



## The Philippine Red Cross Host of the RCRC Manila Conference on Labor Migration 2015

### Philippine Red Cross Society

The Philippine Red Cross Society (PRCS) is a driving force within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement when it comes to addressing the global humanitarian challenges of migration. PRCS Chairman Richard Gordon, Member of the Governing Board of IFRC, holds a personal interest in migrant worker protection, and this combined with an increased focus on migration services within his National Society, prompted Chairman Gordon to pursue the issue further with migration experts at the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) starting in 2011 at the Red Cross Red Crescent International Conference in Geneva.

Chairman one of many global leaders who attended the first conference on labor migration, the 2014 Doha Dialogue, in Qatar in May 2014, which brought together National Societies from both sending and receiving countries and various expert speakers.

### Philippine Red Cross migrant services

The Philippine Red Cross has been involved in supporting Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families for several years. The Red Cross hosted **Pre-Departure Orientation Seminars (PDOS)** alongside the Government of the Philippines and recruitment agencies.

The seminars provided information on labor rights, and also gave social and psychological preparation for migrant workers. In addition to the seminars, psychosocial support is provided to OFW family members to cope with the changes brought about by family disintegration as a consequence of overseas employment.

The **Macau pilot project “Pamilya Mo Lingap Ko Program”** in 1998 was led by the Philippine and Macau Red Cross Societies. It provided Welfare Services to OFWs, including female domestic workers in Macau.

The programs extended for OFWs included Counselling, Psychosocial Support, Crisis Intervention, Home and School Visit, Ambulance Services, Tracing and Family Reunification and Referral to other institutions.

### Ensuring more progress is needs made

Chairman Richard Gordon believes that to address this humanitarian crisis, the entire Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, as well as other governments and stakeholders, must work together to promote a culture of protecting migrant workers, especially the women who are most vulnerable. It is imperative that together, these key actors engage in humanitarian diplomacy in engaging both sending and receiving countries for this purpose.

PRCS aims to strengthen programs for Overseas Filipino Workers and expand partnerships with relevant key players in order to reach more migrant populations, specifically female domestic workers.

As the leading humanitarian organization in the Philippines, the PRC is committed to conducting life-saving services that protect the life and dignity of Filipinos in vulnerable situations such as skills training, care giving, language training, visiting detained migrant workers and other practical activities that improve the lives of migrant workers.

To read more about Chairman Richard Gordon please visit the website <http://www.redcross.org.ph/the-chairman> and to read more about the Philippine Red Cross please visit the National Society website <http://www.redcross.org.ph/>

