



Labour Migration & Trafficking in women and children : The Philippine Experience

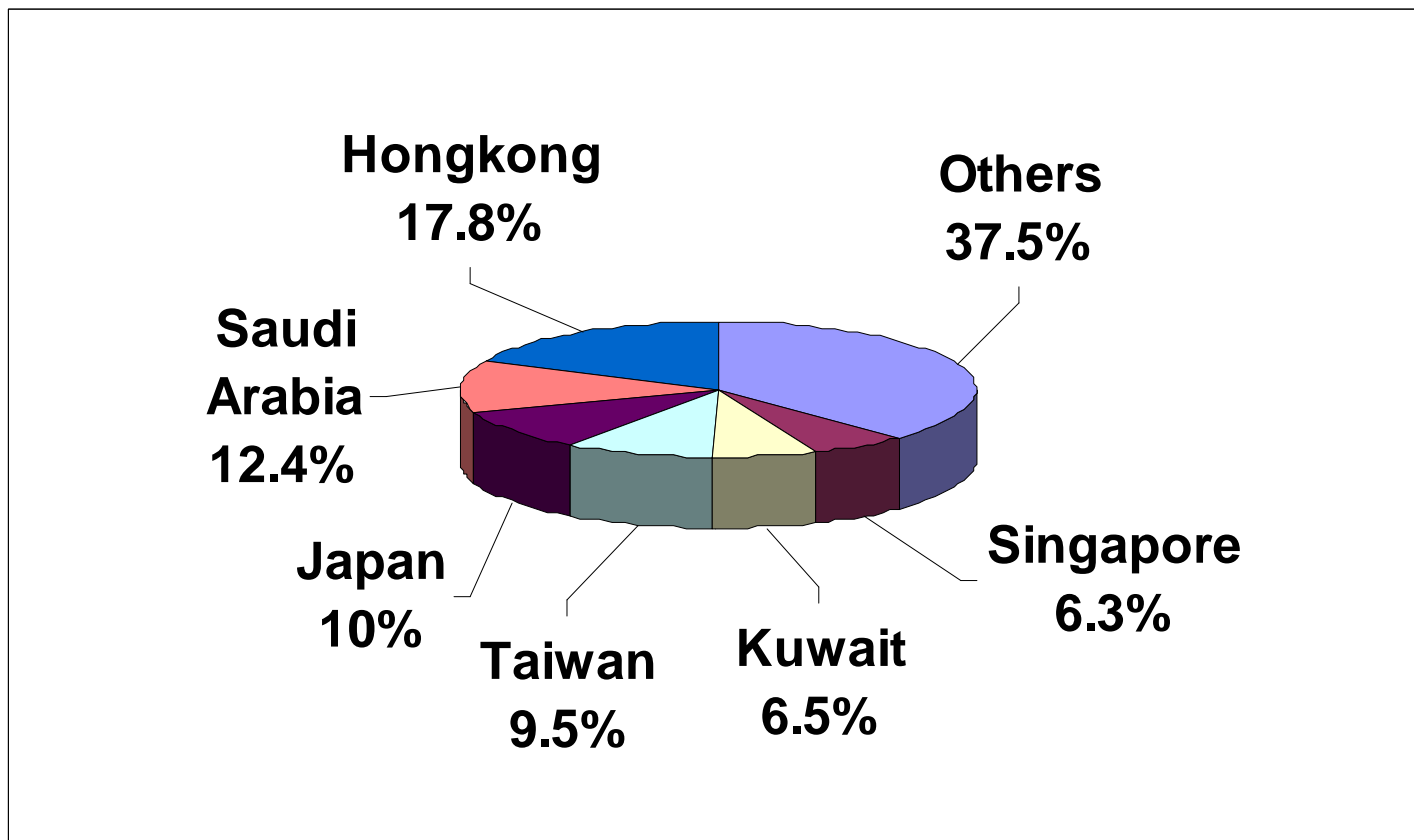
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Percent Distribution of OFWs, by continent, 2004-NSO

Continent	Male	Female	TOTAL
Africa	90.6	9.5	15,141
Asia	45.8	54.2	9,024,134
Australia	70.9	29.1	23,167
Europe	67.3	32.7	1,268,141
North & South America	64.6	35.4	1,087,038
Other countries	85.6	14.4	541
country not reported	83.2	16.5	21
TOTAL	51.1	48.9	11,418,183

