



International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
International Labour Office (ILO)
AENEAS China Project: Capacity Building for Migration Management in China (CBMM)

Addressing the Demand Side of Chinese Migrant Workers in European Countries: Workshop in Italy 21-22 June 2010

**Venue: Italian Department for Equal Opportunities,
Largo Chigi, 19 - Rome**

In recent decades, the world has seen an increase in migration flows from China. The profile of Chinese migrants varies from highly qualified intellectuals to low skilled workers. Evidence shows that they are all contributing to economic development in various sectors, in different ways. Nonetheless, some Chinese migrants, especially those who have resorted to irregular migration channels, can be subject to labour exploitation and even to trafficking for forced labour in destination countries.

This two-day workshop in Rome, organised under the European Commission - China collaborative project entitled "Capacity Building for Migration Management in China" (CBMM), will bring together concerned stakeholders, including trade union representatives, Chinese employers, Italian companies, government representatives, NGO's and law enforcement agencies, to discuss measures to address the demand for Chinese migrant workers in Italy, and to enhance protection of their rights.

The workshop will focus on the following themes:

- Characteristics of modern production systems involving Chinese migrants as well as the risks of labour exploitation in the relevant sectors;
- How to prevent human trafficking and forced labour from penetrating global production chains;
- How to raise the awareness of business actors with regard to the risks of employing irregular migrant workers and trafficking victims;
- Identification of viable alternatives to the employment of irregular migrants, and how to improve recruitment practices;
- How to improve the legal framework and law enforcement;
- How to promote mutual understanding and improve communication between the Chinese community and local society with a view to facilitating better integration of the Chinese community.



International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
International Labour Office (ILO)
AENEAS China Project: Capacity Building for Migration Management in China (CBMM)

The CBMM Project

China has given high political priority to combating illegal migration and trafficking in human beings. In September 2004, ILO initiated a capacity building project aimed at strengthening law enforcement and international cooperation to combat human trafficking in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS), Ministry of Public Security (MOPS), State Council and other Chinese stakeholders. Research on living and working conditions of Chinese migrant workers was conducted in several European countries, including France, Italy and the United Kingdom, resulting in the book "Concealed Chains – Labour Exploitation and Chinese Migrants in Europe", published by ILO in early 2010. In the study, researchers provided a picture of the conditions under which irregular, and occasionally regular Chinese migrants are working, with a focus on identifying any form of labour exploitation. The main objective was to improve understanding of the social and economic aspects of the Chinese migration and work experience, as well as its legal and judicial facets, exploring possible solutions including through improved labour market monitoring.

In the above context, since 2007 the ILO, in cooperation with IOM, has been implementing the project on ***Capacity Building for Migration Management in China (CBMM)*** funded by the European Commission (EC). It aims to stem irregular Chinese migration and trafficking and to promote safe and legal migration to EU member States.

The project seeks to promote cooperation between China and EU Member States, raising awareness of the risks associated with irregular migration and strengthening the capacity of labour administration and other concerned agencies in migration management. One of the ILO's main components in the project relates to undertaking research and organising workshops in selected EU destination countries with representatives of the Government, business leaders, trade unions and civil society organizations to examine the demand side of Chinese migration, in particular irregular migration, and to discuss possible solutions.

The workshop in Italy is the last of a series of three such events organized in selected destination countries (previous ones were held in the UK, in October 2009 and Romania, in November 2009), which discussed possible means to combat irregular migration and human trafficking and to better harness the benefits of regular migration from China to Europe.