

TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: MIGRANT-HOMELAND COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA

Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and
Development in the Asia-Pacific
Bangkok, 20-21 August 2008

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Outline of Presentation

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 - Migrants as development agents
 - International migration and development: is Asia out of the loop?
- Migration policies and development policies
 - Migration as failure of development; migration as a strategy for development
 - States as “transnational” actors
- Migrant-homeland cooperation for development in Asia
 - Examples of state-migrant partnership
 - Examples of non-state-migrant partnership
- Concluding remarks

INTRODUCTION

- Current discussions on international migration *and* development have highlighted the contributions of migrants to the development of origin and destination countries
- Countries in Asia, esp. origin countries, cannot ignore the transnational dimensions of development; significance of international migration (see Table 1)
- Migrants as development agents
 - Remittances
 - *National level*: main source of foreign reserves; improves balance of payments (see Table 2, World Bank data on remittances)
 - *Individual/family level*: remittances are direct transfers to intended beneficiaries
 - Impact at the *meso-level* (community level) is more debatable
 - The role of migrant giving (esp. collective remittances) - suggests the possibility of contributing to local development
 - HTAs and local development: examples from Latin America
 - Migrants' investments
 - Transfer of knowledge

Country	Deployment of workers (year)	Estimated overseas population (year)
Indonesia	640,000 (2006)	2.7 million
Philippines	1.08 million (2007)	8.7 million
Vietnam	78,000 (2006)	3.2 million
Thailand	160,846 (2006)	--
China	675,000 (ca, 2007)	35 million
India	500,000 (annual outflows)	20-25 million NRIs and PIOs
Bangladesh	252,702 (2005)	5 million
Pakistan	183,191 (2006)	8-10 million
Sri Lanka	203,841 (2006, provisional)	1.5 million workers abroad

Region/Country	Workers' remittances etc. (in US\$ million), 2007	Remittances as a share of GDP, 2006
East Asia/ China	25730	0.9
Southeast Asia		
<i>Cambodia</i>	153	4.1
<i>Indonesia</i>	6143	1.6
<i>Lao PDR</i>	1	0.0
<i>Myanmar</i>	125	n.a.
<i>Philippines</i>	17217	13.0
<i>Thailand</i>	1635	0.6
<i>Vietnam</i>	5500	7.9
South Asia		
<i>Bangladesh</i>	6560	8.8
<i>India</i>	27000	2.8
<i>Nepal</i>	1734	16.3
<i>Pakistan</i>	5998	4.0
<i>Sri Lanka</i>	2700	8.7

MIGRATION POLICIES & DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

- Current global reflection on international migration and development seems to be less discussed in Asia (?)
 - Compared with Latin America or Africa, less research on migration and development in Asia (?)
 - Some examples of success stories in the region have invited some analysis
 - the recent (ca. 1990s) transformation of South Korea and Taiwan from origin to destination societies
 - the role of overseas Chinese investments in China (a long history)
 - the role of overseas or returning Indians in promoting the development of ICT in India
 - Common elements in these examples
 - The role of remittances: minor significance
 - The role of “elite migrants” (scientists, investors, professionals): major significance
 - In the case of Taiwan & China, the state did not promote labor migration (S Korea did in early 1970s); encourage return migration
- Other than remittance inflows, evidence of the development impact of international migration on origin countries in Asia is less clear

MIGRATION POLICIES & DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

- The characteristics of International labor migration in Asia are at odds with the elements of the “success stories”
 - The migration of less skilled workers is designed to be *temporary*
 - Most international labor migration involves the migration of *less skilled workers*, including a significant proportion of women in domestic work
 - *Unauthorized migration* is significant
- The migration of highly skilled and professional migrants is increasing
 - Highly skilled and professional migration may lead to permanent migration
 - (Student migration is increasing; may not return to home countries)
- The development potentials of migration seem suspect considering:
 - Less skilled migration entails enormous human and social costs
 - Highly skilled migration may result in brain drain (possibly, brain gain later)

