“Business and Cities: Sharing common ground for practical solutions”
The Hague Process (THP)

- **Bridging gaps** between all stakeholders worldwide in the field of refugees and migration to create synergies between **policy** and **research**.

- “Stakeholders”: government ministries, UN bodies, int. organizations, civil society, cities, private sector.

- “Research”: refugees and migration, relevant to policy.
"Expert Consultations"
- Johannesburg
- Manila
- Toronto
- Istanbul

Regions: Asia, Africa

Themes:
- Environmental degradation
- Cities
- BUSINESS
1) CITIES AND MIGRATION:

- Urbanization: Economic and/or forced

  - Potential challenges:
    - Safety guarantee
    - Infrastructure growth → population growth
    - Socio-economic/cultural gaps → tension
    - Imbalance in age distribution
    - Disruption to essential services in rural areas
- MANAGEMENT

- Urbanization:
  - Higher life-expectancy
  - Higher GDP per capita (gapminder.org)

- Cities: drivers of the economy
2) BUSINESS AND MIGRATION:

- Economic downturn
- Arab Spring
- Uncertainty of the Euro
Global Forum on Migration & Development

- WEF: Global Agenda Council on Migration

- UN: “Protect, Respect and Remedy” framework

**Business angle on migration is still relatively weak!**
- Migration $\rightarrow$ social emotions
- Migration $\rightarrow$ political, irregular migration
- Migration $\rightarrow$ Business $\rightarrow$ LABOUR MIGRATION
- Globally, 1 in 3 employers report difficulties in filling positions due to a lack of available talent or the right skills (ManpowerGroup)

- Policymakers + employers + business → linking labour migration with labour market needs
Disconnect:
- Researchers: long-term demographic trends
- Business: medium & long-term considerations
- Government policy: electoral considerations (short-term changes)
3) BUSINESS – CITY LINKS:

- THP:
  - Communication: business & stakeholders
  - Involvement of business in policy discussions
  - CSR dedicated programs
What is in it for Business?

- Highest “quality” staff
- Inter-corporate transfers
- Open societies – freedom of movement
- Proactive migration strategies – CSR strategy (legal, practical and reputational risks)
Outcomes of discussions:

- Migration is opportunity for stable economies
- Growing mismatch: demand & supply of skills
- Migration is at core of CSR debate
- Migrants and their needs → opportunities for developing products & services
- Data shortage (research!)
Recommendations:

- Build partnerships between business & migrant communities

- Business → help in making trade unions see migration as an opportunity to strengthen unions

- More effective labour migration governance:
  - Recognize foreign education credentials
  - Reduce administrative barriers when employing and retaining migrants
4) Outcomes, projects and collaborations
- Improve the legal framework for migrant labour management
  - Compare existing bilateral agreements related to labour migration
  - Identify and promote best practices
  - Propose standardized rights & model agreements between countries
- Examine case studies of successful training and employment of refugees
- Set up micro-entrepreneurship programs
- Develop mechanism to identify and match demand for skills between sectors in various countries
- Develop system that allows students to stay in the country where they obtained qualifications
Thank you.

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