INTERNAL MIGRATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT: UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF MIGRANTS IN DEVELOPING CITIES

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The importance of internal migration and the contribution of 2015 WMR

- Dominance of international migration / neglect of internal migration in academic discussion and policy making in recent decades

- **Volume of internal migration** (800 million) far outweighs that of international migration flows (232 million)

- China’s ‘floating population’ (221 million): almost the size of international migrants in the whole world

- 2015 World Migration Report: An important contribution by highlighting internal migration in developing countries
Internal migration and urban development: the highlight of 2015 WMR and the case of China (1)

- 87% of China’s floating population in cities and towns (2010 census)
- In 2000-2010, 57-65% of China’s urban population growth could be attributed to rural-urban migration
- The growth of Shanghai, China’s largest city (24 million): Inflow of nearly 10 million migrants
- The emergence and development of Shenzhen, the first special economic zone and one of the most vibrant cities in China: unimaginable without the inflow of migrants
The volume of Shanghai’s migrants: 9.96 million, 41% of the total population
From a small rural county in 1979 with a population of 314.1 thousand... ...to a megacity with a population of more than 10 million.
Internal migration and urban development: The highlight of 2015 WMR and the case of China (2)

- Migrants: important driving force for socioeconomic and infrastructure development in urban China
- main labour source for labour intensive manufacturing and service industries
- increasingly important in IT and cultural development
- The case of Beijing

Migrants in China contributed 125-250 billion US$ p.a. to the growth of cities' GDP (estimate 2006)
The proportion of migrants in selected industries, Beijing (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Service to households and other services</th>
<th>Hotels and catering services</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Whole sale and retail trades</th>
<th>Information transmission, computer services and software</th>
<th>Leasing and business services</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
<th>Real estate</th>
<th>Culture, Sport and entertainment</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>74.85</td>
<td>72.58</td>
<td>62.53</td>
<td>68.05</td>
<td>47.83</td>
<td>45.65</td>
<td>52.11</td>
<td>44.23</td>
<td>40.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>61.59</td>
<td>56.74</td>
<td>52.45</td>
<td>50.93</td>
<td>36.57</td>
<td>30.26</td>
<td>30.05</td>
<td>29.16</td>
<td>29.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: Data from 2005 Beijing 1% population survey and 2010 Census
Migrants constitute the backbone of cities and cities will cease to operate without migrants.
Internal migration and urban development: The highlight of 2015 WMR and the case of China (3)

- Migrants younger age structure in destination cities
- 14.94% of Shanghai's population 60+ (2010 census)
  - increased by 7.75%,
  - Without migration would have reached 22.69%
- Shanghai without migrants: grey, loss of vitality
Age and sex structure of Shanghai (not considering migration)

In 2000

Projection for 2040
Internal migration and urban development: The highlight of 2015 WMR and the case of China (4)

- Migrants contribute 62-75 billion US$ p.a. to rural places of origin (estimate 2006)
- Return migrants’ potential to contribute to in situ urbanization of their rural places of origin
- Fujian Province migrant survey (2009) on potential return migrants:
  - 28% would settle down in cities and towns
  - 65.2% would work in non-agricultural sectors
- Migrants bring back
  - new skills and ideas,
  - capital and managerial experience,
  - market connections,
  - risk-taking mentalities
  → essential for rural–urban transformation of their hometowns
Migrants’ roles in urban development and their social protection and integration: the need for ‘migrant-inclusive urban governance’

- Uncertainty / risks in migrating and migrants’ vulnerability to discrimination
- Efforts in China:
  - local governments and migrant employers → main responsibility
  - central and provincial governments → financial support
- Various documents released and measures taken to:
  - Promote equal treatment of migrants in urban employment, abolish all the discriminatory regulations and unreasonable fees
  - Promote equal access of migrants’ children to education opportunities and equal treatment in schools
  - Extend coverage of existing urban social insurance programs to migrants
  - Incorporate migrants into urban housing security system
Addressing the need of social protection for the increasingly mobile and diverse migrant population: The need for further efforts

- Migrant conditions improved significantly, however: problems and challenges remain

- Difficulties that migrants are still facing, such as:
  - Low coverage by urban social security and housing security programs
  - Separation from family members, especially children left behind (61 million)

- More efforts needed, including:
  - Promoting migrants’ equal access to public services
  - Speeding up reform in household registration system
  - Paying particular attention to migrants’ distinctive needs
  - Addressing portability issue of various social security programs for migrants

- 2015 World Migration Report:
  Cities now have ‘increasingly mobile and diverse population to manage’
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