

# Workshop on Migration and International Relations between Spain and Asia

6 September 2004, Barcelona

Jointly organised by CIDOB Foundation, Spain;  
Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN), Australia;  
Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford, UK

## Background

Rising political and economic interest in Asia is attracting widespread public attention in Spain. The Spanish government has recently launched the Asia-Pacific Framework Plan, which is aimed at fostering closer relation with Asian countries, particularly with the Philippines, the People's Republic of China and Vietnam.

At the same time, migration from Asia to Spain has grown considerably. For example, Chinese population in Spain increased sixfold over a period of ten years. Migration and international relations are obviously interrelated, but while both have been given much public interest separately, the linkage between the two has hardly been explored.

By bringing together scholars who have worked on Asian migrations to Europe and on international relations, this one day workshop aims at examining the linkage between Spain and Asia through migration movements and the consequences of these dynamics in terms of foreign policy, economic links and culture/education exchange.

To this end, the workshop will focus on the analysis of Asian communities living in Spain and coming from three different countries: (1) the Philippines, which has strong historical ties with Spain and from which migration has been the mainstream of Asia-Spain migration until recently, (2) the People's Republic of China, which has attracted much political interest in Spain and migration from which has been increasing rapidly and has generated much public interest, and (3) finally, Pakistan, with a large community -mainly living in Barcelona- that is an opportunity to explore an unknown Asian community in Spain, to think about cultural changes and possibilities towards the construction of a European Islam.

It is intended that in-depth studies of the three cases and a comparison between them will shed new light on the issues under discussion.

## Programme

**9:30 – 10:15 Introduction** Chair: Josep Ribera, CIDOB director.

María del Mar Bermúdez. *International Relations and Asian Migrations to Spain.*  
Joaquín Beltrán. *Asian communities in Spain: an overview.*

**10:15 - 11:45 Philippines** Chair: Robyn Iredale

10:15 Rogelia Pe-Pua. *Philippine migrations: international impacts, settlement and integration.*

- 10:45 Natalia Ribas. *Philippine communities in Spain and the feminisation of migration.*  
11:15 Discussion

**11.45 - 12:00 Coffee Break**

**12:00 - 13:30 China** Chair: Robyn Iredale

- 12:00 Xiang Biao. *China: migration and international relations.*  
12:30 Amelia Saiz. *Chinese communities and entrepreneurs in Spain*  
13:00 Discussion

**15:30 – 17:00 Pakistan** Chair: Seán Golden

- 15:30 Montserrat Sole Aubia. *Pakistani migrations and Pakistani communities in Spain.*  
16:00 Jordi Moreras. *Islam in Spain and the cultural change of the Asiatic migrants.*  
16:30 Discussion

**17h00 - 17:30 Closing session**

Manolo Abella. *Migrations and international relations in the face of the challenges of a new century.*

**Place:** Sala Maragall. Fundació CIDOB; c/ Elisabets, 12. Barcelona

**Date:** September 6th 2004

**Working languages:** English/Spanish

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