



Distr.: For participants only  
18 April 2013

Original: English



## Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking

Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the General Assembly High-level  
Dialogue on International Migration and Development 2013

Bangkok, 29-31 May 2013

### **Review of migration and development policies and programmes and their impact on economic and social development, and identification of relevant priorities in view of the preparation of the development framework beyond 2015**

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

#### *Summary*

This paper is meant to assist discussions in the Asia-Pacific region in preparation for the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development to be held on 3 and 4 October 2013.

While most attention in the region is focused on temporary low-skilled labour migration, the importance of highly skilled workers, international students, marriage migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and displaced persons should not be overlooked. Irregular migration and trafficking in persons are widespread owing to inadequate management of international migration and such other factors as poverty and disparities in development. The migration experience has impacts not only on migrants themselves but also their family members.

International migration is linked to sustainable development and should be explicitly incorporated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. Governments of countries in the region can strengthen migration policy formulation in a number of thematic areas and through several strategic approaches.

## Contents

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| Summary .....  | 1    |
| Introduction .....   | 2    |
| I. International migration and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 .....   | 3    |
| II. Key features of international migration in Asia and the Pacific .....  | 4    |
| A. Current situation .....   | 4    |
| B. Economic impact of international migration .....  | 8    |
| C. Social impact of international migration .....  | 9    |
| III. Migration policy formulation .....  | 11   |
| A. International agreements .....  | 11   |
| B. National approaches .....   | 12   |
| C. Challenges for migration policies and programmes .....  | 12   |
| D. Future directions .....   | 14   |
| IV. Linkages among international migration, sustainable development, environmental change, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian crises ..... | 15   |
| A. Current situation .....   | 15   |
| B. Relevant policies .....   | 16   |
| V. Key areas for action and cooperation .....  | 16   |
| A. Thematic areas .....  | 16   |
| B. Strategic approaches .....  | 18   |
| Annex  |      |
| Table 1. International migration and remittance indicators for Asia and the Pacific .....  | 20   |
| Table 2. Number of migrant workers deployed from selected Asian countries or areas, by destination, 2010-2011 .....                              | 22   |

## Introduction

1. International migration is becoming increasingly important in economic and social development globally and within Asia and the Pacific, and many Governments and other parties involved believe that international migration should be incorporated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

2. In that context, the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session adopted resolution 67/219 on international migration and development. Through that resolution, the General Assembly decided to hold a two-day high-level dialogue on international migration and development on 3 and 4 October 2013. It also invited “the regional commissions and their subregional offices, in collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as the International Organization for Migration and its Council, to organize discussions to examine regional aspects of international migration and development and to provide inputs, in accordance with their respective mandates, to the preparatory process of the high-level dialogue”.

3. In the resolution the Secretary-General is requested to prepare a comprehensive report on migration and development in developed and developing countries. The Commission on Population and Development also

contributed to the high-level dialogue by adopting as the theme for its 46<sup>th</sup> session, held from 22 to 26 April 2013, “New trends in migration: demographic aspects”.

4. As the basis for discussion of international migration in Asia and the Pacific, the present paper contains a discussion on the inclusion of migration in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, a review of the economic and social aspects of migration in the region, an examination of relevant policy formulation and some suggested key topics for action and cooperation.

## **I. International migration and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015**

5. While the impact of international migration on development is increasingly acknowledged by countries around the world, the framework for the long-term governance of international migration is fragmented among various mandates and normative instruments. The International Conference on Population and Development, convened in Cairo in 1994, adopted the Programme of Action on Population and Development, which contained a chapter on international migration that was meant to guide population policy for 20 years. Member States are currently engaged in a process to determine how to employ the Programme of Action beyond 2014. Similarly, targets for the Millennium Development Goals were set for 2015 and the international community is now considering a development agenda beyond 2015.

6. One of the many issues to be considered is the role of international migration in development. Migration as a process was not included in the Goals because, among other reasons, the targets were outcome indicators whereas international migration could be considered a process.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, international migrants were not explicitly considered as agents or subjects in relation to development and development interventions. In the initial discussions leading up to 2015, however, considerable support has been expressed for including international migration and migrants as explicit components of the development agenda beyond 2015.

7. International migration can be incorporated in the development agenda beyond 2015 from two perspectives. First, migration can be viewed in terms of the contributions that it makes to development both in countries of origin and host countries. Second, and inextricably related, migrants may be seen as subjects of development. Are migrants able to move in security; to find decent work; to have access to health and social services; to be free from human rights violations, including discrimination, exploitation and trafficking; to maintain family ties through communication and visits; and to send remittances conveniently?

8. Martin<sup>1</sup> argues that managing international migration in ways that protect migrants and contribute to development both in countries of origin and host countries is an increasingly important global challenge. He suggests that, in order to understand the contribution of migration to development, it is valuable to measure indicators of the numbers and characteristics of migrants, the remittances that they send home and return migration. The gender

---

<sup>1</sup> Philip L. Martin, “Labour migration and development indicators in the post-2015 global development framework”, working paper prepared for the International Organization for Migration *World Migration Report* (Geneva, IOM, 2012).

dimensions of these topics and the role of social remittances should also be included.

9. Not all aspects of international migration result in positive outcomes, so the negative side of migration must also be taken into account, including trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, and discrimination against and exploitation of migrants.

10. Including international migration in the development agenda beyond 2015 will require the collection of more timely, reliable, comparable and accessible data on migration, including disaggregated data on the basis of gender and age as well as other specific vulnerabilities, such as legal status, and the impact of migration on development. A global programme is needed to improve migration data obtained from censuses, registers, administrative records and household surveys.

11. Incorporating international migration into the development agenda beyond 2015 would encourage policymakers and others to view it as a development issue rather than primarily as one of national security and border control.

## **II. Key features of international migration in Asia and the Pacific**

### **A. Current situation**

#### **1. Trends and patterns of international migration**

12. As is true in most aspects, the Asia-Pacific region is highly diverse regarding international migration. Although international migrants constitute only 1.3 per cent of the population in the region, they equal more than one third of the population in several countries or areas: American Samoa (41 per cent); Brunei Darussalam (36 per cent); Guam (44 per cent); Hong Kong, China (39 per cent); Macau, China (55 per cent); Nauru (52 per cent); Northern Mariana Islands (62 per cent); and Singapore (41 per cent). Conversely, annual rates of net out-migration between 2005 and 2010 exceeded 5 per 1,000 in Fiji, Georgia, Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tajikistan, and exceeded 10 per 1,000 in the Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu (see annex, table 1).

13. In spite of the great diversity in international migration in the region, a few common themes may be observed.

- The largest flows of migrants consist of low-skilled labour migrants who, with or without a work contract, move for temporary employment and are generally not permitted to bring dependents with them.
- The largest flows of labour migrants are documented and regulated by government agencies but carried out by private recruitment agencies.
- Several countries in the region host large numbers of migrants who are in an irregular status.
- The proportion of women in migration flows ranges from less than 5 per cent to about two thirds because of gender stratification in contract labour migration.

