

Key Trends and Issues on International Migration in Asia and the Pacific

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Long History of Population Movements

- **Movements of people in the Asian continent accompanied the rise and decline of empires**
- **The “silk-road” joined the cultures of China, Central Asia, Western Asia and Europe**
- **16th century: Arrival of European powers**
- **Late 19th-early 20th century: Recruitment of foreign indentured workers during the colonial period**

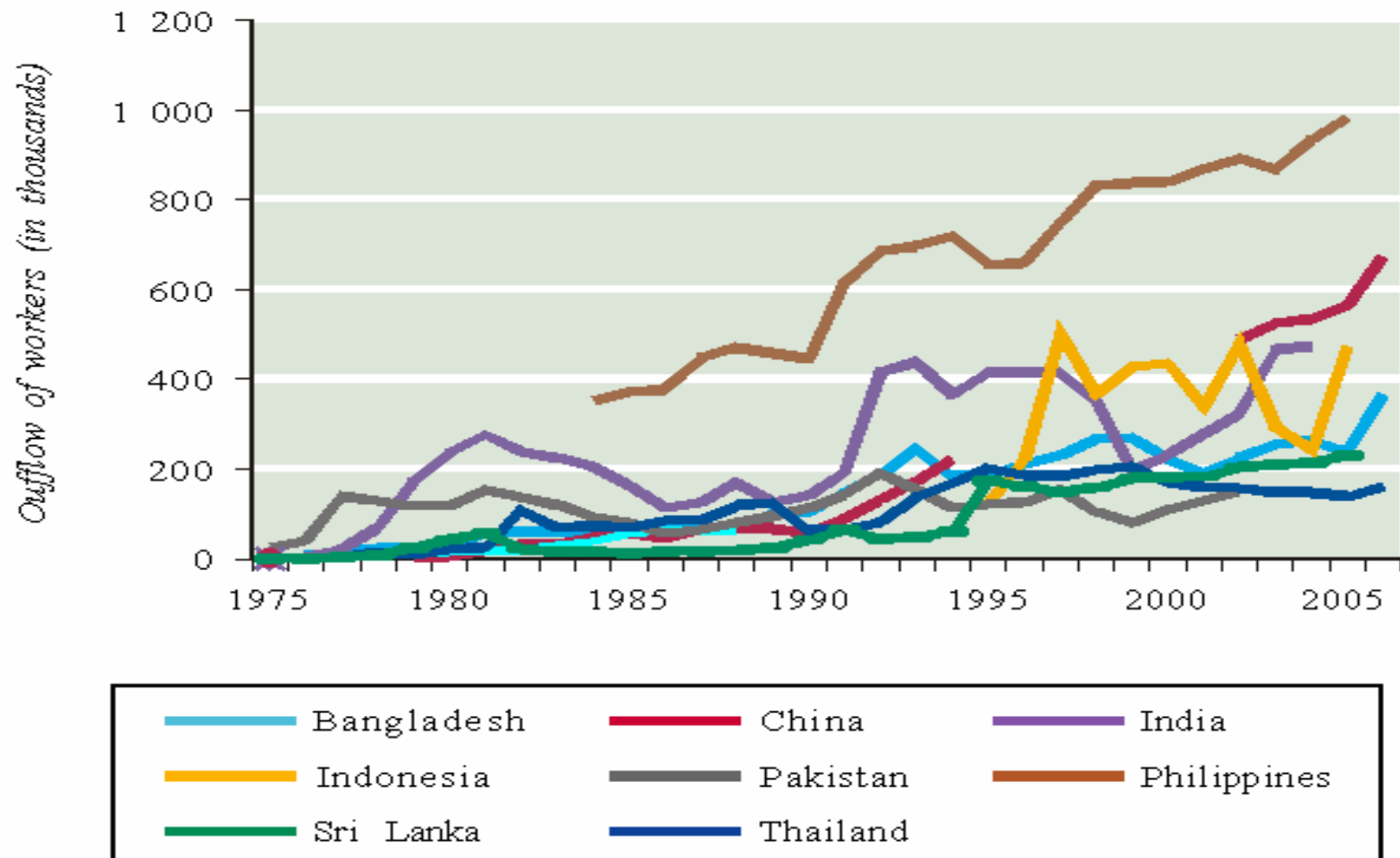
Contemporary migration in Asia-Pacific

- **Mid-1970s:** Labour migration to the oil-producing countries in Western Asia
- **1980s:** Growing intraregional migration in Eastern and South-eastern Asia; Large-scale refugee movements
- **1990s:** Growing movements of skilled professionals, Feminization
- **2000- :** Further diversification of flows
- **Permanent settlement to the West**

