



ICPD IN ACTION *in the Caribbean*



United Nations

ECLAC

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200 Million Migrants Worldwide

The Caribbean subregion participates in this movement with one of the highest net-migration rates.

Migration in the Caribbean: Expert group meeting

In a world of almost 200 million migrants, migration has become a major social phenomenon, as it has been for thousands of years. The story of migration is not only about people, but also about the lands they go to and their impacts on those lands.

This is particularly true for the Caribbean, a subregion that has seen forced arrivals of slaves and indentured labour from Africa and Asia and later, after emancipation, vivid movements of freed slaves within the subregion in search of better livelihoods.

Since the late 1950s and early 1960s a considerable number of people left the subregion altogether for greener pastures in Northern America or Europe to pursue higher education and a better quality of life. Based on the most recent estimates provided by the United Nations Population Division, the Caribbean has lost more than 5 million people over the last 50 years. While the total number of migrants originating in this subregion might be small in comparison to that originating in other parts of the world, the present

net-migration rate for the Caribbean is one of the highest worldwide.

To discuss the particular challenges migration poses to Caribbean societies and to identify ways to benefit from migratory movements, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean convened an expert group meeting on 14-15 September 2005 on migration, human rights and development.

The experts touched on topics such as data collection and migration management, return migration, the impact of the brain-drain on sustainable development, national and regional identity and the pros and cons of the free movement of people within the CARICOM Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). Further, avenues to benefit from migratory movements were elaborated such as the possibility of establishing brain-gain networks with the Caribbean Diaspora and to channel remittances into profitable investments in the countries of origin.

Discussing the way forward and identifying the Caribbean perspective as an input into the forthcoming General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Migration (see page 2), the group agreed that data collection, analysis and

sharing of information needed to be strengthened and streamlined and it was suggested that a clearinghouse should be established to facilitate storage and accessibility of such information. (continued on page 4)

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Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are currently faced with a series of critical challenges arising out of changing population dynamics, teenage-fertility, rising levels of HIV/AIDS and the movements of people to and from the subregion.

To support governments in the Caribbean to find solutions to these challenges, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and the UNFPA office for the English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean have been undertaking a series of activities which will be highlighted in the present issue of this newsletter.

One such activity with a regional outreach was the convening of an intergovernmental forum on ageing in the Caribbean in 2004, which brought together Caribbean government officials and regional and international researchers to share their knowledge on ageing in general and on its specifics in the subregion.

In preparation for the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be convened by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2006, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters held an expert group meeting on migration to shed more light on various aspects of movements of people from, to and through the Caribbean.

With migration having moved to the forefront of the global development debate at the highest intergovernmental levels, this newsletter is dedicated to migration and development in the Caribbean. Its purpose is to share available research on this topic, highlight government views and politics and report on activities undertaken by various stakeholders from government, civil society and academia.

While migration is the dominant topic of this issue, other themes of critical concern to the Caribbean subregion, such as population ageing, reproductive health and teenage and adolescent fertility, the United Nation's 60th anniversary and other topics, will be addressed.

Last, but not least, we do hope that this newsletter will encourage a dialogue among our partners in development and invite our readership in government, civil society and academia to provide us with their ideas, suggestions and

contributions to make this newsletter a lively valuable tool for all of us. •

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United Nations General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD)

In its resolution 58/2008 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to devote high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session in 2006. The purpose of this two-day meeting, which will be convened on 14-15 September 2006, is to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and to minimize its negative impacts. Additionally, this high-level dialogue is expected to have a strong focus on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and various platforms of action arising out of the social summits convened by the United Nations over the last decade.

To assist governments worldwide in their preparations for the HLD, numerous meetings, conferences and other events are being convened. At United Nations Headquarters, but also within the Latin American and Caribbean region, a series of events have been held and migration, as a critical factor in development, will be discussed at future meetings.

- *Port of Spain:* Expert group meeting on migration, human rights and development (September 2005);
- *Mexico:* LAC Expert group meeting on migration and development (November 2005);
- *Montevideo:* ECLAC Session: Ad Hoc Commission on Population and Development (March 2006);
- *New York:* Commission on Population and Development (April, 2006);
- *New York:* Informal hearings with Civil Society (July, 2006);
- *Madrid:* Ibero-American Encounter on International Migration (July, 2006);
- *New York:* HLD General Assembly Panels (September 2006);
- *New York:* High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (September, 2006)

The International Organization for Migration's Combat Against Human Trafficking in the Caribbean

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading inter-governmental organization dealing with migration issues. Established in 1951 with the primary goal of resettling displaced European persons, refugees and migrants, the IOM, which is not part of the United Nations system, has grown to encompass a variety of migration management activities throughout the world. Facilitated by the presence of offices and operations on every continent, the IOM's activities include rapid humanitarian responses to sudden migration flows, aid to migrants in distress and counter-trafficking initiatives.

