

ARE WE THERE YET? INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND ITS
GOVERNANCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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REGION/ COUNTRY	Total Pop 2016 (000)	Annual Grwth Rate (%)	Old age ratio support 2016	Pop, 2050	HDI value, 2015	GDP per capita (WEF 2018) (US\$)
SEA	640619	1.1	11.1	792139	--	-
Singapore	5697	1.6	5.9	6681	0.925	52601
Brunei Dar	429	1.3	15.5	546	0.865	-
Malaysia	30752	1.4	11.5	40725	0.789	11028
Thailand	68147	0.2	6.6	62452	0.740	5901
Philippines	102250	1.5	13.6	148260	0.682	2753
Indonesia	260581	1.1	12.7	322327	0.689	3974
Vietnam	94444	1.0	10.1	112783	0.683	1770
Cambodia	15827	1.6	15.1	22545	0.563	1078
Lao PDR	6918	1.7	15.9	10172	0.586	1643
Myanmar	54363	0.9	12.2	63575	0.556	-

MIGRATION PROFILE OF SEA

ORIGIN COUNTRIES

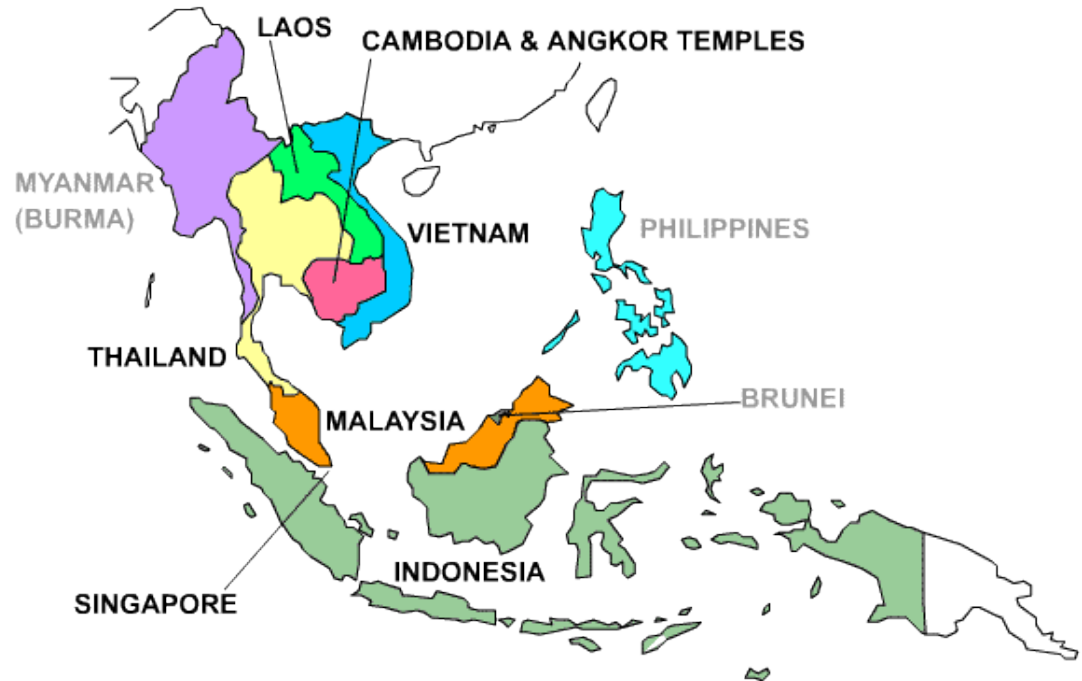
- Philippines
- Indonesia
- Vietnam
- Myanmar
- Cambodia
- Lao PDR