Key Features of international migration in Asia and the Pacific

- **Temporary labour migration**
- **Feminization of labour migration**
- **Student migration**
- **Irregular migration, Trafficking**
- **Remittances**
- **Refugees**

Growing volume of labour migration in Asia



Feminization of labour migration

- Women constitute a large proportion of labour outflows:

Philippines: 60%(2006)

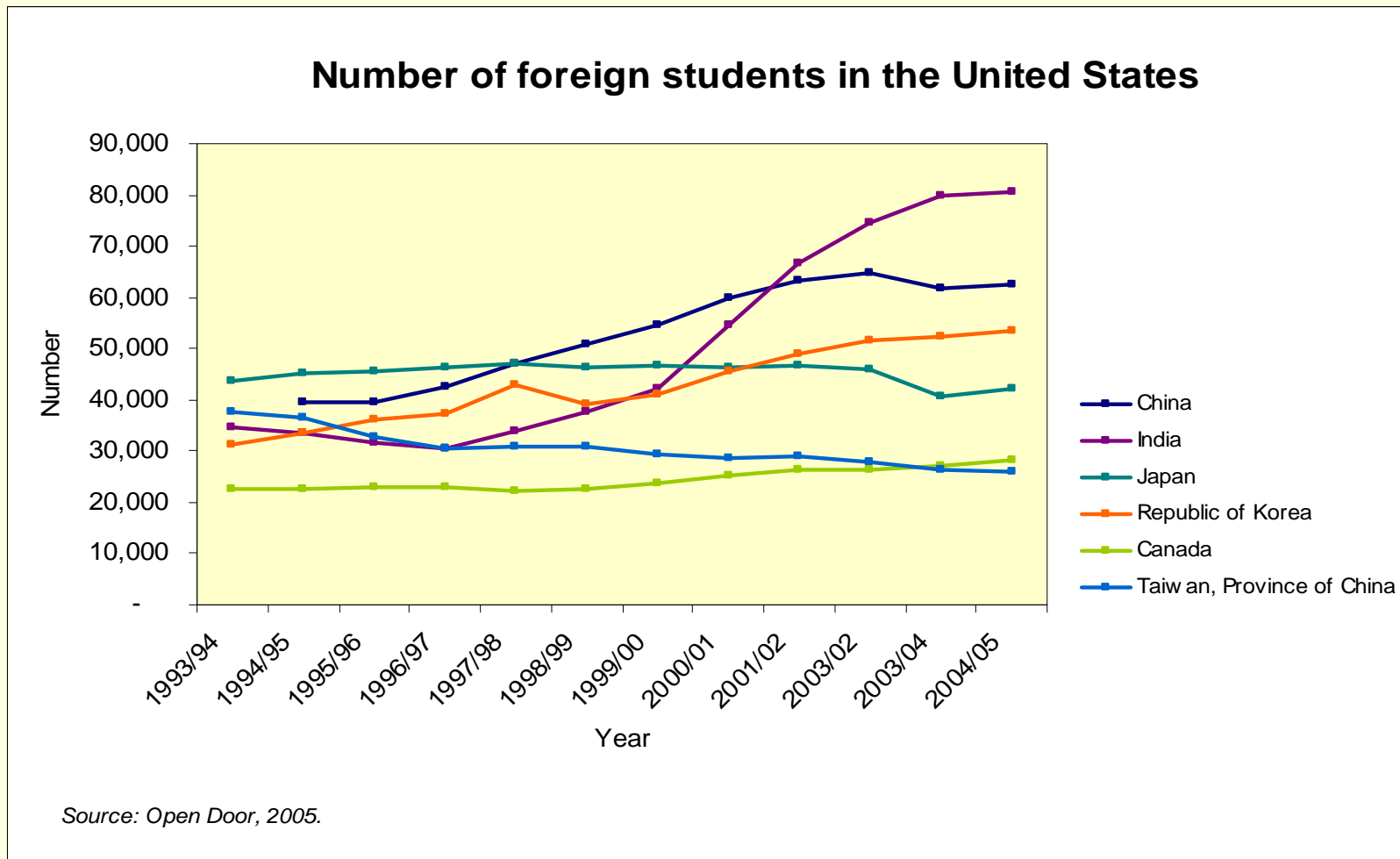
Indonesia: 83% (2004)

