

2008 WORLD MIGRATION REPORT

Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy

Mr/MS Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My objectives in making this presentation are, first to provide you with a succinct introduction to the theme chosen for the World Migration Report 2008, and second to outline in very broad terms the content and structure of the report titled *“Managing Labour Mobility in the Evolving Global Economy”*. We have placed on the table in front of each delegation a lengthier and more substantial overview.

The challenge of contemporary migration arises of one crucial choice made by the international community: the choice of adopting a model of economic development predicated largely on the notion of growth.

Slide 2: The challenge of migration management

Choice
Model of economic management
Growth

This notion is uniquely related to processes of economic integration collectively known as globalization and particularly to a set of measures opening the way to liberalization (in other words, the mobility) of capital, goods and services.

Slide 3: The challenge of migration management

Mobility
States have freed capital, goods, services
Made a decision for greater mobility
Globalisation – generates mobility

Slide 4: The challenge of migration management

These developments appear largely responsible for the creation of a context in which human mobility seeks to find expression on a genuinely global scale. If there is global mobility of capital, goods and services, people will follow.

The WMR takes account that there are many and diverse....

Slide 5: Realms of mobility

Highly- Skilled Migration, Low- and Middle- Skilled Migration, Study Abroad, Tourism, Family Migration, Internal Migration, Irregular Migration 10-15%* of total flows (*ILO Estimates)

Slide 6: Realms of mobility

However, between these mobility categories there are no firmly fixed boundaries. And they are not mutually exclusive; they intersect, overlap and merge in many different ways.

Slide 7: Realms of mobility

But it is important to bear in mind that economic and more specifically work interests, preoccupations and concerns are never far away from any of them.

Work

Slide 8: World Migration Report: Dual Purpose

...reflected in its structure, first to explore the nature and magnitude of this need for more comprehensive, coherent and purposeful action through the observation and analysis of a wide range of contemporary migration patterns linked to economic purposes (Part A)

Part A: Snapshot and analysis

Contemporary patterns of mobility linked to economic purposes

Mosaic of independent studies by specialist researchers

Part B: Working tool

Inventory of policy elements for the development of strategic responses

Most written in house

Pause

I would now like to quickly run you through some of the most salient features of the report which contains some quite interesting and even surprising information. The first one of these mobility patterns related to employment is the concept of the ...

Slide 9: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

“Global Labour Market”

- More countries entered or are entering the world economy
- Markets more open to international trade and capital flows
- Workforce more integrated into the world economy

Slide 10: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

Globalization changes the way enterprises do business

- International network enterprises
- Global assembly lines for production of goods
- Resort to global sourcing of services
- Creates demand for increased labour mobility

Slide 11: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

Role of States and Policies

- More limited role in regulation of the economy
- New prominence given to enterprises as regulators
- Phenomena being dealt with: international in nature
- Policies and instruments: more national/ regional in scope

Slide 12: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

Highly skilled migrants

Growing numbers

10% of all highly skilled persons from the developing world live either in North America or Europe

46% increase in share of tertiary educated migrants migrant flows in OECD countries between 1990 and 2000

Different, conflicting agendas:

- Countries of destination: to beat the competition through policies that will attract the “best and brightest” (*Kapur and McHale, 2005*)
- Countries of origin: need for protection from the loss of highly skilled nationals and/or to secure return

Slide 13: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

Low- and middle-skilled migration

Today most high-income countries have multiple programmes
Enable foreign workers access via “front, side, and back doors”
(Philip Martin)

New Rationale:

- Welcome skilled workers and allow them to settle
- Promoting circular migration

The report also makes the point which may be of great interest to policy makers that greater impact on poverty reduction than emigration of professionals

- Workers come from lower-income families and communities: benefit more directly from migration
- Withdrawal from home-country labour markets opens opportunities for replacement workers
- Remit more per person than highly-skilled professionals, especially if left families behind

Slide 14: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

Students

Between 1998 and 2004 number of foreign students enrolled worldwide rose by 52% to 2.7 million

OECD countries host 85% of total
Shifts in both government motivations and the design of
educational programmes

Broad academic, political, cultural and development aid goals
→ More economic objectives

Education programmes to recruit highly skilled migrants
Entry card to the international job market for foreign students
Internationalization of higher education

Slide 15: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

Short-term movement (tourism and business)

- Many flows for leisure and business related to earlier migration
- Tourist movements give rise to longer-term migration
- Promote further tourism & business movement from home countries
- Migration related to building of tourism infrastructure

Skills, experience and knowledge of travelers can meet temporary
labour market needs
Working holiday schemes

Slide 16: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

**A few other interesting facts highlighted by the report are those in
connection with**

Family Migration

Two-thirds of immigration into the U.S.
Between a third and a quarter in Canada and Australia (2006)

Sharp Distinction

Socially-oriented family reunion programmes - Labour migration programmes

Often misleading

Family migration: largest single category in the North

Generally dominated by women

Image of woman and dependant family migrant with little interest
in working

Outdated

Slide 17: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

Internal Labour Migration

- In many countries far more important* than outmigration to more distant destinations (*In conjunction with proximate cross-border flows; Especially in countries with marked regional inequalities but not limited to developing world)

In terms of numbers of people and value of remittances
China: dramatic increase over past two decades
26 million in 1988 to 126 million in 2004
Majority: circular rural-urban migrants with strong links to rural family

- Rising incidence of such movement
Impact of internal remittance flows on development
Migration of women, children and ethnic minorities and resultant segmentation of migrant labour markets
- Strong link with international migration

Slide 18: Mobility Patterns Related to Employment

Irregular Migration

- Present in all major migration systems
Work opportunities for lower-wage, low-skilled migrant workers: important incentive for irregular migrants
Most occurs through lawful entry of persons who become irregular through unauthorised employment
Demand for low-skilled labour not met through regular channels
- Global industry:
Connections to legitimate migration agencies at one end
To criminal networks at the other end

Pause

However, this complex set of patterns would not be complete without a number of essential cross-cutting issues which permeate the report.

