VISIT OF MR. WILLIAM LACY SWING, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION, TO MOSCOW

On 14th November 2013 the International Conference “Peacekeeping, It’s Role and Place in Maintaining International Peace and Ensuring Collective Security of the CSTO” took place in the Russian Institute of Strategic Studies.

By invitation from Mr. Nikolay Bordyuzha, Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, Director General of IOM Mr. William L. Swing took part in this conference and made a presentation.

On the margins of the conference a bilateral working meeting between Director General of IOM and Secretary General of CSTO also took place. In the course of the meeting both parties exchanged their opinions on status and prospects of cooperation and confirmed their willingness for developing the interaction.

In particular, both parties expressed their satisfaction with the regular nature and high level of substance of their meetings. Exchange of experiences in crisis and emergencies response and information on criminal groups involved in organization of irregular migration and human trafficking were named as priorities of this cooperation.

Aside from this, prospects for assisted voluntary return of migrants as a human and decent mechanism for their return to countries of their origin were also discussed.

MEETING OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL OF THE FMS OF RUSSIA IN ORENBURG

On December 2-3, 2013 representatives of IOM Moscow took part in an external event organized by the Federal Migration Service: a meeting of the Public Council of the FMS of Russia, which took place in the city of Orenburg. During the meeting, the participants paid special attention to the following issues: new tasks within the activities of public councils of other governmental agencies, and also participation of the local Public Council branches of the FMS of Russia in activities devoted to adaptation and integration of migrants into Russian society.

IOM specialists also took part in the regional research and practice conference on the “Main tasks of the realization of..."
the State concept on migration policy in the Russian Federation until 2025 regarding the establishment of infrastructure for social adaptation of labour migrants in the territorial subjects of Russian Federation”. The Conference was organized by the FMS of Russia jointly with Administration of the Orenburg region.

IOM representatives took part in the work of sessions: “Language adaptation as the most important condition for complex integration of migrants in the host society”, “Center for social adaptation of labour migrants: principals of organization and main tendencies for development; participation of the Government, civil society and employers”, and made a presentation in the area of language adaptation and establishment of a multifunctional migrants support center in Europe.

IOM specialists also visited the Social Adaptation Center of labour migrants in Orenburg. Russian language lessons are provided there for mini-sized groups. The language lessons are paid for by the employer. Also labour migrants have an opportunity to live temporarily at the center.

Representatives of the FMS of Russia, Council on the Development of the Civil Society and Human Rights under the President of the Russian Federation, Council on interethnic relationships under the President of the Russian Federation and others took part in the conference.

IOM PARTICIPATION IN EXPERT-CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL TO CSTO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

On November 27, 2013, a representative of IOM Moscow took part in the Expert-Consultative Council to the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly which took part in St. Petersburg.

At the beginning of the meeting, the draft recommendations on harmonization of the legislation of CSTO state-members on the issues of refugees and asylum seekers were presented. A variety of other issues were also discussed.

The IOM Moscow specialist made a presentation on the international experience of presenting a balanced image of labour migrants in both the receiving countries and countries of origin. The Secretariat of Parliamentary Assembly of CSTO was delegated to organize work on preparing the draft recommendations on the creation of a positive image of labour migrants within the state-members of CSTO.

Information regarding international regulations on providing humanitarian assistance in emergency situations was presented by the Director of the European office of IRCCS jointly with the head of representative regional office in Russian Federation.

LABOUR MIGRATION

On 23 October 2013 representatives of IOM Moscow took part in a scientific - practical conference on issues of labour migration, which took place at the O.E. Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSLA).

This event was held in the framework of the cooperation between the Government of Moscow and the Senate of Berlin.

The main topics of discussion were - improving migration policy of the Russian Federation, taking into account the concept of its development and the recently adopted regulations on the integration of migrant workers and national policy in the Russian Federation; labour migration in the regulatory system and forecasting of macroeconomic indicators, including the labour market; social integration of migrant workers, its humanitarian and legal aspects of the multicultural space of the capital city.

