

Local and Transnational Impact of C189 in the Philippines:
New Solidarity of OFWs and Kasambahay

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Philippine is the one of the earliest countries to ratify C189 as a sending country of migrant domestic workers. During the campaign for the ratification, aside from migrant NGOs who had been advocating the rights and welfare of OFWs(Overseas Filipino Workers), local trade unions who had not been actively involved in the issues of workers abroad set up their presence under the “tripartism” of ILO. This campaign has brought the advocacy of migrant workers in the Philippines to the new phase.

Ratification of C189 also push the enactment of *Batas Kasambahay*, or Domestic Workers Act (RA10361) and its campaign for information dissemination to the public. With the birth of this Act, local domestic workers, *mga kasambahay*, which have been recognized as the most vulnerable informal women workers as well as the most difficult sector to organize, have started to organize themselves with the support of local trade unions. Trade unions now play a hub role for connecting migrant domestic workers unions in receiving countries, local domestic workers group and even migrant NGOs.

This paper will explore the impact of C189 in the Philippines both for local workers and migrant workers and the possibility of new solidarity of local and overseas domestic workers which had been assumed to be almost impossible.