Slide 19: Cross-cutting issues

Human rights and status of migrant workers

- Formulation and implementation of minimum standards of protection
- Policy regime that allows competitive assets of migrant workers - skills, wage expectations, cultural attributes - to be put to advantage
- Precludes the “commodification” of migrant workers

Management of interface between migrants and host community

- Assimilation, integration and multiculturalism and entitlements to social benefits and services revised in light of evolving migratory circumstances
- Balance between maintenance of national identities and changing social dynamics

Management of security issues

- Regulate and facilitate legitimate entry while protecting from threats of international terrorism and criminality
- Vulnerability of irregular migrant workers to exploitation, victimization and abuse

Slide 20: Cross-cutting issues

Gender dimension of migration

- Term “feminization of migration” often misused or misunderstood (**explain why**)
- Empowerment of women through migration
- Vulnerability to multiple forms of discrimination on the labour market and limited access to social and health facilities

Migrant health

- Health risks and benefits to a certain degree shared globally
- Migrants’ rights to health services; adapt mainstream health services to needs of culturally diverse populations in response to mobility-related medical challenges: tuberculosis, HIV Aids or avian flu;
- Provision of information on health stresses and risks associated with migration

Pause

Slide 21: centrality of work issues

As you can see, this first part of the report paints a striking picture of complexity and diversity. What is most important, though, is the recognition of the centrality of work interests to all these mobility categories and to which all relate in one degree or another.

Tourism; Skilled Migration; Internal Migration; Family Migration; Study Abroad; Irregular Migration

Slide 22: Labour Migration: Key Aspect of Human Mobility and Global Economy

Before (last 3 decades of the 20th Century)

- Pre-eminence of asylum and irregular migration on policy agendas
- Focus on protection and humanitarian assistance
- Little space for comprehensive migration management

Recent shift in policy perspective

- Possible realisation that tackling isolated migration problems such as integration or return not very effective
- Economic impact of labour migration on countries of origin, through remittances flows

All of this has significant implications for policy strategies and responses which are discussed in the second part of the report.

Slide 23: Policy Strategies and Responses

Importance of data: knowledge base

- Crucial to understanding of labour migration flows
- Formulation of effective policies
- Different data needs at policy, programme and case management levels

Three initiatives to enhance governments' knowledge base:

- Improving reliability and comparability of existing data sources
- Gathering new data on issues requiring fresh attention
 - Transnational communities
 - Return and circular migration
 - Remittances
- Dissemination and utilization of data and research on labour migration

Slide 24: Policy Strategies and Responses

Countries of Origin

Deployment of workers abroad in human resource development
Elements of an optimally functioning foreign employment policy:
Human Resource Development

- Regulation of private recruitment agencies
- Protection of workers
- Provision of support services (including notably the dissemination of accurate and authoritative information)
- Marketing structures
- Administrative structures

International cooperation

- Important role of Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs)

Slide 25: Policy Strategies and Responses

Countries of Destination

Meeting specific labour market needs
Migrant Workers in Safe, Planned predictable ways

Key policy issues confronting countries of destination:

- Needs assessment
- Design of foreign labour admission policies
- Post-admission policies, including labour market regulation and protection,
- Migrant worker rights and responsibilities
- Economic and social integration of newcomers
- Maintenance of social cohesion
- Irregular migration

Partnerships of key stakeholders

Slide 26: Policy Strategies and Responses: The Migration and Development Relationship

The traditional view is that certain issues

Countries of origin	Countries of destination
Development	Recruitment
Capacity Building	Trade Policies
Diasporas	Development-friendly policies
Mainstream migration and remittances into national development strategies	Labour migration policies

But the report makes a strong case that all are part of a common sphere of interests and form a common platform for dialogue.

Slide 27: Policy Strategies and Responses: The Migration and Development Relationship

High interest on the part of the international community

- UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD), New York, September 2006
- Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Brussels, July 2007, Manila, October 2008

Slide 28: Policy Strategies and Responses

International cooperation

Formal:

- International human rights and labour law treaties (UN & ILO)
- Multilateral agreements regulating international trade (GATS)

- Mode 4)
- Regional integration processes
 - Bilateral arrangements

Informal :

- Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)
- Regional Consultative Processes
- IOM's International Dialogue on Migration (IDM)

Slide 29: Concluding Remarks

- Human mobility: Defining feature of contemporary world
- Mobility for economic purposes at the heart of mobility
- Labour market dynamics increasingly operating across international borders

Slide 30: Concluding Remarks

- Knowledge base: mobility issues and patterns
- Meeting demand with supply in a safe, regular, humane and orderly ways
- Recognition of the capacity-building needs of all governments

Slide 31: Contemporary Migration

Choice for Growth

Effective management of Mobility

Slide 32: Managed migration

Managed Migration: Best way to ensure

- Supply meets demand
- The human rights of migrants are upheld and protected
- Integration & adaptation is effective
- Migration can work for development