



## **One-day National Conference On Migration for Development: Challenges and Prospects**

April 11, 2019

In modern globalized era, human migration has become a multifaceted phenomenon involving diverse ways of movements for various reasons. The recent World Migration Report (2018) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) highlights the growing trend of migration—voluntary and involuntary—and estimates that there were 244 million international migrants across the world in 2015. The report also indicates that Pakistan is the sixth largest source of international migrants in the world. While migration provides many opportunities and benefits to origin and host countries, the alarmingly increasing numbers of irregular migrants and exploitation of vulnerable migrants have also made (irregular) migration a serious global security and human rights issue due to its connection with terrorist networks, organized crimes, drugs smuggling and human trafficking. The World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report (2016) also noted that the most likely global risk perceived during the year 2016 was large-scale involuntary migration.

The issue of irregular migration is one of the burning problems throughout the world. However, this issue is of particular concern for Pakistan as hundreds of thousands of people emigrate from the country illegally to other countries (IOM's Migrant Smuggling Data and Research, 2016). The country also ranks at top of the list with reference to prevalence of smuggling and human trafficking. Not surprisingly, each year a large number of irregular migrants, mainly young men, are deported by transit and/or destination countries which not only

brings bad name to Pakistan but also have serious consequences on the migrants and their families who had arranged resources for travelling selling their assets or taking loans with hopes of better lives.

The Department of Sociology, International Islamic University Islamabad, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, and Migrant Resource Centre, Islamabad, intend to jointly organize a one-day National conference on *Migration for Development: Challenges and Prospects* to highlight migration related issues and suggest a way forward to address the challenges. The conference will invite speakers/guests who have diverse experiences in the domain of migration belonging to academics, government departments, civil society organizations, media, and political leaders. It is expected that around 500 participants will attend the conference including academics, students, representatives of concerned govt. ministries/ departments, civil society organizations, media, foreign embassies, law enforcement agencies, and decision makers/political leadership. The conference proceedings along with concrete recommendations will be published and shared with all the stakeholders.

Tentative themes of the conference include:

1. Remittances and Socioeconomic Development
  2. Gender and Migration
  3. Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking
  4. Migration, Refugees, and Displaced Persons
  5. Migration and Media
  6. Migration and Education
- **Venue:** Quaid-I-Azam Auditorium Old Campus
  - **Date:** April 11, 2019
  - **Time:** 09:00 AM to 04:30PM
  - **Participants:** 500 (this will include faculty members, teachers, representative from sponsoring organization and academic colleagues from other universities)
  - **Funding:** Migration Resource Centre and International Centre for Migration Policy Development

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