



Final

International Migrants Day 2025 Symposium 7-Cs of Migration: Confronting Challenges and Catalyzing Solutions

Wednesday 17 to Thursday 18, December 2025 (for public)

Friday 19 December 2025 (for ANMRPD members)

Kasem Udyanin Building, 13th Floor, Faculty of Political Science,
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Co-hosted by the Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM),
Center of Excellence on Migration and Development, Institute of Asian Studies, and
Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University

With support and collaboration from Chulalongkorn University, the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC-Thailand), the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR-Thailand), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Department of Special Investigation (DSI), Ministry of Justice - Thailand, UN Women, IOM, UN Global Compact Network Thailand.

Background

The three-day symposium (two days for the public, one day for members of the ANMRPD; Asian Network on Migration Research and Policy Development) will be held in Bangkok to mark the International Migrants Day with hybrid participation. The event will explore the multifaceted drivers of migration through the framework of the "7-Cs" - *Climate, Conflict, CARE (Community, Accessibility, Respect, Economy), Corporate, Cyber, Crime, Creativity, and Emerging Issues and New Trends in ASEAN and Beyond*. Together, these eight themes capture the complex and interconnected forces to shape both the causes and consequences of migration across regions. By dedicated sessions to each theme, the symposium seeks to unpack their interlinkages and engage with them in a holistic and integrative manner.

The urgency of convening this symposium is underscored by the unprecedented rise in forced displacement worldwide; by mid-2024, more than 123 million individuals had been uprooted globally for diverse reasons. Climate change remains a critical driver of migration, as extreme weather events and ecosystem degradation force communities to abandon their homes in search of safety and sustainable livelihoods. At the same time, escalating conflicts and insecurity have rendered millions stateless and vulnerable, which overwhelm the asylum and protection systems that are struggling to keep pace. Adding to these challenges, the rapid spread of misinformation, often facilitated through digital and social media, has heightened risks for migrants by fueling xenophobia, policy backlashes, and even violence, as seen in recent episodes across Europe. These dynamics are interconnected; they co-exist and reinforce one another in powerful ways.

In response, the symposium seeks to create a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and collaborative solution-building. Through the 7-Cs framework and its visual representation, it will bring together voices from academia, civil society, the private sector, governments, youth organizations, international organizations, and migrant communities. By incorporating themes such as corporate responsibility and creativity, the symposium moves beyond conventional migration narratives, acknowledging how economic neglect and human innovation shape mobility. The ultimate goal is to surface scalable, forward-looking strategies that safeguard migrant rights while strengthening migration governance amid rapidly shifting global dynamics.

The symposium seeks to catalyze inclusive and innovative approaches to migration that transcend sectoral silos. Central to this effort is placing migrants and their communities at the heart of the solution framework, ensuring that policies remain people-centered and responsive to lived realities. According to the Norwegian Refugee Council, the global inability to prevent the displacement of 123 million individuals represents "a damning verdict on our ability" – a challenge that this symposium seeks to address directly. By fostering cross-cutting dialogue and a collective vision, the event aims to outline a strategy for migration governance that is resilient, grounded in rights, and oriented towards the future.

This symposium will draw on the latest data, policy experiences, and research, ranging from global migration reports and regional studies, to inform discussions and actionable recommendations.

Objectives

The symposium aims to:

- 1. Deepen understanding of migration drivers and impacts**
Examine how the 7-Cs - climate, conflict, care, corporate, cyber, crime, creativity and emerging issues - shape migration patterns and affect migrant well-being.
- 2. Showcase and scale rights-based solutions**
Highlight innovations, evidence-based approaches (policy, technology, community initiatives) that address migration challenges in a rights-based way.
- 3. Influence cutting-edge research for informing policy**
Generate concrete and actionable recommendations for governments, regional bodies such as ASEAN, and global policymakers, ensuring research and grassroots experience inform macro-level strategies.
- 4. Amplify underrepresented voices**
Engage diverse stakeholders, missing voices in policy discourse, development, and implementation: Bring in stakeholders often sidelined in migration debates – e.g., private sector leaders, rural community representatives, youth leaders, creative sector and corporate actors – alongside researchers, NGOs, governments, and ASEAN sectoral bodies.
- 5. Strengthen Chulalongkorn University's leadership in migration research**
Position Chulalongkorn University—through the Asian Research Center for Migration, Center of Excellence for Migration and Development at the Institute of Asian Studies—as a leading hub for academic excellence and policy engagement on migration by fostering regional and international networks, promoting knowledge exchange, and advancing high-quality research and capacity development in line with global standards.

