

NEAT Working Group on Labour Migration

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Indonesian Migrant Workers Outlook

by

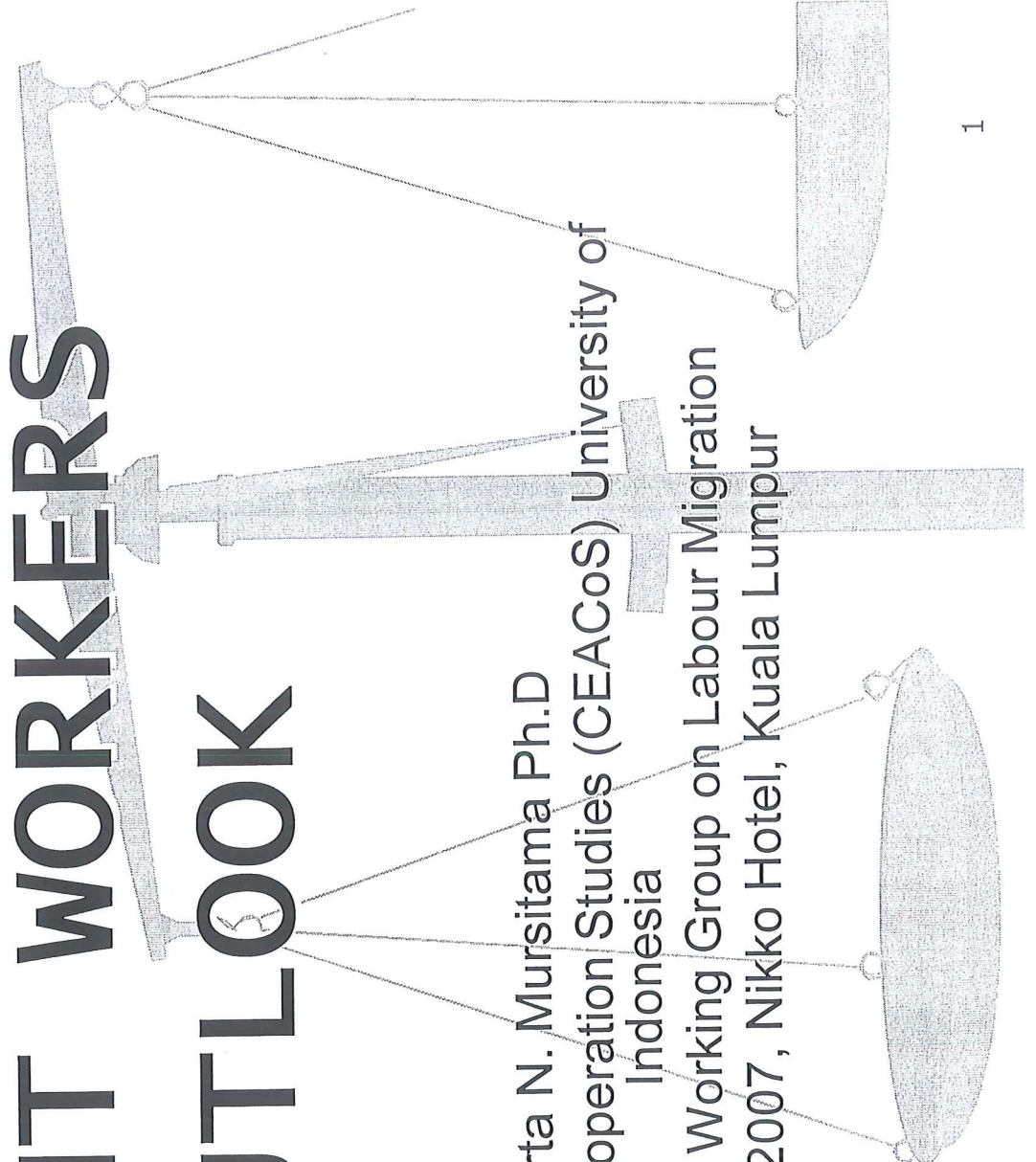
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INDONESIAN MIGRANT WORKERS OUTLOOK



