

**A** **M**  
**O** **2011**

**ASIAN MIGRATION OUTLOOK**

**SCALABRINI MIGRATION CENTER**



# **ASIAN MIGRATION OUTLOOK 2011**

The country reports were written by Karen Anne S. Liao, with overall supervision provided by Graziano Battistella and Maruja Asis. Valentin Mendoza prepared the bibliography of selected publications on migration in Asia and Oceania. Ma. Leonila Domingo did the layout of the report.

## **Asian Migration Outlook 2011**

Copyright © Scalabrini Migration Center 2012

First published 2012

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without permission from SMC.

Scalabrini Migration Center

#40 Matapat St., Bgy. Pinyahan, 1100 Quezon City - Philippines

Tel. (63-2) 436-7915

Fax: (63-2) 434-7692

E-mail: [smc@smc.org.ph](mailto:smc@smc.org.ph)

Website: [www.smc.org.ph](http://www.smc.org.ph)

**ISSN 2244-2294**

Printed in the Philippines

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword .....	5
Introduction .....	7
<b>Technical Notes</b>	
I. Definitions .....	15
II. Data Sources .....	19
List of Abbreviations .....	21
<b>Country Profiles</b>	
<b>ASIA</b>	
<b>CENTRAL ASIA</b> .....	23
Kazakhstan .....	25
Kyrgyzstan .....	29
Tajikistan .....	31
Turkmenistan .....	35
Uzbekistan .....	37
<b>EAST ASIA</b> .....	39
China .....	41
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea .....	47
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region .....	51
Japan .....	55
Macau Special Administrative Region .....	61
Republic of Korea .....	65
Taiwan .....	69
<b>SOUTH ASIA</b> .....	73
Afghanistan .....	75
Bangladesh .....	79
India .....	83
Nepal .....	89
Pakistan .....	93
Sri Lanka .....	97
<b>SOUTHEAST ASIA</b> .....	101
Brunei Darussalam .....	103
Burma .....	107


Cambodia .....	113
Indonesia .....	119
Lao People’s Democratic Republic .....	125
Malaysia .....	129
Philippines .....	137
Singapore .....	147
Thailand .....	153
Vietnam .....	159
<b>WEST ASIA/MIDDLE EAST</b> .....	<b>165</b>
Bahrain .....	167
Iran .....	171
Iraq .....	175
Israel .....	179
Jordan .....	183
Kuwait .....	187
Lebanon .....	191
Oman .....	195
Qatar .....	197
Saudi Arabia .....	201
Syria .....	205
United Arab Emirates .....	209
Yemen .....	213
<b>OCEANIA</b> .....	<b>217</b>
Australia .....	219
New Zealand .....	225
<b>Journal Articles on Migration, 2010</b> .....	<b>231</b>

## FOREWORD

The *Asian Migration Outlook 2011* (AMO) is a review of the migration related events that transpired in Asia and Oceania in 2010. AMO is a new stage in the Scalabrini Migration Center's (SMC) various efforts to promote the dissemination of migration information in Asia. The beginnings of AMO date back to the early 1990s, when the World Wide Web was not yet widespread in the region. Picking up on an initiative of the International Labour Organization Regional Office in the Asia-Pacific which was going to be discontinued, SMC started distributing *Migration Clippings*, a collection of newspaper clippings on migration-related issues, organized by topic and by country. It was sent on a periodic basis to diplomatic posts and the academic network. In the editorial of the first issue of that initiative, it was foreseen that it was going to have a short life because of the possibilities opened up by the Internet. Indeed, the Internet made migration information accessible. While access to information ceased to be a problem, the availability of so much information required users to be selective in accessing the information that they need. To aid in this process, *Migration Clippings* was reformatted into the *Asian Migration News* (AMN) in 1997. AMN was a news digest on migration based on reports published by major English language newspapers in Asian countries. The painstaking process involved accessing dailies, identifying migration news, printing them out, and sorting them by topic and by country. The subsequent stage consisted of summarizing the news, organizing them by country, and distributing them for free via email to a list of subscribers. This was a biweekly service which later became monthly. The whole set of AMN is posted on the SMC website and older issues are in its archives.

Eventually, the labor intensive exercise required by AMN became unsustainable. For this reason, in 2010 AMN was transformed from a news digest to a service that provides links to published news on migration in Asia. Currently, the AMN website offers daily links to articles on migration published in English newspapers and other news services, organized by country.

AMO is still based on migration reports about each country. AMO goes further as it utilizes information derived from other sources and includes a summary of useful background data for each country. In terms of coverage, AMO attempts to cover countries in East, South, Southeast and West Asia. For Oceania, the coverage is limited to two countries: Australia and New Zealand. For the most part, we have been guided by the regional scheme used by the United Nations. AMO aims to be a useful companion to those who need information on migration in the region. It complements the other established initiatives of SMC, i.e., the scholarly *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, the news links of AMN and the database Migration Information System in Asia (MISA). Launched on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of SMC's foundation, AMO is an expression of SMC's commitment to be of service to those who work with and for migrants.



**Graziano Battistella**

Director  
Scalabrini Migration Center





## INTRODUCTION

While the rest of the world was trying to recover from the economic crisis of 2008, 2010 witnessed the beginning of economic woes in Europe, starting with Greece. The year also saw several major disasters that claimed numerous lives in various parts of the world. The earthquake that hit Haiti in January had a death toll of more than 230,000. Chile and China each experienced a powerful earthquake in February and April, respectively. In Pakistan, heavy monsoon rains caused widespread flooding and the displacement of more than a million people. For the second year in a row, a super typhoon struck northern Luzon, the Philippines, in October. In addition to natural disasters, a massive oil spill was generated by the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

On the more positive side, the 33 miners trapped underground in Chile were brought back to safety after 69 days and the World Health Organization declared the H1N1 influenza pandemic over.

In the political world, WikiLeaks making public 250,000 American diplomatic cables caused embarrassment and concern. In the Asian landscape, several political events are worth mentioning. Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition politician, was released from her house arrest. Although China increased its assertiveness in the region, it was thrust in an awkward position when the activist Liu Xiaobo was given a Nobel Peace prize. North and South Korea experienced another low in their relations when the South Korean warship, Cheonan, was sunk, apparently by a North Korean torpedo. In Thailand, the government launched a crackdown of the protestors who opposed the removal of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, while in the Philippines, Benigno S. Aquino III was inaugurated as the 15th President of the Philippines, stirring hope for some changes in the governance of the country.

### ***Migration Flows in Asia***

The main characteristics of migration movements in Asia have been quite stable for some time. Every sub-region has population movements among the countries within the sub-region and to other regions in the continent and beyond. With the directions of migration flows fairly established, the patterns in 2010 were not any different. What is quite distinctive are the key

characteristics of the different sub-regions. The Gulf countries are the primary destinations of labor migration from South and Southeast Asia. South Asia is mostly a region of origin, whose major destination countries are almost exclusively the Gulf countries. East Asia is destination of foreign workers, but the countries have a different approach to migration. Southeast Asia is both origin and destination, with high levels of intra-regional circulation because of regional economic integration. China is participating in all migratory movements both within and outside the continent – what is of greater interest and concern to China is the massive internal movement of population. Central Asia is heavily marked by flows towards the Russian Federation, a legacy of movements during the Soviet Union era. Lack of proper data do not allow an accurate estimate of the overall size of the annual movement of migrants, but a rough estimate can place the magnitude of movement in Asia between 5 and 6 million people.

With these broad strokes, some sub-regional trends can be quantified.

### ***West Asia/Middle East***

About 2.7 million workers from Asia sought work in the Middle East countries, mainly the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, in 2009 (Table 1). Saudi Arabia was the primary destination (43 percent), followed by the UAE (34 percent). In other words, more than three quarters of migrants end up in these two countries. The Philippines was the primary origin (23 percent), followed by India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Almost two thirds of migrants in the Middle East come from South Asia.

Labor migration to Israel has also become sizable. Apart from emerging as a destination of migrant workers, it also continues to absorb population of Jewish origin, particularly from Eastern Europe.

### ***East Asia***

Countries of destination in the region have different migration policies. Taiwan admits foreign workers from selected countries for a period of up to nine years. Foreign workers are almost equally divided between those employed as manual workers and caregivers. South

**Table 1**  
**Migration from Selected Asian countries to the GCC Countries, 2009\***

2009	Bahrain	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Saudi Arabia	UAE	Total
Bangladesh	28,426	10	41,704	11,672	14,666	258,348	354,826
India	17,541	42,091	74,963	46,292	281,110	130,302	592,299
Indonesia	2,837	23,041	9,700	10,010	276,633	40,391	362,612
Nepal	4,234	8,255	3,285	57,340	63,700	33,840	170,654
Pakistan	7,087	1,542	34,089	4,061	201,816	140,889	389,484
Philippines	15,001	45,900	10,502	89,290	291,419	196,815	648,927
Sri Lanka	5,929	42,400	5,326	43,744	77,826	39,586	214,811
Thailand		2,019		10,444		9,647	22,110
Vietnam				121	2,604	4,733	7,458
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,055</b>	<b>165,258</b>	<b>179,569</b>	<b>272,974</b>	<b>1,209,774</b>	<b>854,551</b>	<b>2,763,181</b>

Note: \*Data were collated from the various countries reports.

Korea admits migrants for up to five years from countries with which the government has established a bilateral agreement. In the Korean system, the processing of workers is handled by the governments, without the intervention of the private sector. Japan does not admit less-skilled foreign workers, except under specific programs. The trainee program of the Japan International Training Cooperation Organization was criticized as exploitative towards workers. Japan needs workers in the health sector and a plan was considered to adjust the length of stay of foreign nurses and dentists. Hong Kong SAR receives mainly foreign domestic workers from the Philippines and Indonesia, in

addition to Chinese from the mainland. Southeast Asia is a main source region for migrant labor, particularly, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam (Table 2). China continues to experience internal migration toward the coastal regions and a new registration system was introduced, while calls for the reform – and for some, the abolition – of the *hukou* system persisted.

#### *Southeast Asia*

Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are the three major destinations in this sub-region. Malaysia and Thailand are also countries of origin, mainly toward Singapore

**TABLE 2**  
**Migration from selected Asian countries to East Asia, 2009\***

Origin country	Hong Kong	Japan	Rep. of Korea	Taiwan	Total
Indonesia	32,417	362	1,890	59,335	94,004
Pakistan			985		985
Philippines	100,142	6,418	14,851	33,751	155,162
Sri Lanka	352		3,991		4,343
Thailand	3,240	5,540	14,681	35,863	59,324
Vietnam		5,546	7,578	21,677	34,801
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,151</b>	<b>17,866</b>	<b>43,976</b>	<b>150,626</b>	<b>348,619</b>

Note: \*Data were collated from the various country reports.

**TABLE 3**  
**Migration to Malaysia and Singapore, 2009\***

Origin country	Malaysia	Singapore	Total
Bangladesh	12,402	39,581	51,983
India	11,345		11,345
Indonesia	123,886	33,077	156,963
Nepal	113,982		113,982
Pakistan	2,435		2,435
Philippines	7,256	54,421	61,677
Sri Lanka	1,050	1,026	2,076
Thailand	3,882	14,002	17,884
Vietnam	2,792		2,792
<b>Total</b>	<b>279,030</b>	<b>142,107</b>	<b>421,137</b>

**Note:** \*Data were collated from various country reports.

for the former, and toward East Asia for the latter. The three destinations admit a large number of workers every year, with policies veering towards restriction and expansion depending on economic conditions. Thailand is mainly the destination of migrants from the Indochinese peninsula (Burma, Cambodia and Laos). Malaysia is primarily the destination of Indonesian workers. Malaysia and Singapore hire workers from various countries. Indonesia is a major source country of workers for Malaysia. It taps other source countries for political or economic reasons. In 2010, Malaysia shifted from Bangladesh to Nepal because of many problems connected with the hiring of Bangladeshi workers, among other reasons. Singapore regulates intakes through occupational ceilings and the levy.

The Philippines is the country of origin with the highest number of migrants in the region: 1,123,676 in 2010. In addition, the Philippines is also the country with the highest number of seafarers: 347,150 boarded ships in 2010. Migrants go mostly to the Middle East (60 percent) and to other Asian countries (25 percent). Indonesia also distributes its 635,172 migrants in the various Asian regions, mostly to the Middle East (57 percent), followed by Southeast Asia (25 percent) and East Asia (15 percent). Vietnam has become involved in overseas labor in recent years; it deploys a relatively

small number of migrants (73,028 in 2009), mostly to East Asia.

#### *South Asia*

As a region heavily oriented to deploying its workers in the labor market of the Gulf countries, South Asia is the origin region of about two million migrants. India is the leading country (610,272), followed by Bangladesh (475,000), Pakistan (403,528), Nepal (298,094) and Sri Lanka (247,119). Only Nepal is less dependent on the Middle East market, as a good number of its workers are employed in Malaysia.

#### *Central Asia*

The Central Asian republics present a migratory movement which is mostly intra-regional and with the Russian Federation as a major destination. Migration is very significant for Tajikistan, which has become very dependent on remittances (42 percent of GDP in 2009). In terms of number, the foreign population was highest in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, but the incidence was particularly notable for Kazakhstan (19.5 percent).

#### **Crisis**

The impact of the global economic and financial crisis, felt particularly in 2009, continued also in 2010. In gen-

eral, Asia was considered less affected by the crisis, although some sectors suffered a recession, like the construction industry in the UAE. Jordan experienced a setback in the textile industry and some 6,750 foreign workers were laid off. In some countries, like Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, the number of work permits for foreigners was reduced. On the other hand, some countries like the Philippines and Nepal continued to increase the deployment of workers, counting on the diversification of destination or newly opened markets.

### Refugees

In addition to labor migration, Asia is characterized by a large stock of refugees and internally displaced persons. Aside from the decades-old issue of the Palestinian refugees, Afghanistan and Iraq are the two top countries of origin of refugees (2.8 million and 1.9 million, respectively), while Jordan (2.5 million), Pakistan (2.1 million), Iran (980,000) and Lebanon are the most important destinations. An important role in accepting refugees was played by Syria, where perhaps 300,000 stateless persons were estimated in 2010, coming mostly from Iraq, West Bank and Gaza. In the map, refugees are mostly concentrated in the Middle East, however, some numbers are found also in other areas. In East Asia, North Koreans who escaped to China would like to be considered refugees, but are regarded by China as economic migrants. In Southeast Asia, Thailand continues to host refugees which account as (11.2 percent of its immigrant stock), but the repatriation of 4,000 Hmong to Laos was criticized. Bangladesh has refused to take in 40,000 Rohingyas from Burma. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are also in large numbers, particularly in Iraq (2.8 million, although there was a decrease of 35,000 in 2010), Pakistan (980,000), Syria (433,000, up from 140,000 in the previous year) and Yemen (250,000).

### Women in migration

The increasing participation of women in migration is not a generalized phenomenon. Only some countries experience more than 50 percent of women in the annual outflow of migrants, specifically the Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The trend has been decreasing for Sri Lanka, while the decrease of migrant women from the Philippines was only temporary. Domestic

workers, who are largely women, constitute the most problematic sector. They are in large number in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Gulf countries. Perhaps one third of foreign workers in Kuwait are domestic workers. About 200,000 are employed in Lebanon. The Labor Recruitment Committee in Saudi Arabia announced a reduction of domestic workers from Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam because of their insufficient preparation to the culture and life style in the kingdom and Qatar planned a law improving the entitlements for domestic workers. The awareness of difficulties faced by domestic workers abroad also brought improvements to local domestic workers in Indonesia – a draft law is intended to bring domestic workers within labor law protection. Increasingly, women migrate for marriage, particularly from Southeast to East Asia. However, concerns raised by arranged marriages resulted in Cambodia temporarily banning marriage between Cambodian women and Korean men.

### Irregular migration

Irregular migration is present throughout the region and it occurs in different forms. In East Asia it consists mostly in overstaying the visa; in Southeast and South Asia it happens through illegal border crossing; in the Middle East it is the result of irregularities pertaining to the sponsorship system and to overstaying the pilgrimage to Mecca. The largest number of irregular migrants is in India (more than 209 million according to the Ministry of Overseas Affairs), but over one million are also present in Thailand and Malaysia. Irregular migration corridors also lead from Uzbekistan to Russia and even Israel has more than 100,000 irregular migrants. The approach to irregular migration also varies in the different regions and countries. East Asia countries are intent on reducing the number of irregular migrants through repatriation of those in an irregular situation. In Southeast Asia, repatriation and regularizations occur through registration campaigns. The same is done in the Gulf countries. Bahrain implemented the Easy Exit Scheme as an alternative to paying fines for overstaying. Saudi Arabia and Oman offered amnesty to irregular migrants. Stateless persons are also in Kuwait, the so called bidoon or bedoun, about 93,000 belonging to the Bedouin tribes and who do not have access to education, employment and other government services because of their condition.

### Trafficking in persons

Increasing attention to trafficking in persons as part of the movement of migrants has been given considerable attention by governments and civil society, thanks in part to the annual US *Trafficking in Persons Report*. Many countries in Asia were placed in Tier 2 or 3 in the Watch List. The reaction of governments varied. Improvements occurred in Turkmenistan, which has a Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons, although it is not adequately implemented. Bahrain issued the first report in the Middle East on the government's anti-trafficking performance. In the UAE, Dubai ordered the creation of a special court to handle human trafficking cases. An anti-trafficking law was also enacted in Bangladesh, while Burma and Thailand decided to introduce a border passport system to combat trafficking, requiring Burmese migrants to pass through three border points.

### Remittances

Remittances are one of the most visible results of migrations. Various countries in Asia are among the top recipient of remittances, with India, China and the Philippines always figuring among the top five remittance-receiving countries. Table 4 reveals a few interesting aspects:

- Remittances, at least in the form of money sent through official channels or money transfer organizations, originate from the diaspora, not just from migrant workers. This explains the inclusion of India, China, the Philippines and Vietnam among the top remittance receiving countries. In particular, the numerous communities of Filipinos and Vietnamese in the US play an important role in boosting the amount of remittances. It would be difficult to explain remittances to Vietnam simply on the relatively small number of migrant workers abroad. In the case of India, the lucrative occupations in which Indians are involved in the US, particularly in the information technology and health sectors, must be also considered.
- In the relation between the number of migrants and level of remittances, some countries, such as Burma, appear to be performing below expecta-

tions. However, it is highly possible that the low figure reflects the use of informal channels to remit money.

- Although still affected by the global crisis, remittances have grown almost everywhere in 2010, after taking a dip in 2009. Countries which scored notable growth include Vietnam, Sri Lanka (where the end of the civil war seems to bring more confidence in the local economy), and Nepal (where the increase in the deployment of workers abroad was translated into higher remittances).
- The impact of remittances on the local economy varies according to the size of the economy. For this reason, remittances are very relevant for countries such as the Philippines, Bangladesh and Vietnam, while it is less so for India and China. However, if one considers that migrants tend to originate from specific regions (such as Kerala in India and Fujian in China), remittances can have a high impact in the regions of these big countries. Dependence on remittances can be a consequence of the high and steady flow of money from abroad. Tajikistan is a case in point, where remittances constitute 42 percent of the GDP.

### Policies

The governance of migration, both from an origin and a destination perspective, remains a difficult task, because of the difficulty to reconcile different interests. Some of these dilemmas concern: the demand of employers for cheap labor and the opposition of local workers and unions to unfair competition; the demand of destination countries for economic gains without social costs and the need of foreign workers to be assured of fair and safe working and living conditions; the demand by developed economies for highly skilled professionals and the interest of countries of origin to keep their talents; the acceptance by destination societies of foreign workers and the unwillingness to see the formation of cultural minorities; the need of jobs by migrants and the limited opportunities available.

In Asia, migration is primarily in the form of temporary labor migration, mediated by the private sector, with long-term integration reserved for highly skilled work-

**TABLE 4**  
**Remittances to countries in Asia, 2009 and 2010\***

	2009	2010	% Difference
India	49,468	54,035	8.5
China	48,852	53,038	7.9
Philippines	19,765	21,423	7.7
Bangladesh	10,521	10,850	3.0
Pakistan	8,717	9,690	10.0
Korea, Rep.	8,913	8,708	-2.4
Vietnam	6,020	8,260	27.1
Lebanon	7,558	7,558	0.0
Indonesia	6,793	6,916	1.8
Sri Lanka	3,363	4,155	19.1
Jordan	3,597	3,641	1.2
Thailand	2,776	3,580	22.5
Nepal	2,986	3,469	13.9
Tajikistan	1,748	2,254	22.5
Syrian Arab Republic	1,550	2,079	25.4
Japan	1,776	1,802	1.4
Australia	1,340	1,601	16.3
Yemen, Rep.	1,160	1,502	22.8
Kyrgyz Republic	992	1,275	22.2
Iran, Islamic Rep.	1,072	1,181	9.3
Malaysia	1,131	1,102	-2.6
New Zealand	628	843	25.5
Hong Kong SAR, China	348	340	-2.4
Cambodia	338	321	-5.2
Kazakhstan	261	291	10.3
Myanmar	55	116	52.6
Macao SAR, China	725	114	-533.7
Iraq	71	71	0.0
Lao PDR	38	42	10.0

Source: World Bank, Remittances Data, Annual Remittances Data, Inflows at <http://econ.worldbank.org/>

ers. However, the way the recruitment process is organized, the kinds of safeguards made available to migrants, and the conditions for employment and incorporation in the destination society differ from country to country. Perhaps the two sides of the spectrum include on the one hand the Republic of Korea, where labor migration is governed through bilateral agreements with countries of origin, and on the other side the *kafala* system in the Gulf Countries, where migrants

remain tied to the sponsor that facilitated their admission.

In the general scenario of similarities and differences, policy changes have occurred in many countries.

*In countries of destination*

- China issued a talent development plan aiming at bringing in more skilled workers.