Sri Lanka: 53% (2007)

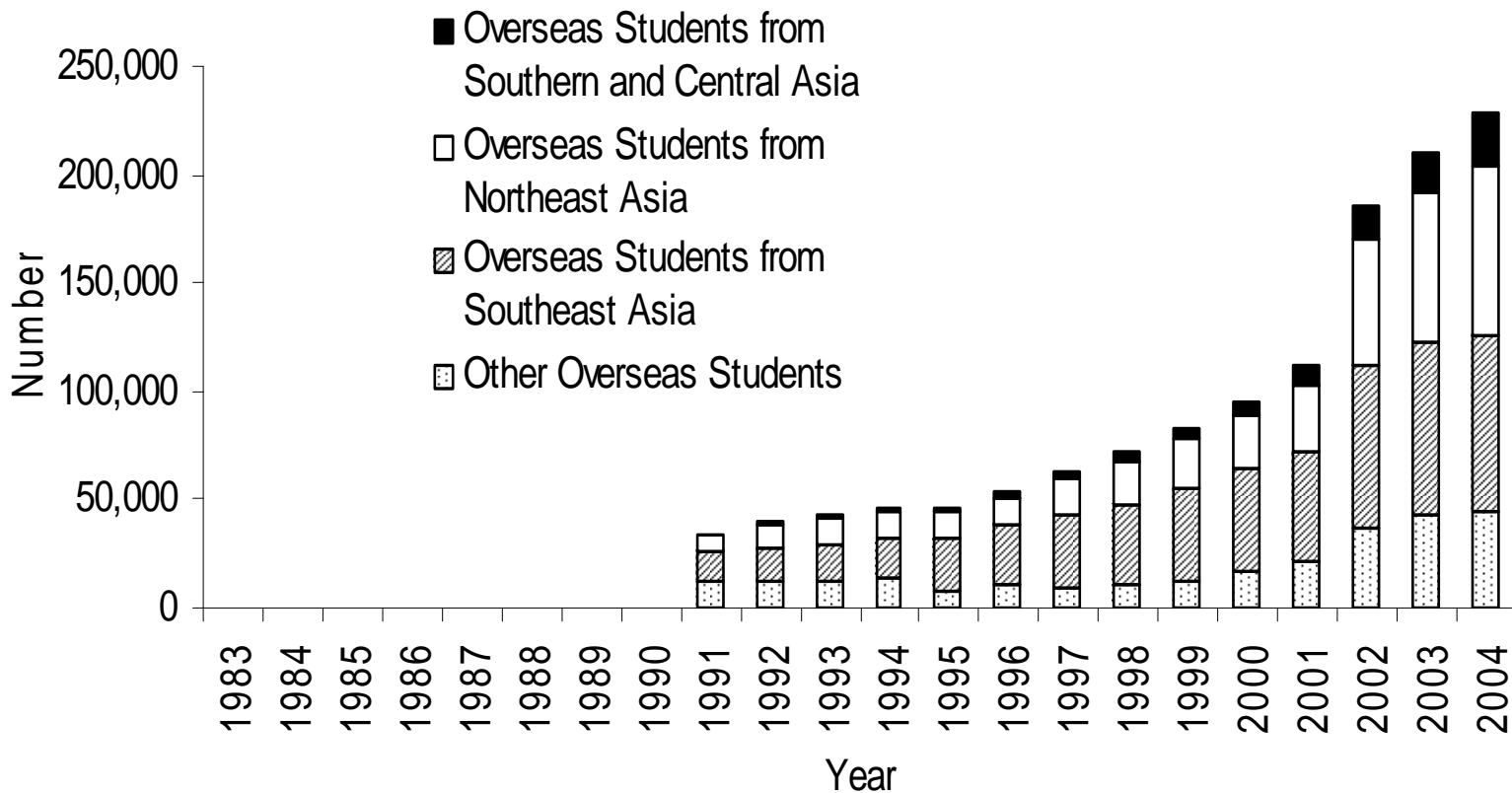
- Also significant from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam.
- Destination varies.
- Many work as domestic helpers, nurses, care workers, entertainers, factory workers, etc.



