International Migration and Development in Asia and the Pacific: Key Issues and Recommendations for Action

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UNITED NATIONS

Workshop on “Strengthening dialogue between ESCWA and ESCAP countries on international migration and development”
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Outline

• Migration levels and trends

• Migration on the agenda of the United Nations

• Capacity-development

• Recommendations

The number of international migrants in the world increased between 1990 and 2010.

Two-thirds of countries recorded an increase in the number of international migrants from 1990 to 2010.
The number of international migrants in Asia increased between 1990 and 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of migrants (thousands)</th>
<th>Increment (thousand)</th>
<th>Average annual growth 1990-2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA</td>
<td>50,876 61,324 10,448 0.9</td>
<td>Central Asia 6,628 4,970 1,658 -1.4</td>
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<td>Eastern Asia 4,484 6,485 2,002 1.8</td>
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<td>South-Eastern Asia</td>
<td>3,060 6,715 3,654 3.9</td>
<td>South-Eastern Asia 3,060 6,715 3,654 3.9</td>
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<td>Southern Asia</td>
<td>20,196 14,304 -5,892 -1.7</td>
<td>Southern Asia 20,196 14,304 -5,892 -1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Asia</td>
<td>16,508 28,850 12,342 2.8</td>
<td>Western Asia 16,508 28,850 12,342 2.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCEANIA</td>
<td>4,365 6,015 1,650 1.6</td>
<td>Australia/New Zealand 4,105 5,674 1,569 1.6</td>
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<td>Melanesia 91 111 19 1.0</td>
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<td>Micronesia 111 151 40 1.5</td>
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<td>Polynesia 58 79 21 1.5</td>
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<td>Northern Africa 2,278 2,010 -268 -0.6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

International migrants account for a large share of the total population in some Asian countries

International migrants as a percentage of the total population, 2010
(among those countries with at least one million inhabitants in 2010)

Qatar 87
United Arab Emirates 70
Kuwait 69
Jordan 46
Occupied Palenstinian Territory 44
Singapore 41
Israel 40
China, Hong Kong, SAR 39
Oman 28
Saudi Arabia 28

South-South migration is as common …

...as South-North migration (based on migrant stock data)

Most international migration occurs within major areas rather than between major areas

Migrant stock by major area of origin and major area of destination, 2010 (per cent)

- From Europe: 63% within, 37% to a different area
- From Oceania: 58% within, 42% to a different area
- From Asia: 57% within, 43% to a different area
- From Africa: 55% within, 45% to a different area
- From Northern America: 36% within, 64% to a different area
- From Latin America and the Caribbean: 14% within, 86% to a different area

Workers from Bangladesh migrate primarily to Western Asia

Countries of destination of overseas employed workers from Bangladesh

Source: Bangladesh, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, June 2011
Workers from the Philippines migrate primarily to Western Asia.
Countries of destination of overseas employed workers from Bangladesh (per cent)

Source: Bangladesh, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, June 2011
Countries of destination of deployed and land based overseas Filipino workers (per cent)

Source: Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, June 2011
Asia hosts the largest number of refugees in the world, 2010

Of the 16.3 million refugees worldwide in 2010...

Asia, 66.5%
Africa, 15.7%
Europe, 9.7%
Latin America and the Caribbean, 3.2%
Northern America, 5.0%
Oceania, 0.4%

In 2010, about half of all international migrants in the world were female.

- **World**: 51.0% Male, 49.0% Female
- **More developed regions**: 48.5% Male, 51.5% Female
- **Less developed regions**: 54.7% Male, 45.3% Female
- **ESCAP**: 49.1% Male, 50.9% Female
- **ESCWA**: 63.8% Male, 36.2% Female

Women account for less than half of all international migrants in many countries in Asia

Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock, 2010

For example, in these Asian countries, women account for less than 33 per cent of all international migrants.

Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock, 2010

- Bahrain: 32.9%
- Iraq: 31.1%
- Saudi Arabia: 30.1%
- Kuwait: 30.0%
- United Arab Emirates: 27.4%
- Qatar: 25.8%
- Oman: 20.8%
- Bhutan: 18.5%
- Bangladesh: 13.9%

International migrants in Africa and Asia are relatively young …

Percentage of migrant stock under age 20, 2010

... while they are older in Latin America and Europe

Percentage of migrant stock age 65 or over, 2010

The young are underrepresented among all international migrants in the world

Males and females as a percentage of the total population and the international migrant stock, 2010

Total population

Migrant stock

The male working-age population is overrepresented among international migrants in Asia

Males and females as a percentage of the total population and the international migrant stock, 2010

The male working-age population is overrepresented among international migrants in Western Asia.