## INTRODUCTION

- Macau SAR enacted a law which aims at restricting the entry of foreign labor, but banning the hiring of persons who entered with a tourist visa, and protecting the rights of workers.
- In the Republic of Korea, the National Assembly amended the immigration law, allowing dual citizenship to Koreans and foreigners married to South Koreans.
- In Malaysia, new foreign domestic workers and their employers are required to undergo half-day orientation courses on the terms and conditions of the contract.
- Singapore planned to identify and sanction errant and unlicensed recruitment agencies. It also raised the minimum coverage of medical insurance for foreign workers to S\$15,000.
- Thailand considered hiring foreign workers also from countries with which it does not share borders, such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam.
- Bahrain announced the reform of the *kafala* system, allowing foreign workers to change employer without the consent of the kafeel.
- Qatar amended sponsorship law that allows family reunification for women employed on independent work visa and earning at least US\$1,920 a month.
- To discourage the black market trading of visas, the Labor Ministry of Saudi Arabia approved a measure that requires migrant workers to work for their employer for a minimum of two years before seeking transfer to another employer.
- UAE followed with a similar policy. In addition, it implemented a new labor law, which promotes equal opportunities for employment, prohibits the exploitation of workers and supports the Wage Protection System.
- Jordan issued bylaws with standards on hiring domestic workers and on managing recruitment agencies.
- Lebanon signed a bilateral agreement with Nepal to regularize labor migration and strengthen protection for Nepalese migrants.

### *In countries of origin*

- India worked on a draft of the Emigration Management Bill, which seeks to impose mandatory enlistment of Indian migrant workers leaving for 18 destination countries, the signing of memoranda of understanding with countries in the Gulf region, and the introduction of the pre-departure orientation seminars.
- Pakistan planned to provide benefits to migrant workers, such as giving an advantageous currency exchange as remittance incentive, rebate in custom duties and access to purchase of land.
- The minister of Justice and Law Reforms in Sri Lanka intended to pursue the policy to allow Sri Lankans abroad to vote in national elections. A program was also started to register return migrants and facilitate their reintegration.
- Indonesia planned to sign an agreement with Malaysia and Kuwait to increase the protection of migrants. Malaysia agreed to a fixed placement fee for Indonesian workers, but not to the wage conditions indicated by Indonesia.
- In the Philippines, Republic Act (RA) 10022, amending RA 8042, was enacted, with provisions concerning the deployment of Filipino workers only to countries that ensure protection to Filipino workers, stiffer punishments for illegal recruitment, mandatory insurance and mandatory repatriation of underage migrant workers.

Overall, 2010 can be considered a positive year for Asia as trends in deployments and remittances rebounded after some decline in 2009 because of the global crisis. However, the global picture still needs to address glaring gaps: the various situations in which migrants have to withstand unfair treatment, the deficit in the protection of their rights, and the lack of attention to the human costs behind labor migration. While governments have shown to pay more attention to the international movement of workers and some positive improvements have been noted in the areas of policy and legislation, a lot more needs to be done to get the various stakeholders committed to a rights-based governance of migration.





### I. DEFINITIONS

#### A. Migration-related indicators

##### *Asylum seekers and refugees*

Asylum seekers are defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as persons who have applied for international protection and refugee status, which have not yet been determined (UNHCR, 2011). In the country tables, asylum seekers include those with pending cases, referring to individuals whose applications for asylum or refugee status are pending at any stage in the asylum procedure.

Refugees are defined as: “Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention / 1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a contemporary form of protection and those granted temporary protection. In the absence of Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population in 24 industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual refugee recognition” (UNHCR, 2011).

In the country reports, figures for asylum seekers and refugees are categorized according to origin and territory of asylum. “By origin” refers to the country of origin of the asylum seekers and refugees while “by country or territory of asylum” means the country or state where individuals have applied for or have been granted international protection or refugee status.

##### *Internally displaced persons (IDPs)*

This refers to “people or groups of individuals who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural/humanmade disasters, and who have not crossed an international border” (UNHCR, 2011).

UNHCR figures on IDPs in the country reports specifically refer to: “persons who are displaced within their country and to whom UNHCR extends protection and/or assistance. It also includes people in IDP-like situations. This category is descriptive in nature and includes

groups of persons who are inside their country of nationality or habitual residence and who face protection risks similar to those of IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such” (UNHCR, 2011).

##### *International migrant stock*

Data on emigration and immigration stocks from the *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011* (World Bank, 2010) were from the United Nations Population Division (2009) and Ratha and Shaw (2007).

According to the United Nations Population Division, international migrants are “the number of persons born in a country other than that in which they live” (See Glossary, in *International Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision* - <http://esa.un.org/migration/index.asp?panel=5>). “In estimating the international migrant stock, international migrants have been equated with the foreign-born whenever possible. In most countries lacking data on place of birth, information on the country of citizenship of those enumerated was available and was used as the basis for the identification of international migrants, thus effectively equating international migrants with foreign citizens.”

Similarly, Ratha and Shaw (2007) write that in their estimates, “migrants are defined as either foreign-born or of foreign nationality (where data were not available by country of birth).” However, they note that important caveats must be considered in interpreting the data, especially since the two definitions are “not conceptually the same.” They also note that when information on country of birth are unavailable, other agencies such as the UN and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) combine both data on country of birth and country of citizenship to determine estimates for migrant stocks. Global migrant stocks by the UNPD could also undercount the actual stock of migrants due to limited census data and the underreporting or irregular and unauthorized migrants (Ratha and Shaw, 2007).

Some inconsistencies may be noted between the country data reported in the *Factbook* (World Bank, 2010) and the Open Data website (World Bank, 2012). Also mentioned in the country reports are migration data

from other sources (e.g., government statistics, estimates by local and international organizations, media reports). Figures from the World Bank (2010) may also be inconsistent with those presented by these sources, many of which use different definitions and methods.

### **Remittances**

“Workers' remittances and compensation of employees comprise current transfers by migrant workers and wages and salaries earned by nonresident workers. Data are the sum of three items defined in the fifth edition of the IMF's *Balance of Payments Manual*: workers' remittances, compensation of employees, and migrants' transfers. Remittances are classified as current private transfers from migrant workers resident in the host country for more than a year, irrespective of their immigration status, to recipients in their country of origin” (World Bank, 2012). The World Bank's estimates were based on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) balance of payments data.

### **Trafficking in persons (TIP)**

1. According to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children

Also known as the Trafficking Protocol or the Palermo Protocol, the instrument was adopted by the United Nations in Palermo, Italy in November 2000. It is one of three protocols which supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It entered into force on 25 December 2003.

Article 3 of the Protocol provides an internationally agreed upon definition of trafficking in persons, to wit:

“(a) “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another per-

son, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

- (b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (b) have been used;
  - (c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;
  - (d) “Child” shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.”
2. According to the United States Department of State (USDS)

In accordance with the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act or TVPA (2000), the USDS conducts an assessment of governments' response and compliance with the minimum standards for combating trafficking. The assessments and rankings of governments are published in the annual *Trafficking in Persons Report*, which has been published since 2001.

According to the *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, “[u]nder the TVPA, a person may be a trafficking victim regardless of whether they once consented, participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked, were transported into the exploitative situation, or were simply born into a state of servitude. At the heart of this phenomenon are the myriad forms of enslavement – not the activities involved in international transportation.” Major forms of human trafficking include: forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, debt bondage among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, child soldiers and child sex trafficking. Some cases are considered by the

TVPA as “severe forms of trafficking,” particularly sex trafficking induced by force, fraud or coercion and the recruitment transportation and provision of persons for labor or services through different methods, such as the use of force, fraud or coercion to subject them to debt bondage or slavery, among others.

Each country is given a tier ranking that indicates a government’s response and compliance with the minimum standards to combat trafficking. The tiers and their corresponding definitions are outlined in Table 1.

**B. Socio-economic indicators**

***Gender inequality index***

“The Gender Inequality Index (GII) reflects women’s disadvantage in three dimensions—reproductive health,

empowerment and the labour market—for as many countries as data of reasonable quality allow. The index shows the loss in human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in these dimensions” (UNDP, 2010).

***Gross domestic product (current US\$)***

The World Bank (2012) defines the gross domestic product (GDP) at purchaser’s prices as “the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products.”

***Gross domestic product growth (annual %)***

“Annual percentage growth rate of GDP at market prices based on constant local currency” (World Bank, 2012).

**TABLE 1**  
**Ranking in the USDA Trafficking in Persons Report**

TIER	DEFINITION
Tier 1	“Countries whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act’s (TVPA) minimum standards.”
Tier 2	“Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA’s minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.”
Tier 2 Watch List	“Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA’s minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, AND: a) the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; b) there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or, c) the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.”
Tier 3	“Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.”

**Gross national income per capita, PPP (current international \$)**

“PPP GNI is gross national income (GNI) converted to international dollars using purchasing power parity rates...GNI is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income)” (World Bank, 2012).

**Human development index**

“The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of human development. It measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices measuring achievements in each dimension” (UNDP, 2010).

**REFERENCES**

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 15 November 2000. Available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/protocoltraffic.htm>, accessed 10 May 2011.

Population Reference Bureau (PRB)

2010 “World Population Data Sheet 2010.” Wall chart. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau.

Ratha, D. and W. Shaw

2007 “South-South Migration and Remittances.” Working Paper 102. Washington, DC: World Bank.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

2010 Human Development Report 2010 – The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development. 20th Anniversary Edition. New York: United Nations Development Programme. Available at [http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR\\_2010\\_EN\\_Complete\\_reprint.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2010_EN_Complete_reprint.pdf), accessed 5 March 2012.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2011 UNHCR Global Trends 2010. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/openDocPDFViewer.html?docid=4dfa11499&query=UNHCR%20Global%20Trends>, accessed 5 March 2012.

United States Department of State (USDS)

2010 Trafficking in Persons Report 2010 (Introduction). US Department of State Official Website. Available at <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/index.htm>, accessed 23 February 2011. (For the specific section on Tiers, see <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142980.pdf>).

United Nations Population Division (UNPD)

2009 *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision*. New York: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

World Bank

2012 Open Data (World Bank Open Data Initiative). Available at <http://data.worldbank.org>, accessed 5 March 2012.

2010 *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011*. 2nd Edition. Washington, DC: World Bank.

## II. DATA SOURCES

Several materials served as basic references in completing the country reports. Since they were consulted for almost all the country reports, they are cited below, classified by type of information. Country-specific information and additional materials consulted are mentioned in the list of references at the end of each country report. Organizations producing data sometimes adopt different definitions, which results in different figures. The sources for selected figures are cited in the country reports.

### **Migration data**

Data on key migration trends and remittances were largely derived from the World Bank's (2010) *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011* (2nd Edition). Some demographic data were also sourced from this material.

Most migration news reports mentioned in the Outlook, particularly those for the period January to July, were sourced from the *Asian Migration News* (AMN), a monthly news bulletin published by the Scalabrini Migration Center.

### **Population, socio-economic and migration indicators**

Data on population, socio-economic and migration indicators presented in the table at the beginning of each country report were collated and sourced from the Population Reference Bureau (2010), United Nations Development Programme (2010), and World Bank (2012).

### **Asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs**

Data on asylum seekers and refugees were largely drawn from UNHCR Global Trends 2010. Where available, additional estimates and figures from media reports and other references are cited in the country report.

Data on IDPs were taken from two main sources: 1) *Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2010*, and 2) *UNHCR Global Trends 2010*. Figures from the Internal Displacement and

Monitoring Centre (IDMC) are also cited in the text of the country reports. Data provided by the UNHCR and the IDMC are not consistent due to differences in the definition and scope of population considered by these organizations. The UNHCR only provides figures referring to IDPs it protects and provides assistance to, including "people in IDP-like situations." The IDMC, on the other hand, compiled figures from "national governments, UN and other international organizations, national and international non-government organizations (NGOs), human rights organizations and media reports" as well as from field missions. The IDMC also notes that some countries have limited or outdated figures on IDPs.

### **Trafficking in persons**

References to human trafficking were primarily derived from the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, which provides an overview of the trafficking situation for each country. Media reports on human trafficking were also cited in the country reports; they also draw heavily from this annual report.

### **List of references cited in most country reports**

*Asian Migration News* (AMN)

2010 January – July issues. Scalabrini Migration Center. Available at [www.smc.org.ph/smc\\_amn](http://www.smc.org.ph/smc_amn), accessed 3 February 2011.

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

2011 *Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2010*. Available at <http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/global-overview-2010.pdf>, accessed 9 September 2011.

Population Reference Bureau (PRB)

2010 "World Population Data Sheet 2010." Wall chart. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

2010 *Human Development Report 2010 – The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*. 20th Anniversary Edition. New York:

United Nations Development Programme. Available at [http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR\\_2010\\_EN\\_Complete\\_reprint.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2010_EN_Complete_reprint.pdf), accessed 5 March 2012.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2011 *UNHCR Global Trends 2010*. Available at [http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/open\\_docPDFViewer.html?docid=4dfa11499&query=UNHCR%20Global%20Trends](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/open_docPDFViewer.html?docid=4dfa11499&query=UNHCR%20Global%20Trends), accessed 5 March 2012.

United States Department of State (USDS)  
2010 *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. US Department of State Official Website. Available at <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/index.htm>, accessed 23 February 2011.

World Bank

2012 Open Data (World Bank Open Data Initiative). Available at <http://data.worldbank.org>, accessed 5 March 2012.

2010 Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011. 2nd Edition. Washington, DC: World Bank.

#### ***A note on currencies***

Unless otherwise stated, the \$ sign used when citing figures refers to the US dollar. Other dollar currencies mentioned in the country reports are specified (e.g., A\$ or AUD for Australian dollar, S\$ or SGD for Singaporean dollar and HK\$ for Hong Kong dollar).

Other currencies - such as Php (Philippine peso), Ringgit or RM (Malaysian Ringgit or MYR), Yuan (for the Chinese yuan), Y (Japanese yen), MOP (Macau Pataca) are also cited throughout the report.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFP</b>	Agence France-Presse
<b>AP</b>	Associated Press
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>BLA</b>	Bilateral Labor Agreement
<b>DPA</b>	Deutsche Presse-Agentur
<b>GCC</b>	Gulf Cooperation Council
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GNI, PPP</b>	Gross National Income, Purchasing Power Parity
<b>HRW</b>	Human Rights Watch
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>IDMC</b>	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IRIN</b>	Integrated Regional Information Networks
<b>IWPR</b>	Institute for War and Peace Reporting
<b>NGO</b>	Non-government Organization
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>PRB</b>	Population Reference Bureau
<b>SAR</b>	Special Administrative Region
<b>TIP</b>	Trafficking in Persons
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNPD</b>	United Nations Population Division
<b>USDS</b>	United States Department of State
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization





**CENTRAL ASIA**



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	16.3
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.4
Percent urban (%)	54
Population per square kilometer	6
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	24
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	149.06 B
GDP growth (annual %)	7.3
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	10,770
Human development index (rank – value)	66 – 0.714
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	67 – 0.575
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	3.08 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	290.64 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	745
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	314
Refugees by origin	3,640
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	714

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

As of mid-2010, Kazakhstan was estimated to have a total population of 16.3 million, up from around 15.9-16.2 million in 2009 (Nurtazina, 2010; World Bank, 2010:149). The country is both a destination and source of international migrants. By the end of the year, Kazakhstan was the fourth top emigration country and the third top immigration country in Europe and Central Asia (World Bank, 2010:25).

The emigrant stock reached 3.7 million by the end of 2010, representing 23.6 percent of the population. Emi-

grant movements were largely towards the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Other top destinations included Israel, Germany, Turkmenistan, the US, Latvia, Canada and Kyrgyzstan (World Bank, 2010:149).

The country's stock of immigrants in 2010 numbered about 3.08 million or 19.5 percent of the total population, of which 54 percent of the total migrant population were female. Major source countries included the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, which were also the top destinations of Kazakh emigrants. Other migrants originated from Germany, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Poland, Tajikistan and Moldova. In Central Asia and Europe, Kazakhstan was the third top

destination country for migrants after the Russian Federation and Ukraine (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, cited in International Organization for Migration, 2010:190,191; World Bank, 2010:149).

### ***Profile of migrant workers***

Majority of migrant workers in Kazakhstan come from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Many of them work in construction, health and service work, others in cotton and tobacco production. Some travel to borders surrounding the country to sell agricultural produce (Tsoy, 2010).

Lack of available data has made it difficult to estimate current labor migration figures. However, past estimates suggest significant labor migration to the country. In 2007, at least 60,000 migrant workers were registered in Kazakhstan. Unauthorized migration has been notably higher. The Concept for the Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2007-2015 estimated in 2006 that there were about 164,500 unauthorized migrant workers. Other estimates have been higher, ranging from 250,000 to one million (International Labour Organization, 2009:13).

Thousands of migrants, including unauthorized ones regularly enter and exit Kazakhstan through its porous borders with neighboring countries. The country's shared border with the Russian Federation is a pathway that was considered in 2010 as one of the top migration corridors in the world, involving some 2.2 million migrants (World Bank, 2010:5).

Given the presence of migrant workers, Kazakhstan registered outward remittance flows amounting to about \$3.1 billion in 2009. On the other hand, Kazakh migrant workers remitted around \$131 million in 2010 (World Bank, 2010:149), though an updated World Bank estimate puts the figure at \$290 million (World Bank, 2012).

### ***Abuse of migrant workers***

In 2010, Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a report documenting the abuse and exploitation of mi-

grant workers hired for seasonal work in tobacco farming. Many of the tobacco farm owners are contractors for Philip Morris Kazakhstan (PMK). Interviews with 60 workers revealed some employers confiscating migrants' passports, delaying payment of wages, and forcing migrants to work for extended hours. Even children were made to work with their parents in tobacco farms, despite legal prohibitions of employing children below 18 years old. Many of these migrant workers are also unauthorized, without employment status and legal residence, rendering them more vulnerable to abuse (HRW, 2010:3-4).

To address the problems noted by the report, Philip Morris International and PMK signed contracts with tobacco farmers who are committed to protecting the rights of migrant workers. The company and its local subsidiary also plan to create a grievance system, to conduct awareness raising and training on labor rights and the dangers of child labor, and to cooperate with government in providing education for migrant workers' children (HRW, 2011:446).

### ***Trafficking in persons***

The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* placed Kazakhstan on the Tier 2 Watch List, stating that the government did not make significant efforts to convict and prosecute trafficking offenders, to hold officials involved in trafficking activities accountable, and to identify and protect trafficked victims. Authorities had assisted only three trafficked victims and some 12 victims of forced labor during the reporting period. However, funding efforts were also reported – the government in 2009 set aside some \$55,000 to support a trafficking shelter, and some funds were allocated for awareness campaigns (USDS, 2010:193).

Nevertheless, USDS maintains that Kazakhstan remains a site where women and girls are trafficked for forced prostitution and for forced labor in the domestic work sector, cotton, meat and tobacco processing factories in the country. Victims are also trafficked to China, the Russian Federation, and the UAE for prostitution and to nearby Central Asian countries for forced labor (USDS, 2010:193).

## POLICIES

### *Lower migrant quota*

In view of the economic crisis, the government lowered the quota for hiring seasonal migrant workers to about 64,000 (Tsoy, 2010). In 2009, the country's GDP growth declined to 1.2 percent from 3.2 percent in 2008 (though it rose again to 7.3 percent in 2010). According to the Kazak Federation of Trade Unions, the move was justified since there was a need to provide local jobs amid the high unemployment rate in the country, which official statistics pegged at 6.3 percent by the end of 2009 (Tsoy, 2010).

Critics and rights groups believe labor migration to the country will continue, most of which will be unauthorized and will render migrant workers more vulnerable to abuse (Tsoy, 2010). Unofficial estimates put the number of unauthorized migrant workers in the country at about half a million. In the first quarter of 2010 alone, the government sent home about 6,000 foreigners for immigration violations. In 2009, it had deported about 20,000 for unauthorized entry (Rogers, 2010).

## REFERENCES

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

2011 *Global Report 2010*. New York: Human Rights Watch. Available at <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/wr2011.pdf>, accessed 24 January 2012.

2010 "Hellish Work": Exploitation of Migrant Tobacco Workers in Kazakhstan. New York: Human Rights Watch. Available at [http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/kazakhstan0710webwcover\\_1.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/kazakhstan0710webwcover_1.pdf), accessed 24 January 2012.

International Labour Organization (ILO) Subregional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

2009 "Employment of Migrant Workers in the Informal Economy in Kazakhstan: A Study of Southern Kazakhstan." Prepared by G. T. Alimbekova and A. A. Shabdenova, supervised by Nilim Baruah. Almaty: International Labour Organization. Available at [http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/moscow/info/publ/inf\\_ec\\_en.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/moscow/info/publ/inf_ec_en.pdf), accessed 25 January 2012.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

Nurtazina, Kapiza

2010 "Kazakh census indicates evolution in ethnic composition," *Central Asia Online*, 5 February. Available at [http://centralasiaonline.com/en\\_GB/articles/caii/newsbriefs/2010/02/05/newsbrief-07](http://centralasiaonline.com/en_GB/articles/caii/newsbriefs/2010/02/05/newsbrief-07), accessed 26 January 2012.

Rogers, Stan

2010 "Kazakhstan said to have deported 6,000 illegal migrants this year," *Central Asia Online*, 26 April. Available at [http://centralasiaonline.com/en\\_GB/articles/caii/newsbriefs/2010/04/26/newsbrief-05](http://centralasiaonline.com/en_GB/articles/caii/newsbriefs/2010/04/26/newsbrief-05), accessed 26 January 2012.

Tsoy, Nikolai

2010 "Kazak migrant policy criticised," Central Asia Human Rights Reporting Project, Institute for War & Peace Reporting (RCA Issue 601), 27 January. Available at <http://iwpr.net/report-news/kazak-migrant-policy-criticised>, accessed 24 January 2012.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	5.3
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.6
Percent urban (%)	35
Population per square kilometer	27
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	30
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	4.62 B
GDP growth (annual %)	-1.4
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	2,100
Human development index (rank – value)	109 – 0.598
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	63 – 0.560
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	222,731
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	1.28 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	80,000
Asylum-seekers by origin	1,562
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	554
Refugees by origin	2,744
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	508

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Kyrgyzstan is mainly a source country of migrants, with an emigrant stock of around 620,700 in 2010. The figure represents about 11.2 percent of the total population, which as of mid-2010 was estimated at 5.3 million (World Bank, 2010:156). Official statistics provide a slightly lower estimate of around 600,000 out-migrants. Other estimates of Kyrgyz migrants vary, from 340,000 to 500,000, or even one million (Marat, 2009: 9).

