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Article in Brief

Addressing the Challenges Facing Migrant Workers in China

UNIAP China Office, 24 April 2008:
“Addressing the Challenges Facing Migrant Workers in China Workshop”, co-hosted by the Ministry of Commerce, Chongqing Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Commission and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), was held in the city of Chongqing on 21-22 April 2008. Representatives from more than 10 agencies participated in the workshop, including the Ministry of Commerce, Chongqing



Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Commission, CIDA, Canadian Consulate in Chongqing, National Development and Reform Commission, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Department of Labour and Social Security of Chongqing city, Chinese Association for Labour Studies, Chinese Association for Lawyers, Federation of Canadian Municipalities and IOM. Dr Jiang Feng, NPC of the UNIAP China office, was invited to make a presentation on the clauses relevant to migrant population and illegal employment contained within “China’s National Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Women and Children”. Representatives from Chongqing city shared their work experience on improving the conditions for migrant workers and pointed out that the city had declared the first Sunday of

every November to be “Chongqing Migrant Workers Day”.

The following topics were covered during the one and half day workshop: Challenges faced by Chinese migrant workers, Rights and social security, Legal aid, Medical assistance, Re-education, Trafficking prevention. The Canadian representatives also shared their experience in providing employment for and the protection of overseas workers. By the end of the workshop, participating representatives passed 10 policy suggestions which will be submitted to the State Council by the host. The comprehensive suggestions cover such areas as policy, security, trafficking prevention, urban-rural harmony, legal aid and education of migrant workers. (UNIAP China Office, 2008.4.24)

Foreign media predicts that over half of the future Chinese urban population will consist of rural workers

Full text: <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/i/jyjl/m/200804/20080405461874.html>

Ministry of Commerce website, 26 March 2008: According to the UK's Financial Times, research undertaken by the McKinsey Global Institute shows that 40% of the Chinese urban population will be made up of migrants in the next 20 years, thereby posing enormous pressures on the ability of local governments to provide services to residents. The Chinese government will face insurmountable challenges if it wishes to realise its promise on including the large group of rural workers into the existing urban social security system.

UNICEF Report: There are 100 million homeless children worldwide

Full text: <http://www.chinanews.com.cn/gj/gjzj/news/2008/03-25/1201214.shtml>

China News Web, 25 March: UNICEF annual report estimates that there are around 100 million homeless children in the world. These children may become the victims of violence of exploitation. Of 60 countries for which the problems of child survival and safety need to be resolved, 38 of them are countries of Sub-Sahara Africa. Up to 40% of the girls and 36% of the boys in the region are not enrolled into primary schools, while 35% of those between 5-14 years of age are forced to work as child workers. In South Asia, 9% of the girls and 10% of the boys are not enrolled into primary schools, and 13% of the children are forced to work as child workers; in Latin America and the Caribbean, 9% of the girls and 10% of the boys are not enrolled into primary schools, and 9% of the children are forced to work as child workers.

Rural compulsory education still requires further guarantees in funding

Full text: <http://cbzs.mca.gov.cn/article/shxw/yw/200804/20080400013492.shtml>

China Society Daily, 14 April: There has been a comparatively large increase in the funding for rural compulsory education since the issuing of the “Notice about Further Reforming the Fund Assurance System for Compulsory Education in Countryside” at the end of 2005. However, problems still exist in this area. Ms Tian Shulan, Member of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and leader of the Discipline Inspection Group of the Ministry of Education, said that new mechanism are not being implemented according to plans, while there are unlawful use or retention of funding set aside for rule compulsory education and “free education in some cases, but charging high fees in other cases”.

The veto system of comprehensive management of social security has vetoed 12118 agencies in the last five years

Full text: http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2008-04/09/content_7943504.htm

Legal Daily, 9 April 2008, there has been a severe push to implement the veto system of comprehensive management of social security across China. 43084 agencies had been inspected and 16279 agencies searched by the various provincial/district/city committees of comprehensive management of social security in the past 5 years, and 12118 agencies were vetoed as a result. Nearly 20 provinces have further amended or improved their bylaws on the comprehensive management of social security and pushed forward the process of comprehensive management of social security according to law. The sense of security experienced by the general public has increased from 82% in 2002 to 93% in 2007.