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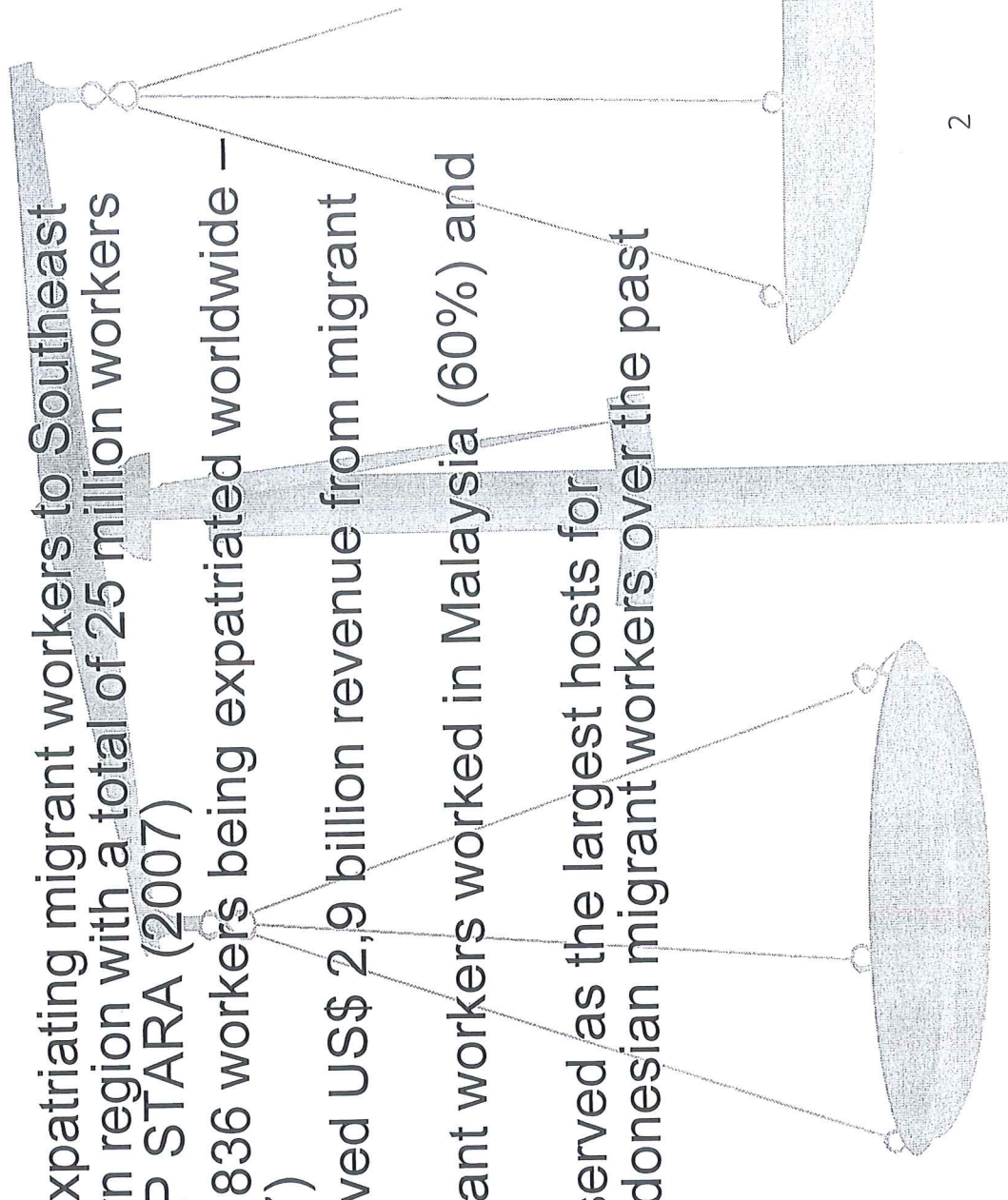
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Migrant Workers-Related Studies

basic facts (1):