IOM Director, Brunson McKinley, highlights the importance of the topic by stating that "migration will be one of the major policy concerns of the 21st century. In our shrinking world, more and more people will look to migration – temporary or permanent – as a path to employment, education, freedom or other opportunities."

In recognition of the above-mentioned dangers and problems, the importance of sustainable partnerships and cooperation among governments within and outside the region, to combat such illicit activities and safeguard the health and lives of migrants under such circumstances, became quite clear during the workshop.

600,000 – 800,000 People are Trafficked Every Year Globally

(US Government, April 2005)

In continuation of their efforts to strengthen Caribbean governments in their fight against trafficking, the IOM convened a technical workshop for government entities to address critical issues of human trafficking in the twin-island State, Trinidad and Tobago. The main purpose of the meeting was to highlight the issue within its local context and to encourage

dialogue to address human trafficking.

The victims include men, women, boys and girls. However, women and girls are usually more vulnerable to gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, while men and boys tend to be exposed to drug trafficking and forced labour.

Smuggling is considered as the process of organizing the transport of an undocumented migrant from the country of origin to the country of destination. This service most often requires payment in advance and ends by reaching the country of destination. In most cases, smugglers do not require immediate payment for the journey, with the intention of using "the migrant's debt" to apply pressure on him/her after arriving in the host country. In this case, the relationship between smuggler and migrant is not exclusively confined to the transport, but rather continues with the exploitation, such as forced labour or sexual abuse, of the migrant. On some occasions, a migrant might have arranged a smuggled journey without realizing the exploitation that awaited him/her in the destination country.

Root Causes of Human Trafficking

Smuggling or trafficking seems to be for many migrants, the only way out of poverty.

The General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union emphasised this problem by stating in the Daily Nation (May 2004): "...there is the need for the discontinuation of the trafficking of people into the area and it is not all to do with prostitution. It has to do with poverty and unemployment."

The most common way of "attracting persons into migration" in the Caribbean region is through agencies that advertise work opportunities on internet sites, radio ads or newspapers offering jobs as waitresses, domestic workers or dancers, whereas the condition of the offered employment often changes soon after the foreign worker's arrival. Various stages of exploitation can then be observed; forced labour, sexual exploitation

and domestic servitude seem to be the most common ones.

The former aspect includes sectors such as agriculture, construction, garment work or restaurants, in which migrants might be forced into poor or even dangerous working conditions with a minimum of food and accommodation and little or no payment. Sexually exploited workers quite often become part of prostitution networks, where they are isolated with debt bondage and are forced to work as waitresses or dancers. For many migrants domestic servitude has become a modern form of slavery. The employees in question are usually underpaid and/or overworked.

According to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, trafficking means "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."

Globally, 1 Million Children Trafficked Annually (UNICEF)

Children's physiological and psychological vulnerability and their dependency on adults evoke a special need for protection. According to the IOM, trafficking of children does not necessarily include "threat or use of force...", but rather, "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation...."

Children are being sent to beg for food, being used as "watchdogs" and drug couriers or being exploited as domestic workers. Sexual abuse of boys and girls has also been observed as a common purpose of trafficking in children. Furthermore, there are some cases of adoption where parents receive money in exchange for their children who are sent to foreign countries. ●

United States: Stocks of Immigrant Population from Latin America and the Caribbean, 1970 to 2000

Origin	1980	1990	2000
Caribbean	1,358,610	2,107,181	2,813,000
S. America	493,950	871,678	1,876,000
Meso America	2,530,440	5,391,943	9,789,000

(Source: internal ECLAC)

Also, more efforts should be undertaken to reap the benefits of migration by implementing already existing regional and national mechanisms to manage migration and to seek new ways to take advantage of those who left. Protecting human rights of migrants, particularly of undocumented and deported migrants, was agreed to be of critical importance.

The meeting report along with the background document and conference papers presented are available through the internet. A hardcopy can be requested from the ECLAC office in Port of Spain. ●

TEXT BOX 1

Organized by the Child Welfare League of Trinidad and Tobago, 'CHOICES' is one of the few non-governmental organizations in that country that provide day care and education facilities to teenage girls between the ages of 13 and 19, who have become pregnant or who have already given birth.