ORIGIN & DESTINATION

- Malaysia
- Thailand

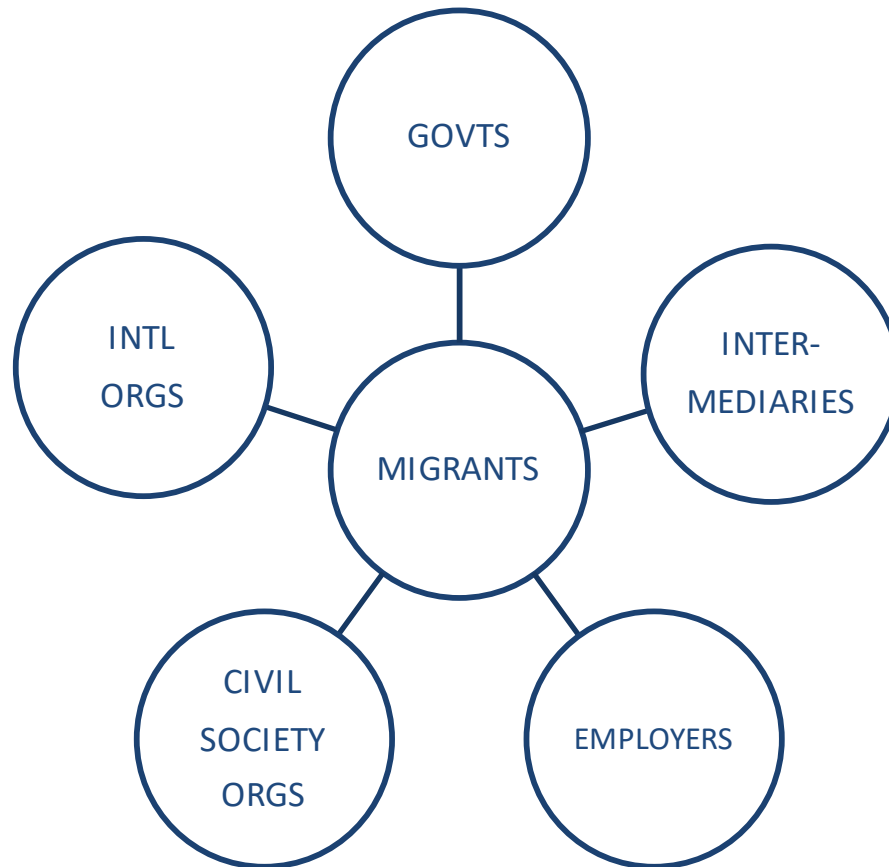
DESTINATION COUNTRIES

- Singapore
- Brunei Darussalam



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

- General observations
 - Temporary labor migration is dominant, mostly less skilled
 - From SEA to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries
 - From SEA to East Asia
 - Within SEA
 - Government-to-government arrangements are minimal
 - The migration industry, esp. private recruitment agencies, is a key player
 - Female labor migration is substantial driven by the demand for domestic workers
 - Irregular migration is significant



KEY ACTORS & INSTITUTIONS IN LABOR MIGRATION

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS

- The interests and perspectives of origin and destination country differ
- Origin countries
 - Philippines
 - Developed specific institutions to address all stages of labor migration
 - Developed good practices to protect migrant workers
 - Sought bilateral agreements with destination countries
 - Active participation in multilateral discussions
- Destination countries
 - Singapore
 - Well-designed policies to meet its needs
 - Welfare protection needs to be strengthened

THE ROLE OF RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

- Intermediaries are known as brokers, agents, or recruiters (recruitment or placement agencies; in destination countries, counterparts are called employment agencies)
- They range from informal (personal and social networks) to formal commercial fee-charging agencies
- They vary in their legal status: illegal (inc. traffickers) to legal ones
 - Legal status may be deceiving – e.g., ties between illegal and legal agencies, legal agencies commit irregular acts
- Key role in the development of international labor migration (market development)
- Labor migration as business: matching workers and employers for a fee

THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Key international organizations in labor migration:
International Labour Organization (ILO) & International Organization for Migration
- Contributions
 - Promoting tripartite dialogue – governments, employers and workers through trade unions (ILO)
 - Promoting regional consultative processes (IOM) – mechanisms bringing governments together to discuss migration issues; non-binding
 - Providing support to CSOs to meet and enhance network-building and collaboration (e.g., partnership between NGOs and trade unions)

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- Migrant-oriented NGOs emerged in Asia in response to the lack of protection extended to migrant workers
- Transnational links between NGOs have strengthened calls for protecting the rights of migrants
 - Cooperation in region-wide campaigns, e.g., day off for foreign domestic workers
- Growing partnership between NGOs and trade unions
- Emergence of self-organized migrants' groups