- In spite of the predominance of labour migration, many other forms of migration are of importance, including highly skilled migrants; marriage migrants; international students; and asylum-seekers, refugees, the stateless and displaced persons.

## 2. Labour migration

14. Because of the large number of persons migrating for work every year, many Governments regulate and document their deployment. Table 2 in the annex shows the number of migrant workers deployed in recent years by the countries in Asia that supply the largest numbers of such workers. If maritime workers are included, the Philippines deployed 1.47 million migrant workers in 2010. India and Indonesia have regularly deployed more than half a million workers annually in recent years. Very high proportions of deployments from the Philippines and countries in South Asia go to the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, or Gulf Co-operation Council. The volume of migration flows indicates that the recruitment and placement of overseas migrant workers is a large industry in itself.

15. The global economic slowdown that began at the end of 2008 has had a significant impact on deployments from several of the main countries of origin. Deployments from Bangladesh declined from 875,000 in 2008 to 391,000 in 2010. India, Indonesia and, to a lesser extent, Thailand have also experienced reductions in the annual number of workers deployed, while the Philippines and Sri Lanka deployed more workers in 2010 than in 2008.<sup>2</sup>

16. Foreign workers comprise more than a third of the labour force in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, and about one sixth in Malaysia. Foreigners constitute particularly high percentages of construction workers and domestic workers in many host countries in the region.

## 3. Irregular migration and trafficking in persons

17. Migrant workers may be in an irregular situation because of unauthorized entry, stay or employment in the destination country. Such irregular migration is widespread in much of the region because of unequal levels of development, limited channels for regular labour migration, long land borders, heavily travelled sea routes and mass tourism.

18. Countries in Asia and the Pacific have at times attempted to reduce the volume of irregular migration by opening more channels for regular migration, by regularizing workers already in the destination country and by stricter enforcement of immigration regulations. The many memorandums of understanding between countries are aimed at providing legal channels for labour migration. The process of nationality verification of migrant workers in Thailand is a means of regularizing their immigration status.

19. Malaysia introduced a new regularization programme in 2011 called the “6-P Programme” for the Malay terms for registration, amnesty, legalization, enforcement, monitoring and deportation. All migrant workers were required to register, and 1.0 million documented workers and 1.3 million undocumented workers did so. The large majority of the previously undocumented workers

---

<sup>2</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *International Migration Outlook 2012* (Geneva, OECD Publishing, 2012). Available from [http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/migr\\_outlook-2012-en](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/migr_outlook-2012-en).

were from Indonesia but 270,000 were from Bangladesh and 280,000 were from Nepal.<sup>2</sup>

20. Some irregular migration takes the form of human trafficking. Because of its clandestine nature, estimates of the number of victims of trafficking are imprecise. The International Labour Organization<sup>3</sup> estimates that there are 20.9 million persons worldwide in forced labour, which may be considered a sub-set of trafficking. (Forced labour denotes situations in which persons are made to work against their free will or coerced by their recruiter or employer, for example through violence or threats of violence, or by more subtle means, such as accumulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities.) Some 11.7 million of those persons (56 per cent) are in Asia and the Pacific. Only a small percentage of all forced labour involves international migrants, however. Cross-border trafficking is commonly for sexual exploitation or labour exploitation.

21. An increasing number of people have been taking to the seas in search of safety, refugee protection or better economic opportunities. Such movements create particular difficulties for States in the region. They can challenge the principles of national sovereignty and good-neighbour relations. They can also raise humanitarian concerns for the individuals concerned, whose lives or physical integrity might be at risk as a result of travelling on unseaworthy vessels, failure of traditional search and rescue operations or due to interception and push-back policies. They can further fuel public disquiet and controversy when people in distress at sea are not rescued, not rescued in time, are pushed away from the borders of intercepting States or are caught in disputes regarding disembarkation. For State responses to be effective, better coordination at different levels is required with respect to search and rescue operations, border management and control, and refugee protection.

#### 4. Refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless migrants

22. There is a long-standing tradition in Asia of providing refugees with protection on an ad hoc basis. In 2011 there were 2.8 million refugees in the ESCAP region being assisted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Among those, 1.7 million were from Afghanistan but displaced to Pakistan. Another 840,000 refugees from Afghanistan were in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Other sizeable groups of refugees were being sheltered in Thailand (89,000), Malaysia (84,000), Nepal (55,000) and Bangladesh (30,000).<sup>4</sup>

23. In January 2013, there were 163,000 asylum-seekers from the Syrian Arab Republic in Turkey (and many more in both Jordan and Lebanon) who were registered or waiting to register with UNHCR.<sup>5</sup>

24. Many countries do not have a legal framework governing refugee protection. Accession to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol remains limited. The lack of comprehensive legal protection systems allows for a wide range of informal protection scenarios whereby States that have not ratified the international protection instruments have been providing ad hoc protection arrangements. UNHCR

<sup>3</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO), *ILO Global Estimate of Forced Labour, Executive Summary* (Geneva, 2012).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database. Available from [www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase](http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase)., data extracted on 9 February 2013.

<sup>5</sup> “Drowning in the flood”, *The Economist*, 2 February 2013.

often remains de facto the main protection actor in the region, operating in an unpredictable protection environment due precisely to the absence of a consistent legal framework. As for solutions, repatriation and resettlement are the only durable solutions accepted by States. However, given the limited places available for resettlement and lack of prospects for voluntary return to main countries of origin, few refugees can benefit from these solutions.

25. Ethnic minority populations who are not recognized as nationals by the country in which they reside, and are thus effectively stateless, pose a difficult challenge to the international community and the countries concerned. Children born to migrant workers at the destination may also be stateless owing to the failure of the Government of either the country of destination or the country of origin to register them. Without access to travel documents and basic civil documentation, such as birth certificates or identity cards, stateless persons are often left with no other option but to resort to smuggling and trafficking networks. In the absence of State protection, their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation is enhanced.

## 5. Migration of women

26. While females constitute 49 per cent of the migration stock globally, because most migration in Asia and the Pacific is for temporary labour migration, the proportion of women in migrant streams varies considerably. Women comprised 64 per cent of the migrant workers deployed by Indonesia in 2011 and approximately half of those deployed by the Philippines and Sri Lanka in 2010. Of the migrants from Myanmar employed in Thailand 45 per cent are women. In contrast, only 18 per cent of the workers deployed by Thailand are women. The proportion of women among deployed migrant workers is much lower for countries in South Asia.<sup>6</sup>

27. Men dominate temporary migration flows from the Pacific islands, such as of seafarers, migrant workers going to the Middle East and those in the New Zealand Recognized Seasonal Employer Scheme. Among the settled Pacific island populations in Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America, however, women are generally in the majority.<sup>7</sup>

28. Social constructions of gender greatly influence international migration in Asia and the Pacific. Female migrants are most likely to be domestic workers, caregivers, nurses or workers in seafood processing and light manufacturing, such as textiles or garments. Male workers are generally sought for construction, agriculture, seafaring and heavier manufacturing. While exploitation and abuse of workers may occur in any sector, female migrants can be especially vulnerable because of their sex per se; because of the high proportion who work in the informal sector, including in private households, and thus may be denied contact with anyone outside of the workplace; and because national legislation rarely regulates domestic work. Women and girls constitute up to 80 per cent of persons trafficked for sexual exploitation.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> For more detail, see International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Gender and Labour Migration in Asia* (Geneva, IOM, 2009).