MIGRATION POLICIES & DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

- New emphasis in policies of countries of origin (see Table)
 - Framing labor migration as part of development strategies
 - Setting deployment targets
 - Targeting to send highly skilled workers
 - >> Aiming to reduce female migration
 - More positive regard of the overseas population
 - View of the overseas population as part of the nation
 - >> Turnaround in perceptions about emigrants: from traitors to development partners
 - State efforts to extend the nation to the “diaspora” (not limited to countries of origin)
 - Establishment of government agency/office to deal with overseas population
 - Absentee voting
 - Dual citizenship

Country	Deployment target	Deploying highly skilled	Office/agency to deal with "diaspora"	Absentee voting	Dual citizenship
Indonesia	Yes	Yes	Workers	Yes	For children of mixed marriages (should decide by 18 y/o)
Philippines	Yes	Yes	Workers Settlers	Yes	Yes
Vietnam	Yes	Yes	Workers Settlers	No	Considering?
Bangladesh	--	Yes	Workers	Yes	Yes
India	--	Yes	Workers Settlers	Yes	[Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)]
Pakistan	--	Yes	Workers Settlers	No	Yes, 13 countries [Pakistani Origin Card]
Sri Lanka	--	Yes (also more male migrants)	Workers	No	Yes

MIGRATION POLICIES & DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

- Migrants as initiators and/or supporters of homeland development
- Transnationalism provides a conceptual handle to analyze the role of migrants as development agents of homeland development
 - Migration as a social process
 - Conditions under globalization facilitate the development or maintenance of links with the home country
- The role of migrants as development agents derives from concepts of giving/sharing and the importance of social ties in the origin society
 - Philippines: *bayanihan*, *damayan*, *pakikipagkapwa*
 - China: *guanxi*

COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Examples of state-initiated cooperation with their overseas population
 - The case of the Philippines: “model of migration management”
 - Dual engagement with overseas Filipinos(?) – OFWs vs settlers
 - CFO: Link to Philippine Development Program (since 1990) – matching program, resources of overseas Filipinos & devt needs of communities in the country; US-based Filipinos most active
 - The case of India: previously passive on labor migration(?), actively seeking overseas Indians
 - Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
 - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (since 2003)
 - The case of China: notable change in viewing its overseas population
 - Overseas Chinese, key players in knowledge transfer
 - Active role of local governments
- NB: DEVELOPMENT AGENTS ARE SETTLERS, WELL-INTEGRATED IN THEIR HOST SOCIETIES, ROLE OF NATIONALISM

COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Migrants as partners in development
 - Evidence from Mexico and Latin America: HTAs/federations as development actors
 - Exploratory studies of migrants' associations in Asia (or associations formed by Asian migrants) reveal interesting insights
 - Diverse community building by migrants – e.g., importance of alumni asso.
 - There is interest in “giving back”
- Examples of non-state and migrant partnerships for development
 - Migrant-led initiatives
 - Example of NaFFAA; cyber communities (from “local” concerns to “national”)
 - NGO-migrant partnership
 - Organizing migrant savings groups; migrants' savings as source of capital for local enterprise
 - NGO as “broker” for social enterprise
 - Private sector (foundation)-migrant partnership
 - Faith-based organization-migrant partnership
 - Example of Gawad Kalinga and Filipino migrants

COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Migrants' Associations and Philippine Institutions for Development Project (Aeneas Programme)
- 3-year, 3-phase project, 3 countries
 - Government institutions in the Philippines (esp. local government units)
 - Migrants' associations in Italy and Spain
- Opportunity to know more about migrants' associations outside the US; migration context of Italy and Spain in-between temporary migration and permanent migration
- Aim: To strengthen the partnership for development between migrants' associations and Philippine government institutions
 - Integration of migration & development policies; engaging with overseas Filipinos
 - Migrants' association potentials as agents of change
- 2008: research; 2009: capacity-bldg (training of migrant leaders; training of migration/development staff, local government units); 2010: dissemination

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Assessments of the development impact of migrants' contributions
 - Modest contribution to development (projects supported by migrants do not promote "development"; migrants' associations are peopled by volunteers; migrants' associations were not formed to promote development)
 - Concerns over sustainability
- Assessment of the process should be as important
 - Through the resources they share with their homelands, migrants transcend their individual lives and transcend borders to share in community building.
 - In cooperating with migrants, local institutions and local communities acquire new experiences.
 - Transnational cooperation for development is not a substitute for a coherent development policy.