“中国农民工问题中加国际研讨会” 简讯

由中国商务部、重庆市对外贸易经济委员会和加拿大国际发展署联合举办的“中国农民工问题中加国际研讨会”于2008年4月21-22日在重庆市“万豪酒店”召开。参会代表除了来自国家商务部、重庆市对外贸易经济委员会和加拿大国际发展署、加拿大驻重庆领事馆外，还有来自国家发展与改革委员会、中国社科院、重庆市劳动社会保障局和中国劳动学会、中华律师学会、加拿大城市联合会，还有来自国际劳工组织中蒙办事处等几十家单位，UNIAP中国办公室国家协调员蒋烽研究员应邀参会并就“中国反对拐卖妇女儿童行动计划”中有关对流动人口和非法用工等条文进行了介绍。重庆代表介绍了重庆在做好“农民工”工作方面的经验，特别指出了：在中国首创了“农民工日”，即每年11月的第一个星期日是“重庆市农民工日”。

为期1天半的研讨会涉及到了：中国农民工面临的挑战、权益和社会保障、法律援助、医疗救助、再教育、预防拐卖，加拿大在做好外来人员就业、保护等方面的经验也在会上进行了交流等。最后与会代表通过了10条政策建议将由会议主办方报请国务院，10条建议全方位地涵盖了政策、保障、预防拐卖人口、城乡融合、法律援助、农民工的教育等。(UNIAP中国办公室 2008.4.24)

外媒称中国未来城市人口中超过半数为农民工

摘自：<http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/aarticle/i/jyjl/m/200804/20080405461874.html>

据英国《金融时报》25日报导，麦肯锡全球研究院(McKinsey Global Institute)一项研究显示，在未来二十年内，中国城市40%以上的人口将由移民组成，当地政府向市民提供服务的能力将面临巨大压力。如果中国政府想要实现将庞大农民工群体纳入城市社会保障体系的承诺，将面临巨大挑战。(陈海洋) 2008-03-26 商务部网站 驻欧盟使团经商参处

联合国儿基会报告称：世界有一亿儿童流落街头

摘自：<http://www.chinanews.com.cn/gj/gjzj/news/2008/03-25/1201214.shtml>

中新网3月25日电 联合国儿童基金会的常年报告估计，世界上有大约一亿儿童流落街头，成为被暴力迫害及被剥削的对象。60个存有儿童生存与安全问题急需解决的国家，其中38个分布在非洲次撒哈拉地区，该地区有多达40%的女生和36%的男生没有报读小学，有35%年龄介于5到14岁的孩童被迫当童工。在南亚，有9%的女生和10%的男生没有报读小学，另有13%被迫当童工；在拉丁美洲和加勒比海，分别有9%和10%的小学适龄女生和男生没有上学，另有9%的孩童是童工。(2008年03月25日 来源：中国新闻网)

农村义务教育仍需加强经费保障

摘自：<http://cbzs.mca.gov.cn/article/shxw/yw/200804/20080400013492.shtml>

2005年底，《国务院关于深化农村义务教育经费保障机制改革的通知》下发，农村

义务教育经费有了较大增长。然而，这一领域的经费保障仍存在一些问题。中央纪委驻教育部纪检组组长田淑兰表示，一些地方还存在不按规定落实新机制、违规使用或滞留滞拨农村义务教育经费问题和“一边免费，一边乱收费”的现象。（本报记者 左玮娜 中国社会报 2008-04-14）

5 年社会治安综合治理领导责任制一票否决 12118 单位

摘自：http://news.xinhuanet.com/legal/2008-04/09/content_7943504.htm

全国各地狠抓社会治安综合治理领导责任制的落实，5 年来，各省(区、市)综治委共督查 43084 个单位，查究 16279 个单位，一票否决 12118 个单位。有近 20 个省(区、市)进一步修订或完善了社会治安综合治理条例，推进了社会治安综合治理的法制化进程。人民群众安全感由 2002 年的 82% 提高到 2007 年的 93%。（孙春英 邓新建 2008 年 04 月 09 日 法制日报）

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