<sup>7</sup> Geoffrey Hayes, "Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact in the Pacific islands sub-region", paper presented at Workshop on Strengthening National Capacities to Deal with International Migration, Bangkok, 22-23 April 2010.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), *State of World Population 2006: A Passage to Hope - Women and International Migration* (New York, 2006).

## 6. Migration for education

29. International migration for study is expanding rapidly. In 2009, there were more than 400,000 students from Asia in the United States, representing a 26 per cent increase over the number in 2004. Similarly, there were nearly 200,000 Asian students in Australia and about 175,000 in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with both figures representing large increases over the previous five years.<sup>2</sup> Several Asian and Pacific countries are also emerging as major destinations for international students, especially those from within the region. In 2011, China hosted the third largest number of international students in the world, with 293,000, while Australia ranked sixth, with 242,000 foreign students and Japan ranked eighth, with 138,000.<sup>9</sup>

## B. Economic impact of international migration

30. International migration contributes to the economic development of a country through the direct impact of the labour and skills of migrants working in it; through the remittances, investment, business exchanges and expertise furnished by its nationals living and working overseas; and through return migration.

31. While Governments typically attempt to restrict the entry of low-skilled workers and to ensure that their stay is temporary, several countries in the region have created programmes to facilitate the stay of more highly skilled or professional migrants. Both Japan and the Republic of Korea have introduced points-based systems to accelerate granting of permanent residence status to academic researchers, technical specialists and business professionals.<sup>2</sup> Highly skilled migrants in Singapore may become permanent residents and, after they have been in that status for two to six years may apply to become citizens. Approximately 20,000 migrants were granted citizenship each year between 2008 and 2010.<sup>10</sup>

32. The World Bank estimates that remittances to countries in the ESCAP region equalled US\$ 237 billion in 2011, with US\$ 100 billion going to the countries in South and South-West Asia (see annex, table 1). The largest volume of remittances was sent to India (US\$ 63.7 billion), with approximately as much sent to China (US\$ 62.5 billion). In several smaller economies, remittances equalled about one fifth or more of GDP, e.g., 21 per cent in Kyrgyzstan, 20 per cent in Nepal, 22 per cent in Samoa, 31 per cent in Tajikistan and 20 per cent in Tonga.

33. Prolonged periods of out-migration have resulted in significant diasporas, or people settled outside of their ancestral homeland. At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was estimated that there were approximately 33 million ethnic Chinese living outside of mainland China; Hong Kong, China; and Taiwan Province of China.<sup>11</sup> The second largest diaspora is that of Indians,

<sup>9</sup> Ronald Skeldon, "The demand, supply and international movement of skills: a discussion with examples from the Asian region", presentation at the ADBI-OECD-ILO Roundtable on Labour Migration in Asia: Assessing Labour Market Requirements for Foreign Workers and Developing Policies for Regional Skills Mobility, Bangkok, 23-25 January 2013.

<sup>10</sup> Brenda S. A. Yeoh and Weiqiang Lin, "Rapid growth in Singapore's immigrant population brings policy challenges" (Washington, D. C., Migration Policy Institute, 2012). Available from [www.migrationinformation.org/feature/display.cfm?ID=887](http://www.migrationinformation.org/feature/display.cfm?ID=887). Accessed on 20 July 2012.

<sup>11</sup> Ronald Skeldon, "China: an emerging destination for economic migration" (Washington, D.C., Migration Policy Institute, 2011). Available from [www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?id=838](http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?id=838). Accessed on 20 July 2012.



with about 27 million living overseas. Among them, 10-12 million hold Indian passports and the rest have foreign passports.<sup>12</sup>

34. Approximately 10 per cent of the Filipino population lives overseas and Viet Nam has a diaspora of about 3 million persons because of its colonial past and wars of independence and reunification.<sup>13</sup>

### C. Social impact of international migration

35. It would be expected that the number of international marriages would increase in an era of globalization, with growing numbers of persons working, studying and travelling abroad. In East and South-East Asia these trends were greatly assisted by the involvement of commercial brokers in matching spouses, and a number of countries have put in place regulations to curb the commercial arrangement of marriages. International marriages as a proportion of all marriages equalled 39 per cent in Singapore in 2008 (although many of the foreign spouses may be Singapore residents), 13 per cent in Taiwan Province of China in 2010, 11 per cent in the Republic of Korea in 2010 and 5 per cent in Japan in both 2005 and 2010.<sup>14</sup> Laws regarding the citizenship of children of international marriages perpetuate a gender bias in many countries in the region.

36. The separation entailed when one or both parents in a family migrate overseas clearly puts many pressures on the family and the roles of individuals in it. It is not difficult to identify cases of broken families and of dysfunctional behaviour of those family members left behind. High-quality research on these impacts is limited, however, and has yielded mixed results.<sup>15</sup>

37. In the effort to promote labour migration, more attention needs to be given to the situation of the families who remain behind. Temporary labour migration that is extended for a long period places stress on the migrant and his or her spouse and children. When women migrate, their husbands may not adequately assume the caregiving role, which is then relegated to other women in the family. There is also pressure on the woman migrant to carry out her parental role while overseas. Likewise, when men migrate, women have to take on the additional role of decision maker, which can be empowering but also stressful.

38. Children who are at the destination because they migrated alone, migrated with a parent or were born at the destination are often particularly vulnerable. Because there is no provision for low-skilled migrant workers to bring dependents with them, those children of migrants at the destination are invariably in an irregular situation and may have difficulty in obtaining access

<sup>12</sup> Naziha Sultana, "India", in *Situation Report on International Migration in South and South-West Asia* (Bangkok, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 2012).

<sup>13</sup> Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking, *Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia* (ST/ESCAP/2622) (Bangkok, International Organization for Migration, 2008).

<sup>14</sup> Gavin W. Jones, "International marriage in Asia: What do we know, and what do we need to know?", Asia Research Institute Working Paper, No. 174, January 2012, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Available from [www.ari.nus.edu.sg/pub/wps.htm](http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/pub/wps.htm).

<sup>15</sup> Brenda S. A. Yeoh and Theodora Lam, "The costs of (im)mobility: children left behind and children who migrate with a parent", in *Perspectives on Gender and Migration* (ST/ESCAP/2460) (Bangkok, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 2007).

to education or health-care services and other fundamental human rights.<sup>16</sup> They are also more prone to engage in child labour. Many may be subject to detention and deportation. Furthermore, children born outside of their country of origin may have difficulties with birth registration, access to citizenship and, as a result, access to services in their home country.