The participants of the conference were interested in the presentation made by the representative of IOM Moscow "Migration Policy : International Practice", which provided an example of development, and the incorporation of objective indexes into legal practice that allow the ranking of states by the effectiveness of policies and law in the field of labour migration.

On 23-24 October 2013 in the premises of the main building of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the 5th International Conference “Labour Migration in the Russian Federation: Prevention of Forced Labour, Promotion of Socio-Economic Development, Improvement of Regulation” took place. The conference was organized within the international symposium “Migration Bridges in Eurasia”.

IOM Moscow’s Deputy Chief of Mission welcomed the participants of the conference. During a two-day symposium representatives of IOM Moscow made presentations within two "round tables" on relevant topics: “The influence of organized recruitment as a method of employment for social and economic status of migrant workers” and “IOM Moscow activity in the prevention of human trafficking”.

Also the following “round tables” were held: “Migration between Russia and the Partner Countries in East and South-East Asia”, “The Best Practices of Migration management in Foreign Countries”, “The Russian-Turkish Migration System”, “Labour Migration to Russia from Central Asia”, and “Attraction of Highly Skilled Migrants, Education Migrants and Return of Compatriots to Russia”.

COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The first meeting of an interdepartmental working group in St. Petersburg

The first meeting of an interdepartmental working group for the establishment and improvement of a referral mechanism model for providing comprehensive assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations, including victims of slave labour and sexual exploitation, was held on 11 December 2013 in the premises of the St. Petersburg Public Charitable Organization of the Russian Red Cross at Goncharnaya street, 19.
Such a model of cooperation between governmental, public and international organizations is established with the purpose of creating a referral system for providing comprehensive assistance to persons in vulnerable situations, including victims of slave labour and sexual exploitation (Russian nationals as well as foreigners) on the territory of St. Petersburg and Leningrad region. Comprehensive assistance includes such kinds of support as social, psychological, legal assistance, medical care, documents renewals etc.

The Working Group was created in September 2013 at the initiative of participants of the roundtable on cooperation of state structures and non-governmental organizations in providing assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations, including victims of slave labour and sexual exploitation. The agenda of the first meeting was devoted to discussion of the possible ways for solving problems of illegal foreign workers on the territory of Russia.

The following participants spoke at the meeting: Mr. Baisa Vac-Voia, Head of the UNHCR in the Russian Federation, spoke about illegal asylum seekers; a representative of IOM Moscow made a presentation on the International experience of protection of rights of irregular migrants; an expert from the Federal Migration Service in St. Petersburg and Leningrad region spoke about the procedure of registering exit documents for foreign nationals with irregular legal status; a representative of the Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation in St. Petersburg spoke about the investigation of cases in the sphere of labour and sexual exploitation.

Specialists of St. Petersburg Red Cross made a presentation on the activities of the shelter for victims of human trafficking (since May 2013). 19 victims of trafficking from 9 countries were assisted on base of the shelter, referred by state structures and public organizations.

The purpose of the meeting was to draw attention of state and public organizations to such an important issue as the situation and the rights of migrants with illegal status, as well as to vote for the Chairperson of the Working group. Natalia Zaybert, Director of the Information-Resource Center on Migration Legislation of the Public Charitable Organization “Saint-Petersburg Center of International Cooperation of the Red Cross” was chosen for the post of Chairperson.

The following issues were discussed:
- The lack of a definition of “victim of human trafficking” in Russian legislation - as a result this kind of victims have no access to various kinds of free social assistance within the legislation. So far there are no state centers or shelters for assistance to victims of this particular crime;
- The issue of voluntary return of victims of human trafficking to home countries (including 16-year-old minors) was discussed. According to Russian legislation all foreign nationals with illegal status on the territory of the RF are liable to the administrative expulsion, including foreign nationals who became victims of human trafficking.

