



UNITED NATIONS
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AD-HOC EXPERT MEETING
Contribution of Migrants to Development:
Trade, Investment and Development Linkages

Geneva, 29 July 2009

**THE PHILIPPINE APPROACH IN
MANAGING TEMPORARY MIGRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**

By

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The PHILIPPINE APPROACH in Managing Temporary Migration for Development

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Presentation by:

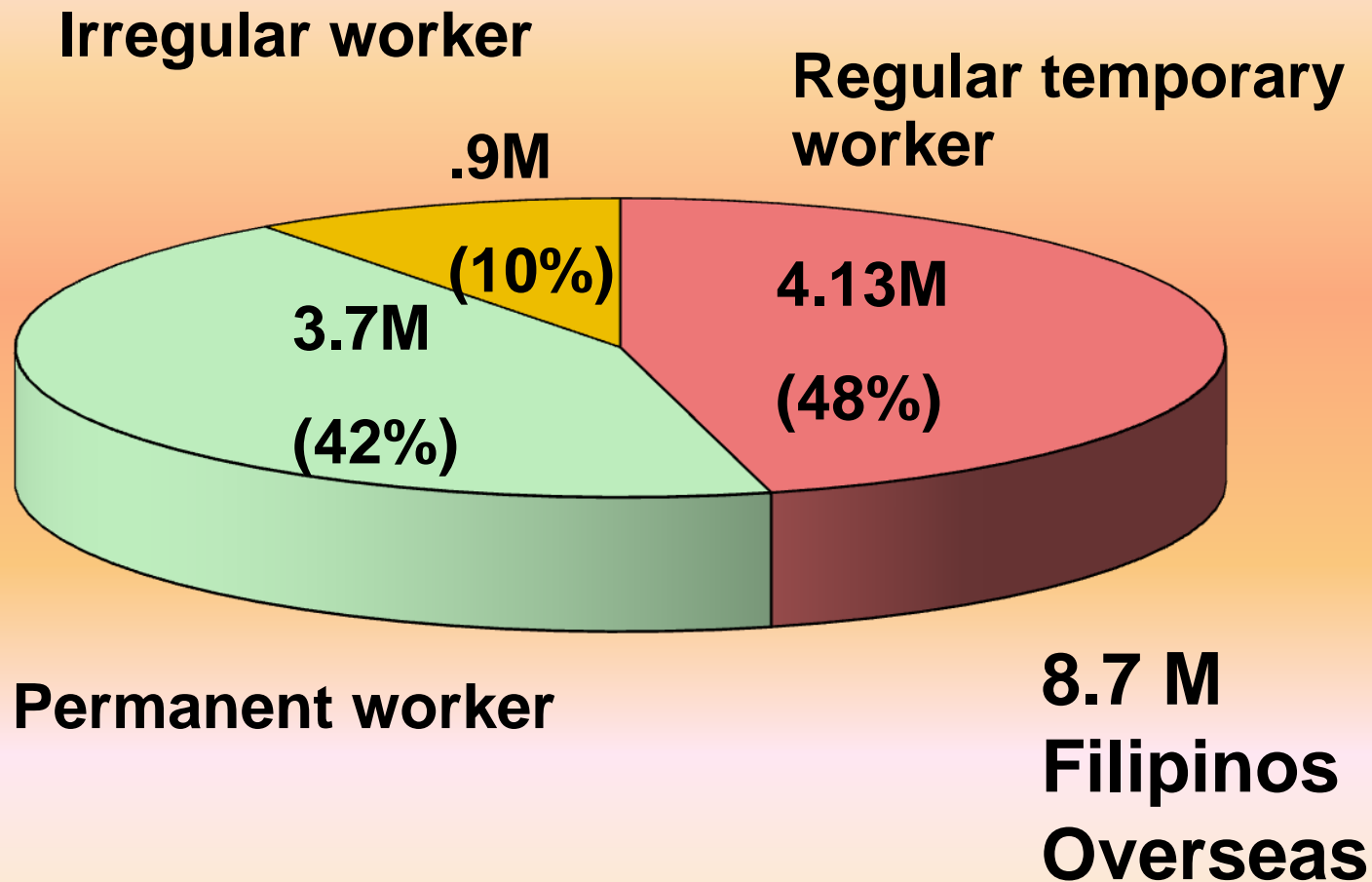
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GLOBAL PRESENCE OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

- Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) can be found in about 190 countries and 50,000 ocean going vessels.
- About 2,800 workers on the average are deployed overseas daily.
- 1,327,000 Filipino workers deployed in 2008, with 75% found in land-based jobs and 25% as seafarers