39. Addressing the health of migrants is indispensable for reaping the benefits and reducing the negative effects of international migration for all stakeholders: migrants, as well as communities of origin, transit and destination. Health is widely recognized as a critical enabling factor of social and economic development. The conditions in which migrants travel, live and work can carry exceptional risks for their physical and mental well-being. These include unequal access to health-care services and vulnerabilities associated with migration status, marginalization and abuse, and are often linked to restrictive immigration and employment policies, economic and social factors, and anti-migrant sentiments in societies. These health vulnerabilities are exacerbated for female migrants and children in migrant households. There are four key arguments for including migrant health in national policies and in international dialogues on migration and development: (a) healthy migrants are better able to contribute to economic development; (b) migrants have a well-established right to health; (c) enhancing migrant health requires intercountry and multisector dialogue; and (d) international dialogue is needed to ensure healthier migration, avoid discriminatory practices and address issues of human resources in the health field between countries of origin and countries of destination.<sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, the basic right to health is often violated in the receiving country. Migrants may find it difficult to gain access to health care at the destination owing to a language barrier or cost involved, or because the terms of their employment do not include health insurance, their employer does not allow them to be absent from the workplace or they are reluctant to seek care from public facilities if they are in an irregular status.<sup>18</sup>

40. Destination countries generally treat low-skilled labour migrants as short-term workers who will return home at the expiration of their contract and thus believe that any measures to facilitate their integration are unnecessary. In practice, many migrant workers are able to renew their contracts numerous times and stay in the host country for several years. As a consequence, many migrants live transnational lives, with considerable interaction with both their home country and the destination country.<sup>19</sup> Government policies towards both the economic and social situation of migrant workers should reflect their transnational existence rather than perceiving them to be only short-term labourers.

---

<sup>16</sup> Mary Austin, "From entitlement to experience: access to education for children of migrant workers from Burma", *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, vol. 21, No. 3 (2012), pp. 405-432.

<sup>17</sup> International Organization for Migration, "Addressing the health of migrants within the scope of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development, October 2013", IOM position paper (Geneva, 2013).

<sup>18</sup> Simon Baker, "Migration and health", in Jerrold W. Hugué and Aphichat Chamratrithirong, eds., *Thailand Migration Report 2011* (Bangkok, International Organization for Migration, 2011).

<sup>19</sup> Shirlena Huang, Sang Kook Lee and Mike Hayes, "The politics, subjectivities and connectivities of transnational migration in East Asia", *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, vol. 21, No. 2 (2012), pp. 135-147.

### III. Migration policy formulation

#### A. International agreements

41. At the global level, the human rights of migrants are protected and promoted within all core international human rights instruments. These instruments and related normative standards, including international labour law, refugee law and the protection of smuggled migrants, provide a solid framework for policymaking on migration. The application of these standards to migration has been elaborated by competent bodies, including the treaty bodies, Human Rights Council special procedures and the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

42. The General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families in December 1990, and the Convention entered into force on 1 July 2003, although it remains the least ratified of the core international human rights instruments. In the Convention, prior human rights conventions are reiterated, and rights for all migrant workers and their families are specified, with additional specificity in the situation of documented migrants. As of February 2013, there are 46 Parties to the Convention, only 9 of which are in the ESCAP region, and none of which is predominantly a country of destination for migrant workers.<sup>20</sup>

43. The international labour standards of ILO apply to migrant workers and a number of the fundamental conventions have been ratified by countries of origin and destination in the region. To complement the migration-specific conventions, members of ILO have adopted the “ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration: Non-binding principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration”. The Framework is a comprehensive collection of principles, guidelines and best practices on labour migration policy, derived from relevant international instruments and a global review of labour migration policies and practices of ILO constituents.<sup>21</sup>

44. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted in December 1979 and entered into force in September 1981. The Committee of that Convention adopted general recommendation No. 26 in 2008 in order to ensure equal protection and to remove restrictions sometimes placed on female migrants.

45. Domestic workers, the overwhelming majority of whom are women, constitute a high proportion of some migration flows but are among the most vulnerable of migrant workers because they usually work in isolation in private homes and are often not covered by labour legislation in either the country of origin or destination. To address the particular issues of domestic work, in 2011 ILO adopted the Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (No. 189), which will enter into force on 5 September 2013. As of March 2013, there have been four ratifications, including by the Philippines. The Convention covers essentially all domestic workers and requires State parties to cooperate to ensure effective application of its provisions to migrant domestic workers. Following adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention, the Ministry of Labour of Thailand issued regulations in 2012 stipulating that

<sup>20</sup> See United Nations, <http://treaties.un.org>, status as of 9 February 2013.

<sup>21</sup> International Labour Office, *ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration: Non-binding principles and guidelines for a rights-based approach to labour migration* (Geneva, 2006).

domestic workers are covered by the minimum wage and are entitled to one day off per week, a day off for national holidays and paid sick leave.

46. In the absence of binding international agreements on migration, and for purposes of admission, several countries have signed bilateral agreements or memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that provide guidelines for the deployment of migrant workers between countries. The Republic of Korea has taken perhaps the most systematic approach to the use of MOU; the Employment Permit System accepts migrant workers only from the 15 Asian countries with which an MOU has been signed.

## **B. National approaches**

47. Some countries in Asia and the Pacific have developed a comprehensive document establishing policies for international migration. More commonly, legislation furnishes a broad framework for migration, and the agency responsible then develops the necessary regulations and procedures. The National Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka, developed by the Ministry for Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare in 2008, contains the most comprehensive explicit policy in the region. The purpose of the national policy is to develop a long-term vision for labour migration, to enhance the benefits of labour migration and to protect the human and labour rights of migrant workers.

48. A challenge for host countries is to formulate labour migration policies that are flexible enough to take into account annual economic fluctuations and the demand for workers, to protect the rights of citizens and to prevent many of the abuses often prevalent in the recruitment and employment of foreign workers. The Republic of Korea sets an annual quota of new migrant workers by sector and by country of origin. Under the Employment Permit System, potential migrant workers are required to pass a proficiency test in the Korean language and undergo both pre-departure and orientation training. Foreign workers in the system are treated as employees and are protected under the national labour law.<sup>22</sup>

49. The Singapore Ministry of Manpower has constructed an elaborate three-tier system to determine the eligibility of foreigners to work in the country, with the type of employment permit and the privileges associated with it dependent on the monthly income of the migrant. As noted above, Singapore immigration policies encourage highly skilled migrants to become permanent residents and citizens. On the other hand, employers are discouraged from an over-reliance on low-skilled migrant workers by limits on the proportion of such workers among their workforce and by a monthly levy, which can be substantial. The parameters of this system of eligibility for foreign workers are constantly adjusted to take into account the structure and growth of the Singaporean economy.<sup>10</sup> In January 2011, the Government established a National Population and Talent Division situated in the Prime Minister's Office. It covers three broad areas: population augmentation; immigration, nationalization and integration; and engagement of overseas Singaporeans.<sup>22</sup>

## **C. Challenges for migration policies and programmes**

50. The recruitment and placement of migrant workers has become a large enterprise, and many Governments face challenges in managing migration.

