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Diasporas, Development and Governance in the Global South

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Diasporas, Development and Governance in the Global South

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Balsillie School of International Affairs
Waterloo, Ontario

May 27-28, 2013

CONFERENCE REPORT



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Setting the Context

Diasporas are increasingly recognized as key development resources for low- and middle-income countries. Thus, governments in the Global South are turning to their own extra-national diasporic populations in order to boost economic development, build global trading and investment networks and increase their political leverage overseas. The main goals of the conference on Diasporas, Development and Governance in the Global South were to enhance international understanding of the role of diasporas in development, identify best practices for policy engagement of diasporas and facilitate Canadian diaspora engagement in development. The conference focused on three main areas:

- Critical examination of efforts by international organizations and governments in the South and North to facilitate development in the Global South through engagement with diasporas;
- Identification of new trends and best practices in diaspora engagement; and
- Assessment of the current and potential role of migrant diasporas in Canada in the economic, social and political development of the Global South.

The conference was open to the public and brought together leading international researchers, policy makers, and diaspora organizations for a focused discussion and dialogue on the governance of diaspora engagement.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The opening ceremony was chaired by Margaret Walton-Roberts, Associate Director, International Migration Research Centre (IMRC) and co-organiser of the conference. She gratefully acknowledged the financial support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Wilfrid Laurier University, the Southern African Migration Program (SAMP), the IMRC and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). The conference was expected to enhance Canadian and international understanding of the actual and potential role of diasporas in development, identify best practices for their policy engagement, and help develop a major new research and policy initiative aimed at facilitating Canadian diaspora engagement in development. The conference aimed to tackle three main questions:

- What is the nature of policy formulation and transfer in the area of diaspora engagement strategies?
- Who drives and benefits from diaspora engagement? With respect to migrant remittances, can they serve as both symptom of and solution to

the developmental dilemma currently facing countries of the Global South?

- How does diasporic engagement inform governance?



Margaret Walton-Roberts, International Migration Research Centre

Rohinton Medhora welcomed delegates to the Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA). He noted that among the different components of globalisation namely finance, technology and labour, it is the latter that is least understood. Moreover, little of what is already known has been translated into global governance. Usually diaspora issues are thrust into the limelight when something goes really well or really badly but no country has found a way of matching diasporas with its broader interests. A conference such as this will help move in that direction.



Rohinton Medhora, President of CIGI

Opening Address: Diaspora Engagement: The New Development Mantra?

By **Dilip Ratha** (World Bank)

Dilip Ratha observed that diaspora engagement policies can be influenced by how a country defines its 'diasporas'. For instance, is the term 'diaspora' restricted only to first generation migrants, or is it

applied broadly to second, third or even higher generation migrants? Numerically, South-South diasporas are larger than South-North diasporas. Remittances are the most important contribution of diasporas to development in their country of origin. In 2012, remittances from developed to developing countries were estimated at more than US\$401 billion. Top remittance recipients were India (US\$70 billion) and China (US\$66 billion), while remittances made the greatest contribution as a percentage of GDP in Tajikistan (47 per cent) and Liberia (31 per cent).

The global remittance agenda should focus on making remittances more development friendly by addressing the following issues:

- Monitoring, analysis and projection
- Retail payment system
- Financial access for households, SMEs
- Capital market access for countries, companies

Costs of remitting need to be reduced. Post offices and mobile phone companies can play a significant role in expanding access to the poorest, but need to avoid exclusive partnerships. Also an urgent policy priority is to design appropriate regulations for telecoms offering financial services.

The second diaspora-development link is diaspora philanthropy. Hometown associations are already playing an important role in development at a micro-scale but it is difficult to scale-up their operations. However, there is scope for diaspora members to contribute to fighting disease at the community level. For instance, they can partner with remittance service providers (RSPs) in the global fight against malaria and other diseases through voluntary donations, purchasing micro health insurance for family members and friends back home, or through collaboration with local institutions in R&D and sharing knowledge about prevention and treatment.

Third, diaspora investment and entrepreneurship should be promoted. Diaspora savings can be mobilized through diaspora bonds. Israel and India, for example, have raised nearly \$40 billion via diaspora bonds. Policies that can maximize the benefits of the diaspora include:

- Getting to know your diaspora
- Embassies abroad should be oriented and equipped to provide services to their diaspora and promotion of trade and investment
- Dual and multiple citizenship can strengthen ties to the diaspora (Only 20 out of 54 African countries have dual citizenship)



Dilip Ratha, World Bank

Fourth, developing countries should seek to train more people so as to offset the impacts of the brain drain. The diaspora can be leveraged for skill building and employment generation at home.

To facilitate diaspora engagement, the following policies can be adopted:

- Make data available; improve data on size of diasporas, remittances
- Leverage remittances for financial access for households and SMEs
- Leverage diasporas for raising development financing
- Train more professionals in critical sectors in developing countries; make efforts to recognize foreign degrees and diplomas
- Facilitate temporary return of highly skilled professionals by reducing mobility barriers
- Reorient embassy staffing toward working with the diaspora
- Diasporas are not necessarily a security threat for the host country

Session One: Global Governance and Diaspora Engagement

Alan Gamlen (University of Wellington and Oxford University Diaspora Project) observed that diasporas have become so significant since the 1990s for three main reasons:

- Tapping approach: realisation of the value of diasporas in terms of remittances, skills etc.
- Value driven issues: reclaiming lost members of ethnic nation, or recognizing rights and duties of external citizens.
- Governance: diaspora engagement diffused through world society as a best practice in migration management.

States are increasingly establishing formal institutions dedicated to their diasporas; over half of all UN states have diaspora institutions. Tapping is being done to promote the interests of states. Thus, diasporas are being embraced to further liberal state building – could states, therefore, be establishing institutions because it is ‘raining’ diasporas?