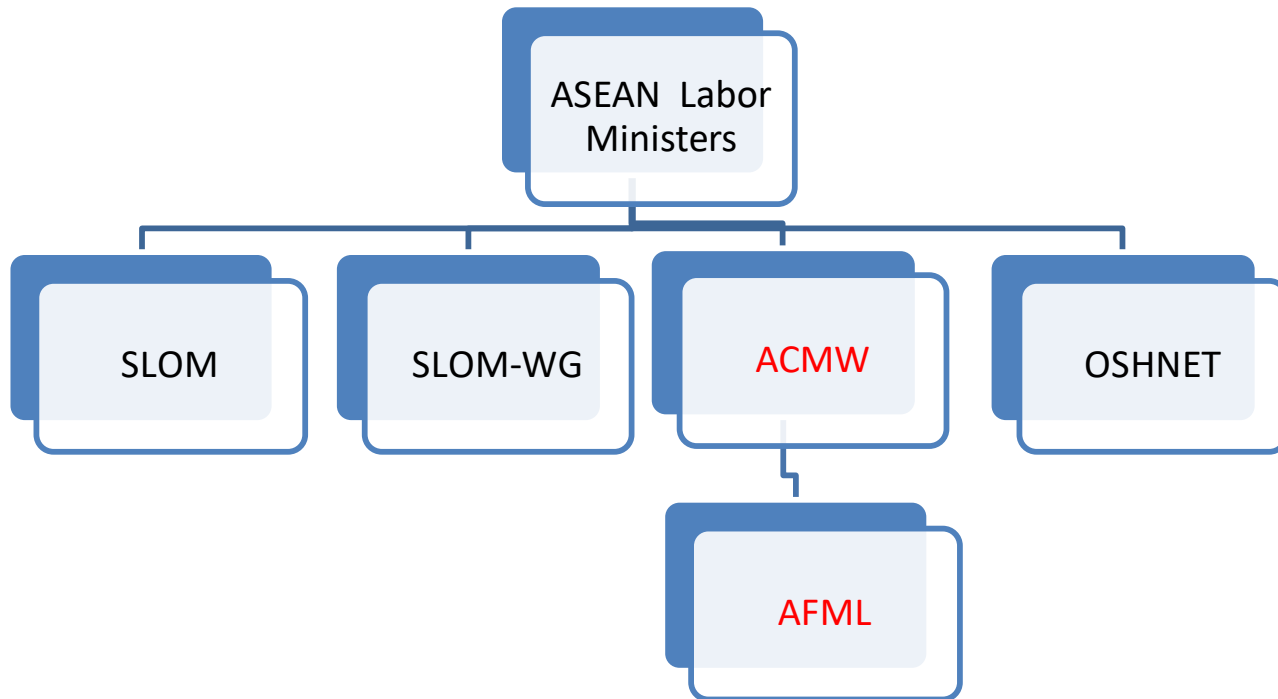
THE ROLE OF MIGRANTS & THEIR FAMILIES

- Different views of migrants
 - Governments in origin countries: Remittances
 - Government in destination countries: Workers
 - Recruitment agencies: Business
 - NGOs: Victims
- Migration for migrants and their families: a journey of hope
- Migrants' personal & social networks (family, friends)
 - A key factor in sustaining migration
 - Not all networks are supportive or empowering
 - Networks as circumventing policies that constrain migration?
 - Networks as replacing commercial intermediaries in recruitment?

TOWARDS REGIONAL APPROACHES

- ASEAN
 - Labor migration is in the three ASEAN Pillars (Political-Security, Economic, Socio-Cultural)*
 - ASEAN Consensus on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2017)
 - ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers (2007)
 - ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Girls (ratified by 8 countries)
 - ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework (AQRF)

TOWARDS REGIONAL APPROACHES



TOWARDS REGIONAL APPROACHES

- ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML, since 2008) – dialogue platform of governments, employers (represented by the ASEAN Confederation of Employers or ACE), and workers (represented by the ASEAN Trade Union Council or ATUC) **plus** CSOs (Task Force-ASEAN Migrant Workers) (10 national groups per sector)
- ILO tracks progress made on the recommendations coming from AFML
- Published the ASEAN Compendium on migrant workers' education and safe migration
- Ongoing projects on reintegration programs for returning workers (coordinated by Indonesia), demand and supply of migrant workers in ASEAN (coordinated by Vietnam), and portability of social security for migrant workers in ASEAN (coordinated by Thailand)

TOWARDS REGIONAL APPROACHES

- Slower progress on regional discussions on labor migration
 - 2004 ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children
 - 2015 ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children
 - Enforced from March 2017
 - Ratified by 8 countries (except Indonesia and Brunei)
 - ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements
 - ASEAN Qualifications Framework

TOWARDS REGIONAL APPROACHES

- Notable steps, but more needs to be done for migrant workers
 - 2007 Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers
 - 2017 ASEAN Consensus on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers

- A bright spot
 - 2006 ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption

TOWARDS REGIONAL APPROACHES

- Beyond the ASEAN framework
 - Regional consultative processes involving countries in the region
 - Bali Process
 - Colombo Process,
 - Abu Dhabi Dialogue
 - Region-wide initiatives (e.g., International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database, Fair and Ethical Recruitment, etc.)
 - Region-wide CSO cooperation and dialogues

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- * From a national framework, the governance of migration is expanding into a multi-level approach
 - * The regional level, a very critical node, between the national and the international (vis-à-vis the Global Compact on Migration)
- * From a state-centered framework, other non-state actors are lending their voices to the governance of migration
 - * Civil society organizations, trade unions, migrants' associations
 - * Private sector participation – recruitment industry
 - * Employers' voices need to be heard more
 - * More links between the national and local governments
- * From a “labor migration” policy to integrating migration in broader frameworks
 - * Migrants' rights
 - * Migration and sustainable development