---

<sup>22</sup> Saw Swee-Hock, "Implications of demographic trends in Singapore", ISEAS Perspective No. 1, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, 2013.

Better governance of migration should lead to enhanced efficiency and greater protection of the rights of migrants. Challenges confronted by most countries include simplifying the recruitment procedures, reducing the costs to migrants, ensuring that the procedures are consistent with national and international laws and conventions and implementing labour policies that guarantee migrants the right to privacy, confidentiality, dignity and work regardless of their HIV status. To do so requires a review not only of government procedures but also of ways to regulate private recruitment agencies. Successful approaches have included limiting the number of private recruitment agencies or deploying workers solely through government-to-government arrangements, as required by the Republic of Korea, for example.

51. The information furnished to migrants both prior to their departure and upon arrival at the destination is often insufficient, particularly in respect of human rights violations, registering complaints or seeking recourse if they do not adhere to their contract or the country's labour regulations. Migrants would also benefit from information on how to send and invest remittances.

52. Ensuring that migrant workers are enrolled in a health insurance scheme and have access to needed health care may also be a challenge. Strengthening the health aspects of migration would include eliminating HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence, as member States have agreed in other forums. The Philippines provides migrant workers with life insurance, with an option to take accident insurance as well. Workers are encouraged to participate in the national pension plan. The government also maintains the Emergency Repatriation Fund.<sup>23</sup>

53. Although temporary migrant labour programmes in Asia and the Pacific usually make no provision for family members to accompany migrants, host countries are obligated by international conventions to register all births and to ensure access to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and basic services for all children. It is a policy of the Government of Thailand to furnish free primary school education to all children in the country, irrespective of the migration status of their parents. Host countries should also take into account the best interests of children when considering the deportation of migrants in an irregular situation. Migrants could be given multiple-entry visas so that they could visit their families in the country of origin more frequently.

54. Both countries of origin and host countries often find it difficult to ensure protection of migrants in the workplace. Countries of origin post labour attachés in countries or areas where many of their nationals are employed but an attaché is frequently assigned responsibility in an area with thousands of migrants. Host countries also find it difficult to carry out adequate labour inspections where tens or hundreds of thousands of migrant workers are employed. Because of inadequate protection afforded to migrant workers, their employment situation can become so exploitative as to constitute forced labour or human trafficking.

55. Irregular migration is prevalent throughout the region. Countries have attempted to reduce the volume of irregular migration by creating more efficient and less expensive legal channels, regularizing migrants already working at the destination, sanctioning employers who hire irregular migrants and targeting persons who smuggle or traffic migrants. The degree of success of these measures depends significantly on addressing the institutional failures

<sup>23</sup> Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias and Neil G. Ruiz, "Protecting overseas workers: lessons and cautions from the Philippines" (Washington, D.C., Migration Policy Institute, 2007). Available from [www.migrationinformation.org/pubs/MigDevInsight\\_091807.pdf](http://www.migrationinformation.org/pubs/MigDevInsight_091807.pdf).

in the destination country that permitted the growth of a large system of irregular migration.

56. Because the experiences of men and women migrants often differ greatly, policies and programmes concerning information dissemination, labour rights and standards, access to health care, and prevention of trafficking should be, but rarely are, tailored specifically to the situation of both sexes.

#### **D. Future directions**

57. A task for countries in the region is to treat international migration as a structural component of their economies and societies rather than as a temporary phenomenon. Taking a structural perspective on migration would lead to a number of policy shifts. If it is accepted that large numbers of migrants will be present in the destination country for the foreseeable future, it benefits both the country of origin and the host country to create arrangements to ensure that migrants are integrated into the society of the country of destination and that they do not face discrimination, to facilitate the transfer of remittances, to put in place borderless insurance and pension schemes, and to allow periodic travel between origin and destination by migrants and members of their families. Training programmes and human resources development plans could be formulated jointly between countries of origin and destination to meet their combined skill requirements.

58. Effective migration policies require the development of comprehensive gender-responsive policies integrated with national development strategies, an adequate legislative framework and appropriate institutional structures. For international migration to contribute to national development, it should be incorporated into broad development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, and into sectoral development plans for human resources, labour force and health, for example. For this purpose, in 2010 the United Nations Global Migration Group published the work, entitled *Mainstreaming Migration into Development Planning: A handbook for policy-makers and practitioners*.

59. A few countries in the region have adopted comprehensive migration policy documents. Four countries in South Asia, namely Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have created ministries responsible for the deployment of migrant workers and for fostering relations with their diaspora. It is more common to establish an agency within the ministry of labour to be responsible for labour migration, as is the case in Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, for example. The Philippines usefully separates the agency responsible for deploying migrant workers (Philippine Overseas Employment Administration) from that responsible for providing them with social protection in the form of insurance and access to the pension system (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration).

60. While there are currently large exchanges of students among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea for example, exchanges between many other countries, especially at the subregional level, are far below their potential. The large number of international marriages requires more flexible immigration regulations and laws dealing with the status of children of those marriages, inheritance etc.

## IV. Linkages among international migration, sustainable development, environmental change, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian crises

### A. Current situation

61. Two cautionary notes are required when discussing the linkages among international migration, sustainable development and environmental change. The first is to keep in mind that migration essentially responds to economic development; it can reinforce development but rarely causes it. The second caution is to note that migration related to aspects of environmental damage is largely within countries and not between them. Nonetheless, political crises may spur sudden international migration flows in the form of refugees and asylum-seekers but also of the return or onward movement of migrant workers. It is important to note in this context that vulnerabilities can arise that do not fit neatly into established legal categories, but which cause concern from the perspective of human rights. For example, during March 2011, more than 30,000 migrant workers were repatriated to Bangladesh from the former Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.<sup>24</sup>

62. Environmental migrants are persons who choose to or are compelled to leave their homes because of changes in the environment. Such changes may be progressive or sudden, natural or human-made; the resultant migration may be internal or cross-border, although to date environmental migration has predominantly taken place within a country's borders.<sup>25</sup> In some cases, migration in the context of environmental change can serve as an adaptation strategy. In most cases that have been studied empirically<sup>26</sup> environmental factors combine with social, economic and other dynamics to determine the relative vulnerability or resilience of populations to climate change and environment, including their ability to use migration as a coping mechanism or their vulnerability to forced migration. Although most focus is on persons migrating for environmental reasons, it should not be overlooked that migrants may also have an impact on the environment at the destination, if they intensify the use of scarce resources or contribute to pollution, for example.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Brian Kelly and Anita Jawadurovna Wadud, "Asian labour migrants and humanitarian crises: lessons from Libya", Issue in Brief, No. 3 (Bangkok, International Organization for Migration, 2012).

