

**PUSHING THE FRONTIERS OF MIGRATION
MANAGEMENT: BEYOND THE NATIONAL APPROACH
AND BEYOND ECONOMICS**

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Introduction

- Current discussion on international migration (and development) suggests that a migration can be a triple win for countries of origin, countries of destination, and migrants.
- Migration management is crucial in order to maximize the gains and minimize the costs of migration.
- Sources of tension derive from divergent perspectives & considerations:
 - Individual vs. social
 - Country of origin vs. country of destination
 - National vs. bilateral/multilateral

Introduction

- Focus of presentation: the Philippine experience, a country of origin perspective
- Outline of presentation
 - The role of international migration in Philippine society
 - Balancing the economic, social and political dimensions in a country of origin
 - The need for a supranational approach; the need for ethical principles to guide decision-making

The Philippines in world Migration

- The Philippines has risen to become the top source-country of workers and talents for the global labor market
- The stock of overseas Filipino population is estimated at 8.2 million as of 2006
 - Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) are the majority at 3.5 million distributed in close to 200 countries/territories
 - International labor migration has expanded the Filipinos' map of the world
- Remittances are an important pillar of the Philippine economy; the Philippines ranks among the top 5 five remittance receiving countries in the world
- Common perception in the country: economic benefits at the expense of immeasurable human and social costs

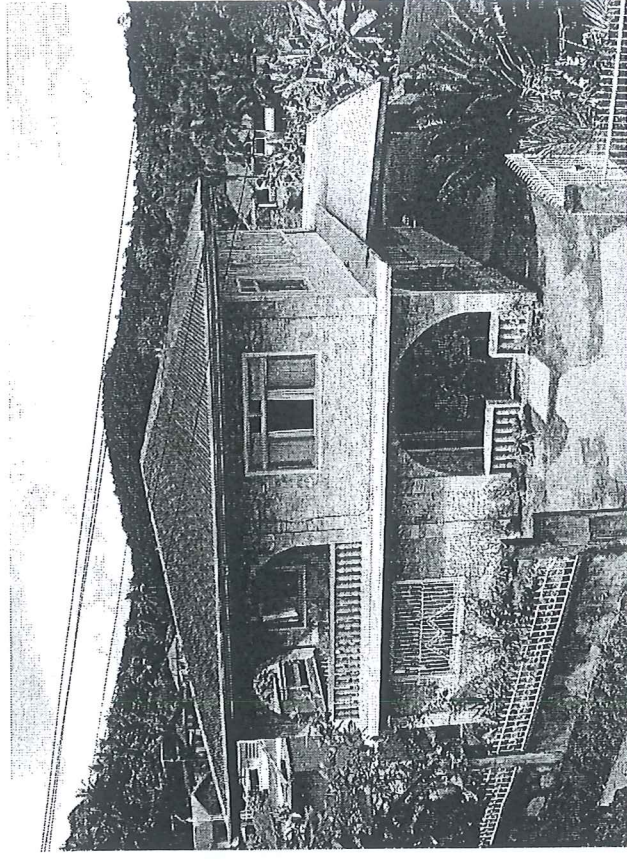
The Philippines in world Migration

- The Philippines' approach to international labor migration has evolved from the 1970s:
 - 1970s: *finding labor markets for labor surplus*; state-led (demand factors were equally strong, initially in the oil-rich Gulf countries)
 - From late 1970s: *addressing protection issues*; NGOs emerged to demand state accountability towards migrant workers (demand for migrant workers in East and Southeast Asian countries started)
 - 1980s thru 1990s: *strengthening structures and legal frameworks to protect migrant workers and overseas Filipinos* (female migration started and increased since)
 - Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995
 - 2000s: *rethinking international labor migration?* target setting to send a million workers every year; target to send more highly skilled
 - Extending political rights: absentee voting, dual citizenship
 - In general: the Philippines has wedded overseas employment facilitation and protection (albeit notable gaps for women migrants in domestic work).
 - International migration and development: the next agenda?

World Migration in the Philippines: Striking a Balance

- Economic push factors continue to be important: positive economic growth in recent years, but jobless growth?
 - Issues: Balancing protection vs. remittances for the state; family well-being vs. economic needs for migrants and their families
 - Migration of the less skilled still an important component
 - Example: reforms in domestic worker migration: protection, lack of job options in the Philippines, and resistance to the reforms
 - Risky migrations
 - Example: defying the ban on migration to Iraq
- Economic pull factors in destination countries are powerful incentives to migrate: wage gaps are particularly wide for the highly skilled and professionals
 - Issue: The right to migrate & individual-level benefits vs. supra-individual considerations
 - Example: Nurse migration and its impacts on health care delivery & the country's human resource portfolio

The right to migrate and the impact of individual decisions on the community



Migration Management: Beyond the National Approach & Beyond Economics

- International migration cannot be solely approached as a national issue
 - Issue 1: workers' protection is a cross-border issue (states, migration industry across borders, employers, migrants, civil society)
 - Issue 2: migration contributes to countries of origin & countries of destination
- Bilateral and multilateral dialogues are unequal
 - Individual countries of origin are not equal with countries of destination: in economic terms - primacy of demand; buyers' market
 - Countries of destination can impose restrictions or impose terms that are not favorable to the other party, redirect recruitment from alternative origin countries
 - Countries of origin and countries of destination (salient in Asia: participation o the migration industry)
 - Cooperation among countries of origin
 - Regional approach to migration: need to go beyond border issues; limited thus far to combating unauthorized migration & human trafficking

Migration Management: Beyond the National Approach & Beyond Economics

- Challenge for countries of origin: beyond deployment (migrants as surplus labor)
- Challenge for countries of destination: beyond recruitment (migrants as needed labor and talents)
- Current discussions on international migration and development:
 - Importance of addressing the root causes of underdevelopment in the developing world, and acknowledging migration as a key structural factor in sustaining development in the more developed world
 - Interdependence in a seemingly borderless world with bordered rights for migrants vs. citizens
 - Guiding principles beyond market concerns:
 - Solidarity – sharing the benefits and sharing the burdens
 - Migrants' rights – migrants are part of our “caring and sharing ASEAN community”.