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STOCK ESTIMATION OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS<sup>1</sup>

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# **STOCK ESTIMATION OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS**

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In recent years, as migration become an integral part of the national, regional and global policy agenda, the call for more comprehensive, realistic and timely data have increased. The initiative has been consistently made during the first UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration in 2006 and in every Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) meeting over the past years.<sup>1</sup>

Indeed, human mobility is on the rise, particularly across developing countries, due to search for jobs and economic opportunities, environmental change, wars and conflicts, and other variety of reasons. These movements affect most countries around the world. That is why the governments are now realizing the importance of reliable migration statistics to address the issues and challenges, as well as to harness the potentials and increase the benefits of migration for development. And with the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, countries will be required to collect better data to monitor progress on how migration policies affect development prospects, and to ensure that “nobody is left behind”, including migrants.

## **Philippine Data on International Migration**

Based on the findings of the Institute for Migration and Development Issues thru their Philippine Migration and Development Statistical Almanac prepared in 2008 “The Philippines has developed a sophisticated set of statistics about its citizens abroad, at least before migrants leave and when migrants are in host countries.” This is evident in the various migration-related data produced since international migration is a cross-cutting responsibility of several government agencies.

These data include statistics on Overseas Filipino Workers Deployed Abroad (with work contracts) by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Filipino Emigrants (with permanent or immigrant visa) by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Filipinos and Foreigners Leaving and Arriving in the Philippines by the Bureau of Immigration, Estimate of Filipinos Overseas Per Country by the Department of Foreign Affairs, and Survey on Overseas Filipinos (Survey of Filipino households in the Philippines with family members overseas) by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

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<sup>1</sup> Sec. Imelda Nicolas, Speech during the “Strengthening evidence – Improving Policy” Organized by UNDESA and OECD, UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration, New York City, October 3, 2013

For this particular session, the experience of the CFO on the **stock estimation of Filipinos Overseas** will be highlighted.

## **Stock Estimate of Filipinos Overseas**

The CFO, the Philippine government agency mandated to strengthen ties with Filipinos overseas and promote their interests in the Philippines and abroad, has been producing the annual Stock Estimates of Overseas Filipinos for almost two decades now. As a source country of migrants, and with the increasing number and diversifying profile of Filipinos migrating overseas for the past four decades, it is important to make migration data available and meaningful to the public.

Using the administrative and other data generated by the various government agencies, the CFO is able to come up with the stock estimation of Filipinos Overseas. The composition and distribution of the overseas Filipinos reflects key developments that can be traced to global and domestic processes that started in the 1970s when large-scale labour migration of Filipinos to the Middle East started.<sup>2</sup>

Based on the 2013 Stock Estimates of Overseas Filipinos, about 10.2 million are away living and working in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide. Over the years, the share of the overseas Filipinos has remained fairly constant at 10% of the total Philippine population. The percentage of permanent migrants is 48%, that of temporary migrants is 41% and irregular migrants is 11%. The numbers have been steadily growing over the past decades and the trend is foreseen to go on for many more years.

### **Categories of Migrants**

The Stock Estimate is the aggregate of all Filipinos residing or working overseas at any given time consisting of permanent, temporary and irregular migrants:

1. Permanent migrants are Filipino immigrants and legal permanent residents abroad, including recognized spouses of foreign nationals. Permanent migrants may be Filipinos who are Filipino citizens, naturalized citizens of their host country or dual citizens.
2. Temporary Migrants are Filipinos whose stay overseas, while regular and properly documented, is temporary, owing to the employment-related nature of their status in their host country. Temporary migrants include (land-based and sea-based) country workers and others whose stay abroad is six month or more, including their accompanying dependents. These migrants are popularly referred to as overseas Filipino workers or OFWs.

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<sup>2</sup> The Philippine Country Migration Report, IOM, Scalabrini Migration Center, Manila, 2013

3. Irregular Migrants are Filipinos who are not properly documented, or who are without valid residence or work permits, or who may be overstaying workers or tourists in a foreign country, provided that those falling under this category shall have been in such status for six months or more.

