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THE ASIAN MIGRATION: SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING ASIAN COUNTRIES

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Countries with insufficient economic resources may accelerate in trade and investment by flow of migrant workers. Internationally large part of migration occurs in search of jobs. The phenomenon differs by gender, education level, level of skill and training. International migration from Asia grew significantly during last four decades. The major destinations were North America, Australia, and the oil producing economies of the Middle East. In addition during 1990s, migration within Asia has grown, particularly from less-developed countries to rapidly growing newly industrializing countries (United Nations, 2011). In fact, all countries in Asia experience both emigration and immigration and repeatedly transfer migrants.

The Asian region hosts more than forty percent of the world's population and is differentiated by miscellaneous forms of migration (United Nations, 2011). The major destination countries are Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan. The countries which have considerable number of immigration and emigration are Malaysia and Thailand. The chief source of International migration in the region are Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam (International Organization for Migration, 2005). Recently, Asian migration to European counties has grown significantly. The main European destinations are Italy, Hungary, and the United Kingdom. The other major traditional destinations are United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The significant source countries are China, India, Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand.

The Asian region consists of source countries and conventional and emerging destination countries for migrants. Some Asian countries act as origin, transit and destination, simultaneously such as India and China. The interregional migration is increasing with enlarging North–South economic inequalities and enhancing demographic challenge. A careful estimate suggests that abiout 50 per cent of Asian migrants migrate within the region. The considerable number of labour migration raises the connectivity of labour markets in the region and makes possible flow of remittances, trade and investment between regional countries. This has a favorable effect on country's consumption and its growth (Abella and Geoffrey, 2009). Although the world economy faces a deceleration, the flow of remittances to Asian countries has remained comparatively healthy. Regional labour migrates from poor

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countries, for example India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam to labour scare countries that propose higher wage opportunities (such as Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, China, and Singapore).

Furthermore, the flow of permanent migration and the mobility of students for higher education is increasing in the region. There are several types of migratory flows in the region, with some migrants move for better economic opportunities, some people attract for better environmental and political conditions and others taking flight from clash and/or harassment. Irregular migration within and from Asia remains a crucial challenge. The destination countries have health issues for example infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria. Some countries have challenges of natural disasters and divergence which also create ongoing threats to populations and consequently displace significant numbers of people from those countries (Groschl, 2012). Most of the Asian migrants remain low-skilled laborers; some are semi-skilled or skilled as drivers, mechanics, plumbers and building tradesmen. Simultaneously, high skilled laborers might be a source of remittances and investment for countries of origin and facilitate domestic producers to search new markets abroad. The most female migrants in the form of domestic workers found in Asia particularly Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong (Hugo, 2005). Asia hosts large number of illegal migrants that affects many regional countries. Thailand and Malaysia are the main destination of illegal migrant workers (IOM, 2005). A significant number of refugees accommodated in the Asian region. After Russian attack on Afghanistan, the large number of refugees moved to Pakistan and Iran.

More than 1.5 million workers migrate annually from South Asia, mostly to the Middle East as low-skilled, temporary workers. In this circumstance, all most every country in this sub-region is a country of origin, while India and Pakistan are also classified as countries of destination and transit. High-skilled workers from South Asia migrate to Europe. Given the porous regional borders, and due to the recent global financial and economic crisis generating irregular movement of migrants (Adams, 1968; Hugo, 1996; Carrington & Detriagiache, 1998). The transnational crimes as people smuggling and trafficking in persons are progressing. Consequently, the number of stateless persons continue to grow and vulnerable to exploitation as members of ethnic groups and second-generation migrants.

However, the economists have given immense attention on international migration recently to determining its beneficial effects on economic-development. The recent studies have indicated constantly the prospects of free migration to generate large benefits — such as the gains from liberalizing trade (Quibria, 1996). Some other studies have explored the role of remittances from destination countries in their origin countries. For better understanding about the effects of international migration, there is need to recognize the factors and constraints that figure out international migration flows. Expect for monetary benefits, the other imperative factors are the accumulation of human capital of the migrants, their skills, level of education, competence and knowledge (Adams, 2003). The advantage of education turns out to be more precious for migration to countries with discerning migratory policies; elsewhere it looks less appropriate in the case of irregular migration (Mora and Taylor, 2006).

Several economic social and demographic factors are expected to influence the source and destination countries. Due to speedy growth and large magnitude of migration from Asia, it is necessary to give attention on the socio, economic and demographic effects of it. Economic theory suggests that immigration is determined by a set of push and pull factors that are related to the source and destination country, respectively. Push factors are those associated with the area of origin, such as lack of economic opportunity and jobs tend to push people to look out of the area. The key push factors are income or wage difference between the sending and receiving country, poor health and education facilities, poor housing, lack of political and religious freedom, law and order conditions and natural disasters (Lee, 1966). Another essential factor for immigration is the population or size of labor market in the home and host country (Karemera et al., 2000).

The pull factors are just the contrary of push factors; they are factors that attract people to a certain location and those associated with the country of destination, such as more economic opportunities, more jobs and the prospects of a better life often pull people towards a new country. The other pull factors are political stability, better health and education facilities, more fertile land and the presence of friends and family members in the host country (Lee, 1966). In addition, international labor flows also depend on migration cost that could be captured by geographical distance between origin and destination country (Kanapathy, 2005). Migration in Asia takes place for a diversity range of reasons: labor mobility and the difference of incomes, family re-union, prospects about the destination country and environmental changes. Mobility has been facilitated by the rapid expansion of mobile telephony and the internet, diaspora networks, improved transportation networks and economical travel alternatives (Lucas, 2001).

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