The first meeting of the working group was also attended by members of the Commission on Human Rights in St. Petersburg, a representative of the State Labour Inspection, a representative of the Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of the RF in the Leningrad region, specialists of a number city crisis centers, counselors of the Information Bureau of the Nordic Council of Ministers in St. Petersburg.

The first meeting of the working group was set for the celebration of the International Day of Human Rights on 10 December.

International Round Table “Counteracting Human Trafficking and Assistance to Trafficking Victims: Role and Tasks of Coordinating Structures of CIS Member-States and CIS Bodies”

On 6 December 2013 in Moscow the International Round Table “Counteracting Human Trafficking and Assistance to Trafficking Victims: the Role and Tasks of Coordinating Structures of CIS Member-States and CIS Bodies” took place.

This event was organized in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the CIS Executive Committee and the Administration of the International Organization for Migration.

The Round Table was attended by representatives of the relevant government authorities of CIS member-states dealing with the coordination of combating human trafficking and assistance to trafficking victims, relevant structures of CIS, the Secretariat of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, UNODC, Delegation of the European Union, and embassies of Germany, Norway and the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

The main topic of the agenda was the coordination of activities of the relevant authorities of the CIS member-states related to combating human trafficking on national
and regional levels as well as their cooperation with international global and regional organizations in this area. The participants of the round table also studied proposals concerning introduction of the best practices accumulated by number of CIS member-states in the area of creating effective national referral mechanisms, awareness campaigns and training of personnel. Attendees underlined the necessity of strengthening cooperation between CIS member-states and IOM in prevention of human trafficking and providing assistance to trafficking victims.

As it was mentioned by the Chief of IOM Mission in Moscow Mr. Zlatko Zigic: “IOM will undertake all necessary steps towards reaching a synergy effect from our cooperation, starting from expert support of legislative initiatives, research works and training of personnel up to providing direct assistance to trafficking victims, identified in the course of the specialized operations that would be carried out in the territories of CIS member-states”.

At the close of the round table the participants adopted a Protocol on prioritized measures in implementation of the Programme of cooperation among CIS member-states in combating human trafficking in 2014-2018.

The proceedings of the round table will be published soon.

**Strengthening cooperation with the Russian Orthodox Church in providing assistance to vulnerable migrants and trafficking victims**

One of the main trends of 2013 is the fast development of the constructive dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the International Organization for Migration in providing assistance to vulnerable migrants and trafficking victims as well as joint efforts in cultural adaptation of migrants.

In particular, as a result of an exchange of letters and a working expert meeting between representatives of the Synodal Department for Church Charity and Social Ministry and the NGO “Miloserdie” (e.g. Mercy), areas and forms of interaction in providing direct assistance to trafficking victims were identified. The meeting was facilitated by the Synodal Department for External Church Relations.

IOM Moscow experts provided the NGO “Miloserdie” with methodological manuals on the identification of and assistance to trafficking victims. Victims of human trafficking and forced labour are identified by NGO “Miloserdie” based on these techniques were returned to countries of their citizenship within IOM programme.

On 30 October 2013 in the Sergiy Hall of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour the international conference “Russian Culture: What We Bring to the World?” which was also attended by an IOM delegation took place. IOM Chief of Mission in Moscow Mr. Zlatko Zigic confirmed in his speech IOM’s willingness toward the development of cooperation in adaptation of migrants through providing expert assistance.

On 19 November 2013 IOM Moscow Chief of Mission Mr. Zlatko Zigic was received by the Synodal Department for Church and Society Relations by its head archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin. In the course of the meeting both sides exchanged their opinions on the status and prospects of cooperation in providing assistance to vulnerable and stranded migrants as well as confirmed their mutual interest in exchange through information, methodological and training materials and manuals related to cultural adaptation.

Another essential component of cooperation between IOM and the Russian Orthodox Church was a continuation of providing assistance to trafficking victims in the specialized shelter jointly established by IOM and ROC late 2012 in one of the parishes in Moscow region.

