It is with great enthusiasm that I am applying for the position of IOM Migration and Development Policy Officer. As a professional and academic with rich experience in policy implementation, research applications, and programming in the areas of international labor migration and development, I do believe that I am suited for this position.

Over the past five years, my focus has been on applying my academic experience to the management of labor migration programs, engaging in policy development and implementation, and creating a solid knowledge base to design new projects and inform policymakers. Today, after five years of successful management of programs and research applications, I am confident that my background has provided me with the intellectual depth and the skills required to support the delivery and implementation of the IOM’s Institutional Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development.

My academic path includes the completion of a BA in behavioral sciences, an MSc in migration and ethnic studies from the University of Amsterdam, followed by a PhD dissertation that comparatively analyzed migrants’ rights activism in Israel and Singapore, publications in high impact-factor journals (e.g., *Law and Society Review*) and receiving competitive grants.

With an interest in further acquiring skills in the practical management of migration-related programs and informing policymaking, in 2015 I joined the Center for International Migration and Integration (CIMI) in Jerusalem as a manager of labor migration programs. In this capacity, I worked with IOM on the Thailand-Israel Cooperation project (TIC), a labor migration project implemented by IOM Bangkok in partnership with CIMI. Through running the operational process of migrants’ arrival under a bilateral agreement and providing protection services through a call center, I liaised effectively with various partners and stakeholders (both governmental and international), worked closely with them to ensure the correct implementation of the agreements, and engaged in policy consultations by providing supporting data from our operations and monitoring activities. I was also responsible for the financial aspects of the operations, overseeing the budget and reporting.

Since 2016, I have been responsible for the overall establishment and management of the organization’s research activity. My work includes creating an agenda organized around thematic clusters and a strategic plan; initiating collaborations and obtaining human and financial resources to implement the agenda and plan (e.g., GLOCAL, an MA program in international development in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the international MA program on global migration and policy at Tel Aviv University); leading our publications, facilitating the exchange of knowledge; disseminating the call center’s data-management platform; recruiting experts and consultants to conduct research and produce reports, and supervising their work; evaluating the implementation of policies with government policy planners to support efforts to understand issues and construct solutions in line with international standards.

After several years of specializing in migrants’ rights and protection mechanisms, I have become increasingly interested in further exploring the complex links between migration and development. More specifically, I am eager to learn how best to maximize and leverage the benefits of migration in order to improve and sustain the opportunities of migrants and their communities—and how migrants can engage with and become agents of this process. In the framework of academic collaborations and enrolled students’ internships, we have developed the organization’s knowledge both about remittances and about technological information platforms for migrants.

Building on this evidence-based foundation, I am currently leading and supervising two pilot projects. The first is a financial-literacy pilot project for migrants, in collaboration with the Philippine embassy and in consultation with an IOM LHD specialist in the regional office in Vienna. The second aims at launching a technological information platform for migrants (possibly an app) to provide them with tools to optimize their orientation to and use of services in Israel (including costs of money transfer), while staying connected to their communities of origin. Developing these new areas involves building the capacity of interns and staff and encouraging them to share and exchange knowledge, contribute their best work, and develop their potential.

In all my work and exchanges with IOM colleagues, I have always been impressed by their high level of professional commitment. Creating an environment in which migrants can improve their lives, support their society, and reduce poverty is one of the main challenges of migration today. It is my sincere hope that the IOM can use my experience and background, and that I will be able to make a significant contribution to its efforts in meeting this challenge. I would be grateful to have the opportunity to interview and to learn more about the position.