Males and females as a percentage of the total population and the international migrant stock, 2010.

In 2009, some US$ 417 billion were remitted worldwide.

Source: The World Bank, 2011
Within Asia, Southern and Eastern Asia benefit the most from remittances 

Source: The World Bank, 2011
In many Asian countries remittances account for a significant share of GDP

Countries in Asia where remittance inflows account for a large share of GDP, 2009 (per cent)

- Tajikistan: 35.1%
- Tonga: 30.3%
- Samoa: 26.5%
- Lebanon: 23.8%
- Kyrgyzstan: 21.9%
- Jordan: 21.7%
- Philippines: 14.3%
- Bangladesh: 12.3%
- Sri Lanka: 11.8%
- Vietnam: 8.0%
- Georgia: 7.0%
- Sudan: 5.5%
- Yemen: 4.4%
- Egypt: 3.8%

Source: World Bank, 2011
After many years of growth, remittances declined during the economic crisis, but have since been recovering.
In 2009-2010 remittance flows to all regions in Asia have been recovering.

Per cent change in remittance flows (2008-2009 versus 2009-2010)

Source: World Bank, 2010
Ratification of relevant international instruments continues, yet remains uneven between instruments.

Number of States Parties

Source: United Nations, 2011
Ratification of relevant international instruments also varies by region

Percentage share of United Nations State Members and ESCAP and ESCWA Member States, 21 June 2011

Ratification of:
- Refugee Convention 1951
- UN Migrant Worker Convention 1990
- Human Trafficking Protocol 2000
- Migrant Smuggling Protocol 2000

Source: United Nations, 2011
Migration-related activities and events at the international level over time

Migration-related activities and events at the international level over time

Global Forum - Belgium (2006)
Global Forum - Greece (2007)
Global Forum - Philippines (2008)
Global Forum - Mexico (2009)
Informal Thematic Debate (2010)
Global Forum - Switzerland (2011)
Global Forum - Sweden (2013)

International migration contributes to development. But in order to reap the full benefits of migration the following are needed:

- Better policies and programmes to:
  - Reduce transaction costs of remittances
  - Promote return and circular migration
  - Promote migrant entrepreneurship
  - Protect the rights of all migrants
  - Facilitate the integration of migrants into host societies

- A sound evidence base

Source: United Nations, 2011
Panel 2: Improving international cooperation on migration and development

Optimisation of migrant contributions requires cooperation at all levels

- At the bilateral and regional levels progress has been made in strengthening cooperation

- The GFMD has successfully promoted dialogue, but it is still a fragile process, with insufficient support from Member States

- The GMG has an important role to play in fostering better coordination and supporting the activities of Member States (for example, collaboration between UNHCR and IOM to evacuate foreign workers from Libya)

Source: United Nations, 2011
The five steps to improve migration data in the long term, with existing institutions and at low cost are ...

- **Ask** basic census questions – country of birth, citizenship, previous residence by age and sex – and tabulate and disseminate the answers
- **Make** better use of existing administrative data sources
- **Compile** existing data from surveys
- **Provide** access to micro data
- **Build** capacity to collect and disseminate data

Source: Centre for Global Development, 2009; based on the Report of the Commission on International Development Research and Policy
Global Migration Database

- Repository of international migrant stock data by country of birth, citizenship, sex and age
- >230 countries/territories since 1960s
- Censuses, registers, surveys
- > 2.7 million records
- >600 subscribers
- UNSD, UNICEF, UNDP-SU/SSC, WB

www.unmigration.org

Asia is lagging behind regarding data on the total international migrant stock

Coverage based on migrant stock (per cent)

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asia</strong></td>
<td><strong>74</strong></td>
<td><strong>87</strong></td>
<td><strong>42</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern America</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oceania</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>95</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World</strong></td>
<td><strong>86</strong></td>
<td><strong>93</strong></td>
<td><strong>68</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Asia is lagging behind regarding data on the total international migrant stock by age

### Coverage based on migrant stock (per cent)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Asia</strong></td>
<td><strong>41</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
<td><strong>37</strong></td>
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<td><strong>99</strong></td>
<td><strong>79</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>World</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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International migration is a critical issue of our time, today, possibly, more so than ever.

Evidence
Engagement
Cooperation
Capacity-building
Thank you!

www.unmigration.org
www.unpopulation.org