Mrs. Yvonne O'Neill, Manager, CHOICES (ECLAC)

“CHOICES”
*A Day Care & Education Centre
 for Pregnant Teens & Teenage
 Mothers and their Babies*



Programme Participants share a meal (ECLAC)

cope with a newborn and the challenges of education and drop out of school if the experienced difficulties become insurmountable.

Participants in the programme are selected in consultation with schools and hospitals. Administrators of the Child Welfare League liaise with guidance officers in schools and social workers in hospitals to determine which teenagers need support during and after a pregnancy. The majority of the girls accepted into the facilities are from poorer families without the means to sustain themselves or to provide the specific care and support necessary for a young person in these special circumstances. Quite often these young mothers have suffered from abusive relationships and are in need of protection from their violent partners.

Faced with the high and growing demand for such facilities and the rather limited capacity of her institution, Mrs. O'Neill calls for the establishment of more such institutions to help pregnant youngsters and teenage mothers cope with the new challenge. More financial support would be needed to expand their programmes, since until now, "CHOICES" depends entirely on donations from private citizens, corporate sponsors and grants from international organizations as well as funds raised through their own activities.

"CHOICES", an establishment in Port of Spain, is currently managed by Mrs. Yvonne O'Neill, a retiree who has been supporting the organization over the last 10 years. Mrs. O'Neill is a retired teacher dedicated to helping the younger generation and keeping a youthful heart and mind.

This centre caters to approximately 20 teenage girls, providing them with personal development skills, education in current affairs, teaching in sexual reproductive and general health issues and offers day-care facilities for about seven babies. The group also conducts

fund-raising activities, such as cake sales, to facilitate occasional field trips and other activities for those in their care. Teenage mothers are generally allowed to live at the centre for a period of one year, or, exceptionally, over a longer period of time if no other adequate accommodation can be found. Depending on their age and abilities, these young tenants are expected to continue their school education or to enrol in advanced educational programmes such as vocational training to acquire skills necessary to provide for themselves and their child. However, according to Mrs. O'Neill, without a supportive network, many young mothers find it very difficult to

Photo Gallery

Migration Expert Group Meeting, September 2005, Trinidad



From left: Jorge Martinez (ECLAC), Carlene Duval (Haiti), Frank Eelens (Aruba), Karoline Schmid (ECLAC), Elizabeth Thomas-Hope (Jamaica), Barry Mirkin (DESA)



Christine Lengfelder (ECLAC) and Carlene Duval (Haiti) preparing a power point presentation.

International Day of Older Persons Celebrations at the Trinidad Hilton, Port of Spain, September, 2005



Dr. Jennifer Rouse, Director, Division of Ageing Presenting a token to one of the attendees



Participants enjoying the dance competition



An older participant dressed to the nines



An attendee gets moving while enjoying the show

The history of the United Nations was still in its beginnings, when the official name was used for the first time by Franklin D. Roosevelt in the Declaration by United Nations during World War II, on 1 January 1941. Due to the horrors of a devastating war, 50 countries gathered in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in 1945 to draw up the United Nations Charter. These "peace-loving" nations joined the organization in order to prevent future aggressions and establish close cooperation among the member States. The United Nations officially came into existence on **24 October 1945** when the Charter was ratified by the five permanent members of the Security Council (Republic of China, France, the Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States) and a majority of the other 46 member States.

The General Assembly, the United Nations main deliberative organ, which is composed of representatives of all member States, first met in London in 1946. Its main focus was originally the peaceful use of atomic energy and the elimination of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction. Nowadays, the General Assembly discusses any issue of international relevance. However, the decisions of the Assembly have no legally binding force for governments, but rather carry the world opinion as well as the moral authority of the world community.

Since the United Nations was established in the aftermath of the Second World War, peace keeping has always been one of the most important topics within the organization and the blue-helmet peace-keepers are probably the United Nations most visible interference in



United Nations Celebrates

international politics. A large public awareness is also drawn to the organization's humanitarian work and its dedication to promote the respect of human rights. However, there is much more to the United Nations work, which is basically invisibly involved in any everyday aspect of peoples' lives all around the world. In fact, the United Nations and its huge family of agencies participates in most of the current political issues such as child survival and development, advancement of women and reproductive health, environmental protection, human rights, health and medical research, economic development and alleviation of poverty.