### Statistical Formula

In computing the stock estimate per country, the CFO is guided by the statistical formula:

$$A_p = B_t + C_{t..p} - D_{t..p}$$

where

- $A_p$  is the overseas Filipino population at time  $p$ ;
- $B_t$  is the stock of Filipinos abroad as of time  $t$ ;
- $C_{t..p}$  is the total outflow of migrant Filipinos from the Philippines since time  $t$  until time  $p$ ;
- $D_{t..p}$  is the total return flow of migrant Filipinos to the Philippines since time  $t$  until time  $p$ .

### Migration Data and its Relation to MDGs and SDGs

The Philippine government believes that migration must not be used as a strategy for development. But migration and development are interrelated concepts, where one affects the other. There's a growing body of evidence suggesting that migrants not only contribute to economic growth and well-being in countries of destination, but also to countries of origin by sending remittances back home or by investing as social entrepreneurs in their home communities.

In 2000, 189 nations made a pledge to free people from extreme poverty and multiple deprivations, which translated into eight Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs may be a noble cause in their own right, but it did leave a certain group out – the migrants. Though no data on migration statistics appear in the monitoring report of the Philippine's progress based on the MDG indicators, some data particularly on profile of Filipino migrants were used to come up with MDG-related programs. A particular example was the creation of Youth and Employment and Migration Center in 4 provinces in the country to address youth unemployment and provide alternative job opportunities for youth migrants. Studies show that most Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are young between 20 and 24 years old.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> MDG-Fund Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth, International Labour Organization, November 2012

That's why, the Philippines is particularly pleased that the Sustainable Development Goals have included migration in their targets. The SDG negotiations have resulted in migration and migrants being well represented; both in terms of migration as a positive force for sustainable development and in terms of promoting the rights and well-being of migrants. The SDGs are expected to facilitate this important contribution.

### **Challenges and Issues on the Stock Estimation**

Though the Philippines has rich and diverse data on migration, it also poses challenges for coordinating and harmonizing different definition, methods for data collection, processing and sharing; and hardware. With regard computing the stock estimates, the following are the various issues and challenges encountered by the CFO:

- Lack of comprehensive and accurate data on returning migrants.
- The possibility of double counting of migrants, especially on OFWs who return more than once within the year to the Philippines and go back to work abroad again.
- Difficulty of capturing Filipino migrants who changed status or who migrated to another country brought about by free movement of people.
- Difficulty in capturing attrition rate of migrants
- Lack of comprehensive disaggregated data by sex, age, profession, etc.
- Difficulty in harmonizing different migration datasets produced by different agencies due to their respective mandates.

### **Initiatives and Recommendations in Addressing the Challenges and Issues**

With the different migration data needed to monitor implementation of the SDGs ranging from labour migration, human trafficking, to remittances, there really is a need to harmonize all migration—related data produced by different agencies.

The creation of the Philippine Inter-Agency Committee on Migration in 2015, will hopefully address the harmonization issues concerning Philippine migration statistics. For the past few months, the group composed of several migration-related government agencies, statistical agencies and the academe, is in the process of developing an operation framework in counting overseas Filipinos based in UN standards.

Moreover, there is still a need to:

- Start producing data on permanently returning and retiring in the Philippines for the government's reintegration program for migrant returnees and for the more accurate computation of the stock estimate
- Come up with unified definition of migration terms
- Capacitate the Philippine diplomatic Posts in coming up with more reliable data on overseas Filipinos
- Share/interconnect databases of migration-related Philippine government agencies
- Encourage host countries to share data on the number of our migrants

Importantly, the Philippine Statistics Authority and the National Economic Development Authority in October 2015, will lead in organizing a multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss and develop the indicators of the SDGs.