Most Kyrgyz migrants go to Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation for work. Other destination countries include Ukraine, Israel, Germany, Tajikistan, the US, Latvia, Turkey and Canada. According to official statistics, as of 2010 some 382,000 Kyrgyz migrants were working in the Russian Federation alone (Mazykina, 2010). The IOM's Bishek Office reported a figure of 300,000, out of which only 160,000 had permits to work in the Russian Federation (Marat, 2009:15).

The country's stock of immigrants in 2010 was around 222,731, accounting for four percent of the total population. Most came from nearby countries, such as

Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Other popular source countries include France, Germany and Ukraine. According to the World Bank, 58.2 percent of migrants in the country were women (World Bank, 2010:156).

Data from the National Bank of Kyrgyzstan show that remittances sent home by migrants rose by 32.6 percent to \$398.5 million in the first half of 2010, higher compared to the same period in 2009 (Rogers, 2010). The World Bank also reported an increase in remittances, reaching an estimated \$1.03 billion in 2010, higher compared \$882 million in 2009, and only slightly lower compared to \$1.23 billion in 2008. However, outward remittances have decreased, from \$220 million in 2007, to \$196 million in 2008 and \$188 million in 2009 (World Bank, 2010:156).

#### **Internal displacements**

About 300,000 new displacements were recorded in southern Kyrgyzstan after conflict broke out between ethnic Uzbek and Kyrgyz communities in June. Most of the displaced were said to be ethnic Uzbeks. The conflict resulted in 400 deaths. Instances of sexual violence, kidnapping and looting were reported during the conflict. While many of the displaced were able to return to their homes by the end of the year, there were still some 75,000 IDPs who feared returning to their areas of origin. Many of them stayed with friends and relatives rather than in camps (IDMC, 2011:65; AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

#### **Trafficking in persons**

The Kyrgyz Republic ranked Tier 2 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, retaining its status for eight consecutive years. Despite more than a hundred identified victims of trafficking in the country, the government had only prosecuted four suspects and convicted three offenders in 2009. However, the report mentioned some victim assistance provided by the government, and some action on developing birth registration records that may help prevent trafficking (USDS, 2010:205).

Kyrgyzstan is considered mainly a source and transit country for men and women forced into labor, mostly

in China, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, and in the sectors of agriculture, construction and textile. Women have been trafficked for sex in countries such as China, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Syria and the UAE. Within Kyrgyzstan, men and women have been forced into both labor and prostitution (USDS, 2010:205).

#### **REFERENCES**

- Marat, Erica  
2009 "Labor Migration in Asia: Implications of the Global Economic Crisis." Silk Road Paper, May 2009. Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, Silk Road Studies Program—A Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. Available at <http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/silkroadpapers/0905migration.pdf>, accessed 26 January 2012.
- Mazykina, Julia  
2010 "Almost 382,000 migrant workers from Kyrgyzstan enter Russia in 2010," *24.kg News Agency*, 23 November. Available at <http://eng.24.kg/cis/2010/11/23/14943.html>, accessed 26 January 2012.
- Rogers, Stan  
2010 "Kyrgyz, Tajik migrant worker remittances rise," *Central Asia Online*, 4 August. Available at [http://centralasiaonline.com/en\\_GB/articles/caii/newsbriefs/2010/08/04/newsbrief-06](http://centralasiaonline.com/en_GB/articles/caii/newsbriefs/2010/08/04/newsbrief-06), accessed 26 January 2012.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	7.6
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.4
Percent urban (%)	26
Population per square kilometer	53
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	37
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	5.64 B
GDP growth (annual %)	3.8
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	2,140
Human development index (rank – value)	112 – 0.580
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	65 – 0.568
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	284,291
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	2.25 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	331
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	1,656
Refugees by origin	577
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	3,131

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

With a population of about 7.6 million by mid-2010, Tajikistan is considered the poorest country in Central Asia. The country is a major source of migrant workers, mostly low-skilled or unskilled and from poor, rural areas. Labor out-migration has been a long-standing trend, with domestic poverty driving thousands of Tajiks to look for work elsewhere, especially in neighboring countries.

In 2010, Tajikistan's emigrant stock reached an estimated total of 791,100 or about 11.2 percent of the total population. Top destinations for Tajik migrants included: Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Canada and the US. Most migrant workers were based in Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. The World Bank states that more than 1.5 million Tajiks are working in these two countries (World Bank, 2011; 2010:238). In the Russian Federation alone, estimates of Tajik migrant workers range from 700,000 to one million (Rogers, 2011).

In the same year, the stock of immigrants numbered about 284,300 or around four percent of the total population. Women and girls comprised some about 57.1 percent of the immigrant stock. Most came from the Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Afghanistan was also a top source country, mostly refugees. Around 0.4 percent of the immigrant stock consisted of Afghans (World Bank, 2010:238).

Other data show that Chinese migrants made up more than half of the country's foreign worker population. Tajikistan's Statistical Agency reported that around 2,300 foreigners have been working in the country, of which 60 percent are Chinese citizens. Around 240 are Afghans, 124 are Turkish and more than 100 are from India (CA-NEWS, 27 January 2011).

### **Trafficking in persons**

Tajikistan was on the Tier 2 Watch List in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, a ranking it has maintained for the third consecutive year. Despite the 2009 decree banning children and students from forced labor in cotton harvesting, the policy was not implemented, and officials involved in the matter were not convicted or punished (USDS, 2010:317). On a positive note, the government had cooperated with Dubai authorities in identifying and repatriating victims of forced prostitution (USDS, 2010:317).

Tajikistan is considered mainly a source country for trafficked women and children forced into prostitution in countries such as the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UAE. In many cases, men, women and children alike are also subjected to forced labor. According to the IOM, a large portion of Tajik migrant workers later become victims of forced labor, especially those who go to the Russian Federation. Most of them end up in agricultural and construction industries in the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. Aside from harvesting cotton, children have been trafficked into begging and prostitution (USDS, 2010:316).

### **Remittances**

Tajikistan's economy is highly dependent on the remittances sent home by migrants. According to the World

Bank (2012; 2010), the labor-sending country received remittances ranging from \$2.065 to \$2.25 billion in 2010, making up around 42 percent of the GDP. The figure suggests some recovery from the economic crisis, which had resulted in a decline in remittances from \$2.5 billion in 2008 to \$1.7 billion in 2009. In 2009, Tajikistan was the top remittance recipient country in the world in terms of the share of GDP, estimated at 35 percent (World Bank, 2011; 2010:19). The National Bank of Tajikistan reported a higher estimate of remittances in 2010, with migrant workers in Russia alone remitting home around \$2.2 billion (Rogers, 2011).

The country had also relied on remittances for recovery from the recent global economic crisis, among other factors such as exports and productivity in the domestic and services sectors. Inward remittances contributed to the country's gradual recovery from a low growth rate of 3.9 percent in 2009 to 6.5 percent in 2010 (World Bank, 2011; 2010:238).

Outward remittances remained significantly lower compared to inward flows. In 2009, migrants based in Tajikistan sent home remittances amounting to \$124 million to their home countries, a sharp decline from \$199 million in 2008 (World Bank, 2010:238).

The recent global economic crisis had severely affected the employment and wage conditions of Tajik migrant workers, which in turn had made an adverse impact on remittances and the local economy. A study conducted after the onset of the crisis showed how Tajik migrants responded and were affected by the economic imbalance. Danzer and Ivaschenko (2010) found that the crisis had increased further the number of migrant workers from Tajikistan and rendered many households dependent on labor migration as a source of financial survival. The stock of migrants rose in 2009 at a much higher rate compared to labor migration numbers during the pre-crisis period (Danzer and Ivaschenko, 2010:200). Households sent more than one migrant worker abroad during the economic slump, and the average migrant at the time was younger and had more difficulties obtaining a work permit (Danzer and Ivaschenko, 2010:201).

**REFERENCES**

*Central Asian News Service (CA-NEWS)*

2011 "Over 60% foreign workers in Tajikistan are Chinese citizens," 27 January.

Danzer, Alexander M. and Oleksiy Ivaschenko

2010 "Migration patterns in a remittances dependent economy: Evidence from Tajikistan during the global economic crisis," *Migration Letters*, 7(2):190-202. Available at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1110315015165/DanzerIvaschenko.pdf>, accessed 27 January 2012.

Rogers, Stan

2011 "Tajik migrant remittances increase," *Central Asia Online*, 21 January. Available at [http://centralasiaonline.com/en\\_GB/articles/caii/newsbriefs/2011/01/21/newsbrief-04](http://centralasiaonline.com/en_GB/articles/caii/newsbriefs/2011/01/21/newsbrief-04), accessed 27 January 2012.

World Bank

2011 "Tajikistan: Country Brief 2011" (Updated August 2011). Available at <http://go.worldbank.org/J11AOY9RZ0>, accessed 27 January 2012.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	5.2
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.4
Percent urban (%)	47
Population per square kilometer	11
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	29
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	20.0 B
GDP growth (annual %)	9.2
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	7,490
Human development index (rank – value)	87 – 0.669
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	207,700
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	66
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	738
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	62

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Compared to other Central Asian countries, there are fewer numbers of migrants moving into and out of Turkmenistan. With a population of about 5.2 million as of mid-2010 (5.1 million as of 2009), Turkmenistan is known to have the smallest population in the region (*BBC News*, 2011; World Bank, 2010:247). The number of emigrants was estimated at 261,000, representing around five percent of the total population. The

popular destinations were the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Turkey and Latvia, among other countries (World Bank, 2010:247).

The country hosted some 207,700 immigrants in 2010, accounting for about four percent of the population. Migration to Turkmenistan was highly feminized during the year, with female migrants making up 57.1 percent of the stock number of migrants. The top sources of these migrants were Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Ukraine (World Bank, 2010:247).

Entry and exit policies are rigid in Turkmenistan, which contribute to limited migration flows. The government has restrictive entry and exit policies; it also restricts internal migration and movements among its citizens (Marat, 2009:10). In July, human rights group Nazhot said that President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov allegedly issued a secret order which blacklists travel by Turkmen nationals and visiting foreigners. The order was said to take effect beginning August 2010 and will block some 37,057 Turkmen citizens from traveling abroad. There was also reportedly a list of foreign human rights activists and journalists, as well as Turkmen dissidents who will be blocked from entering the country (Rogers and Karimov, 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

In 2010, Turkmenistan retained its Tier 2 Watch List ranking for the second consecutive year in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. The government has passed the “Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons” in 2007 and has agreed to cooperate with IOM in establishing a shelter for trafficked victims and in conducting human trafficking awareness programs. However, the report also states that during the reporting period, the government “did not demonstrate any efforts to investigate or prosecute trafficking offenses” (USDS, 2010:329).

Trafficked women from Turkmenistan have been forced into prostitution, and both men and women have been trafficked in domestic work or in textile sweatshops in Turkey (USDS, 2010:329).

### **REFERENCES**

*BBC News*

2011 “Turkmenistan profile.” Updated December 8 2011. Available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-16094646>, accessed 27 January 2012.

Marat, Erica

2009 “Labor Migration in Asia: Implications of the Global Economic Crisis.” Silk Road Paper, May 2009. Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, Silk Road Studies Program—A Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. Available at <http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/silkroadpapers/0905migration.pdf>, accessed 26 January 2012.

Rogers, Stan and Alisher Karimov

2010 “Turkmenistan to blacklist some from leaving, visiting country,” *Central Asia Online*, 29 July.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	28.1
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.8
Percent urban (%)	36
Population per square kilometer	63
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	29
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	38.98 B
GDP growth (annual %)	8.5
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	3,120
Human development index (rank – value)	102 – 0.617
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	1.18 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	1,617
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	6,886
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	311

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

In 2010, Uzbekistan registered high emigration and immigration figures. The number of Uzbeks based abroad reached over 1.95 million or about seven percent of the total population (around 27.8 million as of 2009 and 28.1 million by mid-2010). On the other hand, the country hosted an estimated 1.18 million immigrants or 4.2 percent of the population, of which 57.1 percent were female. Outward flows of Uzbek migrants and inward movements of foreign nationals can be

traced to and from Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan. Other important destinations for Uzbek migrants during the year were Israel, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan (World Bank, 2010:254).

Non-government and rights groups say there are actually around 2-5 million of Uzbeks abroad, and allege that officials have been ignoring the extent of unauthorized out-migration from the country (Sarva-rova and Abdullavea, 2010). Driven by the lack of local employment and poverty, Uzbeks seek job opportunities elsewhere and are often willing to take on low-paying jobs, mostly as unauthorized migrant workers.

In Kyrgyzstan, unauthorized Uzbek migrants are low-paid seasonal workers in brickmaking, construction and farming. More and more Kyrgyz migrants are also looking for higher-paying jobs in countries like the Russian Federation—analysts believe the presence of Uzbek workers could cause tension with unemployed locals because of competition. Some migrant workers have also complained of exploitation and unpaid wages (*Asianews.it*, 26 January 2010; Institute for War and Peace Reporting, 2010b).

According to Sarvarova and Abdullaeva (2010), one reason migrants choose unauthorized channels is due to the complex processes of applying for legalization and the high cost of going through the procedure. Rigid and stringent rules and procedures have also made it difficult for Uzbeks to migrate, as suggested in a report by the Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights. The report, published by the IWPR, claimed that the government continues to systematically restrict the freedom of movement of Uzbeks. The study was based on a review of 27 legislative acts and 45 interviews with Uzbeks (IWPR, 2010a).

### **Trafficking in persons**

For the third consecutive year, Uzbekistan was on the Tier 2 Watch List of the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. According to the report, despite efforts to conduct awareness campaigns, to establish a shelter for trafficking victims and to increase criminal prosecutions, the country did not address the issue of adults and children being forced to work during the annual cotton harvest. Moreover, government officials involved were neither investigated nor punished (USDS, 2010:346).

Aside from forced labor within the country, Uzbek men and women have also been forced to work in construction, cotton and tobacco manufacturing industries in Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Some have been subjected to forced labor in agriculture, construction and domestic work. Women have been trafficked for commercial sex within Uzbekistan and in the following countries: Kazakhstan, India, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, China, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, South Korea, Thailand and Turkey (USDS, 2010:346).

### **Internal displacement**

About 3,400 new displacements were recorded in Uzbekistan in 2010, mostly due to the June conflict in southern Kyrgyzstan between ethnic Uzbek and Kyrgyz communities. More than 400 deaths were reported from both communities. Around 75,000 out of 300,000 displaced people, mostly ethnic Uzbek, had initially fled from Kyrgyzstan to Uzbekistan, but most were able to return to their homes after the conflict (IDMC, 2011:60,65).

### **REFERENCES**

*Asianews.it*

2010 "War among the poor as Uzbek migrant workers seek jobs in Kyrgyzstan," 26 January. Available at <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/War-among-the-poor-as-Uzbek-migrant-workers-look-for-jobs-in-Kyrgyzstan-17452.html>, accessed 30 January 2012.

Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)

2010a "On the laws and practices of the Republic of Uzbekistan regarding the rights of citizens to free movement and choice of residence." Central Asia Human Rights Reporting Project, 7 March. Available at <http://iwpr.net/report-news/ngo-report-freedom-movement-uzbekistan>, accessed 31 January 2012.

2010b "Uzbek migrants 'exploited' in Kazakhstan," News Briefing Central Asia, 30 November. Available at <http://iwpr.net/report-news/uzbek-migrants-%E2%80%9Cexploited%E2%80%9D-kazakhstan>, accessed 30 January 2012.

Sarvarova, Shohida and Kamilla Abdullaeva

2010 "Uzbek government in denial on migration." Central Asia Human Rights Reporting Project, RCA Issue 629, 24 September. Available at <http://iwpr.net/report-news/uzbek-government-denial-migration>, accessed 30 January 2012.



**EAST ASIA**



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	1,338.1
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.5
Percent urban (%)	47
Population per square kilometer	140
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	19
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	5.93 T
GDP growth (annual %)	10.4
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	7,640
Human development index (rank - value)	89 – 0.663
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	38 – 0.405
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	685,775
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	51.3 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	7,742
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	122
Refugees by origin	184,602
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	300,986

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

China's total population as of 2010 was estimated at 1.33 billion. The country's stock of emigrants reached 8.3 million, which is about 0.6 percent of the population while the number of immigrants reached about 685,775, accounting for 0.1 percent of the population (World Bank, 2010). The number of overseas Chinese increased to about 45 million, according to the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council (AMN,

1-30 June 2010; *People's Daily Online*, 18 June 2010). This makes the Chinese the largest overseas group in the world in terms of quantity.

In general, internal migration issues are more prominent in China than international migration. The country has been experiencing rapid economic growth and urbanization in recent years. Recovering from the economic crisis, China's economy grew by 10.3-10.4 percent to 39.8 trillion yuan (\$6.05 trillion) in 2010 (Xinhua News Agency, 2011).<sup>1</sup> Millions of migrant workers are a major contributor to the growth of urban China.

<sup>1</sup> The IMF (2010) estimates China's GDP at \$ 5.745 trillion. The World Bank (2012) puts the figure at around \$5.93 trillion (see table above).

The country's internal or "floating" migrant worker population reached 211 million in 2009. The average age was 27 while the average monthly income was 1,900 yuan (about \$285). Their number could reach 350 million by 2050, based on a report by the National Population and Family Planning Commission (Xinhua News Agency, 2010a). Using a different methodology, the Ministry of Agriculture's Research Center for Rural Economy estimated about 152 million internal migrants in the fall of 2009, higher than 151 million in the summer of the same year (*Migration Dialogue*, 2010).

More migrant workers from China's eastern region have also begun to move to the central and western regions. The National Bureau of Statistics reported that in 2009, the number of migrant workers in the eastern region decreased by 8.9 percent to 90.75 million from 2008, though it still makes up for 62.5 percent of the country's total migrant workforce. The migrant worker population in central China increased by 33.2 percent to 24.77 million compared to 2008, while western China rose by 35.8 percent. The report also found that migrant workers in the Yangtze River Delta and Pearl Delta regions decreased 2.4 and 7.6 percent, respectively. The findings have been linked to labor shortages in the coastal areas reported in the second half of 2009 (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

Data also show that about 89.8 percent of these migrants worked 44 hours per week, which is beyond the number of hours allowed by the labor law, while 60 percent did not possess labor contracts. Majority of them were also not insured. About 7.6 percent have pension while only 12.2 percent have health care insurance (*Global Times*, 23 March 2010).

The influx of migrant workers to the cities and other urban areas is likely to continue. Apart from the demand for more labor in urbanized areas, migrants themselves aspire for city life (*China Daily*, 8 January 2010). A survey by the Global Call to Action Against Poverty found that many migrants' aspirations look towards living affluent lives in the city instead of the countryside. According to the study, 59.3 percent of migrant workers in China want their families to reside in urban areas while 41.4 percent want to live in the cities. A total of 2,568 migrant workers from six mu-

nicipalities and provinces were interviewed for the survey.

Environmental challenges are also driving migration. Severe drought in Yunnan province in 2009 affected some 3.15 million hectares of crops in the province. Officials are aiming to deploy 800,000 migrant workers in 2010 in a bid to provide more employment opportunities (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

#### **Labor shortage in coastal areas**

Despite the general rise in China's migrant population, some provinces reported labor shortages. Early into the year, news surfaced of the lack of labor supply in China's coastal areas, particularly the Yangtze River Delta and the Pearl River Delta regions. Local officials raised the minimum wage from 860 to 1,030 yuan in an attempt to attract more workers (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

China's coastal region lacks an estimated 10 million workers. The Pearl River Delta Region alone is in need of about two to three million laborers. Among others, the labor shortage is due to migrant workers refusing to work in factories which pay low wages and a smaller pool of population of workers. Also, more businesses are being established in the inland cities, which are becoming alternatives for workers who wish to stay closer to home. Other migrant workers are also returning home to set up their own businesses (*People's Daily Online*, 6 January 2011).

Companies in these areas downsized operations in 2009 in the wake of the financial crisis. As recovery gradually came late 2009, jobs were offered to previously laid off workers, but only few accepted and returned. A survey by the Guangzhou Human Resource Market Service Center estimated that the number of job vacancies in Guangzhou could climb as high as 150,000, compared to an almost zero job vacancy rate during the economic downturn (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

Irregular foreign workers were reportedly filling job vacancies in the southern provinces of Guangdong, Fujian and Guangxi. Delta factories in these provinces have been taking in workers from Vietnam, Sri Lanka

and the Philippines. Fewer Chinese workers are accepting the job offers; more of them have begun returning to the rural areas. In Guangxi's Chongzuo City alone, officials estimated that there were already about 10,000 irregular migrants from Vietnam. Border police have arrested 1,820 irregular Vietnamese migrants, prevented 4,839 from entering the area and deported 2,218 others (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

#### **Labor unrest**

Labor issues and reports of poor working conditions hounded several industries in China, including foreign firms, after several incidents of labor unrest among migrant workers. To attract and retain workers, it was expected that about 30 Chinese cities and provinces would have increased or will increase salaries in coastal regions in 2010, according to chief economist Ben Simpendorfer (Ramzy, 2010).

Prime Minister Wen Jiabao called on foreign firms to take better care of their employees, while China's largest trade union congress advised the establishment of workers' unions in all foreign-funded companies. The new and younger generation of migrants are said to be more persistent in seeking labor protection and social security compared to the migrants before them (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

#### **Migrants' health hazards**

The rising number of *pneumoconosis* cases in the workplace in 2009 raised concerns on the health protection and safety of migrant workers. The Ministry of Health in April said that the respiratory disease accounts for 80 percent of new cases of occupational diseases in the country in 2009. Of the 14,495 patients diagnosed with the disease in 2009, 748 had died. Majority of the diagnosed were migrant workers who work in coal, metal alloy and metallurgy industries (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security recommended a training program for migrants before working in industries with occupational hazards and said it would increase government supervision of these industries.

Labor policies and regulations concerning health compensation and protection given to diagnosed workers was also an issue. Research by China Labour Bulletin (CLB, 2010) revealed that only few of the more than 10,000 workers with the disease received compensation for their medical expenses. For instance, some 14 migrant workers in March were compensated by the social security fund in Shenzhen City after being diagnosed with the disease (AMN, 1-31 March 2010). Prior to this, workers blamed some 10 Shenzhen-based business establishments for lack of safety precautions.