Student migration

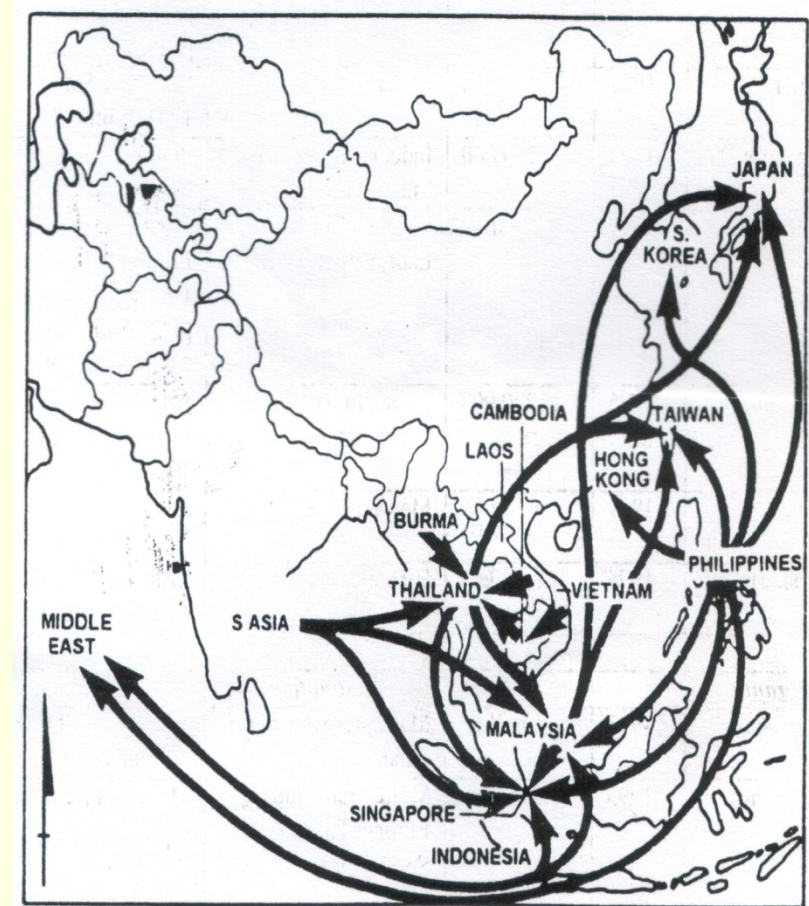


Student migration: Number of foreign students admitted to Australian universities



