



Living Stone Gateway to Indonesia 30 January to 11 February 2011

Learning path: the delicate balance between man and nature, the global and local, unity and diversity.



We spent a most agreeable learning journey in Java and Bali. In Jakarta, the political and economic capital, we met Belgian entrepreneurs and leaders who confronted us with the ambitions of a developing economy in full expansion. We got aware of the impact of religion in a secular Islamic country. In Jogjakarta, we reflected on social entrepreneurship through the ViaVia business model. We discussed with faculty and students about international labour standards. We learn about volcanoes and their impact on society. The tour concluded in Bali paradise with its *overwinteraars* and nature activists.



Dominique Vanderhaeghen, Flanders Investment & Trade, Jakarta, 31 January 2011



SEMINAR

Strengthening Migration Governance

February 2, 2011- A small group of Living Stone Gateway travellers from the worlds of social law and social employment consultation enters the ‘Laboratory of Diplomacy’ at the **UPN University** in Yogyakarta. Professor **Ludiro MADU** welcomes the Belgian delegation and introduces the department of international relations and its international outreach (exchange programs with Malaysia, Turkey, and Czech Republic). The Belgian delegation is introduced by Uji Nyalee. Uji designs and organizes tourism activities at the ViaViaTraveler Café in Jogjakarta, and is completing a MA in Tourism. She was a facilitator to the Belgian production team who realised a documentary on Indonesian overseas domestic helpers ' *To Serve* ' *Vous êtes servis* '(2009) . Director Jorge Léon invited Uji to the première at KunstenFestival Brussel in 2010.



Migration helps to remedy shortages of labour in fast growing economies. Indonesian domestic helpers (TKI) are most welcomed by the new middle class in the Middle East and South East Asia. Migration is also an issue in Europe migration to remedy future shortages of

labour and skills due to the ageing population. These women live in their employer's residence and perform various duties, such as cooking, cleaning and child-minding.

But low skilled migrant workers are very vulnerable to economic shocks, exploitation and human rights abuses. Violations include performing duties not specified in the original contract, denied rest days and/or statutory holidays, physical and verbal abuse, as well as passport withholding by employers or agencies. A 2007 report sponsored by Oxfam-Hong Kong revealed that 22 percent of all Indonesian domestic workers in the country were underpaid –or remunerated below the 2006 statutory MAW of HK\$ 3,400 per month.



The issue brought forward by the Belgian delegates was: *‘Do international agreements – involving both sending and receiving states – lead to greater protection of overseas workers?’*

The strong labour regulation which exists in most welfare states still has to be constructed in many emerging countries. However free trade and global competition put pressure on traditional economies to preserve and enhance their shares of the world. The failure of EPA (Economic Partnership Agreements)- negotiation clearly shows the limitations of European free trade policy. Labour and human rights provisions in free trade agreements as a way to handle these shortcomings of the international trade system; have shown to be rather weak. The inclusion of labour provisions in the bilateral trade and investment agreements of the European Union (EU) with third countries, and demands for a more complete ratification and implementation of the ILO Conventions as a means to strengthen labour regulation, question the existing socio-economic model with sometimes large privileges for the local elite and business community.



<http://islamizationwatch.blogspot.com/2010/07/saudi-cleric-calls-for-muslim-maids.html>

The Belgian delegation illustrated how transnational agreements, facilitated and supervised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) are discussed at the country's National Council of Labour by the representatives of employers, the unions and the government - up to integration in the national jurisdiction. In June 2011, Belgium will play an active role at the ILO-Conference in Geneva to conclude an international convention on domestic workers rights. The lengthiest part of the negotiation will be to find a balance between general guiding principles and country 'specifics. Once the text of the convention agreed upon, the next step for ILO is the adoption of the Convention by a maximum of governments (official signature). ILO has no power to bring violations to the court of justice, but diplomacy can put pressure on countries that signed the convention.

'We can learn about migration governance, but it doesn't work here', replied a student when Roland Waeyaert told about an Emirati Sheika and her daughters condemned in Brussels in 2008 for the exploitation and confinement of 20 migrant workers from SE Asia. In order to realize a breakthrough as Sister Jeanne Devos National Domestic Workers' Movement in India, the students refer to the power of internet. The National Domestic Workers' Movement is a non-governmental organization operating for and with domestic workers, child domestic workers and migrant workers. Accordingly, Sr. Jeanne started her work by recording the stories of the domestic workers, which were then processed for the sake of a social analysis. Showcasing the true conditions of domestic workers resulted in a revolution. The recent developments in the Middle East and North Africa prove the students are right.



This seminar is not an end point; information is exchanged between Indonesian professors and Belgian visitors.. Next edition in February 2012.

With special thanks to **Dominique Vanderhaegen**, Flanders Investment & Trade Representative in Jakarta and **Mie Cornoedus**, social entrepreneur in Jogjakarta, and her most charming and effective Tour Manager Uji Nyalee.
www.viaviajogja.com/viavia_jogjakarta_welcome.htm

Living Stone Gateway Delegation to Jogjakarta:

Roland WAEYAERT, general manager Ex-Change (www.exchange.be)

Charles ISTASSE, UCM (Union Des Classes Moyennes)

Marc WATTE, trader

Jos MEYERS, expert to the Trade Court

Marianne WEHNERT, therapeutic

Lutgart DUSAR, Living Stone Centre for Intercultural Entrepreneurship, www.lscope.com



Notes

1. **OSCE** : Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organization. Its mandate includes issues such as arms control, human rights, freedom of the press and fair elections. Most of its 3,500-plus staff are engaged in field operations, with only around 10% in its headquarters.
The report shows that migration may help to remedy future shortages of labour and skills in OSCE countries, but cannot fully replace the ageing European population. According to the report, constant inflows of some 13 million immigrants per year would be necessary in the OSCE region to keep the ratio between the total number of elderly persons (aged 65 and over) and the number of persons of working age (from 15 to 64) constant till 2050.
2. Emilyzen, Ignacio and Yesenia, Mejia (March 2009), **Managing labour migration: The case of the Filipino and Indonesian domestic helper market in Hong Kong**. ILO Asian Regional Programme on Governance of Labour Migration Working Paper No.23.
3. The inclusion of labour provisions in EU's bilateral trade and investment agreements, HIVA-ACV, January 2011, 88p.
4. <http://www.domesticworkerrights.org> (Sister Jeanne Devos in India)
5. Living Stone Gateway on www.lscope.com
6. ViaVia Jogjakarta : <http://viaviajogja.tumblr.com>