Overall Themes and Sessions

Each of the seven themes will be addressed in its own session, with a final session on emerging issues and new trends.

1. Climate & Migration
2. Conflict and Displacement
3. CARE
4. Corporate Responsibility and Economic Drivers
5. Cyber and Information
6. Crime, Exploitation, Violence, and Trafficking in Persons
7. Creativity, Culture and Mobility, and
8. Emerging issues and New Trends in ASEAN and Beyond.

Format and Approach

The two-day event will feature plenary panels for each thematic session, preceded by keynote remarks to set the context. Each session will have time for Q&A and potentially the discussions, encouraging interaction among participants. Although planned as a primarily in-person event in Bangkok (with live streaming options), we will facilitate virtual participation to reach a wider audience. Individual speakers and panelists will include regional experts, researchers, scholars, innovators, and policymakers corresponding to each “C” theme. The final day will serve as a venue for participants of the recently established Asian Network on Migration Research and Policy Development (ANMRPD) to engage in discussions and strategize for upcoming collaborative efforts.

Expected Outcomes and Impacts

By weaving the diverse “7Cs” into a unified agenda, the symposium aims to produce:

1. **Knowledge Dissemination:** Publish symposium proceedings and explore academic outputs (e.g., peer-reviewed journals, books such as a special issue of Southeast Asia: A Multidisciplinary Journal (SEAMJ) to share insights, recommendations, and research.
2. **Policy Influence:** Provide actionable policy proposals on key issues (e.g., climate migration, cyber safety, care economy, crime prevention, and corporate conduct) for ASEAN and national leaders.
3. **Collaboration & Networks:** Expand and strengthen networks among academia, civil society, government, private sector, and international organizations for ongoing cooperation.
4. **Innovation & Impact:** Identify scalable solutions and pilot projects through tech-driven integration while raising public awareness on how migration intersects with climate change, disinformation, and the creative economy.

Participants

The symposium brings together a range of stakeholders, including representatives from academia, researchers, students, institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs/NGOs), private sector, government, ASEAN sectoral bodies, development partners, UN agencies, embassies, youth, persons living with disabilities (PLWDs), the elderly, and the wider public. Special effort is made to amplify voices often missing from high-level forums – such as rural community organizers who witness out-migration firsthand, corporate investors operating in affected regions, and young digital activists. This cross-sector audience will ensure discussions connect grassroots realities to policy frameworks.

Program Agenda

International Migrants Day 2025 Symposium “7-Cs of Migration: Confronting Challenges and Catalyzing Solutions”

Venue: Faculty of Political Science, 13th Floor, Building 3
Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Day 1: Wednesday, 17 December 2025

Time	Program	Chair
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and Welcome with Video Presentation	
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Ceremony: Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Professor Dr. Wilert Puriwat, President of Chulalongkorn University.● Associate Professor Dr. Pavika Sriratanaban, Executive Director of the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University.● Associate Professor Dr. Prakorn Siriprakob, Dean of Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University.● Ms. Michiko Ito, Chief of Mission (ad Interim), IOM Thailand.	
09:30-09:40	Overview <p>Asst. Prof. Dr Ratchada Jayagupta, Director, The Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), Center of Excellence in Migration and Development, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University.</p>	
09:40-09:55	Keynote 1 <p>Mr. Hiroshi Ono, Executive Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan</p>	
09:55-10:00	Photo Session	
10:00-10:10	Coffee/Tea Break	

10:10 - 11:40 (90 mins) **Session 1: Climate Change and Migration: Confronting Inequalities and Developing Coordinated Solutions** Dr. Prabhakar S.V.R.K., IGES, Japan

How do rising sea levels, extreme weather, and resource stress drive displacement? Discussions will link climate adaptation to migration planning.