Alan Gamlen, University of Wellington

In her presentation on Diasporas as Catalysts for Institutional Reform, **Jennifer Brinkerhoff** (George Washington University) argued that diasporas have significant comparative advantages as institutional entrepreneurs because they have insights into both internal and external ideas. This is because they occupy the “in-between” space of endogeneity and external intervention. Thus, the diaspora can among other things, take the role of the announcer, political actor, connector, the ideas champion, funder, political buffer, and implementer. Potential diasporic advantage is driven by personal characteristics, migration experience and diasporic experience. The most important potential advantage of diasporas is that they are able to attain greater opportunities.

Awil Mohamoud (African Diaspora Policy Centre) noted that diaspora engagement is a two-way street and successful engagement requires home country governments to create a diaspora-friendly environment through the adoption of diaspora-oriented national policy strategy. There is need to create a constructive dialogue between the diaspora and the homeland government. Diasporas can make successful contributions when they have the capacity and resources to make their projects on the ground sustainable; that is, through better organization, using their influential networks and contacts, and gaining access to funding in the host country as well as local partners in the homeland. Countries with best practices of diaspora engagement include Senegal, which has established a ministry responsible for diaspora affairs,

and Ghana, where drivers for diaspora engagement are local institutions and chiefs.



Awil Mohamoud, African Diaspora Policy Centre

Paul Tabar and Jennifer Skulte-Ouass (Lebanese American University) noted that there are feelings of low political efficacy among the Lebanese diaspora in Australia, Canada and the US. Therefore, the Lebanese diaspora cannot unify in the same way as the Jewish, Italian or Turkish communities. The active Lebanese diaspora really wants a voice in Lebanese public life and has a desire to ‘export’ its positive experiences back to their homeland. There is limited democratic and modern social remittances from diaspora to homeland; rather, diaspora remittances often amplify and accentuate dominant formal and informal political structures. For instance, patriarchal legacies in Lebanon mean that fewer women engage in the homeland, with the exception of charity work (religious-based and secular). Still, there seem to be indications that there are increases in women’s participation in private and public life in Lebanon at the micro-level.



Paul Tabar, Lebanese American University

Session Two: Diasporas and Multilateral Engagement

Peter Schatzer (International Organisation for Migration) observed that the IOM's approach to diasporas is characterised by 3Es, namely 'enable' (reduce obstacles), 'engage' (reach out & understand) and 'empower' (initiate sustainable collaboration-facilitate transfer of skills & resources). IOM's programming on diasporas has changed over the years. In the 1970s, focus was on the permanent return of qualified nationals (RQN). Since 2001, IOM has been pursuing permanent return alongside temporary and 'virtual' returns. IOM has also been working on improving transparency and competition among remittance channels. IOM's post-crisis diaspora programming targets the diaspora and human resource mobilization to support transition and recovery e.g. the Return of Qualified Afghans programme.

Irena Omelaniuk (Global Forum on Migration and Development), (presented by **Chukwu Emeka-Chikizie**), gave a description of some of the issues that were discussed at the various sessions of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) since 2007. From its beginnings, the GFMD recognized the diaspora as key actors in migration and development, and called for public-private partnerships to engage with diaspora as central planks of any national or regional development strategy. Key issues that have attracted attention at the forum include remittances, diaspora philanthropy, diaspora development intervention and diaspora entrepreneurship. A tangible output of the GFMD is the diaspora handbook titled *Developing a Roadmap for Engaging Diasporas in Development - A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Developing Countries*. The GFMD has firmly located diaspora issues in the global narrative on development and the global governance of migration and development. It has brought to international attention some of the good practices initiated by governments, and has demonstrated the complex range of initiatives taken by the diaspora themselves, as NGOs, entrepreneurs, businesses, investors, and in partnership with government, communities, private sector and each other, or without partnerships.

Susanne Melde (African, Caribbean and Pacific Observatory on Migration) highlighted the importance of South-South Migration among countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP). She noted that South-South migrants are numerically greater than North-South migrants. Furthermore, highly skilled migrants who move to other countries in the South are likely to find suitable employment which

utilizes their skills and qualifications unlike in the West where significant brain waste occurs. Return migration may be a lot more feasible in the context of South-South migration and research has also shown that South-South migrants sometimes make larger financial investments in their home country than South-North migrants. South-South remittances flow largely through informal channels and the use of formal channels could be encouraged by the adoption of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Diaspora contributions are more just than remittances, argued **Sonia Plaza** (World Bank) in her presentation on the World Bank and Diaspora Engagement. The benefits of engaging diasporas include support for poverty alleviation and philanthropy, support for trade, technology and knowledge transfer, investment by the diaspora and potential for return. Successful diaspora networks bring together people with strong motivation who play the role of implementing projects in the home country, as well as serving as bridges and antennae of the development of projects in the home country. Virtual and short-term return (e.g. e-learning) can make a huge contribution in the education sector. However, in order for the diaspora to participate more fully, there is need for a conducive business environment in the home country, a safe working environment, and a sound and transparent financial sector. An important step is to know the profile of the diaspora including its diaspora organisations and networks, and existing obstacles to diaspora investments.



Sonia Plaza, World Bank

Session Three: Diaspora Engagement from the Global South (I)

The absence of reliable estimates on the size of the Indian diaspora continues to be a major challenge to researchers and policymakers alike, observed **Irudaya Rajan** (Centre for Development Studies, Kerala) in his presentation on engaging the Global Indian Diaspora.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is in charge of diaspora issues even though a total of three ministries deal with migration issues. Schemes that have been introduced to encourage the maintenance of Indian identity include the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) which is awarded annually to migrants who have offered the most outstanding service to India, and the Tracing the Roots programme which is meant to facilitate People of Indian Origins in tracing their roots in India. The Indian diaspora send large amounts of money annually to India estimated at over US\$70 billion in 2013, or about 5 percent of GDP. Overseas Indians have contributed to development in India through philanthropic contributions (e.g. in health and education) and other investment in community development projects.



