

Speech by Ambassador Andrew Tesoriere, Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek

Conference “Current challenges in the field of Labour Migration”

21. December 2010 – 9.25-9.30h

Distinguished Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Migration, Mr. Alik Baiboriev, Ambassador Hebberecht, distinguished guests from Moldova and Tajikistan, distinguished participants,

I am glad to have the opportunity to speak at this conference, which impacts on so many families in Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan's economy, like so many others globally, relies heavily on migration. Thus both in an economic as well as a human sense, migration require the constant attention of senior policy-makers. This is my key message today. OSCE alongside its national and international partners will help and support where we rightly and usefully can. In this regard, we welcome the foreign guest speakers here today, particularly from Moldova. They will share with us their experience of Public-Private Partnership in the migration field and indicate how better use can be made of the remittances of labour migrants from Kyrgyzstan.

We have many migration experts today in the room. I shall not therefore presume to lecture on the subject. I would however like to highlight to the media present that International migration results in an increase in aggregate output and income, both in the country of destination and a country of origin. While the country of destination enjoys a skilled labor force to increase its productivity, the country of origin receives considerable inflows of funds which are invested by the families of labour migrants in development of small enterprises. These incentives reduce the level and severity of poverty and contribute to the economic growth of the country of destination and the country of origin.

I would also recall some background to the project. Last year the OSCE Centre launched a survey to assess the impact of the world financial crisis on the inflows of migrant remittances. This year we continued our efforts in this direction having commissioned a survey with a special emphasis on the savings of the migrant remittances.

In this context, I commend the excellent cooperation between OSCE and its implementing partners ACTED and CASE Kyrgyzstan, in particular Ms. Irina Lukashova and Ms. Irina Makenbaeva. We were fortunate to get their support in gathering the important and interesting data, which you will hear about later from them.

In closing, I wish the participants interesting and fruitful deliberations. The OSCE Centre will continue to support the dialogue and closer co-operation between the Government and the private sector to optimize the socio-economic benefits of migration.