MIGRATION INFORMATION SYSTEM IN ASIA PROJECT

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Towards a Regional Migration Database

▶ Endeavored to establish a system for the reporting, updating and dissemination of government-generated international migration data

▶ Inspired by OECD's SOPEMI (Continuous Reporting System on Migration - Systeme d'Observation Permanente des Migrations – since 1975)

  ▶ Continuous, annual update of migration data
  ▶ National correspondents submit annual data & prepare country reports
  ▶ Annual meeting of correspondents
  ▶ Dissemination via the publication, *International Migration Outlook* (previously *Trends in International Migration* until 2005)

International Migration Outlook 2011

- OECD 50th Anniversary: International Migration and the SOPEMI
  Editorial: Migration and the Post-Crisis World
  Introduction

  PART I. RECENT TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
  A.Trends in migration flows and in the immigrant population

  B. Employment

  C. Migration policy developments

  PART II. MIGRATION ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN OECD COUNTRIES

  PART III. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION TO ISRAEL AND ITS IMPACT

  PART IV. COUNTRY NOTES (36 countries)
  STATISTICAL ANNEX
  -Inflows and outflows of foreign populatoin
  -Inflows of asylum seekers
  -Stocks of foreign and foreign-born population
  -Acquisition of nationality
  -Inflows of foreign workers
  -Stocks of foreign and foreign-born labour force

Before the MISA Project

- Temporary labor migration, most dominant in Asia, monitored more than other types of migration
  - Permanent migration – available mainly in destination countries
  - Refugee migration - UNHCR
- Attempts to produce a regional database/report on labor migration
  - ILO ROAP – 1980s – annual table of migration outflows from countries of origin
  - Asian and Pacific Migration Journal – 1995 – country profiles for Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand
  - Japan Institute for Labor Policy and Training - "Asian SOPEMI" - annual workshop on International Migration and Labor Market in Asia – 1995-2007, resumed in 2010 – country papers not widely disseminated
  - UN ESCAP - Asian Labor Migration Database
  - Asian Migrant Yearbook – 2000-2005
  - Asian Migration Atlas – 1998-2000; 2009
  - ESCAP & IOM – 2008 – *Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia* – brief country profiles on migration plus some thematic papers

The MISA Project

- Supported by the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and coordinated by the Scalabrini Migration Center

- 3 phases
  - 1. Apr 2007-Jan 2009
  - 2. July 2009-May 2010
  - 3.   To resume in Nov 2011

- Established a network of 14 cooperating countries/territories (Phase 2)
  - East Asia (4): China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Province of China
  - Southeast Asia (6): Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
  - South Asia (4): Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka
- Aimed at government participation; limited government participation thus far
- Correspondents are researchers/academics

The MISA Project

- What the MISA Project has produced:
  - http://www.smc.org.ph/misa

- Country papers which map out government-generated international migration data and sources; also, migration categories and definitions
  - *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* (Special Issue: International Migration Data and Sources in Asia, 17(3-4), 2008)

- International migration data (stock and flow data; inflows and outflows; also, remittances)

- Country papers on the impact of the 2008 global economic crisis on migration (early part of the crisis in 2008; how the crisis unfolded in 2009)

The MISA Project

- **STATISTICS ON INFLOW OF MIGRANTS**
- (1.1.A) Foreign Population
- (1.1.B) Share of the foreign population to the country's/area's total population
- (1.2.A) Top 5 countries/areas of origin of the foreign population
- (1.2.B) Top 5 countries/areas of origin of regular immigrant professionals and workers
- (1.3) Annual inflow of regular immigrants
- (1.4) Top 5 countries/areas of origin of regular immigrant professionals and workers
- (1.5) Regular immigrant professionals and workers by occupational group
- (1.6) Share of the foreign worker population to the country's/area's workforce
- (1.7.A) Estimated stock of irregular migrants
- (1.7.B) Top 5 countries/areas of origin of irregular migrants
- (1.8) Stock of refugees and persons of concern
- **STATISTICS ON OUTFLOW OF MIGRANTS**
- (2.1.A) Stock estimate of nationals residing and/or working abroad
- (2.1.B) Official stock estimate of the number of nationals abroad who are in an irregular situation
- (2.1.C) Share of the population of nationals abroad to the total population
- (2.2) Top 5 countries/areas of destination where nationals are residing and/or working
- (2.3) Workers deployed by country/area of destination
- (2.4) Workers deployed by occupational group
- **REMITTANCES**
- (3.1) Remittances (in US$)