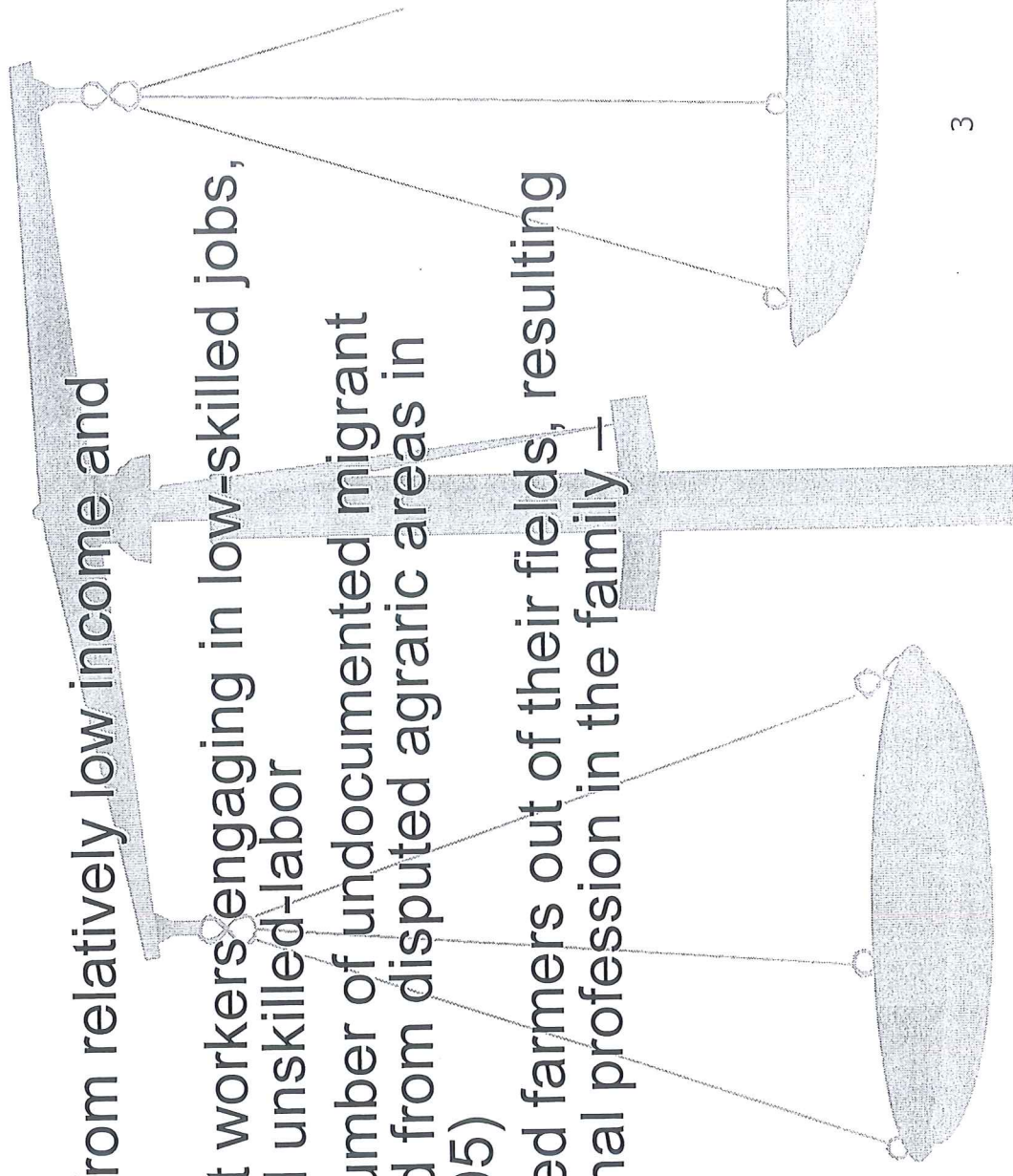
- Indonesia placed 1st in expatriating migrant workers to Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern region with a total of 25 million workers working overseas – ICRP STARA (2007)
- In 2006, there were 611,836 workers being expatriated worldwide – Setditjen PPTKLN (2007)
- In 2005, Indonesia received US\$ 2,9 billion revenue from migrant workers sector
- Most of Indonesian migrant workers worked in Malaysia (60%) and Saudi Arabia (20%)
- The two countries also served as the largest hosts for undocumented/illegal Indonesian migrant workers over the past decade