Percent Distribution of Female Overseas Filipinos by Place of Work, 2004



Source: National Statistics Office, Survey of Overseas Filipinos

A. **Situation on Overseas Employment** ***(landbased, 2004)****

Women

- > **50%** (**Service workers, i.e. domestic helpers, household workers, caretaker, waiters, bartenders, etc.)**
- > **38%** (**professional and technical workers – medical workers such as nurses, health care assistants, teachers and performing artists)**
- > **10%** (**production workers)**

Source: Philippine Progress report to APEC-GFPN 2006



A. **Situation on Overseas Employment** *(landbased, 2004)**

Men

- > **59%** (production workers,i.e. plumbers, bricklayers, drivers,etc)
- > **18 %** (professional/ technical workers)

**10% either sex-clerical and administrative
or as administrative and managerial w**

Source: Philippine Progress report to APEC-GFPN 2006



A. **Situation on Overseas Employment** *(landbased, 2004)**

8 M Filipinos or 10% of the population were abroad.

3.1 M are permanent residents mostly in the USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, UK and Germany.

TRENDS:

- **generally increasing for both sexes.**
- **The percentage share of women among newly-hired land-based overseas workers has steadily risen from 1994-2005**

[Source: Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA) Phils. 2006]



Areas of Concern and Recommendations

- **Feminization of migration**
 - **1970 – 12% of OFW**
 - **2000 – 64% of OFW**
 - **2005, Q1 – 74%**
 - **in the professional sector**

Developmental impact of OFW remittances



US\$80 B remittance from OFW, 1990-2005*

US 6 B remittance from OFW, Q1 2006

- Develops the country's human capital: better nutrition, education, housing, health for families
- At community level, helps victims of calamities through fund raising/donations
- US\$10.7 billion remittances make up to 10.5% of the gross national product (GNP)

* Source: Senate Economic Report, 3rd Qtr. 2005

Common Problems encountered by OFWs

- Illegal recruitment
- Contract violations:
 - low pay
 - Inhuman living and working conditions
- Verbal and emotional abuse
- Job insecurity
- Illegal termination
- Absence of social security benefits
- Discrimination and racism
- Family separation and breakdown
- Difficulties in social adjustment



Programs for the protection of migrant workers

- **Pre-departure orientation seminars**
 - Vulnerability of women in overseas employment, especially domestic workers;
 - HI V/ AI DS, other sexually-transmitted diseases, and reproductive health issues;
 - **Country-specific – culture**
 - **Special courses for women in vulnerable jobs:**
 - **Domestic work**
 - **Entertainment**
- **Women's desks:**
 - **Pre-employment**
 - **Welfare and employment**
 - **Adjudication**
 - **Licensing and regulation**



Programs for the protection of migrant workers

- **Standard employment contracts for women migrant workers :**
 - performing artists
 - domestic workers
- **Stipulations:**
 - Principles of employment,
 - Standards of living adequate for their health and well-being,
 - Safe working conditions,
 - Clean working environment,
 - Limitations on working hours, rest and leisure,
 - Freedom from sexual harassment in the workplace, and
 - Freedom from forced labor;



Programs for the protection of migrant workers

- **Bilateral Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding and on-site marketing missions negotiated from a position of strength**
- - **to provide protection for migrant women**
 - **to conform of sending and receiving countries to relevant laws, rules and regulations and terms of employment beneficial to migrant women;**

Programs for the protection of migrant workers

- **Minimum age of 18 years for young workers;**
- **Strict requirements for accreditation and regulation of recruitment agencies and promoters, and**
- **Close scrutiny of employer's background and credentials.**



Current Laws

- **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995**
 - **An act to institute the policies of overseas employment and establish a higher standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of migrant workers, their families and overseas Filipinos in distress, and for other purposes.**
- **REPUBLIC ACT No. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003**
 - **An act to institute policies to eliminate trafficking in persons especially women and children, establishing the necessary institutional mechanisms for the protection and support of trafficked persons, providing penalties for its violations, and for other.**



Current Laws

- Republic Act No. 9225 or the 2003 Overseas Absentee Voting Law, Filipino Citizenship Reacquisition and Retention Law

Role of International instruments

- 1990 Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers
- 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) or International Bills of Rights
- International Labor Organization (ILO)
Conventions: Migration for Employment (No.97) and Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (No.143)



Areas of Concern and Recommendations

Take measures to address root causes of women's migration, including

- *Sustainable development and of safe and protected jobs for women*

Areas of Concern and Recommendations

- *Continue concluding bilateral agreements with host countries*
 - Not all receiving countries have Bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding (MOUs)
 - vulnerable to becoming victims of various forms of exploitation, violence and trafficking.
- *Develop policies and measures to protect women migrants who go abroad through informal channels from all forms of violations*