

Middle space actors (intermediaries): The case of Nepali migrant workers to Malaysia

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Abstract

This presentation will discuss the complex mediating roles played by intermediaries along this corridor (migration channel). A bilateral MOU was signed between the state authorities of Nepal and Malaysia in 2018. Although there are strict state regulations impacting the role of intermediaries in facilitating the movement of migrant workers from Nepal to Malaysia, the actual practices of various intermediaries along the corridor varies. One of the key points in the said MOU is the elimination of migration cost (“zero cost migration”) between Nepal and Malaysia in keeping with ILO guidelines. The presentation will show how well-intentioned state policies to reduce exploitative practices in labour migration have also, unfortunately, produced other kinds of inequalities among migrant workers. The presentation is based on fieldwork done along the Nepal-Malaysia Corridor, one of six corridors for the Migration for Development and Equality (MIDEQ) project supported by the UK Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF).

Biography

Yvonne Khor is a Researcher at Monash University Malaysia. As part of the Migration for Development and Equality Hub (MIDEQ) project, her research explores the roles of intermediaries along the Nepal-Malaysia corridor. She is also part of the expert network of the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC). Her research scope also looks at trafficking in persons (TIP) and smuggling of migrants (SOM). Before joining Monash University Malaysia, Yvonne was a senior researcher for Government and Parliamentary Affairs at a locally-based think tank. She was involved in helping Members of Parliament and Senators to formulate national policies and legislation.