



Advocating for the Rights of Indonesia's Migrant Workers National Capacity Building Program, Jakarta, Indonesia Module – 4, 8-11 March 2019

OVERVIEW

The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) in partnership with Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) and Serikat Buruh Migran Indonesia (SBMI) are delivering a capacity building program with Indonesian civil society advocates working to protect and promote the rights of Indonesia's migrant workers (MWs). The program is designed over five modules to build knowledge of rights in Indonesian and international law, to build advocacy skills and networks across Indonesia and countries of destination and share experience from other countries of origin.

Module 4 of the year-long capacity building program was held in Jakarta from March 8-11 with 27 participants. There were some additional participants in this module – advocates from Indonesia working in Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

The module began with participant updates, including reflections on whether they have been able to apply the lessons to their work – and any progress made.

This module had a focus on building participants' knowledge on *Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)* – and how to use the treaty reporting process in advocacy strategies. Program participants had previously successfully lobbied the Indonesian government to translate the UN Committee on Migrant Workers recommendations (concluding observations) into Bahasa Indonesia. **Ellene Sana** from the Centre for Migrant Advocacy in the Philippines shared her experience and tips on using the Convention and the treaty reporting process, including how to follow-up on implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

There was also a focus on the role of Indonesia's diplomatic missions and labour attaches in promoting and protecting the rights of Indonesia's MWs in countries of destination. Ellene was able to share experience and strategies from the Philippines – of engaging with senior officials in Manila – as well as directly with representatives in diplomatic missions. This was followed by a practical engagement exercise with the former Indonesian Consul General to Kuching in Malaysia – Mr. Jahar Gultom. Mr Gultom reflected on his own experiences as well as Indonesian policy and practice. In a very interactive session, participants raised issues faced by Indonesian MWs in countries of destination – and Mr Gultom addressed how missions can intervene, take-up cases and provide assistance in different situations.

Beka Ulung Hapsara from KomnashAM (National Human Rights Commission) presented its role in promoting and protecting the rights of MWs – and how advocates can submit cases/concerns and engage with KomnashAM.

Rafendi Djamin led sessions on the UN Special Procedures on Human Rights (SPs) – building understanding of the role and function of UN SPs on human rights and how to engage with them on cases of concern in Indonesia and countries of destination. The session was followed by a practical exercise to develop communications for the UN SR on Human Rights of Migrants. This session also helped to demonstrate the importance of data gathering in documenting human rights violations and human rights advocacy.

William Gois, Regional Coordinator of MFA, led a session with participants, drawing out their expectations of the support that their governments should provide to migrant workers in countries of destination. William was able to share examples from different countries.

The SBMI participants from KSA, Malaysia and Hong Kong were able to share their experiences of working on the ground in countries of destination – and the challenges in taking up cases, engaging with their own governments and officials and employers in the host country.

NEXT STEPS AND FOLLOW-UP

Participants of the program were asked to reflect and share ideas in module-5 on how CSOs in Indonesia can better work with CSOs in COD – how to build collaboration? They have also been asked to identify steps forward – what would the participants be able to do collectively after the completion of the year-long program.

In plenary, participants suggested content and expectations for the final module. They have identified some key focus areas - *ILO complaints mechanism, sea farers, Law 18 of 2017 – its provisions, and further engagement exercises with government (MoFA).*

Module-4 concluded with the completion of evaluation forms.

