

CONFERENCE

THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN MARYLAND: A NEW COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

September 22nd, 2009 (9.15 am – 5.30 pm), Governor Calvert House, Annapolis, MD

The conference will be held on September 22nd, 2009 (Tuesday) in the Governor Calvert House (58 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401). It is a joint effort of the following organizations: Social Integration and Community Development Association (SICDA), Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees of the Government of Maryland, Asian American Studies Program of the University of Maryland and the GRL (Global, Regional, Local) Development LLC. The Conference is second in the series of conferences devoted to the issues of immigration to the United States. First conference was held in Washington, D.C. (Phillips Collection) on October 10th, 2008 with more than 200 participants and 18 speakers exploring the influence of the immigration policies of the United States on the country's social and economic development.

Best practices will be shared and themes will be examined that link the efforts of governmental, non-governmental, academic and business sector interests related to immigrants' social integration. We will explore a comprehensive, development-based approach to managing the challenges of social integration and the benefits to local and national structures to improve our sustainable social and economic development. We hope the conference will mark a new beginning in thinking about social integration and its role in the wider goals of the host communities on local and regional scales.

These vital topics arise also in light of the Maryland Governor's recent establishment of a council composed of experts on newcomers' issues to improve related policies in our State. The central issues are also relevant given Maryland's growing ethnic diversity. And it is a benefit to the local economy to explore the topic since Maryland has one of the largest populations of highly skilled immigrant workers in the United States. Thanks to further improvements in its policies, the State of Maryland can play a leading role among U.S. states.

This conference project shall make an important step in advancing efforts of all newcomers and their organizations, local, state and federal governments and governmental agencies, service providers, businesses and people and organizations working towards their support having a common goal in the prosperity and socio-economic development of United States and its citizens.

The meeting is intended for service providers working with the newcomers as well as all organizations and institutions (both governmental and non-governmental) dealing with immigrants in Maryland and neighboring states as well as researchers and business owners. For registration information and the conference webpages, visit: www.sicda.org.

9.15 – 09.55 Registration & Coffee

GENERAL SESSION ONE

Chair: Representative of the Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees, Government of Maryland

INTRODUCTION *Prof. Nicholas Kittrie, University Professor, American University, Dr. Maria Cseh, Director of the Human and Organizational Learning Program, The George Washington University & Member of Board of Directors, Academy of Human Resource Development*

1. **THE METROPOLIS PROJECT: BRIDGING POLICY AND RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS**, *Uttara Chauhan, Policy Research Analyst, Metropolis Project, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Government of Canada*
2. **PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MARYLAND COUNCIL FOR NEW AMERICANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR**, *Isiah Leggett, County Executive, Montgomery County*
3. **AMERICAN SOCIAL CULTURE AND THE QUEST FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS – HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

PERSPECTIVE, **Dr. Margot Gotzmann**, *President, Social Integration and Community Development Association; President, GRL (Global Regional, Local) Development*

4. PROFILE OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS, FAMILIES, AND CHILDREN IN MARYLAND, **Karina Fortuny**, *Research Associate II, Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population, The Urban Institute*

12.00 – 12.45 Lunch

PANEL SESSIONS: SOCIAL INTEGRATION IN PRACTICE – 6L APPROACH (LAWFULNESS, LANGUAGE, LABOR, LOCATION, LOYALTY, LIFE)
12.45 – 03.15

PANEL SESSION A LANGUAGE AND LABOR (Organization of Education. Diversity and Flexibility or Programs) **Chair: Adam Ortiz**, *Maryland Council for New Americans; Special Assistant, Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation*

PANELISTS:

Lily Qi, *County Executive's Liaison for Asian and Middle Eastern Americans, Montgomery County*

INTEGRATION OF TURKISH IMMIGRANTS INTO THE GERMAN LABOR MARKET – FAILURES AND SUCCESSES, **Dr. Esther Ezra Lopatin**, *Professorial Lecturer, Political Science Department, George Washington University*

IMMIGRANT DESTINATION-LANGUAGE ACQUISITION FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION: CHALLENGES AND BEST PRACTICES, **Beatriz Coningham**, *Ed.D. Candidate, Human and Organizational Learning Program, George Washington University*

Dr. Donna Kinerney, *Dean, Department of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, Montgomery College*

PANEL SESSION B LAWFULNESS AND LOYALTY (Legal Status of Immigrants, Culture of Law, Mutual/Multiple Loyalty) **Chair: Dr. Martin Ford**, *Associate Director, Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees*

PANELISTS:

Samuel McTyre, *Law Offices of Samuel G. McTyre; Legal Counsel, Staff Association, Inter-American Development Bank*

Patricia Chiriboga-Roby, *Acting Affiliate Director, World Relief Immigration Clinic, Baltimore*

SOCIAL AND ACCULTURATION PROCESS FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION, INCLUSION, AND TRANSFORMATION, **Dr. Irene di Zoppi**, *Director, Ayuda Center of Help*

Patricia Hatch, *Program Manager, Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees*

OVERCOMING INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS TO INTEGRATION, **Jenifer Smyers**, *Associate for Immigration and Refugee Policy, Church World Service*

Amy Novick, *Counsel, The Haynes Immigration Law Firm*

PANEL SESSION C LOCATION AND LIFE (Health, Education, Housing, Community Participation, Social Security Benefits, Financial Services) **Chair: Dr. Larry Shinagawa**, *Director, Asian American Studies Program, University of Maryland*

PANELISTS:

HEALTH STATUS OF MARYLAND IMMIGRANTS, Dr. Cynthia Saunders, Independent Scholar

Dr. Carolina De Los Rios, DC Case Manager, Polaris Project

CULTURAL INTEGRATION OF LATINO AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS FROM THE BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE PERSPECTIVE, Dr. Fabiana Franco, Clinician, Spectrum Behavioral Health (Arundel Mental Health Professionals)

AN OUTLOOK ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR LATINOS/HISPANICS IN MARYLAND – OPPORTUNITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS, Lydia Espinosa Crafton, President, Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Deliberation

INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES IN EDUCATION – A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE MODEL, Young-Chan Han, Specialist, Family Involvement, Program Improvement and Family Support Branch, Maryland State Department of Education

BENEFITS OF INCLUSION BANKING, Remi Duyile, CEO, Image Consulting Group

WELCOMING REFUGEES AND ASYLEES TO THE U.S.: A FIRST RESPONDER’S PERSPECTIVE, Vu Dang, Regional Director, International Rescue Committee

VOICES IN THE PANEL:

Dr. Kien Lee, Principal Associate, Community Science | Dr. Moshe Weisblum, Independent Scholar | Dilip Ratha, Lead Economist, Migration and Remittances Team, Development Prospects Group, World Bank

GENERAL SESSION TWO

Chair: Dr. Kenneth Weinstein, CEO, Hudson Institute

1. Presentations of Parallel Sessions. Comprehensive Integration Policy Recommendations. **Adam Ortiz**, Maryland Council for New Americans; Special Assistant, Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; **Dr. Martin Ford**, Associate Director, Maryland Office for Refugees and Asylees; **Dr. Larry Shinagawa**, Director, Asian American Studies Program, University of Maryland
2. Concluding Discussion and Summary of the Conference **Dr. Larry Shinagawa**, Director, Asian American Studies Program, University of Maryland & **Dr. Margot Gotzmann**, President, Social Integration and Community Development Association; President, GRL (Global Regional, Local) Development)

04.30 – 05.00 RECEPTION

05.00 CONCERT (featuring ethnic performers, open to the public)