

Tenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration

United Nations, New York, 9-10 February 2012



# International Migration in the Asia-Pacific Region

**With reference to the Development Account  
Project: Strengthening national capacities to  
deal with international migration**

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# The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



- The ESCAP region comprises 62 member states – 58 are regional members
- The region consists of both countries of origin and destination, with several countries serving as both



# Major hubs for labour migration: South-South dimensions

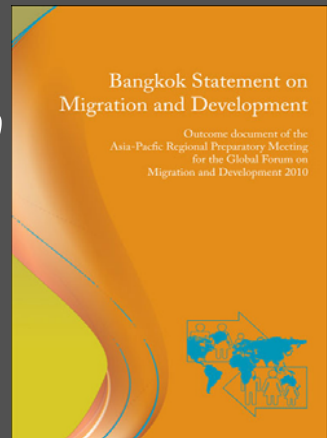


1. To West Asia (Gulf Cooperation Council Countries). As much as 2/3rds of total
  2. To South-East Asia (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore)
  3. To North-East Asia (Japan, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea and Taiwan Province of China)
  4. From Central Asian countries to the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan
- Also, important flows from the Pacific Islands, especially to Australia, New Zealand, USA

# Main activities under the Development Account Project: Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration



- *Regional workshop on “Strengthening National Capacities to Deal with International Migration” , Bangkok, 22-23 April, 2010*
- *Asia-Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the Global Forum on Migration and Development, Bangkok, 22-24 September 2010*
- *Bi-regional workshop on “Strengthening Dialogue to make migration work for development in the ESCAP and ESCWA regions” , Beirut, 28-20 June 2011*



- In support of these meetings, several research papers on migration were commissioned

# Key recommendations resulting from ESCAP activities



- Countries of origin/destination need to develop comprehensive and complimentary policies on international migration
- Remittances can have greater impact by improving regular channels for transfer and investment
- Recruitment and deployment costs must be reduced: including greater attention to the role of private agencies
- Employer-tied work permits should be reformed where they impinge on the rights of migrants



# Key recommendations resulting from ESCAP activities



- The gender dimensions of labour migration should be given specific attention
- There is a need to enhance sex-disaggregated data collection, dissemination and analysis to support this
- Irregular migration can be addressed through reducing the cost and processes of regular migration
- The protection and rights of migrant workers must be guaranteed throughout the cycle: recruitment, deployment & return

# Present ESCAP activities on international migration



- Co-chair with IOM of the Thematic Working Group on Migration including Human Trafficking
- *Situation Report on International Migration in South and South-West Asia* (Dhaka launch April, 2012)
- The ‘*Saphan Siang*’ (Bridge of Voices) campaign highlights migrant worker experiences in Thailand through all community voices
- Strengthening the online Migration Information System in Asia



# Future ESCAP activities on international migration



- The Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference (APPC) (2013)
  - Held every ten years, the APPC has been recognized as a vital forum for the forging and strengthening of partnerships across the region in the field of population and development, including migration





# Thank you



The screenshot shows the UN ESCAP website header with the logo and tagline "PROTECTION, EMPOWERMENT, EQUALITY Social Development in Asia-Pacific". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Issues, Events, Resources, Press, and Contact, along with a search bar. The main content area features a sidebar titled "Issues We Cover" with icons for Disability, Gender Equality, HIV and AIDS, Population Dynamics, Ageing, Youth, Social Protection, and International Migration. The main content area displays a photograph of people on a bus and a section titled "International Migration" with a sub-heading "Challenges and Opportunities".

**Issues We Cover**

- Disability
- Gender Equality
- HIV and AIDS
- Population Dynamics
- Ageing
- Youth
- Social Protection
- International Migration

**International Migration**

**Challenges and Opportunities**

International migration in Asia and the Pacific is on the rise, with 53 million documented migrants in the region in 2010 and a high number of non-recorded migrants. Whether undertaken for work, study or marriage, migration has had a major social and economic impact on the region. Through international

<http://www.unescap.org/sdd>