



Key Migration Issues Workshop Series – Labour Migration,  
UN HQ New York, March 15, 2006  
Organized by UNITAR, UNFPA, ILO and IOM

## **Labour Migration in Asia**

# **Countries of Origin - Policies, Regional Cooperation and Capacity Building**

Nilim Baruah

Head, Labour Migration Division

# Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation

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## I. Introduction

## II. Issues underlying Policy Responses in Asian Labour Sending Countries

## III. National Policies and Structures

## IV. Inter-State Cooperation

### Ministerial Consultations in Asia



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# I. Introduction

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- ❑ **Estimated 80 million migrant workers (ILO)**
  - 22 million or 27 percent in Asia**
- ❑ **Flows in Asia**
  - . 1995-96 - 2.6. million contract workers p.a.
  - . To Gulf States (from South and S.E. Asia)
  - . New patterns of labour movement
- ❑ **Driving forces**
  - Wage differential
  - Labour market needs
  - Networks and ties
- ❑ **Regulation of migration**



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## **II. Issues underlying policy responses in Asian labour sending countries**

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- **Challenges faced in protecting migrant workers**
  - Vulnerable MWs
  
- **Challenges faced in optimising benefits of organised labour migration**
  - Remittances
  - Relieving unemployment
  
- **Increasing cooperation with destination countries**

# III. National Policies and Structures

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## 1. Policies

### 1.1. *Protection of migrant workers*

- a. Regulatory frameworks to prevent abuse in recruitment
  - Role of private recruitment agencies
  - Licensing
- b. Minimum standards in employment contracts
  - Setting of minimum standards and basic provisions
  - Exit controls
  - BLAs
  - Standard employment contract in destination country

# III. National Policies and Structures

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## c. Support services and empowerment of workers

- PEOS and information campaigns
- Pre-departure orientation
- Migrant Welfare Fund
- Labour Attachés
- Migrant associations, education, Voice in policy

# III. National Policies and Structures

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## 1.2. *Optimising the benefits of organized labour migration*

- a. Facilitating managed labour migration
  - Market research
  - Information dissemination
  - BLAs
- b. Remittances
  - Improving remittance services and increasing formal flows
  - Optimising the development impact
- c. Training and skills development
  - Information collection and dissemination
  - Certification and enforcement of standards

# Administration of Labour Migration

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## 2. Administrative and management entities

The need to recognise and give management and facilitation of labour migration due priority

- **Structures**
  - Foreign employment bureau in MOL
  - Inter-ministerial approach
  
- **Institutional capacity building**
  - Resource allocation
  - Training

# Administration of Labour Migration

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## ● Labour migration information systems

Purpose: Policy making and planning; statistical reports

*Data set:*

1. Flows
2. Stocks
3. Complaints
4. MWF data
5. Licensed recruitment agencies
6. Remittances

[www.slbfe.lk](http://www.slbfe.lk)

## IV. Inter-State Cooperation

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Importance of inter-state cooperation in labour migration

- *Bilateral labour agreements*
- *Joint Commissions*
- *Roundtable meetings*
- *Regional Processes*

*Ministerial Consultations in Asia*

# Asian Ministerial Consultations

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- 1. Background**
  - **Inception**
  - **Participants**
  - **Aims and themes**
- 2. Achievements**
- 3. Activities**



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# 1. Background

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- **Inception**

- In response to the request of several Asian labour sending countries, IOM organized Ministerial level Consultations in:
  - 2003 (Colombo)
  - 2004 (Manila)
  - 2005 (Bali)

- **Participants**

Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam

Countries of destination (Bali)

International organizations



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# 1. Background

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## Aims

- Share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on overseas employment policies and practices
- Consult on issues faced by overseas workers, countries of origin and destination; propose practical solutions for the well being of vulnerable overseas workers; optimise development benefits; and enhance dialogue with countries of destination
- Review and monitor the implementation of the recommendations and identify further steps for action

## Themes

- Welfare of overseas workers and support services
- Facilitating the managed movement of labour and optimizing its benefits
- Institutional capacity building and inter-state cooperation



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## 2. Achievements

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- **Identification**, at ministerial and senior official levels, of policy challenges and needs, and exploration of the range of possible responses and resulting **recommendations**
- **Assessment** and **sharing** of good practices and experiences
- **Development** of training curriculum for labour attachés and administrators and implementing joint training courses
- **Preparation** for establishing a common **overseas workers resource centre**
- **Implementation** of recommendations at the national and regional level



## 3. Activities

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- Welfare of Overseas workers and support services
  - Further implementation of Manila Recommendations on Regulatory frameworks and allied measures to prevent malpractice and abuses in recruitment
  - Information campaigns
  - Strengthening establishment and operation of welfare funds
  - Development of pre-departure orientation modules
  - Round table meeting with GCC countries
  - Overseas Workers Resource Center in the GCC
  - Training



### 3. Activities

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- Optimizing the benefits of organized overseas employment and cooperation on managed labour mobility between countries of origin and destination
  - Enhancing government and private sector capacity to place workers abroad
  - Informing potential workers on legal procedures and the risks of resorting to irregular movement
  - Development of the capacity of national authorities in countries of origin to assess current and projected foreign labour needs and implementation of appropriate strategies and pilot cooperative actions
  - Organizing senior officials' consultations – Asia and Europe
  - Organizing a round table on the management of overseas work (including prevention of irregular flows) in S.E. and East Asia