

Abstract Lecture Lilia Ormonbekova

December 15th, 2009, CMR

The research analyses labour migration regimes in four Central Asian states in the time period of 1990 – 2009, since dissolution of the Soviet Union till present. The author provides observations on driving forces behind labour migration policies and factors impeding their effectiveness, by analyzing governments' involvement into formulation of regulatory frameworks, their responses to a massive phenomenon of migration, while also exploring opinions of civil society, international actors and migrants on decision-making in the area of labour migration.

Various levels of socio-economic development are the main reason for peoples' movements within Central Asia. In terms of migrant sending and receiving countries, Central Asian states can be divided in two groups: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are defined as sending ones, while Kazakhstan is more characterized as a host country. The author projects several conditions common for establishment of effective migration policies in liberal countries on Central Asian regimes, thus allowing for detection of mechanisms lacking. Despite different characteristics, the states often follow similar ways of labour migration policy development, without taking definitive attitudes towards various kinds of population movements (e.g., outward and inward, ethnic and economic). The paper also reveals insignificant level of Central Asian countries' respect towards international standards in labour migration and "benign neglect" of migrants' contribution to countries' development. The author urges Central Asian states to establish effective migration policies that do not only aim at increase of remittances, but pay sufficient attention to respects of migrants' rights both at home country and abroad.

At the December 15th presentation at the CMR Lilia will present her findings on regulation of labour migration in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.