<sup>25</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM), "Discussion Note: Migration and the environment", ninety-fourth session, MC/INF/288 (Geneva: 1 November 2007); IOM, "Environment, climate change and migration: IOM's approach and activities" (Geneva, 2011). Available from [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/IOMClimateChangeInfosheet\\_final.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/IOMClimateChangeInfosheet_final.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> For example, see IOM, *Assessing the Evidence: Environment, Climate Change and Migration in Bangladesh* (2010); IOM, *Environmental Degradation, Migration, Internal Displacement, and Rural Vulnerabilities in Tajikistan* (2012); IOM and Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), *The State of Environmental Migration 2011*; Asian Development Bank, *Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific* (Manila, 2011).

<sup>27</sup> Khalid Koser, "Assessing the effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparation of the post-2015 development framework", background paper prepared for the 2013 High-level Dialogue Series (UNFPA, IOM and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2013).

## **B. Relevant policies**

63. To date, 47 countries globally have prepared National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA) in response to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including 13 countries in the ESCAP region.<sup>28</sup> These plans are focused on the physical environment, but typically insufficient attention is given to such population dynamics as in- and out-migration or population growth rates, although the 2008 plan for Maldives calls for consolidating population and development into settlements that can be better protected from environmental hazards. It must be reiterated that any population movement foreseen under NAPA is internal, not international.

64. Planning for environmental change, whether progressive or sudden, is difficult because it is impossible to predict such natural disasters as earthquakes or tsunamis, or to have more than a few days' warning of a typhoon.

65. Action plans require great intersectoral cooperation among physical scientists, engineers, social scientists and government officials. In most cases, emergency reaction plans are effective only if they have been developed in cooperation with local government and communicated to the population concerned in advance.

66. The Asia-Pacific region is most prone to natural disasters both in terms of the absolute number of disasters and of the populations affected.<sup>29</sup> Environmental factors are already contributing to the movement of people in the region: the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre has estimated that more than 42 million people in Asia and the Pacific were displaced in 2010 and 2011. The region experiences high frequency of extreme climatic events, with large proportions of the population living in high-risk zones. Floods, droughts, soil degradation, typhoons and cyclones are main causes of displacement and disproportionately affect poor and marginalized population groups, who are generally the least able to migrate.<sup>30</sup> A particular characteristic of the Asian region is the presence of urban centres which attract environmental migrants from rural areas while those centres remain prone to natural disasters and degradation. Disaster risk reduction policies should attempt to reduce potential forced migration by enhancing the resilience of communities most likely to be affected by environmental change and by connecting disaster risk reduction and humanitarian approaches with climate change adaptation and sustainable development strategies.

## **V. Key areas for action and cooperation**

### **A. Thematic areas**

67. Actions that could be taken by Governments and other stakeholders to enhance the benefits of international migration for development are classified

---

<sup>28</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Available from [http://unfccc.int/cooperation\\_support/least\\_developed\\_countries\\_portal/items/4751.php](http://unfccc.int/cooperation_support/least_developed_countries_portal/items/4751.php). Accessed on 14 February 2012.

<sup>29</sup> Asian Development Bank, *Addressing Climate Change and Migration in Asia and the Pacific* (Manila, 2012), p. viii.

<sup>30</sup> See information by the Asia-Pacific Migration and Environment Network, implemented by the International Organization for Migration and the Asian Development Bank: [www.apmen.iom.int/en/migration-environment/environment-and-migration-in-asia-and-the-pacific](http://www.apmen.iom.int/en/migration-environment/environment-and-migration-in-asia-and-the-pacific).



as thematic and strategic, with the label thematic referring to specific topics to be addressed and strategic referring to approaches to migration policy formulation.

**1. Make recruitment of migrant workers more efficient.** This can be approached by better regulation and vigilant oversight of private recruitment agencies, streamlining official processes and reducing their costs, and better dissemination of information about the process.

**2. Improve the skill level of migrant workers being deployed.** More highly skilled workers are easier to deploy, are less likely to work in exploitative situations and will earn more. At the same time, mechanisms need to be put in place for the recognition and certification of skills between countries.

**3. Afford greater protection for migrant workers.** Countries of origin can protect their workers by regulating recruitment agency practices and medical testing policies, ensuring that they are grounded in human rights principles, ensuring that skills are properly assessed, requiring standard contracts, setting minimum wages, furnishing more information to prospective migrants and deploying more labour attachés abroad. Host countries can provide migrant workers with greater protection through, inter alia, effective implementation of laws and policies; expanding labour protection to all workers, including domestic workers; in-country orientation programmes, more effective labour inspection, the establishment of accountability mechanisms that are accessible to all migrants, and allowing greater flexibility in access to the labour market. Better contingency planning, including for emergency and consular assistance and evacuation, is needed when migrant workers are affected by humanitarian crises in countries of destination.

**4. Reduce irregular migration.** A comprehensive approach is required that combines more-efficient legal channels for migration, some regularization of migrants working in the country and strengthened sanctions against national authorities, private brokers and employers who have allowed irregular migration to flourish. Any measures to address irregular migration must be taken in full respect of the human rights of migrants and in avoiding the criminalization of the migrants involved while affording social protection to victims of trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

**5. Emphasize gender issues.** Because the migration experiences of men and women are often very different, gender concerns need to be mainstreamed in migration policies and programmes. In addition, special programmes are required to address the greatest vulnerabilities of migrant workers; whether they are females trafficked for sexual exploitation, female domestic workers or males working on fishing boats or in agriculture. Greater understanding on issues of gender, discrimination and equality is needed among duty bearers, including such private sector stakeholders as recruitment agencies and employers.

**6. Promote access of all migrants to fundamental economic, social and cultural rights, including health, education and housing.** Healthy migrants are more productive and are less likely to affect the health of the local population. Therefore, addressing the health risks and vulnerabilities of migrants in all phases of the migration process and by involving all stakeholders is essential. Specifically, violations of privacy, confidentiality, human rights, the right to work and discrimination based on HIV status should not be permitted. Strengthening information systems to track the mobility of health professionals in line with the World Health Organization Global Code of

Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Professionals would ensure that policies on recruitment of health workers are consistent with national laws and do not counteract global development goals.<sup>31</sup>

**7. Incorporate the families of migrants in migration policies and ensure the rights of all children affected by migration.** The temporary contract labour migration that is the most prevalent form of migration in Asia and the Pacific usually entails the separation of key family members for extended periods. The situation of family members left behind requires more detailed research and monitoring so that the negative effects of family separation can be ameliorated. Children who accompany migrant parents without authorization or who are born to migrants in the host country require special attention to ensure that their basic rights to birth registration, education and health care are being met. All children in situations of international migration need to be protected without discrimination, fully applying the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The best interest of the child needs to be a leading principle for national policies as well as for status determination of children in situations of migration.<sup>32</sup>

**8. Improve remittance services and enhance the development impact.** The ease with which remittances may be sent has greatly improved in recent years but could be improved further, and costs could be reduced with the application of modern technologies and more flexible banking agreements between countries of origin and host countries. Data on the senders, recipients and use of remittances should be collected according to gender. Financial products tailored to migrants and family members should be further developed and access to financial services and information should be increased.

