LABOUR MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: The Philippine Experience

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CONTENTS OF PRESENTATION

- OFWs: The New Development Actors
- Managing Migration Flows
- Reaping Development Gains
- Toward Sustainable Development Gains
- Challenge to All Migration Actors
MIGRATION TODAY

- Growth in migratory streams
- Push and pull factors
- Diversity of people
- Migration and development
THE OFW: DEVELOPMENT ACTOR

- **8 M OVERSEAS**
  - 43% permanent residents abroad
  - 46% temporary migrants
  - 10% undocumented workers
INCREASING PRESENCE OF FILIPINO MIGRANTS IN HIGH-PAYING ECONOMIES

81% of permanent overseas Filipinos in US and Trust Territories in 2006

45% of Filipinos with temporary contracts in Middle-East

More contract-based Filipinos in Europe
MANAGING MIGRATION FLOWS

- State policy to promote and protect the welfare of Filipinos abroad
- Maximize the benefits and minimize the costs
- Preference for circular or temporary migration
MANAGING MIGRATION FLOWS

- Regulation
- Protection
- Reintegration
- Family Support
MANAGING MIGRATION FLOWS

REGULATION
- Licensing
- Standards
- Posting of bonds
- Employment contracts
- Bilateral agreements
- 6-month notice for deployment of critical skills

PROTECTION
- Pre-employment and pre-departure orientation
- Health, life insurance, housing and social security
- On-site assistance
  - Contract violations
  - Maltreatment
  - Reintegration
  - Training

REINTEGRATION
- Loans
- Counseling
- Training
- Scholarships
- Socio-economic policies:
  - Property rights
  - Rights to vote and political participation
  - Remittance facilities
  - Investment
MANAGING MIGRATION FLOWS

FAMILY SUPPORT

- OFW Family Circles
- Communication facilities
- Entrepreneurship assistance
- Scholarships
REAPING DEVELOPMENT GAINS

MANAGED MIGRATION

DEVELOPMENT

REMITTANCES

- 3rd biggest receiving country
  - US$13.4 B
  - 10% of GNP
# REAPING DEVELOPMENT GAINS

## Table 1. Remittances and Share in GNP 2001-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Remittances (in million U.S. $)</th>
<th>Share of Remittances in GNP (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>6,031</td>
<td>9.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>7,189</td>
<td>9.7</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>7,578</td>
<td>10.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>8,550</td>
<td>10.3</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>10,689</td>
<td>10.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>8,007</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
REAPING DEVELOPMENT GAINS

- Micro-view
  - Education of children
  - Housing
  - Higher household income
  - Lower poverty incidence in areas with high concentration of OFW households
  - Spillover effects on communities
  - Community support from diaspora
REAPING DEVELOPMENT GAINS

- Limited productive use of remittances
- High remittance transaction costs

- Services and technology to lower costs
Preparing the labor supply for global demand
Labor market intelligence
Better and decent markets
Advocacy on productive use of remittances
Innovations in money transfer systems
CHALLENGE TO ACTORS

ACTORS
- Migrants
- Governments
- Home countries
- Receiving countries
- Civil society
- Private sector

ACTION AREAS
- Follow-through ASEAN declaration commitments
- Support for knowledge and skills acquisition
- Facilitating remittance flows
- Access to technology
- Reasonable communication costs
- Integration during work tenure
- Preparing for return and reintegration
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

End of presentation