
***Refugee Crises in the Twenty-First Century:
Asia-Pacific Perspectives and Responses Workshop***

Australian National University, Canberra, 27-28 February 2006

Hosted by the Asia Pacific Regional Migration Forum

One of the most significant issues facing our region is the cross-border movement of people. This includes migration flows provoked by political, economic and ecological instability within the region (including outflows of refugees from Burma, North Korea and elsewhere) and flows of asylum seekers entering the Asia-Pacific Region from other parts of the world. In the past few years the national governments of the region have become increasingly closely engaged in negotiations on cross-border flows of people. However, these negotiations are often conducted at a bilateral level, and frequently focus on collaboration to strengthen border controls. Meanwhile international treaties and organizations designed to protect the rights of refugees have faced new challenges in the international environment of the twenty-first century.

Against this background, the workshop will bring together prominent participants from several countries of our region to share their perspectives on refugee crises in our region, and on possible ways to improve protection of the rights of refugees and other border-crossers in the Asia-Pacific. We hope that this may become part of an ongoing dialogue creating closer regional cooperation amongst scholars, NGO experts and others on this important topic.

Confirmed participants:

Prof. Koki Abe, Kanagawa University, Japan; Board Member, Japan Civil Liberties Union; Member, Refugee Studies Forum, Japan.

Topic: (tba)

Mr. Hamdan Adnan - Human Rights Commissioner, Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
SUHAKAM and Refugees in Malaysia
Topic: (tba)

Ms. Devi Novianti, Program Manager of Christian-Action, Chung King Mansion Service Centre, Hong Kong.
Topic: "Meeting the Challenges of Ethnic Minorities and Refugees in Hong Kong"

Dr. Riwanto Tirtosudarmo, Senior Research Fellow, The Research Center for Society and Culture, Indonesian Institute of Sciences
Topic: "Critical Issues in Forced Migration Study and the Refugee Crisis in Southeast Asia".