Migrant Workers-Related Studies

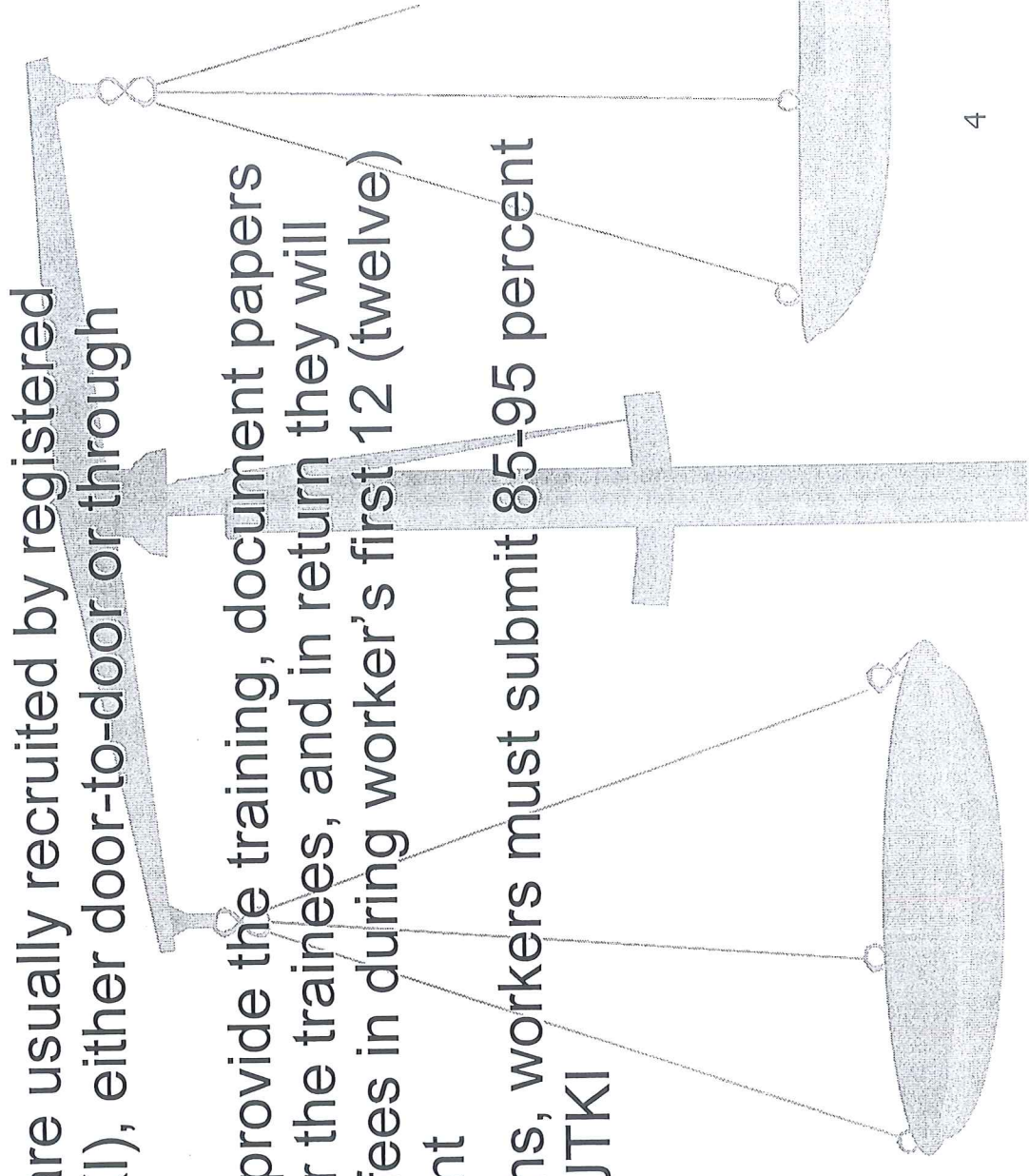
basic facts (2):

- Migrant workers came from relatively low income and education background
- A result: most migrant workers engaging in low-skilled jobs, mostly housemaids and unskilled-labor
- A study shows that a number of undocumented migrant workers were originated from disputed agraric areas in Indonesia – Susilo (2005)
- This disputes then forced farmers out of their fields, resulting the loss of their traditional profession in the family – Setiawan/KPA (2005)