Irudaya Rajan (right), Centre for Development Studies, Kerala. With Edgard Rodriguez (IDRC) and Barj Dhahan (Canada India Foundation)

Secretary **Imelda Nicholas** (Commission on Filipinos Overseas) estimates that there are 10.46 million Filipinos in the diaspora, of whom 47 percent are permanent, 43 percent are temporary and 10 percent are irregular. Officially recorded remittances to the Philippines in 2012 exceeded US\$24 billion making it the third largest receiver of remittances behind only India and China. The human capital, networks and skills that Filipinos in the diaspora have developed are essential as they reflect the skills required for the development of the Philippines. Tools for engaging the Filipino diaspora include the Ba Link Bayan, a one-stop online portal dedicated to the overseas Filipino. The program promotes and supports diaspora-driven initiatives such as investment, philanthropy, and technology and skills transfer. In addition, biennial awards have been launched to recognise outstanding overseas Filipinos for their excellence in their field of profession, and organizations who serve overseas Philippine-based communities. Since its inception, the awards have been conferred on 367 Filipino individuals and organizations overseas.



Imelda Nicholas, Commission on Filipinos Overseas

John Oucho (African Migration and Development Policy Centre, AMADPOC) argued that it is problematic to identify an ‘East African’ diaspora among migrants from East Africa. Rather, it is better to talk about national East African diasporas. Past and present conflicts shape the engagement of diasporas from East African Community (EAC) states. Such diasporas tend to be heterogeneous given the various motivations for migration, and show a high level of distrust towards their governments. They also frequently form diaspora organisations based on ethnic lines. Notable region-wide initiatives include the East Africa Radio (USA) and the East African Volunteer Opportunities which enable skilled volunteers to share skills and build the capacity of partner organisations in areas such as enterprise development, small-scale business management, microfinance, youth and women’s economic empowerment, and market development. Also notable is the fact that all EAC Partner States have recognised the role of the diaspora and have established diaspora units/departments/divisions within their ministries of foreign affairs to facilitate formal diaspora engagement. Some countries have gone as far as recognising dual citizenship. Mapping the EAC diaspora is an important step towards their full engagement in national development.

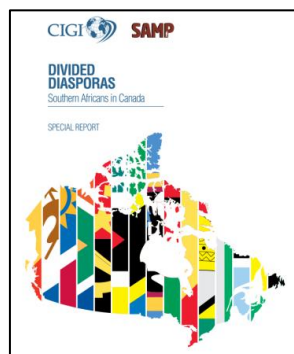


John Oucho, African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC)

The Caribbean has a long history of migration which makes diaspora engagement important for national governments in this region, observed **Indianna Minto-Coy** (University of West Indies). The region has experienced significant loss of skills with brain drain rates as high as 89 percent in some countries. Caribbean countries lag behind other countries in terms of diaspora engagement. In addition, the challenge of placing diaspora issues within foreign affairs ministries limits engagement to consular functions and other issues. The private sector has played a far more important role in terms of engaging the Caribbean diaspora. Companies see the diaspora as a market and are branching out to respond to the needs of the Caribbean diaspora. Thus, the diaspora can be viewed in a multiplicity of ways as a marketer, a market, an investor, a co-creator, a collaborator and as a brand builder. A critical issue in diaspora engagement include gaps in data on the distribution of the Caribbean diaspora. There is need to focus on the third generation and beyond and also to diversify the policy focus to include South-South diasporas.

Launch of SAMP-CIGI Special Report

The SAMP-CIGI report titled *Divided Diasporas: Southern Africans in Canada* was launched at the end of the sessions on Day One of the conference. Jonathan Crush offered specific thanks to the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) who funded the SAMP research. The report presents the results of a survey conducted among Southern Africans in Canada to document their current and future engagement practices with their country of origin. The study used an innovative methodology, specifically based on the use of social media to identify research participants. The study found that Southern Africans in Canada constitute a divided diaspora and differ in relation to their current diaspora activities and willingness to be engaged in the future.



The Special Report

<http://www.cigionline.org/publications/2013/5/divided-diasporas-southern-africans-canada>

Session Four: Diaspora Engagement from the Global South (II)

In Egypt the term ‘diaspora’ is politically sensitive because of its association with the Jewish diaspora, noted **Ayman Zohry** (Egyptian Society for Migration Studies) in his presentation on Diaspora and Development: The Case of Egypt. An estimated 8 percent of Egypt’s 84 million people reside outside the country. Most of the migrants live in Arab countries such as Jordan, Libya and Saudi Arabia. The Egyptian state has long tried to use migration as a strategy for development. It is estimated that a 50 percent decrease in emigration from Egypt could result in the doubling of the rate of unemployment. Remittances by Egyptians abroad comprise about 6 percent of national GDP but what is missing in the current discourse is how migrants can contribute in the areas of knowledge transfer and investment. There is need to engage diasporas in the current changes in the country. Finally, more information is needed on Egyptian migrants as the last study was done in 2008.

A large Zimbabwean diaspora has been created over the past decade owing mainly to declining political and economic conditions in the country, observed **Abel Chikanda** (Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP) and Balsillie School of International Affairs), in his presentation on Engaging the Global Zimbabwean Diaspora. State policy has changed from apathy to active engagement, mainly in the area of remittances. Government-controlled programmes aimed at channelling remittances into official channels have failed due to the unfavourable exchange rates which they offered. Civil society and multi-lateral organisations such as the IOM have assumed a lead role in engaging the global Zimbabwean diaspora. Research among the medical diaspora, for example, has shown that the emigrant professionals can contribute to Zimbabwe’s health delivery system through initiatives such as short-term returns, philanthropy, mentoring and telemedicine. Potential obstacles to engagement include negative attitudes towards short-term returnees and registration with the professional body. Even though there is great potential for engaging the Zimbabwean diaspora for development, institutions for tapping into the diaspora resources are poorly developed and in some cases, even non-existent. An important step towards successful engagement is the restoration of economic and political stability.