**9. Enhance the benefits obtained from return migration, the diaspora and circular migration.** A country's nationals who have worked overseas can contribute to development in their home country not only by sending remittances but also by making investments or by using their expertise to establish businesses. Some countries have engaged their diaspora in community development projects. Experts working overseas can also contribute to their country through academic exchanges and consultancies.

**10. Minimize forced or unplanned migration resulting from environmental change.** Resilience should be promoted by incorporating migration into disaster risk reduction strategies, National Adaptation Plans of Action and National Adaptation Programmes and by integrating environmental migration into broader sustainable development approaches.

## **B. Strategic approaches**

**1. Prepare a comprehensive migration policy document.** The migration policy should explicate a long-term vision for the role of international migration in national development strategies. Such an explicit policy could guide the formulation of related policies, such as for human resources development and labour force structure.

<sup>31</sup> International Organization for Migration, "Addressing the health of migrants within the scope of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development, October 2013", IOM position paper (Geneva, 2013).

<sup>32</sup> Committee on the Rights of the Child, Report of 2012 Day of General Discussion on "The rights of all children in the context of international migration". Available from [www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/discussion2012/ReportDGDChildrenAndMigration2012.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/discussion2012/ReportDGDChildrenAndMigration2012.pdf). Accessed on 28 February 2013.

## **2. Mainstream international migration into development plans.**

The migration of workers and flows of remittances are significant enough in most countries in the ESCAP region that they should be an explicit component of such development plans as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, education and training plans, and population and labour force projections. Migrants should also be explicitly covered by development objectives promoting decent work, health care, adequate housing, justice and accountability, non-discrimination and participation. All the strategies to incorporate migration into development planning and analysis should have a specific gender component.

## **3. Adhere to the principles of key international agreements.**

Although few countries in the region have ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families or other key human and labour rights instruments, their national legislation and practices may currently conform to many of the agreed principles. Countries should ensure that they adhere to such fundamental standards as equality of treatment of migrant workers with national workers; the rights to health care, to decent work, to housing and education; the protection of all children in the context of migration; and the right of persons to seek asylum. They should also actively work to prevent trafficking in persons and to protect victims of such crimes.

**4. Involve stakeholders in policy formulation.** The process of developing a national policy on migration should be transparent and involve such key stakeholders as employers' representatives, labour unions, organizations working with migrants, civil society organizations, academics and representatives of local government. Effective policy formulation requires a public discourse so that the voice of all stakeholders can be heard and policies are able to balance competing interests.

**5. Improve sex-disaggregated data collection, dissemination and analysis.** Data on international migration are usually collected through administrative records, population censuses and household surveys. More can be done to harmonize the concepts and definitions used in the different sources. Data should be disaggregated by age and sex, and specific data should be collected on the situation of irregular migrants. Data collection and use in this context should be protected by international standards on the right to privacy and should not be used for immigration enforcement purposes. Data can be widely disseminated through statistical publications and the Internet. More detailed analysis of migration is also required. The contribution of migration to development in both the country of origin and the host country should be carefully assessed, as well as the costs associated with migration.

**6. Pursue multilateral approaches.** Because of its cross-border nature, effective policies concerning international migration require international dialogue. Multilateral approaches to managing migration are potentially very effective, although results to date have been meager. Nonetheless, several regional and subregional initiatives should continue to be pursued. They include several initiatives taken by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), regional consultative processes on migration, and the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>33</sup> These are elaborated in the background paper prepared for item 5 of the provisional agenda for the present Regional Preparatory Meeting.

## Annex

Table 1

### International migration and remittance indicators for Asia and the Pacific

| Region, subregion and country or area | Migrant stock 2010 |                                | Average annual net migration rate, 2005-2010 (per 1,000 population) | Remittances  |                         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|
|                                       | Total (1,000)      | Percentage of total population |   | Estimated total 2011 (millions of United States dollars) | Percentage of total GDP |
| <b>ESCAP region</b>                   | <b>52 923</b>      | <b>1.3</b>                     | <b>-0.5</b>   | <b>237 102</b>   |                         |
| <b>East and North-East Asia</b>       | <b>6 485</b>       | <b>0.4</b>                     | <b>-0.2</b>   | <b>74 527</b>  |                         |
| China                                 | 686                | 0.1                            | -0.3  | 62 497   | 0.8                     |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 37                 | 0.2                            | ..  | ..   | ..                      |
| Hong Kong, China                      | 2 742              | 38.8                           | 5.1   | 356  | 0.2                     |
| Japan                                 | 2 176              | 1.7                            | 0.4   | 1 931  | 0.0                     |
| Macao, China                          | 300                | 54.7                           | 19.8  | 133  | ..                      |
| Mongolia                              | 10                 | 0.4                            | -1.1  | 353  | 3.2                     |
| Republic of Korea                     | 535                | 1.1                            | -0.1  | 9 257  | 0.9                     |
| <b>South-East Asia</b>                | <b>6 715</b>       | <b>1.1</b>                     | <b>-0.9</b>   | <b>44 245</b>  |                         |
| Brunei Darussalam                     | 148                | 36.4                           | 1.8   | ..   | ..                      |
| Cambodia                              | 336                | 2.2                            | -3.7  | 354  | 3.0                     |
| Indonesia                             | 123                | 0.1                            | -1.1  | 6 924  | 1.0                     |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic      | 19                 | 0.3                            | -2.5  | 45   | 0.6                     |
| Malaysia                              | 2 358              | 8.4                            | 0.6   | 1 235  | 0.5                     |
| Myanmar                               | 89                 | 0.2                            | -2.1  | 119  | 0.1                     |
| Philippines                           | 435                | 0.5                            | -2.8  | 22 974   | 10.7                    |
| Singapore                             | 1 967              | 40.7                           | 30.9  | ..   | ..                      |
| Thailand                              | 1 157              | 1.7                            | 1.4   | 3 994  | 0.9                     |
| Timor-Leste                           | 14                 | 1.2                            | -9.4  | ..   | ..                      |
| Viet Nam                              | 69                 | 0.1                            | -1.0  | 8 600  | 5.1                     |
| <b>South and South-West Asia</b>      | <b>15 715</b>      | <b>0.9</b>                     | <b>-1.0</b>   | <b>99 763</b>  |                         |
| Afghanistan                           | 91                 | 0.3                            | -2.6  | ..   | ..                      |
| Bangladesh                            | 1 085              | 0.7                            | -4.0  | 11 997   | 9.6                     |
| Bhutan                                | 40                 | 5.7                            | 4.9   | 6  | 0.3                     |
| India                                 | 5 436              | 0.4                            | -0.5  | 63 663   | 3.0                     |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of)            | 2 129              | 2.8                            | -0.5  | 1 330  | 0.3                     |
| Maldives                              | 3                  | 1.0                            | -0.0  | 4  | 0.2                     |
| Nepal                                 | 946                | 3.2                            | -0.7  | 4 070  | 20.0                    |
| Pakistan                              | 4 234              | 2.3                            | -2.4  | 12 264   | 4.8                     |
| Sri Lanka                             | 340                | 1.7                            | -2.5  | 5 194  | 6.9                     |
| Turkey                                | 1 411              | 1.9                            | -0.1  | 1 235  | 0.1                     |
| <b>North and Central Asia</b>         | <b>17 995</b>      | <b>8.2</b>                     | <b>-0.0</b>   | <b>14 221</b>  |                         |
| Armenia                               | 324                | 10.5                           | -4.9  | 1 254  | 8.8                     |
| Azerbaijan                            | 264                | 3.0                            | 1.2   | 1 885  | 2.5                     |
| Georgia                               | 167                | 4.0                            | -6.8  | 1 017  | 6.4                     |
| Kazakhstan                            | 3 079              | 19.5                           | 0.1   | 270  | 0.2                     |
| Kyrgyzstan                            | 223                | 4.0                            | -5.1  | 1 500  | 20.8                    |
| Russian Federation                    | 12 270             | 8.7                            | 1.6   | 5 615  | 0.4                     |
| Tajikistan                            | 284                | 4.0                            | -8.9  | 2 680  | 31.0                    |
| Turkmenistan                          | 208                | 4.0                            | -2.2  | ..   | ..                      |
| Uzbekistan                            | 1 176              | 4.2                            | -3.9  | ..   | ..                      |