Growing concern resulted in the revision of some laws and regulations, such as the Law on the Prevention and Treatment of Occupational Disease and the Work-Related Injury Insurance Regulations. However, CLB (2010) said this is only one part of the problem and pointed out other issues, such as the problems with administrative procedures, employers failing to fulfill their legal obligations and the lack of worker representation to demand a safe working environment or work-related injury insurance.

#### **Trafficking in persons**

The trafficking of Chinese women is increasing, according to some media reports. A Chinese police official said international crime groups are targeting more Chinese women for forced marriages and prostitution, especially those who come from impoverished and rural areas such as Yunnan and Guizhou in Southwest China.

China remains a source, transit and destination country for trafficked men, women and children, who are forced into labor or prostitution according to the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. China was included among the Tier 2 Watch List countries. As a destination country, women and children brought into China for sexual exploitation come from Burma, Vietnam, Laos, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and North Korea. In 2010, it was reported that more Burmese and Vietnamese women were being trafficked in China. North Korean women were also being forced into Internet sex businesses, marriages and prostitution. Internal trafficking is also rampant among China's migrant worker population (USDS, 2010).

In September, China signed a cooperation agreement with Vietnam to control and prevent human trafficking. Both countries said cross-border crime has decreased due to increased control and cooperation (*Viet Nam News*, 16 September 2010).

## POLICIES

### *Hukou system reforms*

The first month of 2010 saw 10 cities attempting to implement a new household registration system for migrant workers. The improved residence permit is said to give migrants equal access to education, housing and social security, as well as easier access to SARs like Hong Kong and Macau. However, some scholars have also argued that the change could lead to new problems, such as increased expenditures (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010).

International organizations, such as the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as well as the local media have called on the government to reform the system to achieve balanced economic development and social stability (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010). There could be more reforms in the future as newer, younger and more educated migrant workers demand for equal treatment in job opportunities, public services and political rights, according to Agriculture Minister Han Changfu.

Since its introduction in the 1950s, the *hukou* system has segregated the country's population into rural versus urban and restricted the movement of rural migrants into cities to maintain the divide. Initially, the system was established to manage internal migration (*The Economist*, 6 May 2010). However, China's push for economic reforms in the last 30 years has led to the mass migration of peasants to the cities. With the *hukou* system in place, migrant workers have been deprived of social welfare and other public services such as education, medical care, housing and employment.

Although some reforms had been introduced, some important restrictions remain. For example, migrants who have low income are unable to secure housing, health care and education for their children.

### *Labor protection and social welfare policy*

The government disclosed plans to improve social services and the protection of migrants' rights. However, actual implementation and results of most of these specific laws or programs have yet to be reported (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010). The government may have to set more labor policy initiatives in response to the series of labor strikes that occurred in the middle of the year.

In October 2010, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) adopted the Social Insurance Law, which grants foreign workers the same social insurance benefits locals receive. The law is said to take effect in July 2011. According to the law's provisions, companies will pay for worker injury insurance based on the rates that will be determined by the State Council. A new medical payment system will also be established so that health insurance can be paid or used in different places. Specific insurance types available to foreign workers, however, were not stated. Some say most businesses prefer to reimburse medical bills rather than pay for workers' insurance (Q. Wang, 2010).

The issue of wages was highlighted in some government talks. China's State Council issued a document calling for increased protection of migrant workers through a system that would ensure the payment of wages on time and stricter measures against errant employers. A migrant worker deputy in the NPC in March proposed a security payment system that would ensure migrant workers are paid by their employers, especially those in the construction and catering sectors (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010; 1-31 March 2010).

Pay disputes and contract violations are common in the construction industry. In Beijing alone, contract violations involving migrant workers increased 22 percent from 2008 to 3,209 in 2009, and this was more severe in the construction sector (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

In a report to the Standing Committee of the NPC, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security on April 28 announced that it will promote labor contracts, improve working conditions, provide old-age insurance,

and strengthen legal assistance provided to migrant rural workers (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

Local governments are also introducing specific initiatives for migrants. In the Humanistic Beijing Action Plan (2010-2012) released on 7 April, Beijing's municipal government said it aims to establish a pre-school education network and to increase low-cost housing every year for the next three years. Job assistance will also be provided to both locals and migrants (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

### ***Education of migrant children***

Local governments, notably Shanghai and Beijing, attempted to improve the educational opportunities of the children of migrant workers.

Shanghai's city government in February 2010 announced that free education will be provided to the children of migrant workers. Some 2.7 percent of an estimated 400,000 children are reportedly enrolled in unlicensed or substandard private schools. The government plans to put 22 of these schools under the supervision of public and private school administrators (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

Beijing's Municipal Education Commission in April 2010 also said it would introduce a new school enrollment policy for the children of migrant workers in middle and primary school in the next three to five years. The policy would include compulsory education for these children alongside students with household registration or *hukou* system (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

Major cities such as Beijing have yet to solve the problem of providing education to migrant children. The number of private migrant schools has grown since the 1990s, with about 302 schools currently established in the capital. Some of these schools are unlicensed and banned by the government but continue to thrive due to the educational needs of migrant children (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

Migrant children in urban areas end up studying in separate schools because local residents tend to oppose propositions to integrate migrant children in local schools for fear that their presence would under-

mine the quality of education. Meanwhile, those who are left-behind in the rural areas pay high fees to study in low-quality, rural-based schools, forcing some to leave after middle-school or at an earlier level. These dropouts end up becoming migrant workers themselves (CLB, 2009).

While boarding schools have been built for left-behind children in rural areas, these institutions are more focused on social control than on education. Access to education and health care has improved, but at a cost to migrant workers. Major reforms in the *hukou* system and its hold over social welfare services can improve the education and health benefits of migrant workers and their children (CLB, 2009).

### ***Attracting highly skilled migrants***

The Chinese government released the new National Medium and Long-Term Talent Development Plan (2010-2020) which aims to bring in more highly skilled foreign workers into the country (Xinhua News Agency, 2010b). Included in the plan are more relaxed provisions on taxation, housing, family settlement and research opportunities. The plan seeks to reinforce economic restructuring by creating a highly skilled workforce within the next 10 years (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010; H. Wang, 2010).

In May 2010, officials deliberated on China's first immigration law, which is expected to aid the government in managing the increasing number of migrant workers. The law will most likely categorize migrant workers into skilled and low-skilled and will place a limit on number of foreign workers in the country. Research experts advising the government stressed the need for a policy to bring in talented foreign professionals. Statistics from the Bureau of Exit and Entry Administration estimates that of the 26.11 million foreigners who came to China in 2007, about 2.85 million or 10 percent did so for employment (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

## **REFERENCES**

- China Daily*  
2010 "Migrants dream of rich city life," 8 January.

## China Labour Bulletin (CLB)

2010 *The Hard Road: Seeking Justice For Victims of Pneumoconiosis in China*. Hong Kong: China Labour Bulletin. Available at [http://www.china-labour.org.hk/en/files/share/File/research\\_reports/Hard\\_Road.pdf](http://www.china-labour.org.hk/en/files/share/File/research_reports/Hard_Road.pdf), accessed 8 February 2011.

2009 "The Children of Migrant Workers in China." Available at <http://www.china-labour.org.hk/en/node/100458>, accessed 8 February 2011.

*Global Times*

2010 "Statistics show changing migrant worker patterns," 23 March.

## International Monetary Fund (IMF)

2010 *World Economic Outlook, October 2010: Recovery, Risk and Rebalancing*. Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund.

*Migration Dialogue*

2010 "China: migrants and hukou, Tibet," 17(4), October. Available at <http://migration.ucdavis.edu>, accessed 8 February 2011.

## National Bureau of Statistics of China

2010 "Main Population Data in 2009, China." Available at <http://www.npfpc.gov.cn/en/detail.aspx?articleid=100226103318203294>, accessed 7 February 2011.

*People's Daily Online*

2011 "10 million workers needed for coastal region, experts say," 6 January.

2010 "Number of overseas Chinese surpasses 45 million," 18 June.

## Ramzy, Austin

2010 "As Economy Improves, So Does Labor Unrest," *TIME Magazine*, 10 June. Available at <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1995636,00.html>, accessed 8 February 2011.

*The Economist*

2010 "Migration in China: Invisible and heavy shackles," 6 May.

*Viet Nam News*

2010 "Viet Nam and China sign pact on human trafficking," 16 September.

## Wang Huiyao

2010 "Attracting talent for the future," *China Daily*, 14 September.

## Wang Qian

2010 "Foreign workers to get equal social insurance benefits," *China Daily*, 30 October.

## Xinhua News Agency

2011 "China's economy grows 10.3 percent in 2010," 20 January.

2010a "350m migrant workers by 2050, report says," 27 June.

2010b "China adopts more open policy to attract foreign workers," 8 June.



# DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	22.8
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.5
Percent urban (%)	60
Population per square kilometer	189
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	23
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank - value)	-
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	37,121
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	
Asylum-seekers by origin	277
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	917
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	-

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

As of mid-2010, North Korea's population was estimated at 22.8 million. North Korea generally has low population growth and fertility rates, with more than half the population living in urban areas. However, the government does not provide and publicize other key economic and social data which may provide a more accurate picture of the country's profile. Moreover, reports of political persecution, as well as diseases, food shortages and widespread famine suggest critical is-

ues in the economic, political and social conditions within the country (IOM, 2008).

In 2010, the stock number of emigrants from North Korea was about 300,800, while immigrants were estimated at over 37,100 (World Bank, 2010). International migration from North Korea consists of temporary contract workers the government deploys abroad, or refugees and asylum seekers who leave the country and resettle in neighboring countries like China, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam (Robinson, 2010). Refugees leave the country to escape starvation and to search for better lives elsewhere, while some flee due to po

litical persecution. On the other hand, in-migration consists of temporary visits by business managers, investors and tourists, many of whom are South Korean (Tanaka, cited in IOM, 2008).

### **Refugees**

North Korean refugees continue to flee and seek asylum in other countries such as China, South Korea and the US. Many have managed to leave the country, but others are caught and punished as North Korea considers leaving the country criminal (HRW, 2010). As of March 2010, a total of 1,211 North Koreans sought asylum in England, Germany and Canada. Of the total, 617 had been granted asylum. The US also accepted 94 North Korean refugees in the same month (GAO, 2010, cited in Robinson, 2010).

In South Korea alone, the number of North Korean refugees has risen to 20,050 since the republic was first established in 1948 (Kim, 2010). Based on data from the Ministry of Unification, there has been a steady increase of North Koreans coming to South Korea, from 1,139 in 2002, to 1,281 in 2003, to 1,383 in 2005, to 2,544 in 2007, and to 2,952 in 2009. In South Korea, North Korean refugees are not considered as asylum seekers but as citizens (Park, 2004). Many refugees escape to China, but China considers them illegal economic migrants and deports them back to North Korea under a bilateral agreement. Repatriated refugees are punished and sent to labor camps where they are made to work under harsh conditions and tortured (HRW, 2011). Many reports estimate that as many as 300,000 North Korean refugees are in China.

Famine, economic hardship and harsh conditions in North Korea continue to push thousands of locals, majority of them women, to leave the country. North Korea ranks 173 out of 177 countries in the 2007/2008 Human Development Report, with some 32 percent of the population reportedly undernourished between the years 2003 and 2005. Between 2000-2007, some 23 percent of children under five were malnourished, and 55 per 1,000 live births die before reaching the age of five (United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, 2010). In October 2010, the UN warned that North Korea was heading for another food crisis due to droughts and floods in several parts of the coun-

try, aggravated by limited international aid. The problem is exacerbated by the harsh living conditions of at least 3.5 million women and children suffering from diseases, physical and mental disorders and starvation (Agence France-Presse, 21 October 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

North Korea is one of the 13 countries all over the world with the worst trafficking records, according to the USDS (2010). The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* placed the country in Tier 3. North Korea has been ranked Tier 3 since 2003 (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

The country continues to be a source of trafficked persons forced into marriage, forced labor or prostitution, mostly in China. Many North Korean women attempting to escape to China have ended up victims of human trafficking rings and syndicates (AMN, 1-31 May 2010). According to the USDS (2010), the most common form of trafficking is forced marriage or prostitution of North Korean women in China. Trafficking rings operate along the China-North Korean border and recruit women and girls who seek food, work and better living conditions.

North Korea's treatment of refugee movements and trafficking has generally remained the same. The government still bans North Koreans from leaving the country and punishes those who are caught and sent back. Many of the repatriated refugees, including trafficked women, are sent to labor prison camps where they are made to work under harsh conditions, raped and tortured. Women found to be pregnant with a child suspected of having a Chinese father face forced abortion and infanticide (USDS, 2010).

The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* states that North Korea has not made any effort to combat or prevent human trafficking (USDS, 2010). The government still imposes rigid restrictions against cross-border, internal and international migration, and punishes defectors or refugees for violating laws. While the country has laws against the trafficking of women and children, there are doubts as to whether these really address the problem. There have been reports of traffickers being punished but some NGOs say these include activists or professional border crossers assist

ing North Koreans who want to move to China. No trafficking convictions or persecutions were reported (USDS, 2010).

### ***Korean-Chinese children***

A study suggests that the number of children born to North Korean women and Chinese men have increased in recent years, with many of them migrating with their mothers to other countries while some may have been repatriated with their mothers. Outside Yanbian (in Jilin Province, northeastern China), the number rose to 6,200 in 2002 from 4,000 in 1998, and to 6,900 in 2009. In Yanbian, the number decreased from 4,000 in 1998 to 2,700 and rose again to about 3,500 in 2009 (Robinson, 2010).

### **REFERENCES**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

2010 "North Korea heads for new food crisis: UN," 21 October.

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

2011 World Report 2011 - North Korea, United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees Refworld, 24 January 2011. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4d3e801a0.html>, accessed 23 February 2011.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2008 *Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia - Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking*. Bangkok: IOM.

Kim So-Hyun

2010 "North Korean refugees in South surpass 20,000," *The Korea Herald*, 16 November.

Robinson, C.

2010 "North Korea: Migration Patterns and Prospects" (Special Report). Paper presented at the conference *The Korea Project: Planning for the Long Term*, sponsored by the Korean Studies Institute, USC and Korea Chair, CSIS, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, August 20-21, 2010. Available at <http://www.nautilus.org/publications/essays/napsnet/reports/north-korea-migration-patterns-and-prospects/#-31-gao-2010>, accessed 23 February 2011.

Park Young-bum

2004 "South Korea: Balancing Labor Demand with Strict Controls." Country Profiles. *Migration Information Source*. Available at <http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?ID=272>, accessed 23 February 2011.

UN Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF)

2010 "Democratic People's Republic of Korea 2010: Facts and Figures." UN CERF Official Website. Available at <http://ochaonline.un.org/cerf/CERFaroundtheWorld/DemocraticPeoplesRepublicofKorea2010/tabid/6610/language/en-US/Default.aspx>, accessed 23 February 2011.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	7.0
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.6
Percent urban (%)	100
Population per square kilometer	6,410
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	12
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	224.46 B
GDP growth (annual %)	7.0
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	47,480
Human development index (rank – value)	21 – 0.862
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	2.74 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	347.01 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	83
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	486
Refugees by origin	17
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	154
Overseas professional workers admitted under the General Employment Policy (GEP)	26,881
Mainland China talents and professionals admitted under Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals	40,933

Sources: HK SAR Government, Information Services Department (2011) PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

The population of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) as of mid-2010 was estimated at around 7.024 million and at 7.052 million by the end

of the year (Census & Statistics Department – Hong Kong, 2010).

The estimated number of emigrants was around 719,300, accounting for 10.2 percent of the population. The number of immigrants, on the other hand, was recorded at about 2.74 million, making Hong Kong

SAR a main destination of international migrants in East Asia (IOM, 2010; World Bank, 2010). Immigrants to the territory are mostly from China and Macau SAR. About 57 percent of the total number of immigrants are female. In terms of the proportion of migrants to the total population and among East Asian countries, Hong Kong SAR is second at 38.8 percent, after Macau SAR (54.7 percent) (IOM, 2010). Hong Kong SAR's GDP was also estimated at around \$224.46-226.4 billion in 2010 (World Bank, 2012; IMF, 2010).

Data from the Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID) show a steady admission of overseas workers in the past year. Between 2009 and 2010, a total of 22,280 overseas professionals came to Hong Kong SAR for either long-term or short-term employment. By the end of 2010, the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals received a total of 47,471 applications, of which 7,445 were approved, showing an increase of 14.3 percent compared to the 6,514 approved applications in 2009 (HKID, 2011, 2010). Most applications targeted the fields of academic research, education, commerce, trade, arts and culture. The scheme brings in migrants from mainland China into Hong Kong SAR to address labor demands and maintain the region's global competitiveness. By the end of 2010, about 10,101 non-local graduates, were admitted for work (HKID, 2011).

Under the Supplementary Labor Scheme, which is used to fill job vacancies not taken by local workers, 16,418 imported workers were admitted as of 31 March 2010, of whom 1,635 were still in Hong Kong SAR in 2010. Migrant workers under this scheme usually have a two-year contract.

The territory employs a large number of domestic workers in the region. By the end of March, there were 273,609 foreign domestic workers in Hong Kong SAR, of whom 49 percent were from Indonesia and 48 percent were from the Philippines. From 2009 to 2010, a total of 14,460 student migrants were allowed to study in Hong Kong SAR. The largest number – 8,651 – were from Mainland China. In the same period, more than 50,000 Mainland Chinese residents also used the one-way permit scheme to settle in Hong Kong SAR (HKID, 2010).

## POLICIES

### *Statutory minimum wage law*

The Legislative Council in July passed Hong Kong SAR's first statutory minimum wage law which will take effect in 2011 (AFP, 2010). The law requires a task group to review wage levels every two years. While the decision has been lauded by lawmakers, it has also been criticized for excluding foreign domestic workers from the new law. The Asian Migrants Coordinating Body, an organization consisting of migrant workers' groups from Indonesia, the Philippines and other Asian countries, said the decision is discriminatory and makes workers' wages vulnerable to the "whims of the government" (*Inquirer.net*, 18 July 2010). Lawmakers who voted against the inclusion of foreign domestic workers in the law reasoned that these workers were already receiving fixed wages from their employers, with free lodging, meals and medical expenses (Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 2010).

### *Anti-illegal employment efforts*

Since the implementation of the Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance 2009 in November 2009, the Immigration Department has intensified efforts to control illegal employment and unauthorized entry into Hong Kong SAR (Dhar, 2010). In 2010, a total of 11,203 operations were conducted against illegal employment, including the arrests of 6,518 unauthorized workers and 967 employers. Between November 2009 and December 2010, an estimated 208 unauthorized workers were arrested for violating the ordinance.

The HKID also reported cases of forgery and bogus marriages in 2010. The number of forgery activities in Hong Kong SAR, for instance, increased to 25,038 in 2010 from 23,687 in 2009. About 1,299 forged travel documents were intercepted, around 7.6 percent higher than the 1,207 found in 2009. By the end of 2010, a total of 185 Mainland and Hong Kong SAR residents were convicted for bogus marriages (HKID, 2011). There have also been reports of syndicates continuing to smuggle unauthorized migrants to different countries through circuitous routes and transit ports and using forged passports (HKID, 2011).

**Capital Investment Scheme**

In October 2010, the Immigration Department temporarily removed real estate as part of the Capital Investment Scheme for aspiring migrants and raised the investment requirement for admission from HK\$6.5 million to HK\$10 million. The decision was aimed at maintaining home prices and to discourage investors from Mainland China from buying properties in Hong Kong SAR. Investment and property consultants and managers said this has had no impact on business (Wong, 2011). However, the number of migrant applications has dropped from a monthly average of 570 for the first nine months of 2010 to 188 and 242 in November and December, respectively.

**Trafficking in persons**

Hong Kong SAR maintained a Tier 2 ranking in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for the second consecutive year. While authorities were able to convict two sex traffickers and engaged in efforts to prevent trafficking, the report also pointed out the need for more efforts to identify victims and prosecute trafficking offenders (USDS, 2010:167).

Trafficking remains rampant in Hong Kong SAR, a destination and transit country for trafficked victims in “domestic servitude” and “forced prostitution,” including those who initially enter the country as migrant workers (USDS, 2010:167). Many of the victims come from Asian countries such as China, the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand. Some migrants, such as Indonesian domestic workers, have reportedly been recruited for jobs but later end up in conditions of debt bondage, making them vulnerable to prostitution and labor trafficking.

**REFERENCES**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)  
2010 “Hong Kong passes minimum wage law,” *Channel NewsAsia* (channelnewsasia.com), 18 July.

Census and Statistics Department – Hong Kong (C&SD)  
2010 Hong Kong Statistics (Statistical Tables). Census and Statistics Department Official Website. Available at [http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hong\\_kong\\_statistics/statistical\\_tables/index.jsp?charsetID=1&tableID=001&subjectID=1](http://www.censtatd.gov.hk/hong_kong_statistics/statistical_tables/index.jsp?charsetID=1&tableID=001&subjectID=1), accessed 15 February 2012.

Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA)  
2010 “Foreign domestic helpers not covered by Hong Kong minimum wage law,” *Earth Times*, 16 July.

Dhar, Aarti  
2010 “Hong Kong tightens immigration laws,” *The Hindu*, 18 May.

Hong Kong Immigration Department (HKID)  
2011 *Immigration Department Year-end Briefing 2010*. Available at <http://www.immd.gov.hk/ehtml/20110113.htm>, accessed 1 March 2011.

2010 *Immigration Department Annual Report 2009-10*. Chapter 1: Visa and Policies. Available at [http://www.immd.gov.hk/a\\_report\\_09-10/eng/ch1/index.htm#b5\\_5](http://www.immd.gov.hk/a_report_09-10/eng/ch1/index.htm#b5_5), accessed 1 March 2011

Hong Kong SAR Government, Information Services Department  
2011 “Hong Kong: The Facts (Immigration).” <http://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/docs/immigration.pdf>, accessed 15 February 2012.

*Inquirer.net*  
2010 “Foreign maids in HK excluded in minimum wage law,” 18 July.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

Wong, Natalie  
2011 “Immigration numbers hit by property rule change,” *The Standard*, 14 January.





## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	127.4
Rate of natural increase (%)	-0.0
Percent urban (%)	86
Population per square kilometer	337
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	13
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	5.46 T
GDP growth (annual %)	4.0
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	34,640
Human development index (rank – value)	11 – 0.884
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	12 - 0.273
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	2.18 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	1.8 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	8
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	3,078
Refugees by origin	152
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	2,586
Inflow of foreign population (2009)	297,100
Outflow of foreign population (2009)	262,000
Inflow of foreign workers (2009)	57,100
Stock of foreign labor force (2009)	563,000

Sources: JILPT (2011), OECD (2011), PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

As of October 2010, Japan's national census registered a total population of 128.05 million, higher compared to an estimated 127.5 million as of October 2009 (Statistics Bureau of Japan, 2011; 2009). The PRB (2010), on the other hand, put the mid-2010 population fig-

ure at 127.4 million. As of 2010, it was estimated that 2.18 million or 1.7 percent of the country's total population were immigrants while emigrants numbered about 771,400 or 0.6 percent of the population (World Bank, 2010). Japan's demographic profile poses risks and threats to the country's economy, which was recorded with an estimated GDP of around \$5.46 trillion.

Japan's aging population and declining birth rate on the one hand, and the country's industrial expansion on the other raises pressures to address labor shortages (IOM, 2008). Japan's population began to fall in 2005, a trend that is expected to continue in years to come (Yamada, 2010). The UNPD (2009) projects that the country's population will fall to about 120 million in 2025 and 105 million in 2045.

The admission of *Nikkeijin* (the descendants of Japanese emigrants) and training schemes are the main strategies for the admission of foreign workers. Officially, the government prohibits the entry of low-skilled foreign labor, but this does not mean that there are no such workers in Japan. Less skilled work is performed by foreign workers in an irregular situation (IOM, 2008).

To meet the demand for workers in the context of population decline and aging, Japan is increasingly giving more attention and consideration to international migration as a possible solution (IOM, 2010b). One think tank, the Japan Forum on International Relations, has urged the government to accept more foreign workers and to adjust its restrictive immigration system. It proposed that Japan should adopt a skills-based migration system and implement social integration policies (Wallace, 2010). Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara warned that if Japan does not ease its labor migration rules, Japan could lose potential migrant workers to China, which is also in need of foreign labor (Reuters, 2011).

Among others, the government plans to bring in more foreign health workers in view of rising demand. In Tokyo alone, a survey of 389 elder care facilities by the Tokyo Council of Social Welfare found that about 30 percent of households in Japan's capital hire caregivers, mostly migrants from the Philippines, China, Taiwan and Korea. At least 196 foreign workers were found to be employed at 101 elder care facilities. Survey respondents pointed to the language barrier as the most difficult obstacle to their work (AMN, 1-31 January 2010).

In March 2010, the Justice Ministry drafted a five-year immigration control plan that eases rules on the length of stay of foreign nurses and dentists in Japan and allows for the acceptance of foreign nurses. Currently, foreign nurses and dentists in Japan are given seven and six years of work, respectively. The plan also aims

to accept other foreigners into the nursing sector. To date, Filipinos and Indonesians are the only ones accepted in nursing and caregiving positions due to Japan's bilateral agreements with their countries (AMN, 1-31 March 2010). The demand for health care workers is expected to increase in the future. As of 2007, Japan had some 1.24 million caregivers and nurses. According to government estimates, the country will need as many as 2.12 to 2.55 million health care workers by 2025.

Despite the need, the hiring of foreign health workers is fraught with difficulties. Foreign nurses have to hurdle the nurse examination. The results of the nurse examination on 26 March had been dismal. Only three out of 254 foreign nurses – two Indonesians and a Filipino – passed. In 2009, none of the 82 foreign nurses who took the test passed. The language barrier is the main reason for the high failure rates. The government is considering hiring more foreign caregivers and nurses from other countries like Vietnam and Thailand (AMN, 1-31 March 2010; 1-30 April 2010).

#### **Reforms in the training program**

The Japan International Training Cooperation Organization (JITCO) figured in media reports for allegedly exploiting workers. The government-sponsored training program has been widely criticized for bringing in trainees who, in reality, are employed as underpaid workers (Brasor, 2010). Critics of the program deplore the lack of legal protection which has rendered many workers vulnerable to poor and hazardous conditions (Tabuchi, 2010). Based on government reports, at least 127 migrant worker trainees have died since 2005, mostly from heart failure or strokes which workers rights' groups link to excessive labor. The Justice Ministry said that over 400 cases of Japanese companies mistreating trainees were recorded in 2009. This includes failure to pay salaries and not providing sufficient protection for trainees in the workplace. JITCO told the New York Times News Service it was aware of the abuses in the system and will pursue a crackdown (Tabuchi, 2010).

Another likely change is to diversify the nationalities of trainees. JITCO said it will prioritize applicants from Nepal, Bangladesh and Mongolia, a move that is in

tended to ease the dependence on Chinese trainees. About 80 percent of the 50,000 migrants admitted into the program every year are Chinese (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

### ***Migrants' rights***

Japan's decision to deport Arlan and Sarah Calderon, a Filipino couple without residency status, while allowing their 14-year-old daughter Noriko to remain in the country thrust Japan into a controversy in 2010. United Nations Special Rapporteur on migrant's rights Jorge Bustamante investigated the case of the Calderons and said the decision violated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Aside from the Calderons, four other migrant families experienced similar cases (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

Bustamante's fact-finding mission also uncovered other migrant labor issues, including labor exploitation and discrimination in salary and promotions, health care and compensation for work-related accidents. Migrants still face racism, exploitation and lack of concern for their rights. Bustamante noted the lack of a comprehensive immigration policy that includes migrants' rights protection (*UN News Centre*, 2010). He called on officials to protect the rights of migrants and their children and to implement measures that would help integrate them into society. He also recommended the adoption of legislation that would protect migrants from racial discrimination (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

### ***Marriage migration***

The rise of marriage migration in East Asia, including Japan, is partly a response to changing social and demographic trends in the region. Marriages between Japanese men and foreign women – mostly from the Philippines and China – rose 73 percent to 35,993 between 1995 and 2006. Japanese men seek foreign wives as more and more Japanese women are becoming economically independent and choosing to stay single while women from the less developed countries in Asia are motivated by their desire to help their families and to escape poverty (*Bartlett*, 2010).

### ***Immigration violations***

In March, the Ministry of Justice reported a decline in the number of entry refusals, deportation cases and immigration violations in 2009. Compared with 2008, the number of rejected entry visas for foreigners decreased by 33.5 percent to 4,780 and the total number of deportation cases went down to 32,661. Chinese nationals accounted for 29.2 percent of all deportation cases that year, followed by Filipinos at 19.5 percent and Koreans by 12 percent (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

### ***Refugees***

Eight Burmese refugees arrived in Japan in September 2010, the first batch of 90 refugees Japan has agreed to accept in its third country resettlement program from fiscal year 2010 to 2012 (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010; *IOM*, 2010a). The UNHCR lauded Japan's decision to help in the resettlement of Burmese refugees. Japan is the first Asian country to participate in the UN's resettlement program. Last year, Japan accepted about 30 refugees (*BBC News*, 2010).

## **POLICIES**

### ***Voting rights to foreigners opposed***

The proposal of the Democratic Party of Japan to allow non-Japanese permanent residents to vote in local and regional elections has met protest from the conservative opposition. An official even threatened to resign if the plan pushes through. Interestingly, a survey by *Mainichi Shimbun* found that about 59 percent of Japanese respondents support the proposition (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

### ***Japanese Brazilian children***

To facilitate the integration of Japanese Brazilian children into the public school system, the Education Ministry launched a project that provides additional language instructions for migrant children who do not speak Japanese at home (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010). Many schools for children of Japanese Brazilians have closed

down due to the lack of students and inability to collect payments from migrant parents who are unemployed or have lost their jobs. Many of these migrant children have no other choice but to enroll in public schools (AMN, 1-30 April 2010). As of December 2009, there were about 267,456 Japanese Brazilians living in Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Japan, 2011).

### **Registration requirements**

The Immigration Bureau in April removed the presentation of health cards, proof of registration in the health insurance system, as one of the requirements foreigners must submit in order to extend or change their residency status. Critics panned the requirement because it did not allow non-Japanese the option to choose their health care provider.

In June 2010, foreign workers protested against an amendment to the immigration law that requires them to register with immigration offices with each renewal of a job contract. According to the amendment, foreigners who fail to comply will be fined ¥200,000 (\$2,300) and their residency status will be revoked (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

Japan retained a Tier 2 ranking for the sixth consecutive year in the USDS Trafficking in Persons Report 2010. According to the report, the government registered “a record low number of trafficking victims identified and trafficking offenders prosecuted and convicted,” despite the lack of evidence suggesting a decline of trafficking incidents. Despite a perceived lack of investigations and prosecutions, the report states that there has been some effort to counter trafficking – in December 2009, the government issued an anti-trafficking Action Plan (USDS, 2010:189).

Japan is mainly a destination country for trafficked victims in forced labor and prostitution, mostly from Asian countries such as China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, who travel to Japan initially for employment or for marriage. Japanese women and young girls continue to be victimized by sex trafficking within the coun-

try. Japan is also a transit site for East Asians who are later trafficked to North America. It is believed that organized crime syndicates play a major role in trafficking movements in the country. The report also notes that Japanese men continue to engage in child sex tourism in Southeast Asia (USDS, 2010:189).

### **REFERENCES**

*BBC News*

2010 “Japan welcomes Burmese refugees,” 28 September.

Bartlett, Lawrence

2010 “Imported brides rise as money mixes Asian marriages,” *Agence-France Press*, 29 June.

Brasor, Philip

2010 “Foreign trainees easily exploited as bosses take advantage of the system,” *The Japan Times Online*, 14 February.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010a “Japan: Facts and Figures.” International Organization for Migration Official Website. Available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/activities/asia-and-oceania/east-and-south-east-asia/japan/cache/offonce/>, accessed 22 February 2011.

2010b *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

2008 *Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia - Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking*. Bangkok: IOM.

Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training (JILPT)  
2011 *Databook of International Labour Statistics 2011*. Tokyo: JILPT. Available at <http://www.jil.go.jp/english/estatis/databook/index.htm>, accessed 20 March 2012.

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Japan

2011 “Japan-Brazil Relations.” Available at <http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/latin/brazil/index.html>, accessed 14 February 2011.

### Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

2011 *International Migration Outlook 2011* (Key Statistics on Migration in Selected OECD Countries: Stocks and flows of immigrants, 2000-2009). Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/30/5/48333589.xls> (Inflows of foreign population) and <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/30/6/48333602.xls> (Outflows of foreign population), accessed 8 March 2012.

### Reuters

2011 “Japan must ease migrant rules or lose workers,” *Khaleej Times Online*, 16 February.

### Statistics Bureau of Japan

2011 “Population Count based on the 2010 Census Released.” Statistics Bureau of Japan, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, 26 October. Available at <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/kokusei/pdf/20111026.pdf>, accessed 30 April 2012.

2009 “Current Population Estimates as of October 1, 2009.” Statistics Bureau, Director-General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards) and Statistical Research and Training Institute Official Website. Available at <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/jinsui/2009np/index.htm>, accessed 9 February 2011.

### Tabuchi, Hiroko

2010 “Japan’s dirty little secret,” *New York Times News Service*, 8 August.

### UN News Centre

2010 “Independent UN rights expert urges end to migrant discrimination in Japan” UN News Centre Official Website. Available at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.aspNewsID=34263&Cr=Migra&Cr1>, accessed 22 February 2011.

### Wallace, Rick

2010 “Japan urged to welcome more skilled migrants,” *The Australian*, 26 November.

### Yamada, Masahiko

2010 “The Current Issues on Foreign Workers in Japan,” *Japan Labor Review*, 7(3):5-18).



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	0.5
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.6
Percent urban (%)	100
Population per square kilometer	20,731
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	13
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	27.96 B
GDP growth (annual %)	26.4
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	-
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	299,692
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	835.15 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	-
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	9
Refugees by origin	10
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	-
Non-resident workers	75,813
Individuals authorized to reside in Macau	4,455
Immigrants from Mainland China with "One-way Exit Permit"	9,056

Sources: PRB (2010), Statistics and Census Service, Macau Government (2010a; 2010b), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Macau SAR's population in 2010 was estimated at 548,000 (IOM, n.d.), higher compared to 542,200 in 2009. The Statistics and Census Service's (DSEC, 2010b) estimate meanwhile was 552,300. In 2010, it was estimated that out of the total population, 299,700 or 54.7

percent were immigrants, the ninth largest immigrant share in the world. About 51.7 percent of the total number of immigrants are female. Most migrants came from China, Hong Kong SAR, the Philippines, Portugal and Thailand. About 97,900 or 17.9 percent of the population emigrated to Hong Kong SAR and the US in 2010 (World Bank, 2010). By the end of the year, the total number of migrant or non-resident workers was recorded at 75,813 (DSEC, 2010a).



In the fourth quarter of 2010, 3,446 Chinese immigrants entered Macau SAR through the one-way exit permit scheme. This brings the total annual number to 9,000, an increase of 190.2 percent from 2009 (DSEC, 2010b; Government Information Bureau of Macau, 2011). More than two-thirds of the immigrants came from Guangdong Province. The inflow of Chinese migrants has added to the territory's population (*Macau Daily Times*, 3 January 2011).

According to the World Social Security Report 2010/2011 (ILO, 2010), Macau SAR has the second best demographic profile in the world, with about 80 percent of the population in the working age. However, it is projected that by 2050, there will be eight non-resident workers (children and elderly) for every 10 workers, suggesting that the territory's population is gradually aging (*Macau Daily Times*, 2 December 2010). The report (ILO, 2010) indicates that the total dependency ratio in Macau SAR is currently at 24.8 percent, but will increase to 53.7 percent and 82.4 percent in 2030 and 2050, respectively.

Macau SAR's GDP also rose by 49.1 percent in real terms year-on-year in the second quarter of 2010, reaching MOP 48.1 billion (\$6 billion) (*Macaubusiness.com*, 7 September 2010). In the first half of 2010, GDP in the region increased by 40.2 percent in real terms. Macau SAR's growth is linked to the gaming and tourism sectors, where many foreign workers are hired. By the end of the year, the total GDP was pegged at \$27.96 billion.

### **Trafficking in persons**

Macau SAR was again placed on Tier 2 in the *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* (USDS, 2010), maintaining its rank for three consecutive years. The report states that Macau SAR authorities made little progress in combating human trafficking through effective law enforcement and in protecting trafficking victims, including proactive identification of trafficked persons. However, authorities have also shown efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking. Macau SAR is reportedly a primary destination for trafficked persons forced into commercial sexual exploitation, mostly from Mainland China, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and South-east Asia. It is also a source territory for women and

children forced into prostitution in various parts of Asia. The report recommended that Macau SAR authorities increase trafficking investigations and prosecutions and to coordinate with other countries in handling cross-border trafficking (USDS, 2010).

## **POLICIES**

### **Hiring of foreign labor**

Macau SAR in 2010 enacted the law on imported labor, which aims to manage labor migration and place limits on the hiring of foreign workers. Macau SAR has been a popular destination of foreign workers looking for jobs in the domestic and tourism sectors. The number of foreign domestic workers increased from 2,650 in 2003 to 14,299 in 2009. However, the government has been criticized by residents for prioritizing migrants over local workers.

The law, which took effect in April, aims to protect the rights of local workers by restricting the entry of foreign labor (*Macaubusiness.com*, 26 May 2010). Among others, the law bans the hiring of foreigners on tourist visas. The move was considered part of the region's attempt to manage irregular and unauthorized migration and to prevent drug smuggling. Only migrant workers with work permits and those directly hired through licensed agencies have since been hired (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010).

Other bylaws and regulations were also implemented, such as the setting of conditions and quotas on companies hiring foreign labor. In July, the government implemented a new bylaw which dictates that companies should follow the minimum number of local workers in relation to the hiring of imported labor. Prior to the enactment of the bylaw, there were already reports of migrant workers being fired or informed that their contracts will no longer be renewed. Several companies, including establishments such as casinos and hotels, laid off migrant workers, ranging from around 20 to 50 workers (*Macau Daily Times*, 6 August 2010).

The six-month re-entry ban for foreign workers, included in the imported labor law, also took effect this year. The law prohibits a migrant worker from taking on another job in Macau SAR within six months after



quitting from a previous job. The ban is opposed by several migrants' groups on the grounds that the policy puts workers in an "insecure and vulnerable position" (Leung, 2010; *Macau Daily Times*, 23 August 2010).

## REFERENCES

Government Information Bureau of Macau

2011 "Demographic Statistics for 2010." Available at <http://www.gcs.gov.mo/showNews.php?PageLang=E&DataUcn=51418&Member=0>, accessed 1 March 2011.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

2010 *World Social Security Report 2010/2011*. Geneva: International Labour Organization.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

n.d. Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, and Taiwan Province – Facts and Figures. Available at [http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/sources/china\\_sar.htm](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/sources/china_sar.htm), accessed 1 March 2011.

Leung, Natalie

2010 "Migrant workers: Six-month ban further abuses," *Macau Daily Times*, 22 November.

*Macaubusiness.com*

2010 "No-one happy," 26 May.

2010 "Macau's GDP increased by almost 50 percent," 7 September.

*Macau Daily Times*

2011 "Chinese immigrants triple in 2010," 3 January.

2010 "Hundreds of migrant workers lose jobs," 6 August.

2010 "Migrant workers reject six-month entry ban," 23 August.

2010 "Aging population places burden on workers," 2 December.

Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), Macau Government

2010a "Non-resident workers." Statistics and Census Service of Macau. Available at <http://www.dsec.gov.mo/TimeSeriesDatabase.aspx?KeyIndicatorID=16>, accessed 1 March 2011.

2010b *Yearbook of Statistics 2010*. Macau: DSEC. Available at [http://www.dsec.gov.mo/getAttachment/0f325dc6-6bac-4d43-b46d-cafb28e06b69/E\\_AE\\_PUB\\_2010\\_Y.aspx](http://www.dsec.gov.mo/getAttachment/0f325dc6-6bac-4d43-b46d-cafb28e06b69/E_AE_PUB_2010_Y.aspx), accessed 8 March 2012.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	48.9
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.4
Percent urban (%)	82
Population per square kilometer	491
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	16
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	1.01 T
GDP growth (annual %)	6.2
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	29,010
Human development index (rank – value)	12 – 0.877
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	20 – 0.310
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	534,817
Net migration	-30,000
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	8.71 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	240
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	712
Refugees by origin	585
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	358
Inflow of foreign population (2009)	242,824
Outflow of foreign population (2009)	236,400

Sources: OECD (2012), PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

The population of the Republic of Korea in 2010 was estimated at around 48.7-48.9 million, of whom immigrants number around 534,800 or 1.1 percent of the total population (PRB, 2010; World Bank, 2010). The top source countries include China, Vietnam, the US

and the Philippines, among others. Emigrants, on the other hand, accounted for about 2.08 million or 4.3 percent of the total population (World Bank, 2010).

Internal migrants in Korea reached 727,000 by December 2010, down by 2.1 percent in the previous year (Statistics Korea, 2011a). Some 23.6 million, about 49.0 percent of the total population of the country are concentrated in the Seoul Metropolitan Area (SK, 2011b).

Despite the population increase in 2010, South Korea has falling birthrates. In 2008 and 2009, the country had the lowest birthrate all over the world (according to the World Health Organization), an aging population, as well as an increasing number of individuals who choose not to marry (Rahn, 2009). Population decline, especially the decline of the working age population (15-39 years old), has highlighted the role of immigration as a response to this challenge. The National Assembly Research Service, a research think tank, is pushing for immigration reforms that would attract more highly-skilled migrant workers, a view that seems to find support from the Korean public. A Gallup poll in December 2009 showed that majority of Koreans are open to having more migrants in the country (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

#### ***Foreign workers' problems***

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission in February 2010 said that it received 627 complaints from foreigners between 2008 and December 2009. A total of 339 cases were passport or visa-related while there 98 concerned unpaid wages, unjust dismissals and poor work conditions. Other cases were related to education, criminal cases and welfare systems (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

Data from the National Tax Service provide evidence that the average salary of tax-paying foreign workers per year is lower than that earned by the lowest 10 percent of local workers. The average salary of a foreign worker in 2009 was 13.17 million won (\$11,200), a 2.9 percent decrease from 13.56 million won in 2008, while the annual wage of the bottom 10 percent of local workers is 14.60 million won. Tax-paying foreign workers have increased in number in 2009, up by 22.2 percent to 344,583 from 282,064 in 2007 (AMN, 1-30 June 2010; Y. Kim, 2010).

Based on a 2007-2009 survey of over 17,000 foreign workers by the Joint Committee with Migrants in Korea, migrant workers under the Employment Permit System were excluded from health benefits. For instance, free vaccinations from local public health centers for migrants were cancelled in 2008. The committee also found that government lacks health policies

and programs for refugees and other unregistered migrants (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

#### ***Immigration detention centers***

In February 2010, the Joint Committee with Migrants in Korea and the Alliance for Migrants' Equality and Human Rights urged the government to shut down immigration detention centers for irregular migrants and to stop the crackdown and deportation of unauthorized migrants. In 2007, 10 migrant workers died and 18 others were injured in a fire at an immigration center in South Jeolla Province (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) also called attention to the children of irregular migrants in detention. The NHRC said the current system in which children are detained with their parents who were found to be irregular migrants may violate the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (AMN, 1-28 February 2010). A separate facility should be established for the children of migrants if children's detention is deemed necessary.

#### ***Marriage migration***

Marriage migration has contributed to the rise in the number of foreigners acquiring Korean citizenship. Immigrants naturalized through marriage increased from 75,011 in 2005 to 109,564 in 2007 (Hugo, 2010, cited in IOM, 2010) and to some 167,090 in 2009. More than 35 percent of the farmers and fishermen who married between June 2008 and May 2009 were wed to foreign women, mainly from China and Vietnam (Bartlett, 2010). There were also reports of foreign men marrying Korean women, many of whom allegedly used marriage to obtain legal residence status. The Ministry of Justice said it has received reports of local women being deceived by foreign men (Hong, 2010).

A survey of 154,000 marriage migrants by the Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family Affairs reported positive outcomes for these unions. About 74 percent of the marriage migrants said they are content with their relationship with their Korean spouse. Some 88 percent said they are happy with their children and about

64.8 percent are satisfied with their parents-in-law. The study, conducted from July to October 2009, surveyed respondents who originated from China, Vietnam, the Philippines and Japan, though some were ethnic Koreans from China. The ministry said the findings would be used to improve living conditions of multicultural families (M. Kim, 2010).

