



IOM International Organization for Migration  
СБМ Созмони Баиналмилалии Мухочират  
МОМ Международная Организация по Миграции

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **IOM TAJIKISTAN**

# **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “ECONOMIC DYNAMICS OF LABOUR MIGRANT REMITTANCES IN TAJIKISTAN”**

Migrant remittances, defined as transfer of funds from migrants to relatives or friends in their country of origin, have become an increasingly important feature of modern economic life. Remittances are now recognized as an important source of global development finance. They provide much sought after foreign exchange to recipient countries, while supplementing the domestic incomes of millions of poor families across the world. As World Bank stated in its study, worldwide, migrant workers remitted a whopping sum of US \$225 billion in 2005.

Many different actors are now taking an interest in the topic, including governments, private banks, international financial institutions, and civil society. International organizations and other entities such as the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), national banks, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as donors including DFID, EU, CIDA and others are taking initiatives to better understand the nature and scope of remittances and identify ways of maximizing their development impact in countries of origin.

Tajik living standards have remained heavily dependent upon remittances from abroad. According to Tajikistan's National Bank, migrant workers sent home almost US \$260 million in 2004, which is comparable with the national budget.

The conference produced a compilation of information and best practices on different aspects of remittances. It brought together 80 national and international stakeholders as well as experts in several aspects of remittances with the goals of promoting dialogue, exchanging perspectives, and sharing key learning experiences. The results of IOM/UNDP pilot project “Enhancing the development impact of labour migrant remittances” was presented and have been highly assessed by the participants. The most interesting point was the presentation of the Heads of Migrants Household Initiatives Groups (MHIG) established in two pilot Jamoats (Communities) on 8 semi-scaled projects for rehabilitation of local infrastructures. This was achieved through contributions made by labour migrants remittances and matched with the IOM/UNDP funds. Total cost of these semi-scaled projects constituted US \$8798, of which US \$3913 was donated by labour migrants and the rest coming from IOM/UNDP funds. At the end of the conference participants held discussions in two groups, suggestions and recommendations were proposed accordingly, taking into consideration the current state of affairs in Tajikistan. The conference also established opportunities for networking and collaborative efforts between and among public and private organizations, stakeholders and experts for future fruitful cooperation on further enhancement of the development impact of migrants' remittances.

Government representatives highlighted the support of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for replicating an IOM pilot project in other parts of Tajikistan to enhance the impact of labour migrant remittances.

The conference took place on 25 and 26 January 2006 in Dushanbe, “Kokhi Vahdat” complex.

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