Abel Chikanda, Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP) and Balsillie School of International Affairs

Even though Ghana has a large diaspora which is found in both the Global North and South, very little is known about this diaspora, noted **Mariama Awumbila** (University of Ghana) in her presentation on Engaging the Global Ghanaian Diaspora. However, a sizeable proportion of Ghanaian emigrants do move to other countries within the West African region while others move to developed countries. Education is one of the leading causes of emigration: in 2004 nearly 12 percent of Ghanaian students enrolled in tertiary education were studying abroad. The Ghanaian diaspora are playing an important role in the country's economy. In 2010, remittances sent by the Ghanaian diaspora amounted to \$2.14 billion. Recent diaspora engagement initiatives include the Homecoming Summit (2001), Ghana Dual Citizenship Act of 2002, Ghana Investment Promotions Act (1994) and the Draft National Migration Policy, all of which have provisions targeted at engaging the diaspora. A major challenge in engaging the Ghanaian diaspora is the lack of reliable data sources. There is also need to focus on the Ghanaian diaspora living in Africa since they are numerically bigger than those in the North.



Mariama Awumbila, University of Ghana

In their joint presentation on Engaging the Haitian Diaspora, **Loius Marcelin** (University of Miami) and **Toni Cela** (Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development, INURED) demonstrated that Haiti's higher education has been seriously devastated by the 2010 earthquake. For instance, 87 percent of Haiti's universities were located in the affected region and 28 of the country's 32 major universities were completely destroyed. A large number of students and academics were killed and a large proportion of those who survived have left the country, adding to the country's growing brain drain problem. Their study mapped out the technical skills and capacity of the Haitian diaspora in the US and their potential contributions to national development. The study findings revealed that the disaster increased diaspora engagement in Haiti, while the local Haitian population were generally receptive towards the diaspora. They concluded that the disaster revealed the need to incorporate higher education in rebuilding and development plans.

Session Five: Diaspora Engagement in the North

Diasporas can be a valuable asset to assist the US policy agenda, argued **Susanna Groves** (Migration Policy Institute) in her presentation on Diaspora Engagement in the United States. Even though the US is a nation of immigrants, for many years the US government shunned diaspora communities. However, this changed under the leadership of Secretary Hilary Clinton. A special office of the Global Partnership Initiative was established in the Department of State to handle diaspora issues. A collaborative effort between the Global Partnership Initiative and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is a programme known as the International diaspora Engagement Alliance (IdeA), which was launched in 2011. IdeA harnesses the global connections of diaspora communities to promote sustainable development in their countries of heritage. Even though such programmes have marked a departure from the policies of previous governments, they can generally be seen as one-off projects. They are not part of an overarching US policy approach, which means that diaspora engagement is not fully integrated into the US policy agenda.

Australia is a country of immigration, noted **Graeme Hugo** (University of Adelaide) in his presentation on Diaspora Engagement in Australia. Census data show that one in four people were born outside the country and one in five speaks a language other than English at home. Before the 1970s, most of the immigrants in Australia were drawn from Europe but now they come

mostly from Asia. A longitudinal study of immigrants to Australia showed that more than 70% have relatives in their country of origin, more than 22% send remittances and 35% have travelled back there. Australia's multiculturalism policy helps in the development and maintenance of transnational linkages by the diaspora. Other diaspora strategies include the encouragement of diaspora involvement in the development of home countries (e.g. South Sudan), encouragement of investment there and return migration. The state in Australia is also actively trying to attract back the skilled diaspora. Thus, since 2001 dual citizenship is permitted under the country's laws. Even though there is growing interest in diasporas in Australia, there is still little policy discussion on diaspora engagement.



Graeme Hugo, University of Adelaide

The 2011 census showed that there are nearly one million African immigrants in the UK, which makes the country one of the prime regions for the engagement of the African Diaspora, noted **Mistry Rupal** (Comic Relief) in her presentation on Donor Engagement with Diaspora Communities: Experiences from the United Kingdom. Comic Relief is a UK-based charity organisation that was established in 1985 in response to the Horn of Africa Famine. To date, it has raised more than £900 million (or USD\$1.3 billion) to support disadvantaged and marginalised communities in the UK and internationally, mostly in Africa. Over 1.5 million people have benefitted directly from these programmes. Lessons learnt from the programme include investing in organisations and investing in leadership. There is need to invest in good governance and financial management among diaspora communities so that the leadership can represent the needs of their communities in a more meaningful way.

Diaspora communities can be engaged in the resolution of peace and enabling security around the world, noted **John Monahan** (The Mosaic Institute) and **Natalie Brender** (University of Ottawa) in their presentation on

Diaspora Engagement in Canadian Foreign Policy. Even though Canada has one of the most welcoming immigration systems in the world, there is strong need to take advantage of the networks and knowledge of diasporic Canadians to enhance Canadian foreign policy. There are not a lot of visible efforts and some of the programmes that have been adopted are generally one-off and lack continuity and sustainability. One important programme is Public Safety Canada's Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security which deals with transnational issues and is made up of 15 members who have wide knowledge of security issues as they affect Canadians of diverse community backgrounds. The amalgamation between the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade may present significant challenges and opportunities for future diaspora engagement.

Session Six: Diaspora Networks in Development

Jean-Baptiste Meyer (Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), Paris) in his presentation on Diaspora and Development: Translating Mantra into Action showed that diasporas can help drive the global economy. Diaspora work currently deals with traditional policies but it is not enough when dealing with communities that are no longer national but transnational. Furthermore, many diasporas are completely invisible. Thus, even though most emigrants have links to their country of origin, not many are part of an association. The four steps involved in diaspora engagement are (a) find (identify and locate), (b) describe (we know you, your skills and abilities); (c) convince/mobilise (we need you); and (d) involve (sustainable development). Thus, in order to establish a sustainable relationship with the diaspora, there is need to know the diaspora and gain their trust.