Other studies, however, indicate difficulties in international marriages. According to the Emergency Support Center for Women, more immigrant wives seeking are legal advice, especially for divorce. The center provided counseling to more than 60,000 cases in 2010, up by 24 percent compared to 2009. Of the total, about 72 percent were related to divorce, with many claiming they suffer from dysfunctional marriages. The center attributed the rise of problematic international marriages to lack of understanding and lack of communication between the partners (Rahn, 2011). Meanwhile, to respond better to the needs of marriage migrants, state-supported multicultural centers are now recruiting more foreign wives of South Koreans as interpreters (Park, 2010a).

### **Trafficking in persons**

The Republic of Korea continued to engage in anti-trafficking efforts, according to the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, which placed the country on Tier 1. Authorities reportedly conducted investigations and convicted and prosecuted trafficking offenders. Trafficking-related offenses against foreigners were also investigated and prosecuted as human rights abuses. However, the report also pointed out that the framework for addressing trafficking was limited to the trafficking of women and children for commercial sex and thus “conflates prostitution and trafficking” (USDS, 2010:200). It also stated that authorities have no procedures to identify trafficking victims and have never prosecuted a citizen for involvement in child sex tourism in other countries (USDS, 2010:200).

The Republic of Korea is a source and destination country for trafficked persons who end up in forced labor and forced prostitution, including those who initially entered the country for employment. Some of these victims have come from China, Cambodia, Kazakhstan,

Mongolia, Morocco, the Russian Federation, the Philippines, Thailand and Uzbekistan, and other Southeast Asian countries. Some South Korean men continue to engage in child sex tourism in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (USDS, 2010:200).

## **POLICIES**

### ***New policy directions or amendments***

Several measures specifically pertained to foreign workers, namely:

- The Ministry of Justice announced that employers may transfer their foreign workers to different locations without having to obtain the ministry's approval. Long-term foreign residents will also go through an easier and more convenient process of entering the country. Previously, companies were required to notify the ministry if a foreign worker was going to be relocated (Park, 2010b).
- In June 2010, the government announced the launch of a free skills training program for over 5,000 migrant workers in basic and advanced courses in manufacturing, construction, agriculture and other fields (AMN, 1-30 June 2010)
- The National Assembly amended the country's immigration law in 2010, allowing dual citizenship to Koreans and foreigners married to South Koreans. The former covers ethnic Koreans abroad who were adopted as minors or are above 65 years old, those who have foreign citizenship by marriage, and those who have dual citizenship by birth (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).
- To help foreigners and multicultural families in Korea, the government passed several measures to enhance their conditions in the country. In July, children from multicultural families or asylum seekers from North Korea would be allowed to enlist in the military. Beginning next year, state certification exams for various occupations would be administered in Chinese and Vietnamese, since about 80 percent of foreign spouses of Korean nationals are Chinese and Vietnamese speakers.

Also, applications for driving tests and driver's licenses will be made available in other languages aside from English, Japanese and Chinese (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

- The Justice Ministry has ruled that foreigners convicted of being sex offenders will be sentenced to a lifetime ban. According to police data, in 2009 the number of rapes committed by foreign residents increased by 11 percent from 2008 (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

## REFERENCES

Bartlett, Lawrence

2010 "Imported brides rise as money mixes Asian marriages," *Agence-France Press*, 29 June.

Hong Hye-jin

2010 "Migrants wed to stay in Korea," *Korea JoongAng Daily*, 20 August.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

2008 *Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia - Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking*. Bangkok: IOM.

Kim Mi-ju

2010 "Marriage migrants happier at home," *Korea JoongAng Daily*, 18 March.

Kim Yoo-chul

2010 "Foreign workers 'underpaid,'" *The Korea Times*, 22 June.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

2012 "Inflows of foreign population by nationality." "Outflows of foreign population by nationality." OECD.StatExtracts (International Migration Database). Available at <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=Mlg>, accessed 8 March 2012.

Park Si-Soo

2010a "More jobs may open for immigrant wives," *The Korea Times*, 10 August.

2010b "Foreign worker relocation rules eased," *The Korea Times*, 14 November.

Rahn, Kim

2011 "More immigrant wives seek divorce counseling," *The Korea Times*, 20 January.

2009 "South Korea's birth rate lowest," *The Korea Times*, 22 May.

Statistics Korea (SK)

2011a "International Migration in December 2010." Statistics Korea. Available at <http://kostat.go.kr/portal/english/news/1/9/index.board?bmode=read&aSeq=245073&pageNo=&rowNum=10&amSeq=&sTarget=&sTxt=>, accessed February 2011.

2011b "Preliminary Results of the 2010 Population and Housing Census." Statistics Korea. Available at <http://kostat.go.kr/portal/english/news/1/9/index.board?bmode=read&aSeq=245048&pageNo=&rowNum=10&amSeq=&sTarget=&sTxt=>, accessed 16 February 2011.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	23.2
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.2
Percent urban (%)	78
Population per square kilometer	644
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	-
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	-
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	-
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	-
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	-
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	-
Foreign workers in Taiwan	380,000

Sources: DGBAS (2011), PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

Note: Data for Taiwan for the indicators above are included in China.

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

With the Taiwanese economy slowly recovering from the financial crisis on the one hand and with an increasingly aging population on the other, the government is considering recruiting more foreign workers. In early 2010, it was reported that Taiwan had the lowest birth rate in the world, and its population could start declining by 2017 (AFP, 2010). By the end of 2010, Taiwan's population was estimated at over 23.16 mil-

lion (it was 23.2 million in mid-2010), higher by 42,351 compared to 2009. Of the total, about 10.74 percent consist of Taiwanese aged 65 and above (Xinhua News Agency, 2011). As of December 2010, there were about 379,693 legal migrant workers in Taiwan (Council of Labor Affairs, n.d.). The country's general GDP was estimated at \$426.984 billion (Global Finance, 2010).

### *More demand for foreign caregivers*

Like Japan and the Republic of Korea, Taiwan is also eyeing to increase the number of foreign workers to

address its rapidly aging population (IOM, 2010). Marriage migration will most likely increase in Taiwan, just like the two other countries.

More foreign caregivers are expected in response to rising health care demand. In February 2010, there were 177,926 foreign caregivers in Taiwan, compared to 177,210 foreign manual workers. In March, there were more foreign manual laborers (180,000) than foreign caregivers (179,000). A CLA official said the rise in the demand for caregivers will continue if the government does not provide a long-term care system (*The China Post*, 13 April 2010).

### ***Migrants' rights***

Migrant workers in Taiwan staged protests and urged the government to promote migrants' rights protection after a female employer was punished for forcing three Indonesian Muslim employees to eat pork. The employer was meted an eight-month jail sentence and will be banned from hiring foreign workers (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010). The Taiwan International Workers' Association said the root problem of such cases is the exclusion of migrant workers in the Labor Standards Act, which would protect them from poor working conditions, including being forced to do things against their religion (Huang, 2010b).

## **POLICIES**

### ***Managing foreign workers***

The government in 2010 announced plans for adjustments to admit and retain foreign workers, particularly those in the care and health industries.

In April, the CLA said it would adjust the maximum ratio for hiring foreign workers in several industries. The allowable ratio for foreign workers in the high-tech industries will be reduced from the current 15 percent to 10 percent (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010). Meanwhile, the number of foreign workers to be hired in other sectors will be increased from the current 20 percent to 35 percent (*Economic Daily News*, 2010).

The council also plans to increase the contract costs firms can offer to lift restrictions on foreign manual laborers in manufacturing, domestic work, caregiving

and other labor-intensive sectors in response to increased demand for these types of workers. As of May, it was estimated that there were about 516,000 temporary foreign workers in Taiwan, of which 362,000 are in the labor-intensive sectors (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

There was a proposal to make it easier for workers to unilaterally dissolve contracts, but employers' groups said this could encourage more illegal employment or could result to more foreign workers leaving their employers without valid reasons.

In June, the council said it plans to allow Taiwanese companies and firms to directly hire foreign workers and bypass agencies or brokers. The rule is expected to protect foreign workers from exploitative labor practices (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010). Huge portions of foreign workers' salaries go to employers and labor brokerage agencies to pay for placement and various fees. Many of these foreign workers have run away from their jobs and have been working illegally to avoid paying these fees (Sui, 2010).

The CLA in November announced the possibility of extending the employment of foreign workers from nine to 12 years. The extension is viewed as a way to decrease the number of foreign workers who leave their employers and become runaway or undocumented workers, without rights protection or health and labor insurance. As an added measure, in December, the CLA said it would increase fines for companies, firms or employers that hire undocumented workers (Huang, 2010a).

The problem of missing or runaway workers has not abated. According to Control Yuan, of the 374,126 foreign workers, the whereabouts of 32,927 are unknown or missing or they may be performing undocumented work.

### ***Foreign caregivers and domestic workers***

Caregiver associations, migrant workers' groups and women's groups called on the government to create a respite service program that would grant caregivers at least a day of rest every week and provide alternative care arrangements or substitute caregivers for patients. In the past 15 years, the number of foreign caregivers has increased 13-fold, according to the CLA.



The CLA drafted a bill that seeks to increase the salary of foreign caregivers and domestic workers by NT\$1,400 and to set the same base wage applied to other migrant workers. If ratified by the Legislative Yuan, the bill would require employers to secure at least NT\$500,000 in insurance for their caregivers and domestic workers in case of injury, disability or death. Workers who have been employed for at least a year will also be given an annual leave of seven days (AMN, 1-31 January 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

The Taiwanese government reported that since 2006, it has taken measures to control and prevent human trafficking, including improving protection mechanisms for foreign spouses, foreign migrant workers and trafficked victims. Government policies have been reviewed and stricter regulations on labor brokers have been implemented (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

Taiwan was ranked Tier 1 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, up from Tier 2 in 2009. According to the report, the government identified at least 329 trafficked victims and granted them work permits so they can earn income during the prosecution against their traffickers. Training on victim identification and protection were conducted among law enforcement officials (USDS, 2010:314). Taiwan is mainly a destination country for men, women and children trafficked into forced labor and prostitution. Many of them come from Asian countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam and are often victimized through unscrupulous brokers and employers. The report notes that some women and girls from China and other Southeast Asian countries are also trafficked into Taiwan for forced prostitution through fraudulent marriages. Taiwanese women are recruited to Japan, Australia, the UK and the US, where they are subsequently made to work in prostitution (USDS, 2010:314).

### **REFERENCES**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)  
2010 "Taiwan's lowest birth rate in the world," *AsiaOne News*, 14 January.

Council of Labor Affairs (CLA)

n.d. "Foreign Workers in Productive Industries and Social Welfare by Various Type." Council of Labor Affairs Statistics. Available at <http://statdb.cla.gov.tw/html/mon/c12010.htm>, accessed 28 February 2011.

Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS), Executive Yuan, Republic of China  
2011 *Social Indicators 2010*. Taipei: Chinese Statistical Association. Available at <http://eng.stat.gov.tw/public/Data/192215265371.pdf>, accessed 5 March 2012.

*Economic Daily News* (in Taiwanese)

2010 "CLA to adjust foreign labor ratios," *Taiwan Today*, 14 April.

Global Finance (GF)

2010 "Taiwan Country Report." Global Finance Website. Available at <http://www.gfmag.com/gdp-data-country-reports/166-taiwan-gdp-country-report.html#axzz1FHfpOfIH>, accessed 28 February 2011.

Huang, Shelley

2010 "CLA plans to crack down on use of illegal foreign labor," *Taipei Times*, 15 December.

2010 "Foreign workers rally for religion," *Taipei Times*, 17 May.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

Sui, Cindy

2010 "Taiwan seeks fairer deal for migrant workers," *BBC News*, 15 December.

*The China Post*

2010 "Caregivers to be most of foreign workforce," 13 April.

Xinhua News Agency

2011 "Taiwan's birth rate drops to new low in 2010," *People's Daily Online*, 10 January.



**SOUTH ASIA**



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	29.1
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.1
Percent urban (%)	22
Population per square kilometer	45
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	46
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	17.24 B
GDP growth (annual %)	8.2
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	1,060
Human development index (rank – value)	155 – 0.349
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	134 – 0.797
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	90,883
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	351,907
Asylum-seekers by origin	37,103
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	30
Refugees by origin	3.05 M
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	43

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Afghanistan is mainly an emigration country, with the emigrant stock reaching more than 2.3 million as of 2010. The figure represented around eight percent of the Afghan population of 29.1 million as of mid-2010, down from 29.8 million in 2009. The number of immigrants was significantly lower at 90,900 or only 0.3 percent of the population, of which nearly half or 43.6 percent were female (World Bank, 2010:53).

Most Afghan migrants were asylum seekers and refugees who left for Iran, Germany, the US and the UK and other major destination countries to escape armed conflict, high unemployment and poverty at home (World Bank, 2010:53). In the UN's human development index, Afghanistan was ranked as the second poorest out of 182 countries, and as the second country with the highest maternal mortality rate. Access to clean water is limited to only around 22 percent of the population (Amnesty International, 2010). A 2010 report by Amnesty International stated that armed conflict and violence between Afghan and North Atlantic

Treaty Organizations (NATO) forces and Taliban groups have led to the deterioration of education, health care and humanitarian assistance (Amnesty International, 2010).

### **Refugee migration**

Desperate to escape conflict and poverty in Afghanistan, many migrants risk their lives to reach areas as far as Europe and even Australia through people smuggling via dangerous boat rides, container trucks and other modes of transportation (IRIN, 2010). Millions of Afghans are believed to be living in Iran, Pakistan and Europe, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Refugee Affairs (Zafarzai, 2010).

In 2009, around 26,800 Afghans applied for refugee status, 45 percent more compared to the number of requests made in 2008 (IRIN, 2010). Afghan children applying for asylum or migrating to other countries by themselves have also increased from 3,800 in 2008 to more than 6,000 in 2009 (Foulkes, 2010). According to immigration officials, most of the asylum seekers were young men aged between 20 and 30 years old, with enough money to pay for passports and transportation to Iran and Pakistan, and then to Australia, Canada, the US and countries in Europe. Reasons behind the movements vary. Some fled Afghanistan due to armed conflict or ethnic tribal disputes and violence, but others sought education, jobs and family reunification abroad (Nakamura, 2010; Zafarzai, 2010). Economic migrants go through the same routes as asylum seekers to search for opportunities in other countries. Large numbers cross borders and enter countries through unauthorized means, making them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, as well as arrests and deportation by authorities (IRIN, 2010).

Countries receiving refugee applications are tightening their rules for admitting refugees. Australia, for instance, imposed a six-month ban on Afghan applications in 2010 following a significant increase in the number of cases. More than 2,700 applications were submitted during the year, but, only less than a third had been accepted. Europe, on the other hand, deported hundreds of Afghans while others were detained. In the US, only few Afghans applied for asylum (Nakamura, 2010).

To curb unauthorized migration, the Ministry of Works and Social Welfare plans to set up development centers that will offer skills training for the youth. However, conflict and the security situation in Afghanistan remains a major obstacle to establishing such programs all over the country (Zafarzai, 2010).

### **Asylum seekers in Iran**

Iran is a major destination of Afghan asylum seekers and refugees. In 2010, there were at least 1.027 million Afghan persons of concern and refugees, and 1,600 asylum seekers in Iran (UNHCR, 2011:213). Driven by drought, poverty and unemployment, Afghan asylum seekers have attempted to enter Iran in different ways despite dangers and risks. Some Afghans have died trying to cross the border into Iran, which is heavily guarded due to rampant drug trafficking and human and weapons smuggling (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 2010; Salahuddin, 2010). The Afghanistan-Iran migration corridor involves about 1.7 million migrants, and was one of the top ten migration corridors in the world in 2010 (RFE/RL, 2010; World Bank, 2010:6).

In 2010, Afghans protested against the Iranian government's mass execution of several Afghans who were imprisoned for drug smuggling or trafficking charges. According to Afghan members of parliament and activists, at least 45 to 50 Afghans were executed in early 2010, with hundreds more sentenced to death. Iranian officials on the other hand say that only six have been executed, and refused to reveal how many have been placed on death row (*BBC News*, 6 May, 15 May 2010; Qureshi, 2010).

According to the UNHCR, a total of 368,786 Afghan refugees returned from Iran and Pakistan by the end of 2010 (Amnesty International, 2010). From Iran, at least 8,000 Afghans have opted for voluntary repatriation, while 410 had been resettled in third countries (UNHCR, 2011:213).

### **Internal displacement**

At least 102,000 new displacements in Afghanistan were recorded by the end of 2010, bringing the total number of IDPs in the country to at least 352,000, excluding those in rural locations or whose status could

not be verified. Out of the recently registered IDPs, 60 percent were children (IDMC, 2011:87).

Armed conflict between NATO and government forces and the Taliban groups has been the main cause of most internal displacements over the years. In 2010, at least 32 IDPs died from air strikes by pro-government troops in one province, while others sustained casualties from landmines, roadside bombs and suicide attacks, as well as from trying to escape battle and conflict zones (IDMC, 2011:87).

IDPs in Afghanistan are generally vulnerable to forced recruitment, sexual violence and the lack of food, livelihood and shelter. Majority of them face difficulties of returning home due to land disputes and illegal occupation of lands. Some have also been at risk of secondary displacement (IDMC, 2011:87).

**Trafficking in persons**

Efforts to eliminate trafficking in Afghanistan weakened, as reported in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, which had placed Afghanistan on the Tier 2 Watch List, down from its Tier 2 record for the period 2004 to 2009. According to the report, Afghanistan failed to show any progress in convicting or prosecuting offenders (USDS, 2010:56).

Afghanistan is a source for men, women and children trafficked for forced labor and prostitution, though internal trafficking is more rampant than international trafficking. Majority of victims are children, transferred to various parts of the country for begging, manual labor or prostitution. Children have also been trafficked for sex or to be used as child soldiers or suicide bombers by extremist groups (USDS, 2010:56).

Afghan men seeking employment opportunities abroad have ended up in debt bondage or forced labor in Iran, Pakistan and other Gulf and Southeast Asian countries. Women and girls from Iran and Tajikistan, some from China and Uganda have been brought to Afghanistan for prostitution. According to Amnesty International, women and girls have been abducted, raped and trafficked by armed individuals and groups. They are sometimes traded to settle disputes or forced into marriages (Amnesty International, 2010; USDS, 2010:56).

**REFERENCES**

Amnesty International  
 2010 "Amnesty International Report 2010 draws back picture of human rights in Afghanistan," *Rawa.org*, 27 May.

*BBC News*  
 2010 "Afghans demonstrate against Iranian 'ill-treatment,'" 6 May.

---

2010 "Afghans protest against 'refugee executions' in Iran," 15 May.

Foulkes, Imogen  
 2010 "Big rise in Afghan child migrants," *BBC News* (in *Rawa.org*), 3 March.

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)  
 2010 "Afghanistan: Risking all for the chance of a better life," *IRINnews.org*, 11 December.

Nakamura, David  
 2010 "Number of Afghans pursuing asylum spikes, hinting at loss of hope for peaceful homeland," *The Washington Post* (in *Rawa.org*), 27 November.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)  
 2010 "Afghan officials say woman shot dead by Iranian forces," *Payvand.com*, 29 October.

Salahuddin, Sayed  
 2010 "Afghans protest to Iran over border killings," *Reuters*, 2 February.

Qureshi, Ahmad  
 2010 "Iran executes seven Afghan immigrants," *Pajhwok Afghan News, Rawa.org*, 2 June.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)  
 2010 "Afghan officials say woman shot dead by Iranian forces," *Payvand.com*, 29 October.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2011 "Islamic Republic of Iran." In UNHCR Global Report 2010, pp.213-217. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4dfdbf52a.html>, accessed 23 January 2012.

Zafarzai, Nematullah

2010 "Unemployment forces Afghan youth to trek dangerous routes," *Pajhwok Afghan News, Rawa.org*, 19 May.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	164.4
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.5
Percent urban (%)	25
Population per square kilometer	1,142
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	31
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	100.36 B
GDP growth (annual %)	6.1
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	1,810
Human development index (rank – value)	129 – 0.469
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	116 – 0.734
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	1.09 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	10.85 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	6,508
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	10,046
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	29,253
Total overseas employment	390,702

Sources: BMET (n.d.), PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

In 2009, Bangladesh's population was estimated at 162.2 million; by mid-2010, the number increased to around 164.4 million. As of 2010, the number of emigrants from the country was recorded at about 5.38 million. The top destination countries for emigrants were India, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Kuwait, Oman, the US, Malaysia, the UAE, Italy and Jordan. In the same year, the stock of immigrants in the country was re-

ported at 1.085 million, accounting for 0.7 percent of the population, with most migrants coming from India and Pakistan (World Bank, 2010:68).

In 2010, Bangladesh received \$11.1 billion in remittances, making it one of the top ten remittance-receiving countries in the world (World Bank, 2010:19). According to government estimates, remittances account for around 12 percent of the country's GDP, indicating the important role of remittances in the country's economy (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

### ***Economic crisis affected labor migration***

Deployment data in 2010 show the vulnerability of Bangladeshi migrants to shifts in the international economy. From January to September 2010, about 292,000 workers went abroad for employment, lower by 18.5 percent compared to the 358,000 number of migrant laborers recorded in the same period the previous year (Reuters, 2010). Due to the global financial crisis, companies in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and other popular destination countries have hired fewer migrant workers in the past two years.

The number of deployed Bangladeshi workers declined from 850,000 in 2007 to about 450,000 in 2009, according to the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry (AMN, 1-28 February 2010). Data from the Bureau of Manpower and Employment Training (BMET, n.d.) indicate that overseas employment in 2010 decreased further to around 390,700.

Malaysia did not hire any Bangladeshi migrant workers in 2009, which contrasts sharply with the more than half a million workers it hired in 2007 and 2008. Saudi Arabia had hired over 4,000 migrant workers in 2009 and more than 2,000 in the first quarter of 2010. In 2008, nearly 50,000 Bangladeshi workers were hired by Saudi Arabia. Interestingly, the BMET reported that overseas employment was 41 percent higher in March compared to February, suggesting improving economic conditions (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

### ***Trafficking in persons***

The Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association said that in the past, sex trafficking of women and children was predominant, but now the growing trend is trafficking for labor. According to NGOs, every year an average of about 15,000 to 20,000 Bangladeshis are trafficked to nearby countries such as India and Pakistan (*The Daily Star*, 15 February 2010).