The United Nations work in social and economic development may not enjoy such public attention as peace keeping or human rights matters since its outcome is rather long-term and discussed within policy-making dialogue instead of the public

media. However, the current international discussion about meeting the Millennium Development Goals has raised more attention to another United Nations area of work, poverty reduction. 1.2 billion people worldwide still live on less than \$1 a day, nevertheless, 43 countries, with more than 60 per cent of the world's population, have already met or are on track to meet the goal of cutting hunger in half by 2015, which is partly due to the excellence of the United Nations work in this field. As a direct result of United Nations agencies' efforts, over 60 per cent of adults in developing countries can now read and write, whereby 90 per cent of children in these countries attend school. Furthermore, the agencies have worked to make safe drinking water available to 1.3 billion people in rural areas during the last decade. Twenty million people received, through development programmes, aid in food-for-work projects, school feeding and health or nutrition projects. These beneficiaries include internally displaced people, refugees, and victims of natural disasters such as floods and drought.

After 60 years of United Nations existence the world certainly has changed quite a lot, constantly adjusting itself to the rapid changes of globalization. The United Nations has to face major challenges, dealing with critical international issues such as terrorism, natural disasters, the spread of diseases and hunger. The triple challenge of security, development and human rights facing the organization, combined with the ambitious commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals makes the United Nations a universally unique organization, campaigning for the benefit of people around the world.

Focus on Ageing

In expression of its commitment to strengthen the region in its capacity to respond to the challenges posed by ageing populations, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the UNFPA, the WHO/PAHO, the University of the West Indies and the Division of Ageing in the Ministry of Social Development of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago convened the First Caribbean Symposium on Population Ageing, an intergovernmental meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in November 2004.

Government officials and professionals from across the region and internationally, provided insight into critical issues in ageing from a regional and global perspective.

Of critical importance to the subregion are issues related to ageing and economic and social security, health care, housing, transport and living conditions and the establishment of a legal framework to regulate various factors affecting the lives of the elderly. Further, the meeting expressed a definitive need to recognise gender specific aspects in ageing and to work towards enhancing intergenerational solidarity at the country level. More information on the meeting can be found at www.eclac.cl/portofspain.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Window opens at Jamaica Council For Persons With Disability

"Persons with Disabilities are sexual beings and not just products of their parents' sexuality."

As such, they have the right to, and should be able to access all services including sexual and reproductive health services. That's the message that the Coordinator of the Combined Disabilities Association of Jamaica, Ms. Gloria Goffe wants all Jamaicans to understand.

Speaking on Tuesday, 11 April 2006 at the opening of a "Reproductive Health Window" at the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities and the hand-over of a van to the Council, Ms. Goffe told of some of the indignities that persons with disabilities face when they try to access reproductive health services. "How many of us have had the experience or heard of others' experiences where they have purchased or requested

contraceptives at pharmacies or clinics, and on leaving have been ridiculed by giggles and comments such as "A wa him a do with dat?... or she have sex too?" she asked. Ms. Goffe explained that the result of these experiences is that persons with disabilities end up being uninformed about sex and therefore engage in unsafe sex leading to unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

The opening of the "Reproductive Health Window" at the Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities is intended to remedy this wrong by providing reproductive health services including, counseling on sexual health, information sharing designed to increase awareness of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues, family planning and STI/HIV/AIDS services to persons with disabilities. The van will complement the "Reproductive Health Window" and facilitate the outreach and

public education activities of the Council among the disabled all across the Island.

Senator Floyd Morris, State Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security whose vision is impaired, was instrumental in getting the "Reproductive Health Window" set-up at the Council. In his keynote address, the Minister declared that in a context of high HIV/AIDS prevalence 'everyone who has sex is at risk', adding that as the Minister with responsibility for persons with disabilities he had a duty to protect the approximately 250,000 Jamaicans who are affected by some form of mental or physical disability.

The opening of the "Reproductive Health Window" and donation of the van were made possible under a programme funded by the European Commission and the United Nations Population Fund in partnership with the Government of Jamaica. The goal of the Programme is to foster sustainable development and the attainment of the International Conference on Population and Development targets as well as the Millennium Development Goals of ensuring universal access to integrated, gender-sensitive, rights-based sexual and reproductive health services. ●

(Contribution: UNFPA Jamaica)

TEXT BOX 3

The Fund supports research and policy-oriented studies, organizes meetings and assists governments in their capacity to collect migration statistics, including gender-specific data. UNFPA advocates for addressing the special concerns of women migrants, including elimination of discrimination, abuse and trafficking.