Jean-Baptiste Meyer, Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) (with Binod Khadria, Jawaharlal Nehru University

In most African countries, student enrolment is booming but the supply of educators is not growing at a corresponding rate, noted **Wisdom Tettey** (University of British Columbia) in his presentation on Higher Education, Capacity Building in Ghana and the Role of Diaspora Knowledge Networks. Furthermore, postgraduate training is declining relative to undergraduate enrolment and master's enrolment is heavily skewed towards professional degrees. This creates a serious challenge in the ability of academic institutions to regenerate themselves. The Ghana Diaspora Academic and Professional Network was founded in order to address some of these challenges. The network is made up of about 200 academics, of whom 70 are from diaspora, representing about 50 institutions. Achievements of the network include the engagement of diasporic professionals as thesis examiners, development of mentor/mentee relationships, population of virtual library, technical and technological support, sabbatical placements and research collaborations. Challenges faced by the network include maintaining local buy-in and commitment, sustaining graduate student awareness and participation, bandwidth capacity, virtual library and copyright issues, and differences in intellectual and organizational cultures.



Wisdom Tettey, University of British Columbia

There are 1.2 million people of Indian descent in Canada (approximately 4 percent of the national population) noted **Barj Dhahan** (Canada India Foundation) in his presentation on Networking Canada and India. Early India-Canada networks were friends, family and village-based. Current networks have evolved to include initiatives in welfare, education, health care, advocacy, village infrastructure improvement, and development, often inspired civic involvement and participation. The Indian diaspora is involved in every aspect of the Canadian society and

involved in different levels of government. Examples of Canadian and Punjab Networks include the Guru Nanak Mission Medical & Educational Trust, Canada India Education Society, Indo-Canadian Friendship Society of British Columbia, and Indo-Canadian Village Improvement Trust (MERA PIND Initiative). Challenges faced by the networks include factionalism and favouritism, unquestioned leadership and nepotism (due to gerontocracy and “guru” model, caste, religion, and regionalism) and lack of females in leadership positions. To address these challenges, there is need to match philanthropist’s goals and objectives with needs and interests of local stakeholders prior to the start of a project of program, ensure local presence and ongoing competent management of projects, and align projects with national, state and district government developmental priorities. .

Skilled Indians in Europe link their development aspirations to their return plans, observed **Gabriella Tejada** (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) in her presentation on Knowledge Transfers by Diaspora Networks and Return: From Development Aspirations to Realities in India. Skilled Indians in Europe believe Indian society can benefit from their scientific networks, expertise and accumulated knowledge and technical skills acquired abroad. However, their study found that an increase in time spent by migrants abroad reduces ties with their home country. Those employed in academic and research institutions have more positive feelings about participating in home country development than those working in the private sector. The majority of the returnees (73%) have considered taking part in India’s development, and education level and age are positively related to development aspirations. Socially disadvantaged people like women, dalits and Muslims feel more strongly about contributing to the country’s development.



Gabriella Tejada, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Session Seven: New Initiatives in Diaspora Engagement

Keith Nurse (University of West Indies) in his presentation on Diaspora Tourism, Investment and Entrepreneurship in the Caribbean showed that Caribbean diaspora plays an important role in the tourism industry. Diaspora tourism data is difficult to establish since most are recorded as visiting friends and relatives. In countries such as Guyana, diaspora tourists account for 66% of total tourist arrivals and in Jamaica the share of diaspora tourists is between 30-35%. Frequently, the diaspora visit tourist attractions in the country for pleasure and also engage in other business activities. Diaspora tourism supports a growing industry in both the home as well as the host country. The economies related to diaspora tourism include nostalgic trade of goods and services, financial transfers, telecoms, media, airline travel and freight services. The diaspora population can play a unique and important role in the opening of new markets. What is needed is the mapping and documentation of the diaspora economy in order to understand what the landscape looks like. There is also need to develop targeted marketing strategies for the multiple and varied diaspora communities and markets.



Keith Nurse, University of West Indies

Countries that have adopted successful diaspora engagement mechanisms such as China and India, embarked on state transformation first before moving on to diaspora engagement, observed **Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie** (Up!-Africa Ltd) in his presentation on Africa's Economic Transformation & African Diasporas. There is therefore a need to focus on the role of the state in development and this is a crucial issue in Africa where there are many failed states and only a

handful of developmental states. The challenge for African countries is that between 10-12million people enter the labour force each year but less than 20 percent of young workers find wage employment. Without a job-led growth strategy, at least 80 percent of job-seekers take up informal or self-employment, or family labor. Jobs drive development and there is need for a global agenda for jobs, specifically a global goal of full employment in post-2015 era of international cooperation. Diasporas can play an important role especially in the development of small and medium scale enterprises.



Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, Up!-Africa Ltd

Diaspora groups can be an important agent for development in the diasporas' countries of origin, noted **Sujata Ramachandran** (Southern African Migration Programme, SAMP), in her presentation on Benevolent Funds: Philanthropy and Development Engagement of South African Diaspora Groups in Ontario. A number of South African diaspora groups have raised millions of dollars to support development initiatives in South Africa. The study found that the South African community is well integrated into Canadian society and the majority are disengaged (in terms of actual or potential contributions to development in South Africa) and often see South Africa as a dystopia. Distinct aspects of the diaspora groups in Canada include fundraising for intermediaries versus direct engagement in development efforts, collective efforts through selected individuals, proliferation of social and professional networks, synergies between diaspora groups and more importantly, and distance from the South African government. Thus, there was strong interest in engagement for development by a minority, despite the detachment of the broader community.

Some literature has shown that diasporas can play a destabilising role in their home country, observed **Amarnath Amarasingam** (York University) in his presentation on Diaspora, Development, and Intra-Community Politics: Sri Lankan Tamils in Canada and

Post-War Debates. However, other literature has also shown that diasporas can play a significant positive role in their home countries. In the case of Sri Lanka, two issues currently confront the Sri Lankan diaspora. First, is it ethically defensible to “work with government” to help those in Sri Lanka? Second, there are issues of intra-community politics and leadership rivalries. Much of the literature on the role of the diaspora in homeland affairs often fails to properly take into consideration the fractured nature of diaspora politics. Even the mobilized segments of the diaspora are themselves not homogenous, and this can work against meaningful activism and development work.