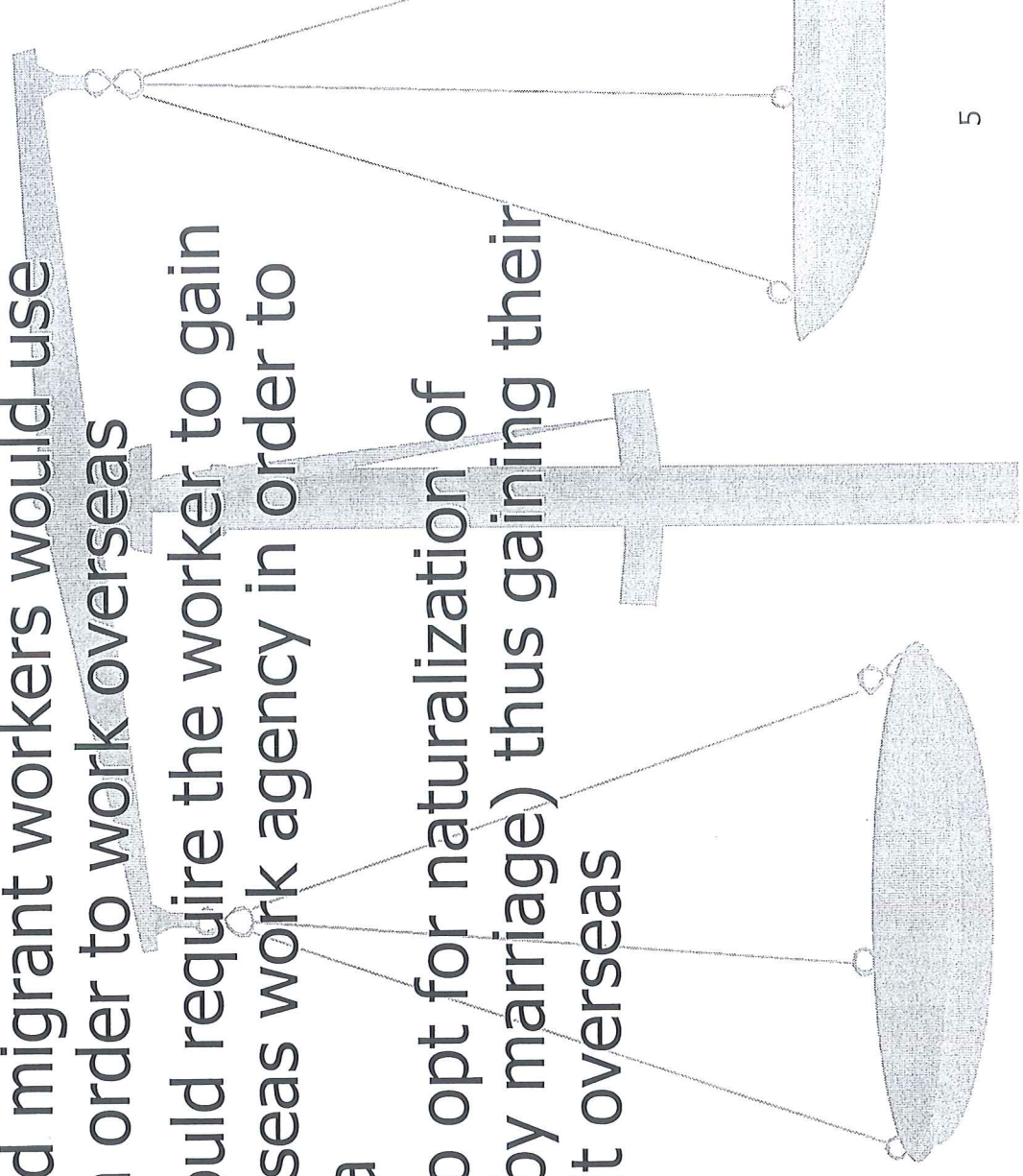
Recruitment of Migrant Workers (1)

- First, migrant workers are usually recruited by registered worker agencies (PJTKI), either door-to-door or through words of mouth
- The PJTKI would then provide the training, document papers and accommodation for the trainees, and in return they will receive compensation fees in during worker's first 12 (twelve) months of work payment
- In the first twelve months, workers must submit 85-95 percent of their wages to the PJTKI



