

SEMINAR

on the occasion of

Seventh Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2022)

Migration, Dignity, Fragility and Pandemics

- Livelihoods of immigrants before and after COVID-19 Pandemics -

on Tuesday 24 May 2022, from 14:00 to 16:00

at Garuda Room in Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa, Bali, Indonesia

organized by (in alphabetic order)

Environmental Law Institute (ELI), Washington DC, USA

Global Infrastructure Fund Research Foundation Japan (GIF Japan), Tokyo, Japan

Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI-SPF), Tokyo, Japan

Migration is dynamic and varies greatly across the globe due to myriad factors, including demography, economy, geography, and environment. As people move, a number of challenges exist that can leave human rights and human dignity as an afterthought to the migration process.

COVID-19 has drastically changed mobility and migration in key spheres, such as transportation, travel, construction, and hospitality. Our collaborative research was conducted between 2020 and 2021; therefore, we had the opportunity to witness a once-in-a-century global pandemic with direct impacts on migration inflows and outflows. Consequently, we have included pandemics as a key theme for consideration in this issue, believing that the research agenda should be informed by the assessment of impacts in both the atoll countries and in the United States – the most common “destination” of Pacific Islanders. This additional research revealed the vulnerabilities of migrants in the destination countries and in their home countries, vulnerabilities that would not otherwise have been apparent.

Our research was also directly impacted by the pandemic. We intended to conduct field research in countries such as the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Maldives, with the RMI and FSM serving as countries of “origin” for migration to the United States. In the Maldives, there is a large domestic migration from the atolls to the newly constructed man-made islands. We experienced research and travel limitations due to COVID-19, where many countries have adopted strict isolation policies to prevent the spread of disease. Therefore, we had to conduct our surveys remotely using the Internet or by asking collaborators living in the area to conduct surveys on our behalf.

Our research also touches on the issue of the intergenerationality of immigrants in terms of how migrants adapt or assimilate into the receiving society, and how the mass media plays a role in the perceptions of migrants and the perceived problems associated with immigration by host countries.

This seminar serves as an arena to disseminate what we have found through our research.

Provisional Agenda

- 14:00 Welcome Remarks by Mikiyasu Nakayama (GIF Japan)
- 14:10 "Methodology and Application of a Migration with Dignity Framework" by Shanna McClain (ELI)
- 14:30 "Alternatives for Atoll Countries to Cope with the Anticipated Sea Level Rise by Climate Change" by Mikiyasu Nakayama (GIF Japan)
- 14:50 "Highly Skilled Migrant Workers as a Vulnerability of Small Island Developing States During the COVID-19 Pandemic" by Miko Maekawa (OPRI-SPF)
- 15:10 Discussions (MC: Shanna McClain)
- Panelists: TBD
- 15:50 Closing Remarks by Shanna McClain (ELI)

[note: tea/coffee and snacks are provided for participants]