- **Prof. Paula Banerjee, AIT:** Unravelling the climate change, gender and migration nexus and policy way forward.
- **Dr. Sara Vigil, SEI:** Climate change, migration and justice in a transboundary world.
- **Ms. Sheetal Patil, IHS:** From source to destination: Understanding (im)mobility as a climate adaptation continuum.
- **Ms. Dyane Epstein, IOM:** Navigating climate mobility in Asia: Governance, challenges, and emerging solutions in Asia.
- **Dr. Binaya Pasakhala, ICIMOD:** Embracing migration as an adaptation strategy in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya region: Learnings from the co-creation approach in Nepal.
- **Mr. Kunal Singh, SPC:** Climate change and migration — Fiji experience as a model for the Pacific region.
- **Discussant: Mr. Boonthan Verawongse, Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF), Thailand.**

11:40 - 13:10 (90 mins) **Session 2: Conflict and Displacement** Dr. Henry Thomas Simarmata, Jurist, Apinlaw (Associated Program for International Law), Indonesia

War, persecution, and violence remain the largest causes of forced migration. Session topics include refugee protection, peacebuilding, and reintegration.

- **Dr. Cynthia Maung, Founder, Mae Tao Clinic, Mae Sot, Thailand.**
- **Dr. Yustina Trihoni Nalesti Dewi, Jurist, Soegijapranata Catholic University (Indonesia), Member of Indonesian Inter-ministerial Committee of the Studies of International Humanitarian Law.**
- **Prof. Ahsan Ullah, Adjunct Professor, Chulalongkorn University & FASS Universiti Brunei Darussalam.**
- **Mr. Aung Myat, Graduate scholar, Institute for Peace Studies, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.**

13:10 - 14:30 Lunch (12th floor)

14:30 - 16:00 (90 mins)	<p>Session 3: CARE (Community, Access, Respect, Economy) Integration, Protection and Border Development</p> <p><i>The session emphasizes social integration, access to services, cultural respect, and economic justice for migrants.</i></p> <p>14:30-15:00 Panel (30 mins): Integration of Displaced persons from Myanmar into Thailand labor market: Progress & Lessons Learnt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assoc. Prof. Dr. Naruemon Thabchumpon, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Convenor. ● Mr. Zcongklod Khawjang, Director of Displaced Persons Policy Coordinating and Illegal Migration, Foreign Affairs Division, Ministry of Interior. ● Dr. Premjai Vungsiripaisal, ARCM. <p>15:00-16:00 Presentations (60 mins)</p> <p>Integration of Migrant Worker from Indonesia, Thailand in Taiwan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assoc. Prof. Dr. Li-Chuan Liu Huang, Associate Professor, Department of Labor Relations National Chung Cheng University Taiwan. <p>Situations of Forced Criminality at Thailand -Myanmar Borders and Care for Scam site Evacuees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prof. Emeritus Dr. Supang Chantavanich, Senior Advisor to ARCM ● Mr. Saw Aye Min, ARCM Project Researcher. <p>Silver economy: Caring for foreign elderly retirees in northern Thailand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Aungkhana Kmonpetch, ARCM Senior Researcher. ● Ms. Waranya Jitpong, ARCM Researcher. 	Professor Emeritus Dr. Supang Chantavanich; Senior Advisor to ARCM
16:00 - 16:10	Coffee/Tea Break	
16:10 - 17:40 (90 mins)	<p>Session 4: Corporate Responsibility & Economic Drivers</p> <p><i>This session examines how businesses can both influence and address migration challenges. It underscores the need to embed Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD), ensure fair labour and ethical recruitment, and foster collaboration among businesses, government, and civil society to promote inclusive and responsible practices for migrant workers.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Jitradee Singhakowin, National Project Officer, IOM Thailand. ● Ms. Sirilak Younglert, HR Director, Thai Union Group PCL. ● Mr. Adisorn Kerdmongkol, Coordinator of the Migrant Working Group. ● Mr. Thiraphat Jetinai, Specialist on Migrant Labor Systems, Ministry of Labour. 	Dr. Kuanruthai Siripatthanakosol, Deputy Secretary-General, UN Global Compact Network Thailand; cdh,k8jt
17:40 - 18:00	Wrap-up & Announcements	
18:00 - 20:00	Networking and Reception Dinner (Auditorium Foyer)	Dr. Pimmada Charoensilp

