



## Western Centre for Research on Migration & Ethnic Relations



### **Eileen Alma**

**Program Officer,  
International Development Research Center, Ottawa**

**Eileen Alma** works with IDRC's Governance, Security and Justice Program. Her particular focus is on poor and marginalized women and on ensuring their full participation in government and decision-making. She is also currently developing the program's work in Southeast Asia. Alma has been with IDRC since 1993 and has worked on a range of issues. She was a key member of the Women's Rights and Citizenship program focused on Eastern and Southern Africa and worked on the Peace, Conflict, and Development program's projects in the Middle East. She also worked on special initiatives concerning the Palestinian refugee issue and governance in the Middle East region.

## **The Challenge of Addressing Migrant Women's Rights – Perspectives from the Field**

Women constitute an increasing proportion of international migrants; IOM (2005) estimates that half of the world's migrants are now women. The term "feminization" of migration has emerged to refer to the increasing numbers of women who are migrating independently as principle wage earners rather than because of marriage or under the authority of older relatives and men. UNRISD (2005: 110) noted, "The outmigration of women workers is most evident from Asia, with the majority migrating as domestics, workers in the entertainment industry, and to a lesser extent as nurses and teachers."

Investigating migration from a gender perspective is essential for understanding both the causes and consequences of international and internal migration. The need for an approach that addresses the gendered dimensions of migration is necessary as men, women, and children are presented with different sets of opportunities, threats, and barriers as they move through formal and informal migration channels (Piper 2004).

In this session, key results of IDRC-supported research since 2006 on migrant women's rights in Asia and in West Africa will be shared, in addition to the screening of a short video.

**Thursday, March 1, 2012**

**4:00pm – SSC 5220**

**Refreshments 3:30pm – SSC 5230**