Bangladesh was ranked in the Tier 2 Watch List in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. While Bangladesh had exerted efforts to combat human trafficking, the report stated that it has failed to meet minimum standards in terms of prosecution, protection and prevention. The government did not show evidence of

more efforts to deal with forced labor and sex trafficking. There was also little evidence to suggest more prosecutions of traffickers and recruiters who sent Bangladeshis to forced labor abroad. The report also noted that some Bangladeshi officials and civil society groups mistakenly viewed migrants forced to work abroad as a case of employment fraud rather than labor trafficking (USDS, 2010:75).

The report recommended the criminalization of forced labor of men, incorporating anti-labor trafficking in policies and programs, enforcing more prosecutions for illegal recruiters and traffickers, and ensuring that international recruiting agencies are not reinforcing labor trafficking processes (USDS, 2010:75).

### ***Climate-driven migration***

In March 2010, a symposium on climate-driven migration held in Dhaka highlighted the need for South Asian nations to prepare for potential climate change movements. Bimal Paul, a geographer from Kansas State University in the US, said the Bangladeshi government must develop a policy dealing with climate-related migration and revise zonal laws. He stressed the need to prepare for rising sea levels along the coasts. The displaced often migrate from rural to urban areas, while some decide to pursue cross-border migration (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Bangladesh is one of the top Asian countries that face the most dangers and risks posed by climate change, especially due to floods. Due to the country's high population density, climate change can render many people vulnerable because there are few opportunities to move internally (Agrawala et al., 2003:10). A case study in 2002 reveals that cyclones, droughts, floods and other extreme natural disasters have driven many Bangladeshis to flee their homes and to migrate to other areas (Brauch, 2002, cited in Alam, 2004:38). According to the World Development Report 2010, rising sea levels would submerge about 18 percent of Bangladesh's land. In turn, an estimated 30 million people would be displaced (Paul, 2010). This prospect will reverse the downward trend in internal displacement in Bangladesh. The World Development Report indicates that Bangladesh has

“seen a major reduction in its IDP population – from 500,000 in 2008 to around 60,000 in 2010” (IOM, 2010:264).

### POLICIES

#### ***Anti-trafficking law drafted***

The government has drafted an anti-trafficking law which will amend the 1933 Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, define human trafficking, create an anti-trafficking body, highlight the establishment of speedy tribunals and prohibit bail-outs of tracking offenders, among others (Palma, 2010). The draft Human Trafficking (Prevention and Protection) Act of 2011 defines human trafficking as the “sale or transfer of men and women by force, threats or cheating for sexual and commercial purposes or other forms of exploitation in or outside the country” (Palma, 2010). It aims to establish the National Human Trafficking Prevention Authority which would investigate human trafficking cases. The proposed law would also allow tribunals to pursue cases filed against officials, whether these are government-approved or not (Palma, 2010). The draft will be reviewed and then submitted to the cabinet.

#### ***Task force vs. unscrupulous agencies***

A task force under the Expatriates' Welfare Ministry has identified over a hundred names of recruitment agencies and travel agencies which have been linked to the illegal recruitment and unauthorized migration of Bangladeshi workers. Many Bangladeshis end up as unauthorized migrant workers in countries such as Malaysia, Libya, and Thailand (*bdnews24.com*, 27 December 2010). These cases are increasingly viewed through the lens of labor trafficking.

Actions to solve the unauthorized migration of workers are also aimed at encouraging labor-importing countries to hire more Bangladeshi workers. South Korea, for example, expressed interest in getting more Bangladeshi migrant workers after officials were assured that employment transfers of Bangladeshi workers will be controlled (*bdnews24.com*, 29 September 2010). The government recently imposed fines on those who transfer jobs prior to completing the work contract. The government also plans to hold talks with

Malaysia on the deployment of Bangladeshi migrant workers.

Reported cases of physical and sexual abuse of Bangladeshi domestic workers have also prompted the government to take over the pre-departure training programs previously handled by private agencies (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

#### ***Bilateral talks with Burma re Rohingya refugees***

Bangladeshi officials said they would hold bilateral talks with Burma to solve the issue of Rohingya refugees. In April 2010, the UNHCR asked the Bangladeshi government to accept some 400,000 Burmese refugees, most of whom are from the Muslim Rohingya group. The government, however, has refused the request, saying that many of these Burmese nationals were economic migrants. About 28,000 Burmese refugees were reportedly registered in two camps in Cox's Bazar (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010; 1-30 June 2010).

The government also maintained that it has provided adequate protection and shelter for the refugees and denied mistreatment. Rights groups claim that Rohingya refugees at the Bangladeshi-Burmese border are living in dire conditions and in makeshift camps that have been described as open-air prisons. The Physicians for Human Rights group says one in five refugees suffers from illnesses and malnutrition due to the lack of basic necessities and medical care (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

The Bangkok-based group Arakan Project also claims the government crackdown has driven unregistered Rohingya asylum seekers to makeshift camps near the Burmese border (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

#### ***Bangladesh-India border killings***

Bangladeshi and Indian officials are scheduled to meet early 2011 to discuss border security issues, including border killings which had received attention from the media and rights groups. Home secretaries are expected to discuss and resolve claims that Indian border guards have shot and killed several Bangladeshi cattle traders and civilians crossing the border (Ethirajan, 2011).

In a report released on 9 December 2010, HRW said that India's border guards or the Border Security Force (BSF) have shot down more than 900 Bangladeshis crossing the border into India for cattle trading, smuggling and other activities. Many of these people are civilians who have been killed due to "indiscriminate firing." HRW said India's BSF should be punished for abuse, torture and killing (*The Daily Star*, 10 December 2010).

The Bangladesh-India migration corridor is one of the top ten migration corridors in the world. Among Asian countries, this corridor has the highest migrant flows, with 3.5 million migrants in 2005, followed by India-UAE (2.2 million migrants), the Philippines-US and Afghanistan-Iraq (both at 1.6 million migrants) (IOM, 2010:167). This corridor may also account for a large portion of total undocumented migration in Asia. According to Hugo (2010, cited in IOM, 2010:167), the Bangladesh-India corridor involves "up to 17 million people."

## REFERENCES

- Agrawala, S., T. Ota, A.U. Ahmed, J. Smith and M. van Aalst  
2003 "Development and Climate Change in Bangladesh: Focus on Coastal Flooding and The Sundarbans." Environment Directorate. Development Co-operation Directorate. Working Party on Global and Structural Policies, Working Party on Development Co-operation and Environment. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/46/55/21055658.pdf>, accessed 31 August 2011.
- Alam, M.  
2004 "Capacity Strengthening in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC)." CLACC Working Paper No. 1: Bangladesh. International Institute for Environment and Development. Available at <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/100161IED.pdf>, accessed 31 August 2011.
- bdnews24.com*  
2010 "South Korea keen to import more workers," 29 September.
- 2010 "Errant manpower agents to be punished," 27 December.
- Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) n.d. "Overseas employment and remittances from 1976 to 2011." Available at <http://www.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/statisticalDataAction>, accessed 21 March 2012.
- Ethirajan, Anbarasan  
2011 "Bangladesh-India border deaths discussed," *BBC News*, 19 January.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.
- Palma, Porimol  
2010 "Tough anti-trafficking law in the offing," *The Daily Star*, 20 December.
- Paul, Bimal Kanti  
2010 "Climate refugees: The Bangladeshi Case," *The Daily Star*, 6 March.
- Reuters  
2010 "18.5 pc fall in Bangladeshis finding jobs abroad," *The Peninsula*, 6 October.
- The Daily Star*  
2010 "Call to enact separate law to address human trafficking," 15 February.
- 2010 "BSF routinely kills on border: US-based rights group spurs Dhaka to protect its nationals," 10 December.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	1,188.8
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.5
Percent urban (%)	29
Population per square kilometer	362
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	31
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	1.73 T
GDP growth (annual %)	8.8
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	3,550
Human development index (rank – value)	119 – 0.519
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	122 – 0.748
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	5.44 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	54.03 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	3,854
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	3,746
Refugees by origin	17,769
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	184,821
Emigration for employment: no. of workers	641,356

Sources: Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (2011), PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

*Migration and population trends*

India, the second most populous country after China (about 1.1 billion) (World Bank, 2010:138), continues to experience high levels of international migration. In 2010, the country was both a top emigration and top immigration country. In 2010, the stock number of emigrants from India was pegged at around 11.4 million, making it the second country with the highest

emigration numbers after Mexico (11.9 million) (World Bank, 2010:3).

Top destinations of emigrants from India are based in different regions. Popular destination countries include the following: the UAE, the US, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Nepal, the UK, Canada, Oman, Kuwait and Sri Lanka (World Bank, 2010:138).

Immigration to India is also noteworthy. India hosted 5.4 million immigrants, making it the 10th country with

the largest number of immigrants after the US, the Russian Federation, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Canada, the UK, Spain, France and Australia (World Bank, 2010: 4). Most of India's immigrants come from other countries in Asia, particularly Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burma, China, Malaysia, the UAE, Afghanistan and Bhutan (World Bank, 2010:138).

Migration corridors involving India involve large numbers of migrants. In 2010, the top migration corridors with the highest numbers of migrants included the following: Bangladesh-India (3.3 million), India-UAE (2.2 million), India-US (1.7 million), India-Saudi Arabia (1.5 million), Pakistan-India (1.2 million) and India-Bangladesh (1.1 million). Included in the top ten migration corridors was Bangladesh-India, which registered the fourth highest number of migrants after the corridors of Mexico-US, Russian-Federation-Ukraine, and Ukraine-Russian Federation (World Bank, 2010:5).

India remained the largest remittance recipient in the world in 2010, with inflows for the year estimated at around \$55 billion, up from \$49.6 billion in 2009 (World Bank, 2010:138). Remittances from North America registered the highest share at 38 percent, followed by those from the Gulf region and Europe at 27 and 18 percent, respectively (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

#### ***Findings from the "Migration in India 2007-08" survey***

In June 2010, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the "Migration in India 2007-08" report, which presents results from the 64th round of a household survey on "Employment and Unemployment & Migration Particulars." The survey covered a random sample of 572,254 persons, from 79,091 rural and 46,487 urban households. These households were selected from more than 7,900 villages and 4,600 urban blocks in India. The study collected data on household migration, short-term migration, out-migration and use of remittances sent home by out-migrants. Migration rates by social class were also part of the report (Mohapatra, 2010; Press Information Bureau, 2010).

Highlights of the report include the following:

- In 2008, 28.5 percent or around 325 million of the country's total population were migrants.
- Around 57 percent of urban migrant households came from rural areas while only 29 percent of rural migrant households came from urban areas. Employment was found to be the dominant reason for both rural-to-urban and urban-to-rural migration of households. Almost 55 percent of rural households and 67 percent of urban households migrated for employment reasons. The migration rate in urban areas was 35 percent compared with 26 percent in rural areas.
- Migration in India is largely within the same state. About 72 percent of migrant households in the urban areas and about 78 percent of those in rural areas were said to have moved within the same state.
- Female migration rates in rural and urban areas (48 percent and 46 percent, respectively) were higher compared to male migration rates (five percent and 26 percent, respectively).
- Men with higher income and education were more likely to migrate than those with less endowments,
- Marriage was found to be the most common reason for female migration: 91 percent rural female and 61 of urban female migrants cited marriage as their reason for migrating. On the other hand, employment reasons were the primary motivations for male migration – this was true for 29 percent of rural male migrants and 56 percent of urban male migrants.
- About 38 percent of Indians (four million) have migrated out of the country, which is lower than the 10 million international migrants based on World Bank data (Migration and Remittances Factbook 2008; Mohapatra, 2010).
- More remittances were sent home by international migrants than internal migrants. In 2007-08, international migrants sent an average of about \$1,148 (or Rs57,100) worth of remittances while internal migrants sent about \$363 (or around Rs14,600). On average, both international and internal migrants remit about five times a year.



***Irregular migration***

According to the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, as of May 2010, there were an estimated 20 million irregular or unauthorized migrants in India. India's open border with Bangladesh and Nepal facilitates migration (AMN, 1-31 May 2010). In Mumbai alone the State government estimates that there are more than 350,000 irregular migrants. In this year, the Ministry ordered a crackdown on such migrants, including those involved in producing fake documents (AMN, 1-28 February 2010). Thousands of foreigners have also overstayed in the country, and the numbers have been rising. According to the Home Ministry, as of 2008 there were more than 65,000 foreigners who overstayed in the country, mostly Afghans, Bangladeshis and Pakistanis. The figure is 12,000 more than the estimate from the previous year. Of the total, less than 14,000 were deported (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

Irregular or unauthorized from India is also significant. In the US, India is ranked as the sixth largest source of irregular migrants after Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Philippines. In 2009, more than 200,000 Indian migrants accounted for two percent of the estimated 10.8 million unauthorized migrants in the US. According to the US Department of Homeland Security, in the past 10 years the number of unauthorized Indian immigrants has increased by 64 percent (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

***Trafficking in persons***

The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* placed India in the Tier 2 Watch List for not having fully complied with minimum standards for combating trafficking, in terms of law enforcement, protection or prevention. This is India's seventh year in the watch list. The report nevertheless recognized the efforts of the government to eliminate sex trafficking, though it "has not demonstrated sufficient progress in its law enforcement, protection, or prevention efforts to address labor trafficking, particularly bonded labor" (USDS, 2010:172). Among others, the report noted the government's "weak" anti-trafficking infrastructure and the Bonded Labor (System) Abolition Act, the poor quality of shelters and the complicity of public officials (USDS, 2010:172). On the other hand, efforts of state

governments to improve law enforcement and expand anti-trafficking units were cited.

Steps forward include the following: to strengthen law enforcement against labor trafficking, bonded labor and sex trafficking; to strengthen the prosecution, conviction and punishment of errant officials; to further support anti-trafficking units, especially financially; to improve protection and compensation schemes; and to increase public awareness to help prevent labor and sex trafficking (USDS, 2010:172).

***Asylum seekers and refugees***

The number of asylum applications to India country has increased in the past two years, according to the UNHCR. Most of the applications were filed by Afghan and Burmese asylum-seekers. The current number of refugees in the country has been maintained at 185,000 (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

***Internal displacement***

According to the IDMC (2011), new displacements occurred in central India. More than 100,000 people were displaced due to "conflict between government forces and Maoist insurgents, ethnic conflicts in the country's north-eastern states, and by communal violence" (IDMC, 2011:14).

The number of IDPs in India was estimated at least 650,000 in 2010 – this figure is limited to those based and registered in camps. The actual figure is unknown because there is central monitoring agency and limited access to IDPs, but it is believed to be higher than the current estimate (IDMC, 2011:17).

**POLICIES*****Emigration Management Bill and Refugee and Asylum Seekers Bill***

The government is preparing a law to further improve mechanisms aimed at protecting Indian citizens abroad and preventing irregular migration. The draft of the Emigration Management Bill, which amends the 1983 Emigration Act, has already been sent to the Law and Home ministries. The law seeks to impose mandatory

enlistment of Indian migrant workers leaving for 18 destination countries, the signing of memoranda of understanding with countries in the Gulf region, and the introduction of pre-departure orientation seminars. If approved and enacted, the law provides for the establishment of on-site welfare centers and the formation of the Council for Overseas Employment, which will be responsible for developing policies concerning labor deployment and other concerns. It also contains provisions concerning crackdowns against human trafficking and regulating recruiting agencies (AMN, 1-31 March 2010; 1-31 May 2010).

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs criticized the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the slow progress of the bill and its inability to combat the exploitation and illegal recruitment of overseas jobseekers (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

The government is also preparing the first ever law on asylum seekers and refugees. Among others, the bill offers a definition of "refugee" and enumerates a refugee's rights and obligations (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

#### ***Improved visa issuance and registration of foreigners***

In April 2010, the government launched the Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration and Tracking Project, which provides an integrated service delivery for the visa issuance and registration procedures of foreigners in the country. The 4.5-year project includes online visa application services. Under this e-government project, immigration service offices will be linked with the Central Foreigners' Bureau (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

Authorities are studying how to integrate biometric machines in immigration procedures by 2014 to improve security. Once the scheme is implemented, foreigners will be required to submit fingerprints at the airport and key immigration checkpoints (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

#### ***Highly skilled migration and student migration***

India has appealed to the US to ease visa rules on migrant professionals to improve investment and trade

between the two countries. The government has also called on the Australian government to reconsider its decision to cut down the number of Indian nationals studying in Australia and the quota for its skilled occupation list (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

India will also have to adjust to the UK's decision to cap the number of highly skilled migrant workers from April 2011. Once the limit has been reached, skilled Indian professional workers will have to postpone entry into the UK for another year (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

India is a source of thousands of student, highly skilled and professional migrants. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2010), in 2008, there were 170,256 outbound students from India who were studying in different countries. The top destinations for outbound students were the US, Australia, the UK, New Zealand and Germany (UNESCO, 2010:180). The figure is higher compared to the 12,374 inbound mobile students India hosted in the same year. Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Oman, Qatar and the UAE are countries which list India as one of their five top destination countries for students (UNESCO, 2010:176-181).

In 2000, India was the top emigration country of physicians, with an estimated 20,300 migrant physicians abroad. The country's emigration rate of the tertiary-educated population was 4.3 percent (World Bank, 2010:138).

#### ***Welfare fund and overseas workers pension fund***

In August 2010, the government created a fund that to support welfare services to Indians abroad who are in need of assistance. Through the fund, India's mission in about 42 countries can help Indians in distress with assistance such as return air tickets, food, medical services and shelter (Press Trust of India, 2010b).

Beginning November 2010, overseas workers may only withdraw their contributions to the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme if they are at least 58 years old or on retirement due to infirmity or permanent incapacity to work (Press Trust of India, 2010a). Analysts say that this change was aimed at encouraging more social security pacts between India and receiving countries (Press Trust of India, 2010a).



***Visa rules for foreign workers, conference participants***

In May 2010, the government has scrapped the rule requiring that an IT company can only hire up to 20 foreign workers (AMN, 1-31 May 2010). In 2009, visa regulations were tightened after some 40,000 Chinese migrants holding business visas (rather than work visas) were found working in power plant construction. Authorities restricted the issuance of employment visas to skilled workers such as senior executives, managers and technical workers (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

The Home Ministry enforced stricter procedures in issuing visas to foreigners wanting to attend international conferences and seminars in India. Organizers of international fora must seek security clearances at least six weeks before their events, particularly for participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Sudan. For other foreign participants, they are required to present conference visas which can be sought in Indian missions in their respective countries. Participants will also be screened by the Home Ministry (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

**REFERENCES**

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

2011 Annual Report 2010-2011. Available at [http://moia.gov.in/writereaddata/pdf/Annual\\_Report\\_2010-2011.pdf](http://moia.gov.in/writereaddata/pdf/Annual_Report_2010-2011.pdf), accessed 21 March 2012.

Mohapatra, Sanket

2010 "Almost a third of Indians, or over 300 million people, are migrants." People Move: A blog about migration, remittances and development. World Bank. Available at <http://blogs.worldbank.org/peoplemove/node/1272>, accessed 3 October 2011.

Press Information Bureau, Government of India

2010 "Migration in India, 2007-08." Press Release. Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. Available at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=62559>, accessed 28 September 2011.

Press Trust of India

2010a "Govt tightens PF norms for overseas workers in India," *Economic Times*, 28 November.

2010b "Welfare fund to help overseas Indians in difficulty," *The Times of India*, 11 August.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

2010 *Global Education Digest 2010: Comparing Education Statistics Across the World*. Montreal, Canada: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	28.0
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.9
Percent urban (%)	17
Population per square kilometer	191
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	36
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	4.6
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	1,210
Human development index (rank – value)	138 – 0.428
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	110 – 0.716
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	945,865
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	3.47 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	1,177
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	938
Refugees by origin	5,884
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	87,514
Outflow of overseas workers (2009/10)	298,094
Total number of Nepalese workers deployed abroad up to mid-March 2008	1,13 M

Sources: Department of Foreign Employment (cited in *Nepalnews.com*, 21 July 2010), KC (2008), PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

As of mid-2010, Nepal's total population was estimated at 28 million, lower compared to 29.3 million in 2009. According to the World Bank, Nepal's emigration stock as of 2010 was around 982,000, with India, Qatar, the US, Thailand, the UK, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Brunei

Darussalam, Australia and Canada as the top destination countries. The country's immigration stock was recorded at 945,900, with India, Bhutan, Pakistan, China, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives and New Zealand as top source countries (World Bank, 2010:188). Nepal has the “most feminized migrant stock” worldwide, with female migrants accounting for 68.2 percent of the country's immigration stock (IOM, 2010:247).

In South Asia, Nepal was one of the top five remittance recipient countries in 2010, receiving about \$3.5 billion. Remittances sent home by Nepali workers remained high as a percentage of the country's GDP. In 2010, Nepal had one of the highest shares of remittances in relation to the country's GDP (23 percent). Other countries in the same category include Tajikistan (35 percent), Tonga (28 percent), Lesotho (25 percent) and Moldova (23 percent) (World Bank, 2010:14).

### **Labor deployment in 2010/11**

Despite the impact of the recent global economic crisis, Nepal's overseas labor deployment increased. In the first four months of fiscal year 2010/11, the number of deployed Nepali workers abroad rose by 34 percent to 102,417, from 76,196 in the same period the previous year. During the period, the top destination countries for Nepali workers were Malaysia (42,454 workers), Qatar (22,642 workers) and the UAE (12,593). These figures were higher compared to the same period the previous year. On the other hand, deployment to Saudi Arabia decreased from 19,676 to 18,019 (*Republica*, 20 November 2010).

In February 2010, the Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies said that the demand for Nepali workers has grown – Malaysia reportedly approved about 100,000 visas for Nepali workers while Qatar said it is interested to hire more Nepalis to work as security guards (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010). The government also wants South Korea to increase the quota for hiring migrant workers (Ghimire, 2011). Deployment of workers is expected to further increase in 2011. The Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE) said it has been issuing an average of 1,000 work permits daily. Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Qatar and the UAE are major countries of destination of Nepali workers (*Himalayan News Service*, 2010b).