Day 2: Thursday, 18 December 2025

Time	Program	Chair
08:30 - 09:00	Registration	
09:00 - 09:15	Keynote 2 H.E. Varawut Silpa-archa , Former Minister of Social Development and Human Security.	
09:15 - 09:20	Photo session	
09:20 - 10:50 (90 mins)	<p>Session 5: The Digital World and Migration – From Misinformation to Exploitation</p> <p><i>The session focuses on how the digital world affects migration: from misinformation campaigns to online exploitation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Thin War War Kyaw, Youth Leader from Rays of Youth, Tak Province. • Ms. Warangkana MUTUMOL, Director of Strategy, Program Quality and Impact, and Co-chair of the Global Civic Space and Child Human Rights Defenders Task Team, Save the Children Thailand. • Asst. Prof. Shehreen Amin Bhuiyan, Department of Public Administration, University of Dhaka. • Ms. Siriprapa Weerachaising, Outreach & Partnerships Manager, Trust & Safety, TikTok. • Mr. Santi Siritheerajesd, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Thailand. 	Dr.Srida Tanta-atipanit, Managing Director, Internet Foundation for the Development of Thailand.
10:50 - 11.10	Keynote 3: Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand (TBC)	With Photo Session
11:10 - 12:40 (90 mins)	<p>Session 6: Crimes, Exploitation, Violence, and Trafficking in Persons - Transnational Cyber Scam and Forced Criminality in Southeast Asia</p> <p><i>The session addresses the convergence of cyber scams, trafficking in persons, and forced criminality in Southeast Asia, highlighting how migrants and vulnerable populations are coerced into criminal activities within transnational networks. Through multi-stakeholder perspectives, the session explores legal, operational, and protection gaps, emphasizing victim-centered justice, non-criminalisation, and strengthened regional cooperation and beyond.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Sri Danti Anwar, Representative of Indonesia to the ACWC for Women’s Rights. • Pol.Lt.Gen Trirong Phiewpan, Deputy Senior Inspector General, the Royal Thai Police. • Pol.Maj. Dr. Arit Tatsaphan, Special Case Expert, Department of Special Investigation (DSI), Ministry of Justice. 	<p>Asst. Prof. Dr.Ratchada Jayagupta; Director, ARCM, Center of Excellence for Migration and Development at the Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University.</p> <p>Co-Chair: Dr. Theerapat Keawjunant; Director of the Bureau of Policy and Strategy, Department of Special Investigation (DSI), Ministry of Justice, Thailand.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rob Abrams, Head of Law Enforcement Outreach, APAC, Meta Platforms, Inc. • Ms. Among Resi, Head of Protection and Border Governance Unit, IOM Thailand. • Mr. Ed Delfin, Director, Investigations and Law Enforcement Development for International Justice Mission (IJM) 	
12:40 - 13:40	Lunch (12th Floor)	
13:40 - 15:10 (90 mins)	<p>Session 7: Creativity and Expression as a Pathway to Address Violence Against Women Migrant Workers</p> <p><i>The panel discussion, supported by PROTECT regional project, examines the role of women migrant workers in building inclusive host communities, emphasizing prevention and response to violence against women and girls. It showcases creative approaches—such as participatory theater, storytelling, visual arts, and digital campaigns—as tools for empowerment and awareness-raising. The discussion will foster dialogue among governments, UN agencies, academia, and civil society, and generate practical recommendations for integrating these participatory methods into violence prevention and response strategies, including those addressing migration.</i></p> <p>Part I: Panel Discussion: Creativity, Culture and Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Kyan Par, President of Network of Migrant Domestic Workers in Thailand with HomeNet Thailand • Ms. Sopheap Lim, Field Officer with the Raks Thai Foundation • Ms. Yuhanee Jehka, Executive Director of HOST International Thailand <p>Part II: Creative Storytelling Exhibition (Auditorium Foyer)</p>	Ms. Nighina Azizov; Programme Specialist, Ending Violence Against Women, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
15:10 - 15:20	Coffee/Tea Break	
15:20 - 16:50 (90 mins)	<p>Session 8: Emerging Issues and New Trends in ASEAN and Beyond</p> <p><i>This forward-looking session addresses recent phenomena reshaping mobility: remote work and digital nomads, artificial intelligence, pandemics, geopolitical shifts, etc.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Pia Oberoi, Senior Advisor on Migration and Human Rights (Asia Pacific), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights • Ms. Jitvipa Benjasil, Director of Social Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand • Ms. Caitlin McCaffrie, Policy Director, Centre for Policy Development, ADFM • Dr. Sudarat Musikawong, Associate Professor, Mahidol University • Representative of Migrants 	Dr. Bhanubhatra Jittiang, Representative of Thailand to AICHR; ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights