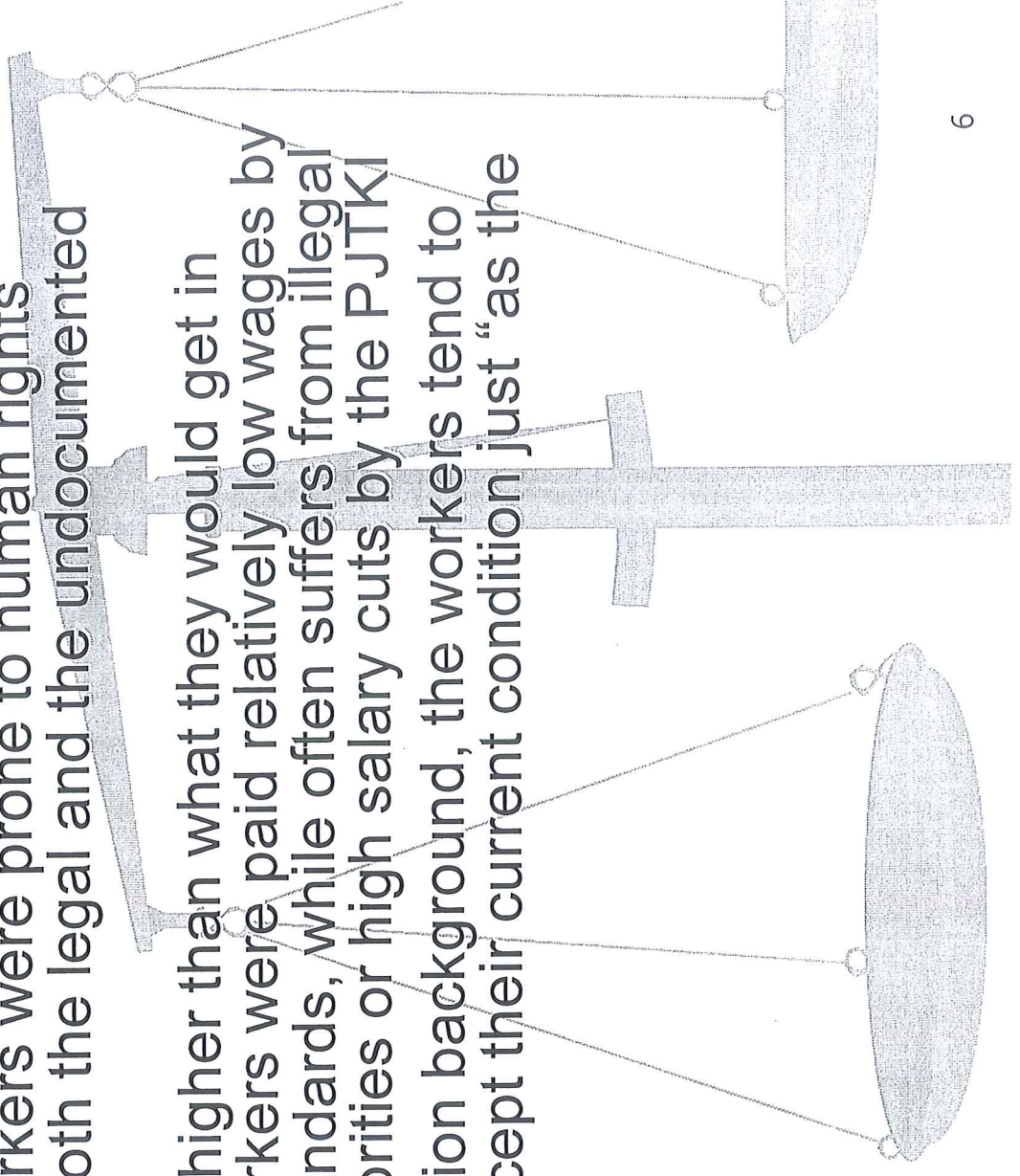
Recruitment of Migrant Workers (2)

- Seasoned/referenced migrant workers would use different methods in order to work overseas
- The first method would require the worker to gain reference from overseas work agency in order to receive a calling visa
- The second one is to opt for naturalization of citizenship (usually by marriage) thus gaining their ultimate work permit overseas