The Round Table

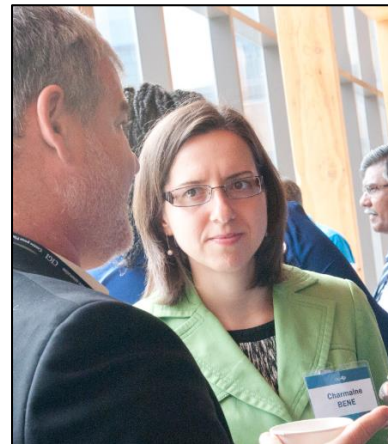
The roundtable discussion was made up of experts drawn from the following organisations:

- **Howard Duncan**, International Metropolis
- **Charmaine Bene**, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- **Yallena Cica**, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- **Ann Weston**, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- **Binod Khadria**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.

A number of key points were made by the participants in the round table. First, we are only beginning to understand the relationship between migration and development, and the strategies that can enhance the participation of diasporas in the development of their home country. However, there is a need to set this discussion in the context of wealth creation. Wealth creation is linked directly to issues such as governance and diasporas are strategically placed to play an important role in this regard. It is important to explore issues of competent government and more specifically the role that diasporas can play in its development. Another issue is how scholars define the word ‘diaspora’. There is tendency for researchers to categorise members of the diaspora into certain groups (e.g. scientific diasporas) and place responsibilities on them towards their home country. Self-identification is something that needs to be focused on. The diaspora need to define their own roles towards their home country. This again is related to how governments seek to engage their diasporas.

Second, Canada is one of the top five migrant destinations globally and more than \$23 billion dollars is sent annually to other countries as remittances. In addition, migrants make a huge contribution to the Canadian economy, labour and society in general. In

2012, Canada admitted about half a million migrants in various classes such as independent, temporary, skilled, and international students. Many of these migrants come from developing countries and maintain strong links with their country of origin. . Diasporas have an important role to play in global discussions on migration and development. The challenge is how to ensure that their voices are heard and how to enable this within a complex environment. The other challenge is how the different arms of governments can mainstream diaspora engagement and make it more systematic considering the different definitions of the term *diaspora*, unique country and regional contexts and the different capacities and interests of different diaspora groups. In order to further inform evidence-based information on Canadian context, there is need for evaluation of the impact on diaspora engagement efforts. Another challenge is how to leverage partnerships and innovation especially with Canadian diasporas for new and innovative models of partnership and how to tap into diasporas innovative ideas in order to overcome current and future development challenges.



Charmaine Bene, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Third, diaspora communities are an important asset of Canada in pursuit of trade and foreign policy objectives. Diaspora communities have international knowledge and networks that play an international role in the country’s diplomatic ties. DFAIT does not have a policy strategy on diasporas and DFAIT’s policy group is looking at ways of engaging diasporas more actively and effectively. DFAIT has worked with diaspora groups from countries such as Haiti and Sudan on training and development efforts and is particularly interested in engaging diasporas from fragile and conflict countries. However, it can be difficult to engage diasporas especially when they straddle conflict states. Diasporas themselves can be polarised and fragmented which makes working with them more

difficult. Older diasporas tend to be well organised but their knowledge of the home country can be dated or shallow. On the other hand, newer diasporas may have better knowledge about the home country but are usually harder to locate. Organising an outreach to diaspora communities presents a daunting challenge. .

Fourth, the IDRC has funded research on a wide range of subjects, including research on diaspora issues diasporas through programmes within its Social and Economic Policy Division such as Inclusive Growth programme and the Governance, Security and Justice programme. Examples of research on diaspora issues include diasporic tourism in the Caribbean, the developmental potential of Southern Africans in Canada and the Lebanese diaspora. In addition, the donor partnership division at IDRC is interested in issues such as philanthropy. Canadian partnerships support diaspora associations in Canada to build their capacity so that they can contribute to policy making in Canada as well as in their own countries. These include the African Diaspora in Canada and the African Students Association at the University of Alberta.



Ann Weston, International Development Research Centre

Finally, the term ‘engagement’ had been used in 85% of the sessions and 16 of the 28 papers presented at the conference had the term engagement in their title. Whose engagement are we talking about? Engagement by whom? Engagement for what purpose? We need to talk about engagement of the diaspora, by the diaspora and for the diaspora. The diaspora discourse has experienced a fixation on homeland development and there is need to expand the discourse in three directions:

- Investment of foreign diasporas for hostland development- e.g. by investing in the education and health of migrants, rather than seeking the deportation of ‘illegal immigrants’;
- Equitable adversary analysis for better governance in both homeland and hostland which involves trying to look at the issue from the other’s side; and

- Development for neither homeland nor hostland, but third countries ‘further south’ through South-South cooperation.

Closing Remarks

In his closing remarks, **Jonathan Crush** advanced three challenges for the future. First, there is the need for greater conceptual clarity. There is need for clarity on the definition of the term diaspora. Some scholars have talked about a passive and an active diaspora while others have talked about an engaged and a disengaged diaspora. Second, the idea of home and homeland has been used uncritically. We need the diasporas to define the meaning of home and which country constitutes home for them. Third, there is the idea of development itself. How do we define development? With all the concentration on diasporas and development, we are in danger of losing sight of the negative development consequences of migration. Even though this conference has shown the benefits of engaging diasporas for development, we should not forget that migration can have adverse consequences e.g. the brain drain. Again, when we talk about remittances we usually consider the inflows of cash into the developing country and rarely mention the outflows from the country (e.g. repatriated profits). Finally, the challenge of on-going engagement calls for more research and information for knowledge-based policy interventions.



Jonathan Crush, Balsillie School

Acknowledgements

The Conference on Diasporas, Development and Governance in the Global South which was held from 27-28 May 2013 at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, was funded by the following organisations: the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Wilfrid Laurier University and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI),

Partner Organisations

The Conference on Diasporas, Development and Governance in the Global South was hosted by the Southern African Migration Programme, the International Migration Research Centre, the International Development Research Centre, Wilfrid Laurier University, the Balsillie School of International Affairs and the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

The **Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP)** is an international partnership network linking organisations committed to training, public education, policy development, research and delivery of technical expertise on migration and development issues.