**MIGRATION HEALTH**

**IOM MOSCOW U.S. CULTURAL ORIENTATION**

**RSC Eurasia CO Feature**

RSC Eurasia conducts USCO classes in more than ten different locations for refugees of diverse ethnic, educational, and cultural backgrounds. Our greatest challenge in CO delivery is this diversity. One of our biggest successes is a recently designed activity about the community services available to refugees on arrival in the United States. Based on folk tales, this review activity used at the beginning of the third day has found a great response from the participants, regardless of nationality or educational background.

The objectives of the activity are:

- Participants will identify services that may be available in their U.S. community
- Participants will show their understanding of how to use these services
- Participants will review various services discussed during the training at different times

Clearly, U.S. communities have different services available. Many of them are discussed at different times throughout CO training. This activity is designed to bring these services together and check if the participants understand how to use these services correctly and to their benefit.

Every nationality has a common folk tale told to children and known by all. These tales commonly describe non-realistic situations where the main characters go through a series of challenges to achieve their goals. Another common feature of every folk tale is that evil and good are very sharply defined. These tales metaphorically reflect real life and make it easier for children to understand reality and teach them certain productive behaviors that they take with them into their adolescence and adulthood.

The combination of well-known situations taken from the folk tale and application of new knowledge gained from CO make it easier for people to grasp the concept of community services that may not have been available in their home countries.
The participants are initially asked what folk tale they remember from their childhood (there are generally one or two folk tales that everyone in the group knows). The group is then encouraged to discuss what challenges the main characters faced and what goals they were trying to achieve.

Then the participants are divided into two groups of 8-10 people. Each group is given a set of pictures illustrating various community services (public transport, parks, police cars, libraries, religious organizations, daycare centers, etc.).

Each group is asked to create a story, based on the folk tale, where the characters use various community services shown in these pictures. The participants are encouraged to be as creative as possible when presenting their stories to the entire group; role playing is the preferred way (but not the only way) to present their story.

An example of how the folk tale element can be combined with content about community services is as follows:

One group of Sudanese refugees that received their CO at the Emergency Transit Center in Timisoara came up with a tale about a silly man and a wise man. The silly man cut a tree branch on which he was sitting, fell down, and broke his arm. The participants presented a short play in which “the silly man should not have gone to the wise man for a piece of advice, instead he should have come up to the policeman for directions to the emergency room of a hospital; he should not have ridden a donkey to get there, but use a bus and metro instead, etc.”

**IOM MOSCOW**

**2nd Zvenigorodskay A Street, 12, 123100, Moscow, Russian Federation**

**Tel.: +7 495 797-8722**

**Fax: +7 499 253-3522**

**IOMMOSCOW@IOM.INT**

**WWW.IOMRUSSIA.RU**

***MOSCOW MIGRANTS’ PROCESSING AND MOVEMENT***

IOM Moscow works with the Russian government, the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and various UNHCR offices and U.S. Embassies across Europe and the ex-USSR to implement a program of voluntary resettlement to the United States for migrants and refugees. The biggest beneficiary groups are religious minorities from the ex-USSR who are joining immediate relatives already in the United States; third-country refugees referred for resettlement by the United Nations (Afghan refugees in Central Asia, Afghan and African refugees in Russia and Ukraine) and African boat people stranded in Malta.

Comprehensive statistics for 01 September through 31 December 2013 are as follows:

- Applications received and processed: 360 cases / 703 individuals
- Presented to DHS for status determination: 592 cases / 1300 individuals
- Departures to the U.S.: 324 cases / 587 individuals

In total, IOM staff traveled to process cases, interview applicants, prepare files for interviews, assist U.S. government officials and provide Cultural Orientation in: Tbilisi (Georgia), Humenne (Slovakia), Timisoara (Romania), Malta, Kyiv; Lvov; Odessa (Ukraine), Minsk (Belarus), Timisoara (Romania), and Baku (Azerbaijan).”

Copies of the newsletter are available upon request. Please do not hesitate to contact us.