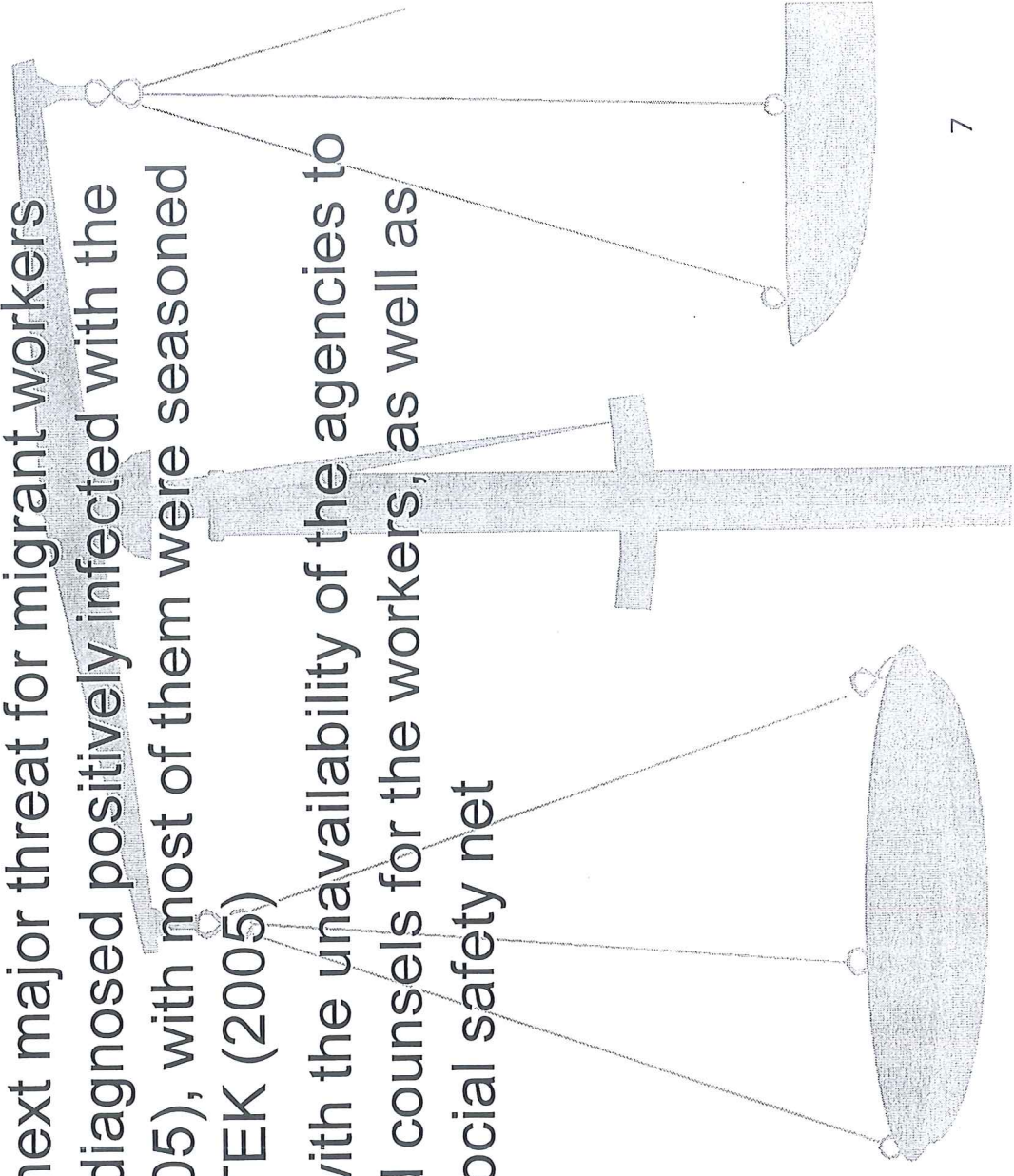
Safety and Welfare of Migrant Workers (1)

- Indonesian Migrant Workers were prone to human rights abuse and violations, both the legal and the undocumented ones
- While receiving wages higher than what they would get in their homeland, the workers were paid relatively low wages by their host countries' standards, while often suffers from illegal collections by the authorities or high salary cuts by the PJTKI
- Due to their low education background, the workers tend to remain passive and accept their current condition just "as the way it is"



Safety and Welfare of Migrant Workers (2)

- HIV/AIDS became the next major threat for migrant workers as more workers were diagnosed positively infected with the deadly virus (131 in 2005), with most of them were seasoned migrant workers – HIPTEK (2005)
- The condition worsen with the unavailability of the agencies to provide health care and counsels for the workers, as well as the absence of a firm social safety net