| Region, subregion and country or area | Migrant stock 2010 |                                | Average annual net migration rate, 2005-2010 (per 1,000 population) | Remittances  |                         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|
|                                       | Total (1,000)      | Percentage of total population |   | Estimated total 2011 (millions of United States dollars) | Percentage of total GDP |
| <b>Pacific</b>                        | <b>6 013</b>       | <b>16.4</b>                    | <b>6.1</b>  | <b>4 346</b>   |                         |
| American Samoa                        | 28                 | 41.4                           | -3.0  | ..   | ..                      |
| Australia                             | 4 711              | 21.9                           | 10.5  | 1 700  | 0.1                     |
| Cook Islands                          | 3                  | 14.1                           | -3.2  | ..   | ..                      |
| Fiji                                  | 19                 | 2.2                            | -6.9  | 177  | 5.8                     |
| French Polynesia                      | 35                 | 12.8                           | -0.3  | 700  | ..                      |
| Guam                                  | 79                 | 43.9                           | --  | ..   | ..                      |
| Kiribati                              | 2                  | 2.0                            | -2.1  | ..   | ..                      |
| Marshall Islands                      | 2                  | 2.7                            | -8.3  | ..   | ..                      |
| Micronesia (Federated States of)      | 3                  | 2.4                            | -16.3   | ..   | ..                      |
| Nauru                                 | 5                  | 51.8                           | -9.0  | ..   | ..                      |
| New Caledonia                         | 60                 | 23.6                           | 5.3   | 552  | ..                      |
| New Zealand                           | 962                | 22.4                           | 3.1   | 1 009  | 0.5                     |
| Niue                                  | 0                  | 25.6                           | -32.4   | ..   | ..                      |
| Northern Mariana Islands              | 55                 | 62.0                           | 7.1   | ..   | ..                      |
| Palau                                 | 6                  | 28.1                           | -4.9  | ..   | ..                      |
| Papua New Guinea                      | 25                 | 0.4                            | --  | 11   | 0.1                     |
| Samoa                                 | 9                  | 5.0                            | -17.3   | 129  | 22.5                    |
| Solomon Islands                       | 7                  | 1.3                            | --  | 2  | 0.3                     |
| Tonga                                 | 1                  | 0.8                            | -16.0   | 66   | 19.7                    |
| Tuvalu                                | 0                  | 1.5                            | -10.1   | ..   | ..                      |
| Vanuatu                               | 1                  | 0.3                            | --  | ..   | ..                      |

Sources: Migrant stock: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2009). *International Migration, 2009 Wallchart* (Sales No. E.09.XIII.8).

Migration rates: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2010). [http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/DB01\\_Period\\_Indicators/WPP2010\\_DB1\\_F18\\_NET\\_MIGRATION\\_RATE.xls](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/DB01_Period_Indicators/WPP2010_DB1_F18_NET_MIGRATION_RATE.xls). Accessed on 6 February 2013.

Remittance data: World Bank (2012). [http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1110315015165/RemittancesData\\_Inflows\\_Apr12\(Public\).xlsx](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1110315015165/RemittancesData_Inflows_Apr12(Public).xlsx). Accessed on 30 January 2013.

.. Indicates information not available.

-- Indicates value is zero.

Table 2

**Number of migrant workers deployed from selected Asian countries or areas, by destination, 2010-2011**

(Thousands)

| Destination                   | Country of origin |            |            |            |            |              |            |            |           |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|
|                               | Bangladesh        | India      | Indonesia  | Nepal      | Pakistan   | Philippines  | Sri Lanka  | Thailand   | Viet Nam  |
|                               | 2010              | 2010       | 2011       | 2010/11    | 2008       | 2010         | 2010       | 2011       | 2010      |
| Brunei Darussalam             | 2                 | 1          | 11         |            | 66         | 8            |            | 3          |           |
| Hong Kong, China              |                   |            | 50         |            | 22         | 101          |            | 3          |           |
| Japan                         | 0                 |            | 2          | 1          | 45         | 6            | 0          | 9          | 5         |
| Malaysia                      | 1                 | 21         | 134        | 106        | 2          | 10           | 4          | 4          | 12        |
| Republic of Korea             | 3                 |            | 11         | 4          | 2          | 12           | 5          | 11         | 9         |
| Singapore                     | 39                |            | 48         |            | 16         | 70           | 1          | 11         |           |
| Taiwan Province of China      |                   |            | 76         |            |            | 37           |            | 48         | 28        |
| <b>Total Asia<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>45</b>         | <b>21</b>  | <b>337</b> | <b>111</b> | <b>153</b> | <b>282</b>   | <b>15</b>  | <b>98</b>  | <b>63</b> |
| Gulf Co-operation Council     | 287               | 610        | 204        | 241        | 421        | 661          | 228        | 18         | 8         |
| OECD non-Asia                 | 7                 | 0          | 19         | 1          | 4          | 73           | 2          | 23         | 0         |
| Middle East and North Africa  | 37                | 4          | 5          | 1          | 1          | 22           | 16         | 3          | 0         |
| Other                         | 15                | 6          | 15         | 0          | 1          | 82           | 1          | 5          | 14        |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>391</b>        | <b>641</b> | <b>580</b> | <b>354</b> | <b>580</b> | <b>1 120</b> | <b>262</b> | <b>147</b> | <b>85</b> |

Source: *International Migration Outlook 2012*, (Geneva, OECD Publishing), p. 169. Available from [http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/migr\\_outlook-2012-en](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/migr_outlook-2012-en).

<sup>a</sup> Total for Asia includes workers deployed to destinations other than those shown.