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**Commission on Filipinos Overseas**  
**STOCK ESTIMATE OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS**  
As of December 2013

REGION / COUNTRY		PERMANENT	TEMPORARY	IRREGULAR	TOTAL
<b>WORLD TOTAL</b>		<b>4,869,766</b>	<b>4,207,018</b>	<b>1,161,830</b>	<b>10,238,614</b>
<b>PERCENTAGE</b>		<b>48%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>AFRICA</b>		<b>4,198</b>	<b>49,003</b>	<b>5,835</b>	<b>59,036</b>
1	ALGERIA	30	5,621	600	6,251
2	ANGOLA	226	2,417	250	2,893
3	BENIN	5	17	10	32
4	BOTSWANA	125	236	25	386
5	BURKINA FASO	0	45	15	60
6	BURUNDI	0	8	0	8
7	CAMEROON	1	143	0	144
8	CAPE VERDE	0	25	15	40
9	CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.	0	34	0	34
10	CHAD	0	528	10	538
11	CONGO	0	2,076	0	2,076
12	CONGO, DEM. REP.	0	597	0	597
13	COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)	19	122	45	186
14	DJIBOUTI	0	416	0	416
15	EGYPT	1,198	2,611	1,945	5,754
16	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	25	2,852	15	2,892
17	ERITREA	2	117	5	124
18	ETHIOPIA	2	581	10	593
19	GABON	0	199	50	249
20	GAMBIA	0	52	5	57
21	GHANA	30	1,188	110	1,328
22	GUINEA	3	145	10	158
23	GUINEA BISSAU	0	9	5	14
24	KENYA	373	312	0	685
25	LESOTHO	260	87	15	362
26	LIBERIA	20	448	35	503
27	LIBYA	53	9,142	400	9,595
28	MADAGASCAR	0	2,339	0	2,339
29	MALAWI	0	141	10	151
30	MALI	0	155	20	175
31	MAURITANIA	0	218	25	243
32	MAURITIUS	0	164	10	174
33	MOROCCO	6	984	310	1,300
34	MOZAMBIQUE	505	784	25	1,314
35	NAMIBIA	125	136	40	301
36	NIGER	0	66	0	66
37	NIGERIA	240	6,500	500	7,240
38	RWANDA	0	178	5	183
39	SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	0	19	5	24
40	SENEGAL	5	97	10	112
41	SEYCHELLES	0	1,171	50	1,221
42	SIERRA LEONE	35	381	35	451

43	SOMALIA	0	15	0	15
44	SOUTH AFRICA	400	1,294	300	1,994
45	ST. HELENA	0	1	0	1
46	SUDAN	215	1,790	745	2,750
47	SWAZILAND	135	212	10	357
48	TANZANIA	0	404	25	429
49	TOGO	14	62	5	81
50	TUNISIA	30	137	35	202
51	UGANDA	0	378	20	398
52	ZAMBIA	95	1,299	50	1444
53	ZIMBABWE	21	50	25	96
<b>ASIA, East &amp; South</b>		<b>288,894</b>	<b>841,228</b>	<b>538,705</b>	<b>1,668,827</b>
54	AFGHANISTAN	1	933	675	1,609
55	BANGLADESH	147	800	1,100	2,047
56	BHUTAN	0	12	5	17
57	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	17,658	14,907	200	32,765
58	CAMBODIA	43	2,349	1,345	3,737
59	CHINA	1,852	25,279	2,560	29,691
60	HONGKONG	13,251	182,843	5,000	201,094
61	INDIA	382	1,012	75	1,469
62	INDONESIA	321	12,154	90	12,565
63	JAPAN	163,532	12,475	6,910	182,917
64	KAZAKHSTAN	1	1,598	0	1,599
65	KOREA (North)	0	7	0	7
66	KOREA (South)	15,361	31,448	13,030	59,839
67	KYRGYZSTAN	0	39	5	44
68	LAOS	2	1,312	0	1,314
69	MACAU	1,930	14,057	1,935	17,922
70	MALAYSIA	26,007	319,123	448,450	793,580
71	MALDIVES	25	3,670	405	4,100
72	MONGOLIA	0	731	150	881
73	MYANMAR	29	561	0	590
74	NEPAL	55	28	0	83
75	PAKISTAN	154	1,097	250	1,501
76	SINGAPORE	44,102	110,141	49,000	203,243
77	SRI LANKA	2	921	10	933
78	TAIWAN	2,459	84,511	2,225	89,195
79	TAJIKISTAN	0	9	5	14
80	THAILAND	1,580	11,644	3,000	16,224
81	TIMOR-LESTE	0	615	920	1,535
82	TURKMENISTAN	0	1,484	50	1,534
83	UZBEKISTAN	0	183	10	193
84	VIETNAM	0	5,285	1,300	6,585
<b>ASIA, West</b>		<b>7,748</b>	<b>2,308,087</b>	<b>173,595</b>	<b>2,489,430</b>
85	BAHRAIN	91	69,307	2,685	72,083
86	IRAN	983	853	3,040	4,876
87	IRAQ	22	650	250	922
88	ISRAEL	2,000	30,400	4,000	36,400
89	JORDAN	151	18,120	11,495	29,766
90	KUWAIT	502	191,787	6,000	198,289
91	LEBANON	1,573	24,640	2,900	29,113
92	OMAN	140	53,360	2,090	55,590
93	PALESTINE	0	6	20	26
94	QATAR	16	189,534	15,000	204,550
95	SAUDI ARABIA	264	948,038	80,500	1,028,802