- **Ms. Patima Tungpuchayakul, LPN - Labour Protection Network**
- **Representative from Rapid Asia, Narrowing Skills Gaps: Labor Mobility from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar to Thailand (June 2025) -tbc**

16:50 - 17:00 **Closing Remarks & Way Forward**

Asst. Prof. Dr. Bhanubhatra Jittiang, Vice Dean, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University.

Day 3: Friday, 19 December 2025 [Closed Meeting for Members]

The Asian Network for Migration Research and Policy Development (ANMRPD)

Meeting venue: Room L Social Innovation hub; Ground Floor, Chulalongkorn University.

Time	Program	Participation
09:30 - 10:00	Registration	
10:00 - 10:30	Opening: Introduction of Session Chairs, Members of ANMRPD, and Meeting Objectives. Debrief Session - IMD 2025.	Welcoming remarks: Director of ARCM. Opening Remarks: Advisors to the ANMRPD; Professor Emeritus Dr. Amara Pongsapich and Professor Emeritus Surichai Wun'Gaeo and introduce the Chairs of the meeting.
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee / Tea Break	
10:45 - 12:15	Introduction to the ANMRPD's Charters, Discussion and Brainstorm Session.	Professor Dr. Ahsan Ullah, Dr. Prabhakar S.V.R.K., and Founder Members of ANMRPD
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch	
13:15 - 14:30	Discussion and Brainstorm Session (Cont.) Planning for Academic articles' Development- special edition, and IMD 2026.	Members of ANMRPD and Dr. Nion Sirimongkonlertkun; introduction of new members.
14:30 - 15:00	Conclusion & Way Forward	Chairs of the meeting and Members.

Overall Themes and Sessions

Each of the seven themes will be addressed in its own session, with a final session on emerging/new issues.

1. Climate & Migration

How do rising sea levels, extreme weather and resource stress drive displacement? Discussions will link climate adaptation to migration planning. We will examine initiatives like climate mobility innovation labs and policies integrating climate/climate justice into migration law. Climate change is driving people from their homes (e.g. farmers in drought), yet migration and conflict are often missing from national climate policies. The session will stress the need for anticipatory and coordinated solutions that help communities adapt in place and migrate safely when needed.

Questions for Discussion:

Q1: Climate-related mobility and immobility are often sensitive topics for governments. What practical approaches can help create a safe, evidence-based space for governments and stakeholders to openly discuss these issues and collaboratively plan for climate impacts?

Q2: What are the most promising models for community-led or locally driven climate mobility planning? Or what are the important elements of a promising model for community-led mobility planning?

Q3: Where do you see the most urgent policy gaps, and which innovations could realistically be implemented in the next 5 years?

2. Conflict & Displacement

War, persecution and violence remain the largest causes of forced migration. Session topics include refugee protection, peacebuilding, and reintegration. 2024 saw unprecedented displacement (123.2 million globally). We will discuss how to strengthen asylum systems and how climate-resilience efforts can serve peace, as recommended by recent research.

Session overarching questions:

Q1: In what ways can peacebuilding strategies and post-conflict reconstruction reduce the likelihood of forced migration in fragile regions?

Q2: How can countries (e.g. in the ASEAN) strengthen regional cooperation to ensure the protection and durable solutions for people displaced by conflict and persecution?

3. CARE (Community, Access, Respect, Economy)

The CARE theme emphasizes social integration, access to services, cultural respect, and economic justice for migrants. Topics include migrant access to health care, education, legal aid and social protection, plus preserving migrants' cultural identity and ensuring fair wages. In ASEAN countries, migrants often lack health coverage, resulting in uncompensated care and worse public health. Ensuring migrants can access basic services and decent work is essential to their safety. The symposium will discuss community-based models (e.g. peer support networks) and policy tools that improve integration and respect cultural diversity.

Session overarching questions:

Q1: What community-based models have proven effective in integrating migrants into host societies while preserving cultural identity and cohesion?