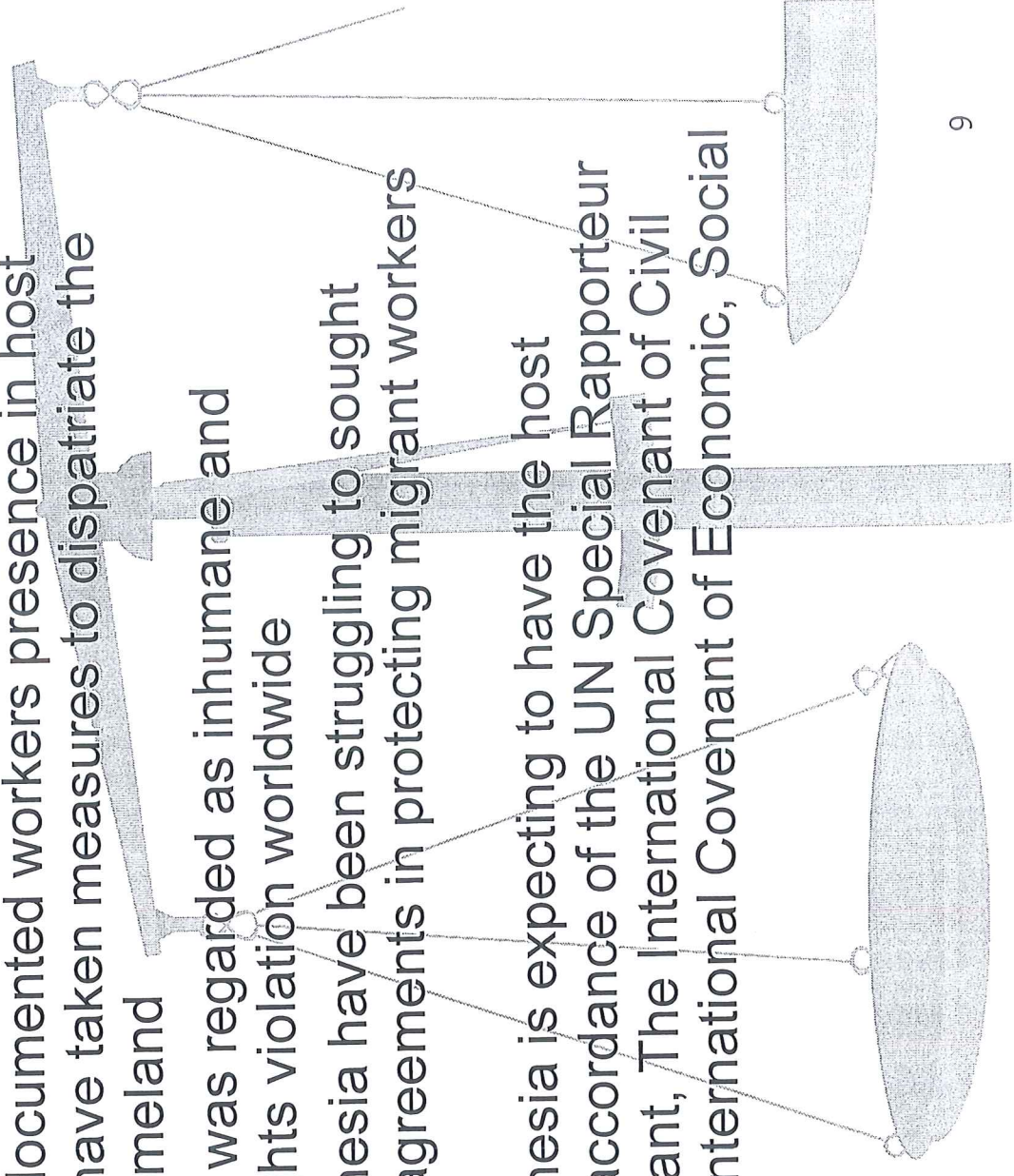


Undocumented Migrant Workers

- Most of Indonesian migrant workers worked in Malaysia (60%) and Saudi Arabia (20%)
- The countries began to gain notoriety among Indonesian migrant workers and became major abuse hotspots to migrant workers with the rise of human rights violation cases within the countries
- Hundreds of migrant workers were treated brutally, with many of the victims were permanently disfigured or suffered from a severe mental anguish
- Sexual harassment and violence were also common modus operandi in violating the human rights of the workers
- Nevertheless, illegal migrant workers expatriation continues to grow, and over hundreds of human rights violation/abuse cases were left unsolved with the offenders remain at large

Dispatiation of Migrant Workers

- With the rise of illegal/undocumented workers presence in host countries, some of them have taken measures to dispatiate the offenders back to their homeland
- Some of these measures was regarded as inhumane and condemned as human rights violation worldwide
- The Government of Indonesia have been struggling to sought bilateral and multilateral agreements in protecting migrant workers rights
- The Government of Indonesia is expecting to have the host countries to act with the accordance of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrant, The International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



Thank You