The **International Migration Research Centre (IMRC)**, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada is a research centre whose mandate is to serve as a focal point for debate, research, policy analysis and proposal development related to international migration and mobility at the global, national and regional scale.

The **Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA)** is an institute for advanced research, education, and outreach on global governance. As a hub in a global network of scholars, practitioners, and students, BSIA aims to develop new solutions to humanity's critical problems, improve global governance now and in the future, and enhance the quality of people's lives around the world. Founded in 2007, BSIA is a collaboration among the University of Waterloo (UW), Wilfrid Laurier University (Laurier) and CIGI,

Wilfrid Laurier University is a leading Canadian university known for academic excellence and a culture that inspires lives of leadership and purpose. With more than 17,000 undergraduate and graduate students, Laurier has a distinct commitment to teaching, research and scholarship combined with a strong student focus,

high levels of student satisfaction and a deep sense of community. The university specializes in arts and social sciences, business and economics, music, science, social work, education and theology. Laurier has campuses in Waterloo and Brantford, as well as locations in Kitchener, Toronto and Chongqing, China.

The **Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)** is an independent, non-partisan think tank on international governance. The **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** is a Canadian Crown corporation established by an act of Parliament in 1970 to help developing countries find solutions to their problems. IDRC encourages and supports researchers and innovators in those countries to find practical, long-term solutions to the social, economic, and environmental problems their societies face. Its main goals are to find ways to reduce poverty, improve health, support innovation, and safeguard the environment.

Additional Media

Conference Videos (Day One only)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mp0vdqucnpk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SXAg-n3Eo8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ax9IhD7cpco>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUD4OO5AbD4>

Conference Photos



Participants at the Conference on Diasporas, Development and Governance in the Global South, held at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo





Agenda

Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions will take place at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo, Ontario. Conference agenda is subject to amendments and substitutions.

Monday, May 27, 2013

BSIA

8:00–8:45 **Registration and Breakfast**

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

8:45–10:00 **Opening Session**

Chair: Margaret Walton-Roberts, *International Migration Research Centre (IMRC)/The Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA)*

Rohinton Medhora, *President, The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)*

Opening Address: Dilip Ratha, *World Bank*

"Diaspora Engagement: The Newest Development Mantra?"

10:00–10:15 **Refreshments**

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

10:15–12:15 **Session 1: Global Governance and Diaspora Engagement**

Chair: Jonathan Crush, *BSIA*

Alan Gamlen, *Victoria University and Oxford University Diaspora Programme*
"Diaspora Engagement and the Nation State: Drivers of Engagement"

Jennifer Brinkerhoff, *George Washington University Diaspora Program*
"Diasporas as Catalysts for Institutional Reform"

Awil Mohamoud, *African Diaspora Policy Centre, The Netherlands*
"Best Practices for Diaspora Engagement"

Paul Tabar, *Lebanese American University*
"Diaspora and Homeland Politics"

OUTSIDE ROOM 142

12:15–13:15 **Lunch and Group Photo**

DIASPORAS, DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

13:15–15:15 Session 2: Diasporas and Multi-Lateral Engagement

Chair: Manmohan Agarwal, *CIGI*

Peter Schatzer, *International Organisation for Migration (IOM)*

"The IOM and Diaspora Engagement"

Irena Omelaniuk, *Senior Policy Advisor to the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)*

"The GFMD and Diaspora Engagement"

Susanne Melde, *African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Migration Observatory*

"Diasporas in the South: New Evidence from the ACP Observatory on Migration"

Sonia Plaza, *World Bank*

"The World Bank and Diaspora Engagement"

15:15–15:30 Refreshments

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

15:30–17:30 Session 3: Diaspora Engagement from the Global South (I)

Chair: Abel Chikanda, *BSIA and Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP)*

Irudaya Rajan, *Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs*

"Engaging the Global Indian Diaspora"

Imelda Nicolas, *Chairperson, Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

"Engaging the Global Filipino Diaspora"

Indianna Minto-Coy, *University of West Indies*

"A Critical Analysis of Diasporic Engagement for Development in the Caribbean"

John Oucho, *African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC)*

"Engaging the East African Diaspora"

17:30–18:30 Launch of CIGI-SAMP Diaspora Report

Refreshments

BSIA AUDITORIUM

18:30–19:30 Film — *Forward Home: The Power of the Caribbean Diaspora*, with Keith Nurse

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

19:30 Dinner and Reception

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

9:00–10:30 Session 4: Diaspora Engagement from the Global South (II)

Chair: Mary Caesar, *Queen's University*

Ayman Zohry, *Egyptian Society for Migration Studies*

"Diaspora and Development: The Case of Egypt"

Abel Chikanda, *BSIA and SAMP*

"Engaging the Global Zimbabwean Diaspora"

Mariama Awumbila, *Centre for Migration Studies, Accra*

"Engaging the Global Ghanaian Diaspora"

Louis Marcelin, *University of Miami and Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development (INURED)*

Toni Cela, *INURED*

"Engaging the Haitian Diaspora: A Case Study of Its Contributions and Impacts on Capacity Building in Higher Education"

10:30–10:45 Refreshments

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

10:45–12:15 Session 5: Diaspora Engagement in the North

Chair: Jenna Hennebry, *Director, IMRC*

Susanna Groves, *Migration Policy Institute*

"Diaspora Engagement in the United States"

Graeme Hugo, *Australian Migration and Population Research Centre, Adelaide*

"Diaspora Engagement in Australia"

Rupal Mistry, *Comic Relief*

"Donor Engagement with Diaspora Communities: Experiences from the United Kingdom"

John Monahan, *Mosaic Institute*

Natalie Brender, *University of Ottawa*

"Diaspora Engagement in Canadian Foreign Policy: Reasons for Optimism"