Q2: How can governments and local authorities improve migrant access to public services—especially healthcare, education, and legal aid—without overwhelming existing systems?

4. Corporate Responsibility and Economic Drivers

The role of businesses in migration is twofold: employers and investors can either exacerbate push/pull factors or be part of solutions. This session will examine how corporate investment (or neglect) in agriculture, industry and services affects migration, and how employers can uphold migrant rights. Without safe, legal migration pathways and decent work, migrants are at higher risk of exploitation. As one advocacy group notes, we need businesses “to make sure migrant rights are respected” and to prevent labor abuses. Companies will be invited to discuss responsible recruitment, rural investment to reduce forced migration, and private-sector innovation (e.g. certified ethical supply chains).

Session overarching questions:

Q1: What are the key challenges that businesses and migrant workers face in ensuring fair and decent work-oriented labour practices, especially regarding recruitment fees?

Q2: How can mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) laws shape corporate responsibility and migrant worker protection in global and regional supply chains?

5. Cyber and Information

This session explores how the digital environment affects migrants’ lives, both positively and negatively. Online tools can help migrants access information, find work, and stay connected, but they also expose them to misinformation, scams, and different forms of online exploitation. The session will present how migrants use online media, the risks they face, and how these risks are currently being addressed. It will also highlight key challenges and gaps in existing responses, recommendations and policy ideas, and reflect on the roles of government, private sector, and civil society in protecting migrants. The importance of working together across sectors to create safer digital spaces and stronger protection for migrants.

Session overarching questions:

Q1: How does online misinformation affect migration policies, public perception, and migrant safety—and what countermeasures are effective?

Q2: What regulatory and technological innovations can protect migrants from digital exploitation, such as job fraud, identity theft, or online trafficking?

6. Crimes, Exploitation, Violence, and Trafficking in Persons - Transnational Cyber Scam and Forced Criminality in Southeast Asia

This session addresses the convergence of cyber scams, trafficking in persons, and forced criminality in Southeast Asia, highlighting how migrants and vulnerable populations are coerced into criminal activities within transnational networks. Through multi-stakeholder perspectives, the session explores legal, operational, and protection gaps, emphasizing victim-centered justice, non-criminalisation, and strengthened regional cooperation and beyond.

Session overarching questions:

Q1: How does the convergence of cyber scams, trafficking in persons, and forced criminality challenge existing legal, law enforcement, and migration governance frameworks in Southeast Asia, and where do the most critical gaps remain?

Q2: What victim-centered, non-criminalizing, and regionally coordinated responses are needed to protect migrants and vulnerable populations while strengthening accountability across transnational criminal networks?

7. Creativity, Culture and Mobility

Creative industries often both draw on and support migrant talent. This session explores how culture, arts and innovation drive migration and integration. For example, cities attracting filmmakers, artists or tech entrepreneurs often become migration hubs. We will highlight migrant-led cultural initiatives and the role of the arts in social cohesion. Creative sectors rely on diverse, international talent to innovate. Speakers will showcase programs (e.g. migrant artist fellowships, cross-cultural festivals, creative entrepreneurship training) that leverage “creativity” to both empower migrants and enrich host societies.

Session overarching questions:

Q1: How do creative and cultural industries act as pull factors for migration, and how can these sectors contribute to inclusive development in host communities?

Q2: What policy measures can support migrant-led innovation and entrepreneurship—especially in the arts, media, and digital sectors—as tools for economic and social integration?

8. Emerging Issues and New Trends

This forward-looking session addresses recent phenomena reshaping mobility: remote work and digital nomads, artificial intelligence, pandemics, geopolitical shifts, etc. Speakers will discuss how COVID-era remote-work trends led many countries to institute digital nomad visas, blurring the line between tourism and labor migration. We will also consider how AI and deepfakes can stoke xenophobia (as global elections have shown), and how future crises (e.g. urban climate shocks, food shortages) might drive new migration patterns. This session will invite creative policy ideas (e.g. digital worker visas, climate-adaptive urban planning) to anticipate and manage emerging migration.

Session overarching questions:

Q1: How can emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and digital ID systems reshape migration governance, access to services, and the protection of migrant rights?

Q2: In the context of increasing remote work, digital nomadism, and post-pandemic labor shifts, how should migration policy adapt to new forms of mobility that blur the lines between tourism, work, and long-term migration?

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