STOCK ESTIMATE OF FILIPINO OVERSEAS

(AS OF DECEMBER 2007)



Filipino Diaspora

- Americas : 3.7 million
- Middle East : 2.2 million
- Asia : 1.22 million
- Europe : 954,000
- Africa : 90,000

- Seafarers : 267,000

Remittances

- 2008 : US \$ 16.4 Billion
- America : 51%
- Europe : 18.7%
- Middle East : 15.6%
- Asia : 13.7%

I. KEY FEATURES OF THE PHILIPPINE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

- One of the **most developed** overseas employment program in the world and a **model in temporary migration management --- MANAGED MIGRATION**
- Developed **built-in protective mechanism** in all phases of the migration cycle: before, during, and after employment until OFWs' reintegration.

KEY FEATURES OF THE PHILIPPINE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

- Migration management system provides for application of minimum labor standards for employment of OFW.
- Formulation of policies and implementation of programs through inter-government consultation and partnership with the private sector and stakeholders.
- Philippine migration program views the migration process as temporary and circular

II. ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN PHILIPPINE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

A. Recruitment Malpractices

- Collection of Excessive Placement Fees
- Misinterpretation and Premature Collection of Fees

ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN PHILIPPINE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

B. Employment Related Problems

- Contract violations by employer
- Maltreatment

C. Quantity and Quality Supply

- Skills Job Mismatch
- Brain Drain of Highly Qualified Workers

ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN PHILIPPINE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

- D. High transaction costs of remittances**
- E. Difficulty in transforming remittances into productive investment**

III. EFFECTIVE POLICIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

A. REGULATION

1. Measures to improve efficiency and reduce cost of recruitment:

- Licensing System: joint and solidary liability policy; “no placement fee policy for vulnerable categories and countries which prohibit charging of recruitment cost from workers
- Orderly and systematic recruitment system
- Government-Government arrangements to address recruitment malpractices

EFFECTIVE POLICIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

2. Measures to combat fraud and recruitment malpractices

- Stricter regulation on recruitment violations
- Accreditation of foreign employers
- Promotion of continuing professionalism of private recruitment industry.
- Information Campaign: travel advisories/market updates, pre-employment orientation seminars, website

EFFECTIVE POLICIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

B. PROTECTION

1. Employment Standards

- Standard employment contract: must comply with host government and Philippine law and jurisprudence prescribing minimum employment standards.

2. Dispute Settlement System

- Conciliation service at the Philippine embassies and consulates and Philippine Overseas Labor Offices, aside from grievance machinery provided by the host country/employer.
- Blacklisting system for employers with rampant contract violations

EFFECTIVE POLICIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

3. On-site Welfare Assistance

- Network of 250 labor officers overseas
- “One country team approach” in the delivery of on-site welfare services to OFWs.
- Legal Assistance Fund
- Emergency repatriation assistance

EFFECTIVE POLICIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

4. Forging of Bilateral Labour Agreements

- *Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act (1995)*: the State allows the deployment of OFWs only in countries where the rights of Filipino migrant worker are protected based on existing labor and social laws, bilateral agreements concluded, multilateral conventions, declarations and resolutions and other protective measures.
- Forging of bilateral labor agreements is important but may be difficult.

EFFEFFECTIVE POLICIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

C. INTEGRATION AND REINTEGRATION

1. Integration Services

a) Language Training and Culture Familiarization

- Free of Charge
- Pre-departure mandatory requirement
- Equip the OFWs with knowledge on culture and basic conversation skills in the language of the country of destination

b) Language Skills Institute

- Free of Charge
- Language skills training to qualified Filipinos to work locally and overseas

EFFECTIVE POLICIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

c) On Site Support Services

- Filipino Workers Resource Centers (FWRCs) at The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) – conduct programs to promote social integration, e.g. post arrival orientation, settlement and community networking services and counseling.

EFFECTIVE POLICIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

2. Reintegration Program for OFWs

- Preparing workers to return to his family at the earliest time possible
- OFWs savings invested in sustainable micro enterprises
- Organizing families of OFWs into associations for livelihood assistance.
- Reintegration Package: loans, counselling, training and retraining, scholarships, entrepreneurship thru the National Re-integration Center.

Migration as Development Strategy

- Migrants are agents for development
- Migrant communities abroad are mobilizing agents for social development initiatives
- Labor migration should be integrated into the country's program for economic modernization and global competitiveness

THANK YOU!