UNFPA supports the **International Migration Policy Programme (IMP)**, an inter-agency programme founded in 1998, in its work to foster regional and international cooperation and strengthen the capacity of governments to deal with migration and refugee issues. In October 2004, together with the IMP, UNFPA launched the joint publication Meeting the Challenges of Migration: **Progress Since the ICPD at its Round Table on International Migration and Development**. The report highlights the linkages between migration and population and development issues, discusses developments since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action in 1994

UNFPA'S Position on Migration

UNFPA promotes the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development in the area of migration by promoting policy dialogue and enhancing governments' ability to respond to issues relating to international migration, to promote orderly migration flows and to address the needs of migrants.

and points to some of the challenges that lie ahead.

In early 2005, UNFPA also convened an Expert Group Meeting "International Migration and the Millennium Development Goals" to analyze migration as both a facilitating and constraining factor in the achievement of the MDGs.

UNFPA works with governments, other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations to meet the **emergency reproductive health needs** of refugees and internally displaced women. UNFPA also provides reproductive health services and counselling for victims of **trafficking**, and technical assistance, training, and support to governments and other agencies to develop policies and legal frameworks to combat the problem.

This year UNFPA is also placing particular emphasis on the subject through its annual publication, **State of World Population** report, which will focus on the topic.

Publications

2005

Publication by UNFPA:
International Migration and the Millennium Development Goals: *Selected Papers of the UNFPA Expert Group Meeting*.

July 2005

International Organization for Migration's Publication: *World Migration 2005: Costs and Benefits of International Migration Vol. 3*.

September 2005

UN Report on Global Migration Facility

5 October 2005

Report of the Global Commission on International Migration presented to the Secretary-General.

25 October 2005

Report of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development introduced to the Second Committee.

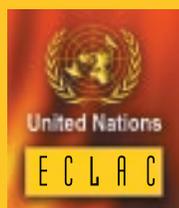
October 2005

Report of the Global Commission on International Migration: *Migration in an Interconnected World: New Directions for Action Producers/Statisticians - demographers and policy makers*.

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Events & Publications in Preparation for the High-Level Dialogue on Migration

Due to the increasing number of migrants worldwide and in preparation for the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, planned for 14-15 September 2006, a number of international discussions regarding migration were held in 2005. The most important events and documents prepared internationally as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean region, are presented below.

Europe

The UNECE/ UNFPA/ NIDI held a Workshop on Migration Statistics in Geneva during **24-28 January 2005**. This meeting was convened to familiarise participants with issues concerning data analysis and policy planning regarding international migration and to facilitate dialogue and exchange of practical experience.

The Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) organized and held a number of expert meetings on migration in Geneva in 2005. The focus on 28 January was the key determinant of international migration. A second meeting held on 9 March dealt with migration and development and during 23-24 March a workshop on gender dimensions of international migration was conducted.

GCIM in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) held a workshop on Regional Consultative Processes from 14-15 April (*for more information visit www.gcim.org/en*).

Africa

During the period 28 February-1 March 2005 GCIM held a Regional Hearing for Africa in Cape Town (South Africa). The international meeting was organized for the purpose of providing the Commission with concrete and concise information on present migration policy approaches in Africa; to consult with all relevant stakeholders on the principal migration trends and challenges in the region; to test the Commission's own findings; and to identify areas of emerging consensus for consideration by the international community (*for more information visit www.gcim.org/en*).

Asia

24-26 August 2005 saw the Regional Seminar on the Social Implications of International Migration held in Bangkok, Thailand. This event was organised by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), IOM and Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD). (*for more information, visit www.unescap.org/esid/psis/meetings/SIIM/index.asp*).

Latin America and the Caribbean

An Expert Group Meeting on Migration, Human

Rights and Development was held at ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago during **14-15 September 2005** (*see article on page 1*).

A Seminar on Trafficking in Persons was organized by IOM and held on 23 September 2005 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (*see article in newsletter*).

During the period 30 November- 2 December 2005 an Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Mexico (*see www.unpopulation.org for more information*).

United Nations Headquarters New York

6 - 8 July 2005

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development, organized by the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

14 - 16 September 2005

High-level meeting on Migration and Development at the 61st Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

26 - 27 October 2005

Fourth Coordination Meeting on International Migration organized by the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

3 - 7 April 2006

39th Session of the Commission on Population and Development with primary focus on international migration and development.

26 - 28 April 2006

International Symposium on Migration and Development, organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Turin, Italy (*forthcoming*).

14 September 2006

High-level dialogue on international migration And development (*proposed date*).

For additional information visit the following websites:

www.eclac.cl/portofspain/

- ECLAC Sub-regional Headquarters website

www.unfpa.org

- UNFPA website

www.iom.int

- International Organization for Migration