Irregular migration, Human trafficking

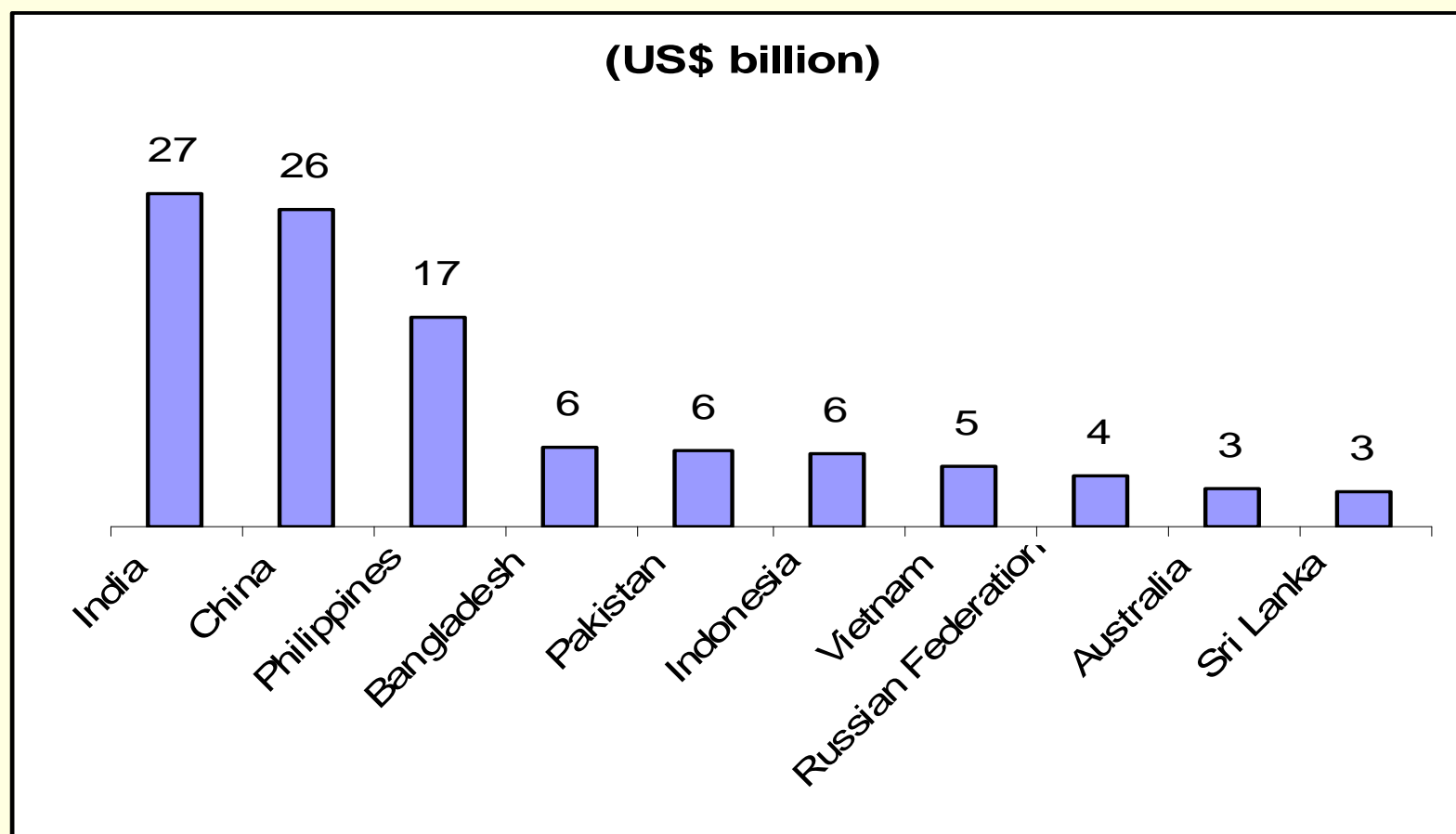
- **Large irregular migrants**
 - Japan (200,000+)
 - Malaysia (300,000 to 500,000)
 - Thailand (1.3 million registered in 20004)
- **Human trafficking has become wide spread transnational crime.**



Source: G. Hugo (2006)

Migrant Remittances

Top 10 recipient developing countries in ESCAP region, 2007 (billions)



Challenges of international migration (1)

- **Protection of the rights of migrants**, especially for unskilled migrant workers, women workers. The issue is not yet fully addressed.
- **Regulation of recruitment agents**: Need to develop credible and efficient recruitment system through licensing and close monitoring of agents' operation.
- **Leveraging remittances for development**: Mechanisms to maximize the development impacts of remittances have been largely absent.
- **Irregular migration**: More effective measures needed to combat irregular migration, including human trafficking.

Challenges of international migration (2)

- **Impacts on family left behind:** Separation of family could be detrimental to family cohesion and marital stability.
- **Children left behind:** More research on long-term impacts is needed.
 - ✓ Philippines (3 to 6 million), Indonesia (1 million), Thailand (500,000)
- **Marriage migration on the rise:** Can be linked to fraudulent marriages and trafficking. Integration of foreign spouses and the children of internationally married couples.
 - ✓ S. Korea (14% of new marriages in 2005 were between a Korean and a foreign spouse).

Summary and conclusion

- International migration will increase in scale and complexity
- Migration is becoming a long term structural feature of economies in the region
- Social dimensions of migration also deserve more attention
- Need to combat misinformation and lack of understanding, through research and effective advocacy



Thank you