OUTSIDE ROOM 142

12:15–13:15 Lunch

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

13:15–14:45 Session 6: Diaspora Networks in Development

Chair: Peter Schatzer, *IOM*

DIASPORAS, DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Jean-Baptiste Meyer, *Institut de recherche pour le développement, Paris*
"Diaspora and Development: Translating the Mantra into Action"

Wisdom Tettey, *University of British Columbia*
"Higher Education Capacity Building in Ghana and the Role of Diaspora Knowledge Networks"

Barj S. Dhahan, *Canada India Foundation*
"Networking Canada and India"

Gabriela Tejada, *École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland*
"Knowledge Transfers by Diaspora Networks and Return: From Development Aspirations to Realities in India"

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

14:45–16:15 Section 7: New Initiatives in Diaspora Engagement

Chair: John Oucho, *AMADPOC*

Keith Nurse, *University of West Indies*
"Diasporic Tourism, Investment and Entrepreneurship"

Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie, *Up!-Africa Ltd.*
"Entrepreneurial SME-led export growth in Africa: What role for the African diaspora?"

Sujata Ramachandran, *SAMP*
"Diaspora Philanthropy in Canada: An African Case Study"

Amarnath Amarasingam, *University of Waterloo*
"Diaspora, Development, and Intra-Community Politics: Sri Lankan Tamils in Canada and Post-War Debates"

16:15–16:30 Refreshments

BSIA MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 142

16:30–17:30 Section 8: Round Table

Chair: Margaret Walton-Roberts, *IMRC/BSIA*

Howard Duncan, *International Metropolis*
Charmaine Bene, *Canadian International Development Agency*
Yallena Cica, *Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade*
Ann Weston, *International Development Research Centre*
Binod Khadria, *Jawaharlal Nehru University*

Concluding Comments

Jonathan Crush, *BSIA*

MEETING ROOM, COURTYARD MARRIOTT HOTEL

19:00 Dinner for Presenters and Participants

List of Participants

| | Name | Organisation |
|----|------------------------|---|
| 1 | Agarwal, Manmohan | Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) |
| 2 | Amarasingam, Amarnath | York University |
| 3 | Awumbila, Mariama | University of Ghana |
| 4 | Battersby, Jane | University Cape Town |
| 5 | Bene, Charmaine | Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) |
| 6 | Brender, Natalie | University of Ottawa |
| 7 | Brinkerhoff, Jennifer | George Washington University |
| 8 | Caesar, Mary | Queen's University |
| 9 | Catta, Alexandre | Balsillie School of International Affairs |
| 10 | Cela, Toni | Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development (INURED) |
| 11 | Chikanda, Abel | Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP) and Balsillie School of International Affairs |
| 12 | Chikezie, Chukwu-Emeka | Up!-Africa Ltd |
| 13 | Cica, Yallena | Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada |
| 14 | Cockburn, Michael | Balsillie School of International Affairs |
| 15 | Crush, Jonathan | Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP) and Balsillie School of International Affairs |
| 16 | Dhahan, Barj | Canada India Foundation |
| 17 | Dodson, Belinda | University of Western Ontario |
| 18 | Duncan, Howard | International Metropolis Project |
| 19 | Gamlen, Alan | University of Wellington |
| 20 | Giel, Meredith | Balsillie School of International Affairs |
| 21 | Graviano, Nicola | International Organization for Migration (IOM) |
| 22 | Groves, Susanna | Migration Policy Institute |
| 23 | Haysom, Gareth | University of Cape Town |
| 24 | Hennebry, Jenna | International Migration Research Centre (IMRC) / Wilfrid Laurier University |
| 25 | Hugo, Graeme | University of Adelaide |
| 26 | Kelly, Philip | York University |
| 27 | Khadria, Binod | Jawaharlal Nehru University |
| 28 | Marcelin, Louis HERN | University of Miami |
| 29 | Medhora, Rohinton | Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) |
| 30 | Mehta, Krishan | Seneca College |
| 31 | Melde, Susanne | African, Caribbean and Pacific Observatory on Migration |
| 32 | Meyer, Jean-Baptiste | Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), Paris |
| 33 | Minto-Coy, Indianna | University of West Indies |
| 34 | Mistry, Rupal | Comic Relief |
| 35 | Mohamoud, Awil | African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) |
| 36 | Monahan, John | The Mosaic Institute |
| 37 | Moniruzzaman, Mohammad | Wilfrid Laurier University |
| 38 | Nicolas, Imelda | Commission on Filipinos Overseas |
| 39 | Nurse, Keith | University of West Indies |

DIASPORAS, DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|---|
| 40 | Omelaniuk, Irena | Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) |
| 41 | Oucho, John | African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC) |
| 42 | Pelletie, Danny | Cuso International |
| 43 | Plaza, Sonia | World Bank |
| 44 | Rajan, Sebastian Irudaya | Centre for Development Studies, Kerala, India |
| 45 | Ramachandran, Sujata | Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP) |
| 46 | Ratha, Dilip | World Bank |
| 47 | Reid, Laurel | Balsillie School of International Affairs |
| 48 | Rodriguez, Edgard | International Development Research Centre (IDRC - Canada) |
| 49 | Schatzer, Peter | International Organisation for Migration (IOM) |
| 50 | Sheiban, Billy | Balsillie School of International Affairs |
| 51 | Skulte-Ouaiss, Jennifer | Lebanese American University |
| 52 | Simao, Tamara | Balsillie School of International Affairs |
| 53 | Surma, Monika | Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada |
| 54 | Tabar, Paul | Lebanese American University |
| 55 | Tawodzera, Godfrey | University of Cape Town |
| 56 | Tejada, Gabriela | École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne |
| 57 | Tetty, Wisdom | University of British Columbia |
| 58 | Tewolde, Helen | Council of Educators of Toronto (CET) |
| 59 | Walton-Roberts, Margaret | International Migration Research Centre (IMRC) / Wilfrid Laurier University |
| 60 | Weston, Ann | International Development Research Centre |
| 61 | Zohry, Ayman | Egyptian Society for Migration Studies |