -- is a German political foundation that promotes democracy social justice and international understanding. ([www.fes.org.ph](http://www.fes.org.ph))

## **PROGRAMME**

9:00 Registration

9:20 Welcome Remarks and Introduction to the Forum

9:25 Panel Presentations

- **Assistant Secretary Luis T. Cruz**, Director General for ASEAN Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs
- **Hon. Ambassador Rosario Manalo**, Member of the High Level Task Force on the ASEAN
- **William Gois**, Regional Coordinator, Migrant Forum in Asia

11:00 Open Forum

11:45 Synthesis of Recommendations and Closing Remarks

12:00 Lunch