96	SYRIA	265	1,422	2,760	4,447
97	UAE	1,711	777,894	42,805	822,410
98	YEMEN	30	2,076	50	2,156
<b>EUROPE</b>		<b>421,891</b>	<b>286,371</b>	<b>157,925</b>	<b>866,187</b>
99	ALBANIA	0	56	5	61
100	ANDORRA	476	679	115	1,270
101	ARMENIA	0	43	0	43
102	AUSTRIA	9,132	2,504	2,000	13,636
103	AZERBAIJAN	308	30	500	838
104	BALEARIC ISLANDS	985	748	235	1,968
105	BELORUSSIA (BELARUS)	0	75	0	75
106	BELGIUM	7,011	408	5,000	12,419
107	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	4	6	0	10
108	BULGARIA	33	46	10	89
109	CROATIA	17	61	0	78
110	CYPRUS	2,709	14,114	3,125	19,948
111	CZECH REPUBLIC	99	574	10	683
112	DENMARK	7,175	5,161	0	12,336
113	ESTONIA	24	18	0	42
114	FINLAND	1,936	641	0	2,577
115	FRANCE	8,848	1,290	37,880	48,018
116	GEORGIA	5	192	70	267
117	GERMANY	36,020	8,194	3,000	47,214
118	GIBRALTAR	0	38	5	43
119	GREECE	91	55,625	6,000	61,716
120	GREENLAND	5	34	0	39
121	HUNGARY	84	104	0	188
122	ICELAND	1,024	677	10	1,711
123	IRELAND	5,440	5,536	3,000	13,976
124	ISLE OF MAN	3	43	0	46
125	ITALY	89,742	127,814	54,390	271,946
126	LATVIA	9	111	0	120
127	LIECHTENSTEIN	12	41	30	83
128	LITHUANIA	2	11	0	13
129	LUXEMBOURG	503	174	400	1,077
130	MACEDONIA	2	61	0	63
131	MALTA	30	1,030	100	1,160
132	MOLDOVA	0	9	0	9
133	MONACO	290	47	0	337
134	MONTENEGRO	2	5	0	7
135	NETHERLANDS, THE	16,339	3,450	2,000	21,789
136	NORWAY	13,351	4,737	0	18,088
137	POLAND	227	258	5	490
138	PORTUGAL	661	1,600	390	2,651
139	ROMANIA	69	697	15	781
140	RUSSIA	11	1,479	2,845	4,335
141	SAN MARINO	0	29	5	34
142	SERBIA	15	37	0	52
143	SLOVAK REPUBLIC	36	21	0	57
144	SLOVENIA	95	45	0	140
145	SPAIN	32,226	6,688	3,890	42,804
146	SWEDEN	10,871	37	2,030	12,938
147	SWITZERLAND	13,376	4,934	2,600	20,910
148	TURKEY	882	1,044	3,260	5,186
149	UKRAINE	1	209	0	210