Highlights

- Censuses and national sample surveys (labor force surveys) are "potential" sources of international migration data

- Some improvement in the completeness and availability of international migration data with the strengthening of administrative structures – major omissions (e.g., sex disaggregated data, return migration, unauthorized migration)

- Origin countries tend to have more data on outflows; destination countries, inflows
  - Labor deployment statistics , most systematic set of statistics collected in the region

Highlights

▶ International migration data collection in the Philippines

  ◦ Main source of labor deployment statistics: Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (www.poea.gov.ph - statistics)

  ◦ Annual deployment data: land-based & sea-based workers; new hires & rehires; destination and skill by sex (for new hires)

  ◦ Main source of data on permanent migrants, including data on Filipinos marrying foreign nationals: Commission on Filipinos Overseas (www.cfo.gov.ph - statistics)

Highlights

- International migration data collection in the Philippines (cont)
  - Inter-agency coordination on migration data is provided in the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (Sec 20: Establishment of a Shared Government Information System for Migration)
  - Some inter-agency efforts are underway
    - Estimation of the stock of overseas Filipino population - permanent migrants (settlers), temporary migrants (overseas Filipino workers), irregular migrants
  - MISSING DATA/DATA GAPS: neglect of inflows and return migration; key migrant characteristics not reported (education, marital status, province of origin)

Data on emigration from the Philippines

Type of migrant/data	Agency	Remarks
Overseas Filipino workers or OFWs	Philippine Overseas Employment Administration	Tables on number of deployed OFWs by type of hiring (new hires and rehires), type of worker (landbased and seabased), and destination. Data on destination include breakdown by sex and occupation.
Permanent migrants	Commission on Filipinos Overseas	Data available annually by destination, age, sex, education, civil status, occupation
Spouses and fiancées of foreign nationals	Commission on Filipinos Overseas	Data available annually by destination, age, sex, education, occupation
Stock of Filipino overseas (Emigrants registered with CFO, migrants registered with POEA, reports from Embassies and Consulates, estimates from Filipino organizations abroad, data from foreign governments)	Commission on Filipinos Overseas, coordinator (www.cfo.gov.ph)	Overseas Filipinos comprise: permanent, temporary, irregular migrants
Stock of Filipinos overseas (census, question on residence: includes overseas workers, but not emigrants)	National Statistics Office (www.census.gov.ph)	Table on overseas workers, by highest educational attainment, sex and age

Data on emigration from the Philippines (cont)

Type of migrant/data	Agency	Remarks
Stock of Filipinos overseas (Survey on Overseas Filipinos, annual, captures Filipinos who have worked abroad in the previous 5 years, excluding emigrants)	National Statistics Office Survey on Overseas Filipinos	Tables with number of Filipinos and selected demographic characteristics
Irregular migrants	Commission on Filipinos Overseas	Estimates
Returning migrants	NONE	Missing
Remittances	Central Bank of the Philippines (www.bsp.gov.ph)	

Data on immigration to the Philippines

Source of data	Agency	Data
Arrival and departure cards (all people arriving at airports and ports)	Bureau of Immigration (www.immigration.gov.ph)	Data not processed and reported, by BI, but turned over to Department of Tourism
Alien Certification of Registration(all aliens who stay over 6 months)	Bureau of Immigration (www.immigration.gov.ph)	Data not posted
Census (question on ethnicity)	National Statistics Office (www.census.gov.ph)	Table on Population by Citizenship and Sex - Large difference in intercensus data
Alien employment permit	Department of Labor and Employment (www.dole.gov.ph)	Data by nationality and industry
Enrollment in post-secondary school	Commission on Higher Education (www.ched.gov.ph)	Number of students

Challenges

- Comparability of international migration data
  - Harmonization of migration data begins at home
  - Categories and definitions (e.g., overseas population)
  - Coordination with destination countries
- Sustainability of MISA or related initiatives
  - Involvement of governments extremely important
  - Advocacy to create a culture of data appreciation and use of data in migration policies; a culture of data sharing
  - Including discussions of data issues in ASEAN, SAARC and other regional platforms

Suggestions

- 1. Technical assistance & capacity building – ILO or IOM convene a technical workshop dedicated to data issues
- 2. Develop a model for interagency cooperation
  - Involve other stakeholders
- 3. Produce a comprehensive annual report on migration
- 4. Toward a regional data base on migration
  - Agreement on core data that will be collected, processed and reported across countries
    - Origin: annual outflows – age, sex, education, marital status, province of origin, occupation, destination
    - Destination: annual inflows – country of birth, country of last residence, age, sex, education, occupation