150	UNITED KINGDOM	161,710	31,416	25,000	218,126
151	VATICAN	0	3,490	0	3,490
<b>AMERICAS / TRUST TERRITORIES</b>		<b>3,782,483</b>	<b>250,733</b>	<b>280,260</b>	<b>4,313,476</b>
152	AMERICAN SAMOA	500	1,647	420	2,567
153	ANGUILLA	0	27	5	32
154	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	0	58	5	63
155	ARGENTINA	84	106	0	190
156	ARUBA	591	1,538	400	2,529
157	BAHAMAS	20	718	0	738
158	BARBADOS	4	0	20	24
159	BELIZE	17	75	0	92
160	BERMUDA	2	1,777	220	1,999
161	BOLIVIA	6	22	5	33
162	BRAZIL	260	475	70	805
163	BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	1	294	5	300
164	CANADA	626,668	89,615	5,295	721,578
165	CAYMAN ISLANDS	1	2,400	100	2,501
166	CHILE	32	248	25	305
167	CNMI	2,500	6,891	1,050	10,441
168	COLOMBIA	25	68	80	173
169	COSTA RICA	166	119	30	315
170	CUBA	36	45	0	81
171	CURACAO	0	152	0	152
172	DIEGO GARCIA	0	1,337	90	1,427
173	DOMINICA	0	26	0	26
174	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	60	197	0	257
175	ECUADOR	65	50	5	120
176	EL SALVADOR	33	20	0	53
177	FALKLAND ISLANDS	1	3	0	4
178	FRENCH POLYNESIA	3	1,012	0	1,015
179	GRENADA	0	27	0	27
180	GUAM	13,591	3,987	500	18,078
181	GUATEMALA	148	181	5	334
182	GUYANA	9	125	5	139
183	HAITI	251	251	0	502
184	HONDURAS	184	96	15	295
185	JAMAICA	38	311	5	354
186	MEXICO	206	523	20	749
187	NICARAGUA	61	25	0	86
188	PANAMA	35	88	15	138
189	PARAGUAY	20	41	0	61
190	PERU	29	177	5	211
191	PUERTO RICO	10	340	0	350
192	SABA & ST. EUSTATIUS	0	8	0	8
193	ST. KITTS NEVIS	0	81	0	81
194	ST. LUCIA	0	50	0	50
195	ST. MARTIN	0	201	0	201
196	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	0	92	5	97
197	SURINAME	70	480	25	575
198	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	1,360	960	680	3,000
199	TURKS AND CAICOS ISLAND (WEST INDIES)	0	2,148	0	2,148
200	UNITED STATES	3,135,293	129,383	271,000	3,535,676
201	URUGUAY	6	8	0	14

202	VENEZUELA	97	104	5	206
203	VIRGIN ISLANDS (US)	0	2,126	150	2,276
<b>OCEANIA</b>		<b>364,552</b>	<b>104,430</b>	<b>5,510</b>	<b>474,492</b>
204	AUSTRALIA	334,096	60,166	3,720	397,982
205	COOK ISLANDS	82	194	5	281
206	FIJI	164	78	5	247
207	KIRIBATI	11	92	0	103
208	MARSHALL ISLANDS (MAJURO)	14	799	0	813
209	MICRONESIA, FEDERATES STATES OF	14	1,992	0	2,006
210	NAURU	0	112	5	117
211	NEW CALEDONIA	101	2,100	0	2,201
212	NEW ZEALAND	29,008	8,858	1,225	39,091
213	NIUE	15	10	0	25
214	PALAU (BELAU)	68	4,426	10	4,504
215	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	782	24,851	520	26,153
216	POLYNESIA	0	116	0	116
217	SAMOA	82	22	5	109
218	SOLOMON	33	295	10	338
219	TONGA	82	30	5	117
220	TUVALU	0	129	0	129
221	VANUATU	0	160	0	160
<b>SEABASED WORKERS</b>			<b>367,166</b>		<b>367,166</b>

The top 10 destination countries of Filipinos: US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Malaysia, Canada, Australia, Italy, UK, Qatar and Singapore

Permanent Migrants - Filipino immigrants and legal permanent residents abroad, Filipino spouses of foreign nationals, Filipinos naturalized in their host country, Filipino dual citizens, and their descendants.

Temporary Migrants – Filipinos whose stay overseas, while regular and properly documented, is temporary, owing to the employment-related nature of their status in their host country. Include land-based and sea-based Filipino workers, intra-company transferees, students, trainees, entrepreneurs, businessmen, traders and others whose stay abroad is six month or more, and their accompanying dependents.

Irregular Migrants - Filipinos who are not properly documented or without valid residence or work permits, or who may be overstaying in a foreign country

**Sources:** Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Commission on Filipinos Overseas