Where abuses had been reported, the government has suspended the issuance of work permits, such as the case of Libya. In August 2010, the government stopped the issuance of work permits because of cases of stranded workers and delayed or non-payment of wages. In 2009-10, 1,622 workers were deployed to Libya (*Republica*, 22 August 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* has given Nepal a Tier 2 ranking, based on the observation that the country “does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.” The report mentions Nepal's “modest effort” to prosecute traffickers and provide resources for NGO rehabilitation centers, though it recognizes the country's effort to fight trafficking with limited resources (USDS, 2010:246).

Nepal is mostly a source country for trafficked men, women and children, who are subjected to forced labor or sexual exploitation. There have also been reports of increasing “transnational and domestic trafficking,” though data are lacking. Many Nepali women are forced into prostitution and servitude in Nepal, India, Malaysia, Hong Kong SAR, South Korea and the Gulf countries, among others. Nepali boys are trafficked as forced laborers within the country, either in domestic work or in brick kiln and textile industries. Trafficking within the country is said to be run by “well-organized syndicates that are often family-based and involved in other criminal activities such as drug trafficking” (USDS, 2010:246).

According to the trafficking report, the DoFE estimates that over three million Nepalis have migrated abroad to countries other than those in India. India remains the most popular destination for Nepali workers. Many Nepali migrants face conditions of illegal recruitment, forced labor and human trafficking.

## **POLICIES**

### **Measures to reduce irregular migration**

In November 2010, the government enforced new measures to curb irregular migration. According to the Ministry of Labor and Transport Management (MoLTM), over 1.7 million Nepalese have secured employment abroad through legal channels, but the total number of the country's migrant workers could double if figures for unauthorized migrant workers were included (Rai, 2010). One concern is the rising practice of hiring foreign workers who have not secured any labor permits from MoLTM (*Republica*, 21 November 2010).

On 22 December 2010, the Ministry of Finance transferred Rs10 million to the MoLTM to repatriate Nepali migrant workers who sought overseas employment abroad through irregular processes, as well as to facilitate the return of the bodies of deceased undocumented migrant workers. The Foreign Employment Promotion Board (FEPB), which is in charge of rescuing irregular migrants, said the money would aid their operations and hoped this provision would continue in the future (Rai, 2010).

Nepal's Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal in October 2010 ordered a ban on visit visas issued to Nepali workers departing for the Gulf countries, especially women. In a meeting with the secretaries of the Home Ministry, Labor Ministry and Foreign Ministry, the Prime Minister urged for a verification of documents by Nepali missions in destination countries before workers are issued visit visas (Ghimire, 2010c).

In Kuwait alone, some 300 Nepali brokers were blamed for the illegal deployment of Nepali women. The practice continues despite measures requiring the verification of documents of domestic workers prior to visa processing, and requiring employers and brokers to provide workers with an insurance policy, as well as legal assistance. The Nepal mission to Kuwait has called on the Kuwaiti government to investigate brokers and to reduce the number of local recruiting agencies. Of some 40,000 Nepalis working in Kuwait, about 33,000 are domestic workers (Ghimire, 2010b). According to Nepali ambassador to Kuwait Madhuwan Poudel, about 80 percent of the estimated 42,000 Nepalis working in Kuwait are in an irregular situation (*Nepalnews.com*, 4 November 2010).

Destination countries, such as Macau SAR, South Korea, Israel and the UK, have also introduced stricter measures aiming to control the inflow of irregular migration.

- Beginning July 2010, Macau has stopped issuing on-arrival visas to Nepali citizens. Nepalis going to Macau must obtain visas from the Chinese embassy.
- There are about 2,500 overstaying Nepali workers in South Korea. The South Korean government started the crackdown and de-

portation of overstaying migrant workers in October 2009. The Nepali government has called on its embassy in South Korea to persuade the overstayers to return home (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010).

- In October 2010, Malaysia decided to immediately deport foreign workers who were found stranded at the airport for 72 hours, a departure from the previous practice of transferring apprehended workers to deportation camps for seven days. According to the Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies, this move is intended to discourage unscrupulous manpower agencies from allowing foreign workers to be left stranded at the airport for days. As of October, there were 150 Nepali workers staying at these deportation camps. The Malaysian government also stopped issuing calling visas for Nepali workers to curb the practice of workers changing employers after arriving in Malaysia (Ghimire, 2010a).
- Israel continues to ban the hiring of Nepali migrant workers since April 2009 (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010). Nepalis comprise some 3,000 out of an estimated 100,000 unauthorized migrant workers in Israel (*The Himalayan Times*, 24 January 2011).
- In January 2010, the UK temporarily suspended the issuance of student visas to applicants from Nepal, as well as those from Northern India and Bangladesh. A probe into the rise in the number of student applicants from these countries was carried out. More than 6,000 out of 24,000 Nepali overseas went to Britain in 2009 (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

Concerns over irregular migration also apply to inward migration. Business consultancy firms in Nepal are currently under investigation for allegedly illegally providing Chinese nationals with business visas (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

### ***Minimum wages for Nepali workers in Qatar***

The government has set the minimum wage levels for less-skilled, semi-skilled and skilled Nepali workers in Qatar. Salaries for less-skilled workers such as domestic workers, cleaners and watchmen have been set at

Rs16,000 (or \$225) a month; semi-skilled workers' minimum wage has been fixed at Rs20,000 (or \$282) a month; Rs26,000 to Rs38,000 (or \$367 to \$536) a month for skilled work; and Rs110,000 (or about \$1,552) for highly skilled workers. The government is exploring to raise the minimum wages of Nepali workers in other destination countries (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

#### ***Welfare services for migrant workers and their families***

The FEPB allotted a budget of Rs212 million to cover education, health and skills training programs for migrant workers' welfare. These are new areas which cater specifically to Nepali migrant workers and their families. The board has also allocated funds for families of deceased migrant workers and for the reunification of female migrants with their families (*Himalayan News Service*, 2010a; Joshi, 2010).

#### **REFERENCES**

Ghimire, Prabhakar

2011 "Nepal wants more quotas for Korean jobs," *Republica*, 23 August.

2010a "Malaysia to deport workers unvouched for in 72 hours," *Republica*, 22 October.

2010b "Over 300 Nepali workers active in Kuwait," *Republica*, 4 November.

2010c "'Stop departure of workers on visit visas,'" *Republica*, 26 October.

*Himalayan News Service*

2010a "Govt supports 179 migrant workers: 143 contributors and 36 non-contributors benefit," *The Himalayan Times*, 25 November.

2010b "Nepali workers in demand: Current trend reveals that most host countries more interested," *The Himalayan Times*, 29 November.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

Joshi, Yadav Raj

2010 "Rs 212 million for migrant workers' welfare," *The Himalayan Times*, 12 September.

KC, Bal Kumar

2008 "Nepal," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 17(3-4):287-309.

*Nepalnews.com*

2010 "Departures of Nepali workers soar by 35.42 percent," 21 July.

2010 "80 percent of Nepali workers in Kuwait illegal," 4 November.

Rai, Om Astha

2010 "Govt to rescue illegal workers abroad," *Republica*, 22 December.

*Republica*

2010 "Govt stops permits for work in Libya," 22 August.

2010 "Nepal's labor export up by 34 percent," 20 November.

2010 "'Work permit mandatory for foreign workers,'" 21 November.

*The Himalayan Times*

2011 "3,000 Nepalis illegal in Israel," 24 January.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	184.8
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.3
Percent urban (%)	35
Population per square kilometer	232
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	35
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	176.87 B
GDP growth (annual %)	4.1
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	2,790
Human development index (rank – value)	125 – 0.490
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	112 – 0.721
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	4.23 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	9.69 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	952,035
Asylum-seekers by origin	19,983
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	2,095
Refugees by origin	33,591
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	1.9 M
Outflow of overseas workers (2009)	403,528
Number of overseas workers deployed (2006)	183,191

Sources: Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Workers (cited in Aftab, 2010), PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Of Pakistan's estimated total population of 184.8 million as of mid-2010, the stock of emigrants and immigrants constitute a small number. In 2010, there were around 4.7 million emigrants from Pakistan, accounting for 2.5 percent of the total population. The top destination countries include India, Saudi Arabia, the

UAE, Kuwait and Oman. Italy and the US were also popular destinations. The percentage of immigrants was slightly lower at 2.3 percent, with about 4.2 million immigrants recorded. Nearly half of the immigrants were refugees (49.9 percent). Almost half of the immigrants were women (44.7 percent).

Pakistan is a major destination and source country of international migrants. In 2010, Pakistan was the 13th top destination country in the world, with about 4.2

million immigrants (World Bank, 2010:1). It was ranked the seventh country with the highest number of emigrants at 4.7 million, after Mexico, India, the Russian Federation, China, Ukraine and Bangladesh (World Bank, 2010:3).

In 2010, the Pakistan-India and Pakistan-Saudi Arabia corridors were relatively high, involving about 1.2 million and one million migrants respectively (World Bank, 2010:5).

### **Remittances**

Total inward remittance flows to Pakistan in 2010 were estimated at \$9.4-\$9.69 billion, making the country the 11th top remittance recipient after the following countries: India, China, Mexico, Philippines, France, Germany, Bangladesh, Belgium, Spain and Nigeria (World Bank, 2012; 2010:13).

According to analysts, the rise in remittances can be attributed to return investments made by Pakistanis based abroad. On the other hand, the State Bank of Pakistan believes remittances had increased due to the Pakistan Remittance Initiative, a joint initiative by the bank and the Finance and Overseas Pakistani ministries that aims to facilitate remittance flows through formal channels (*The News International*, 12 January 2011).

### **Human trafficking in persons**

Pakistan was ranked Tier 2 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, an improvement over the Tier 2 Watch List ranking in 2009. According to the report, Pakistan still has not complied with the minimum standards in fighting human trafficking, despite recognizable efforts. No criminal convictions have been made, and processes necessary to identify and protect trafficked victims are lacking. Recommendations of the report include "increasing law enforcement activities, including criminal punishment for labor and sex traffickers," conducting investigations that would convict and prosecute all public officials engaging in human trafficking and bonded labor, and to improve processes of identifying victims of trafficking among vulnerable persons (USDS, 2010:261).

It is believed that there are over 600 trafficking syndicates in Pakistan. Transport routes used by these syndicates allegedly include the air route in Punjab, the coastal belt from Karachi to Balochistan, as well as cities such as Lahore, Gujrat, Sialkot, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala and Mandi Bahauddin. Traffickers also frequently transport people to the Gulf area through Karachi and Gwadar, according to the Pakistan Thematic Group on Human Trafficking. Pakistan's Coast Guard admits that they do not have enough manpower or resources to combat human trafficking along these coastal borders (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

In 2009, around 1,212 human trafficking cases were filed in Pakistan's court, which resulted in 353 convictions and 78 acquittals. The rest of the cases remain pending. In 2008, only 791 cases were filed in court.

### **Refugees**

In 2010, Pakistan was the second major destination for refugees (2.1 million), after Jordan (2.5 million). Refugees in Pakistan account for around 50 percent of the country's immigrant stock (World Bank, 2010:7-8).

According to the UNHCR, in 2008 Pakistan hosted the largest number of refugees with 1.8 million, followed by Syria at 1.1 million and Iran at 980,000 (UNHCR, 2009, cited in IOM, 2010:119). Most of the refugees in Pakistan are from Afghanistan (IOM, 2010:175).

The United Nations said that beginning March 2010, it would start repatriating Afghan refugees in Pakistan following the end of the registration for repatriation. The agency aims to help the repatriation of around 1.7 million Afghans (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

### **Internal displacement**

As of December 2010, the United Nations and several agencies estimated the number of the internally displaced in Pakistan at about 980,000, mostly due to the 2004 conflict in Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the recent flooding between July and August 2010 (IDMC, 2011:92).

Pakistan has one of the largest populations of internally displaced people, after Colombia, Sudan, Iraq, the



Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia (IDMC, 2011:15). It is also one of the countries with at least 200,000 newly displaced people recorded in 2010 (IDMC, 2011:8). In 2009, there were an estimated three million internally displaced Pakistanis, the highest recorded that year. The large IDP population was linked to conflict due to the Taliban insurgency and the instability of security in the country (AMN, 1-31 May 2010; *Daily Times*, 18 May 2010).

The numbers of internally displaced children remain high. According to the IDMC, over two million children fled their homes in north-west Pakistan from August 2008 to mid-2010. It was reported that as of mid-2010, about 800,000 children were still displaced, while returnees are still struggling with destroyed homes and schools, with some facing risks of early marriage or child labor (IDMC, 2011b).

The displacement and destruction caused by massive floods brought about by heavy monsoon rains in August 2010 had been enormous. By the end of August, more than 1,600 people were believed to be dead and more than 17 million were affected (Associated Press, 2010). Estimates of affected people later on reached more than 20 million (Walsh, 2011). With the floods damaging homes and whole villages submerged under water, millions of people have fled their communities, causing mass internal movements.

The floods have also put millions of people's lives at risk. In Sindh province, considered as having one of the highest poverty levels in Asia, some villages were still under water six months after the floods. A Floods Assessment Needs survey showed that almost a quarter of children under five were malnourished and six percent were malnourished (Walsh, 2011).

International aid has been lower than expected, with the United Nations warning that emergency workers may be overwhelmed due to limited capacity. In August, Oxfam noted the inflow of aid for the floods in Pakistan was lower compared to contributions for other disasters during the same period (Tisdall and Rahman, 2010).

## POLICIES

### *Policy for overseas nationals, talks with the UAE*

Pakistan plans to draft the first policy for overseas nationals, which would deal with incentives in remittance exchange, rebates in customs duties and the provision of land for overseas Pakistanis in Islamabad. The policy also aims to allow children of overseas Pakistanis to study in local schools (AMN, 1-31 May 2010; Qudoos, 2010).

In October 2010, the talks between the Interior Ministry and the UAE resulted in the latter agreeing to allow Pakistanis to enter the country using manual passports. The talks also covered the extradition of prisoners in both countries, cooperation on the war against terrorism, and problems faced by Pakistanis based in the UAE (*Daily Times*, 6 October 2010).

## REFERENCES

- Aftab, Muhammad  
2010 "Comment: Manpower export slows down," *Daily Times*, 25 October.
- Associated Press (AP)  
2010 "Pakistan floods: Thousands return to historic city as levees keep water at bay," *Guardian.co.uk*, 30 August.
- Daily Times*  
2010 "Pakistanis suffered most displacement in 2009," 18 May.
- 
- "UAE agrees to allow entry for Pakistanis on manual passports," 6 October.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

Qudoos, Mohammad Abdul

2010 "Pakistan to prepare policy for overseas nationals," *Khaleej Times*, 28 May.

*The News International*

2011 "Remittances rise by 16.8pc to reach \$5.9bn in first half," 12 January.

Tisdall, Simon and Maseeh Rahman

2010 "Pakistan flood toll rises but international aid fails to flow," *Guardian.co.uk*, 10 August.

Walsh, Declan

2011 "Pakistan flood crisis as bad as African famines, UN says," *Guardian.co.uk*, 27 January.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	20.7
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.2
Percent urban (%)	15
Population per square kilometer	315
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	25
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	49.55 B
GDP growth (annual %)	8.0
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	5,010
Human development index (rank – value)	91 – 0.658
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	72 – 0.599
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	339,915
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	4.16 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	273,772
Asylum-seekers by origin	8,563
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	138
Refugees by origin	141,063
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	223
Departures for foreign employment (provisional)	266,445

Sources: PRB (2010), SLBFE (2011), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

In 2010, Sri Lanka's stock emigrant population was reported at around 1.8 million, making up 9.1 percent of the country's population, which in 2009 was estimated at 20.3 million (and 20.7 by mid-2010). Top destination countries were mostly in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE. Canada, Australia, Italy and the UK were also popular destinations (World Bank, 2010:228).

The stock immigrant population, on the other hand, was estimated at around 339,900, accounting for only 1.7 percent of the population. Of this immigrant stock, 49.8 percent was reported to be female. Top source countries included India, Australia, France, the UK, China, Sweden, Malaysia, Germany, the US and Pakistan (World Bank, 2010:228).

### *Remittances and deployment*

Sri Lankan workers remitted \$4.16 billion in 2010 (World Bank, 2012). Another source reported a lower

amount, \$3.8 billion (Daily News, 8 January 2011). The 2010 figure represents an increase compared to \$3.3 billion in 2009 and \$2.9 billion in 2008 (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

With the country's migrant workforce of around 1.3-1.8 million, remittances sent home have raised foreign revenues. It has also encouraged the government to look for more markets for overseas workers, such as the recent interest in sending workers to Libya, which is currently undertaking large-scale construction projects.

In 2010, around 15,000 Sri Lankan migrant workers were hired in Qatar, which has opened up its labor market to foreign workers for the country's projects.

Some 300 agricultural workers from Sri Lanka are also expected to secure jobs in Israel through a joint project between the governments of Israel and Sri Lanka. This is in addition to the estimated 5,000 Sri Lankan workers already based in Israel (AP, 2010).

#### **Domestic worker abuse**

The abuse and torture suffered by a Sri Lankan domestic worker under Saudi Arabian employers has caught the attention of human rights groups and the media, emphasizing the plight of many female migrant workers in the Gulf region. L. P. Ariyawathie returned from Riyadh in August traumatized from experiences of maltreatment and physical abuse from her employers in Saudi Arabia. Doctors at a local hospital surgically removed around 18 nails and other metallic particles from her forehead, arms and legs, which were driven and hammered by the employers. It was reported by the end of August that the employers had been arrested, and that the Sri Lankan government had sent a detailed report to Saudi Arabian authorities (Athas, 2010; Gunasekera, 2010).

Cases of domestic worker abuse and ill-treatment are rampant among migrant workers based in the Gulf Region, especially countries like Saudi Arabia. From the year up to July 2010 alone, over 2,000 runaway Sri Lankan migrant workers were repatriated from Saudi Arabia, most of them domestic or unskilled workers who escaped from their employers or recruitment

agencies' ill treatment (*Sunday Observer*, 21 November 2010).

#### **Trafficking in persons**

Sri Lanka maintained its Tier 2 Watch List ranking in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. This is the fourth consecutive year the country has been placed on the watch list. According to the report, Sri Lanka, which is considered primarily a source country of trafficked victims, "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so" (USDS, 2010:302). During the year, the government created a law that reinforces the prosecution of unscrupulous recruitment agencies and provided training on identifying trafficked victims, though outcomes have not shown progress. Some rehabilitation and reintegration for child soldiers were conducted, but there has not been any significant progress in identifying, convicting and punishing trafficked offenders (USDS, 2010:302).

#### **Tamil asylum seekers**

Although the war between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had ended in 2009, many Sri Lankan Tamils continue to seek for refuge.

On 12 August, a cargo vessel carrying 490 Sri Lankan Tamil migrants arrived in British Columbia, Canada after travelling by sea for three months. The Canada Border Services Agency had processed most of the migrants, including women and children. However, police investigated whether there was human smuggling involved and whether some of the migrants were members of the LTTE, which has been banned in Canada as a terrorist organization (AFP, 2010). In 2009, the 26-year war between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers ended, with losses including 7,000 civilian lives, according to the United Nations (AFP, 2010; *LankaNewspapers.com*, 31 July 2010).

In October, 85 Sri Lankan asylum seekers heading to Australia's Christmas Island were rescued by Indonesian police after their boat's engine failed. They were rescued on an island near the Krakatau Volcano. They were then transferred and detained at the Indonesian

immigration center. Investigations revealed the boat migrants left their country on August 31. It is believed that the migrants paid a smuggler for their journey from Sri Lanka to Christmas Island. Around three people died (*Daily News*, 22 October 2010).

In November, some 155 Sri Lankan Tamil asylum seekers who were planning to migrate to Canada via a smuggling syndicate were arrested in Thailand. The incident has reinforced the Canadian government's resistance to demands of "softening legislation that would punish asylum-seekers who pay smugglers to get to Canada" (*Daily News*, 3 November 2010).

In December, about 100 Sri Lankans staying in an apartment in Bangkok were arrested for unauthorized entry into Thailand. The arrested migrants, including children and elderly, were brought to the immigration office for questioning and for repatriation (MCOT Online News, 8 December 2010). Aside from Thailand, Indonesia and Laos were also believed to be transit points for irregular migrants and LTTE members who fled Sri Lanka (Fernando, 2010).

## POLICIES

### ***Online database of Sri Lankan migrant workers***

The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) has launched an Internet networking system which collects information and keeps track of Sri Lankan migrant workers based overseas. The system will also allow foreign recruitment agencies in Sri Lanka to keep tabs on their migrant workers and to get in touch with the Sri Lankan embassy. Jobseekers can also use the data system to look up licensed recruitment agencies. The program aims to ensure the protection and safety of Sri Lankan workers abroad, especially those based in the Middle East (Kannangara, 2010).

### ***Voting rights, reintegration programs and services***

The Justice and Law Reforms ministry said it will pursue a proposed policy that would allow Sri Lankan migrants abroad to vote in the elections (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010).

In 2010, the SLBFE started a program that facilitates the registration of return migrants for reintegration and

provides them with assistance and services upon their arrival. According to the bureau, over 50,000 former migrant workers had already registered with them (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

Repatriations of migrant workers due to complaints and problems regarding employers and work conditions have consistently been reported. Many Sri Lankan workers – mostly female domestic workers based in the Gulf countries – have been brought back home due to reports of abuse and poor labor conditions. In March 2010, some 70 female migrant workers were repatriated from Kuwait; they complained of harassment by their employers (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010). Sixty-nine female migrants based in Saudi Arabia were also brought home.

### ***Policy addressing the health of migrants***

The government plans to draft a policy to promote the health of migrants by disseminating health and safety guidelines to Sri Lankan migrant workers headed abroad and foreign workers based in the country. The policy has a focus on migrant workers based in the Gulf region due to the high incidence of work-related cases and complaints (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

### ***Inter-agency task force against trafficking***

In April 2010, the government formed an inter-agency task force against human trafficking. It is also planning to set up border protection units in transport hubs such as the Bandarnaike International Airport and harbors through which trafficked victims may pass (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

Related to this, the recently formed Coast Guard Force is expected to tighten security along Sri Lanka's eastern shores, which are known as departure or transit points for human smuggling and irregular migration to countries such as Australia and New Zealand (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

### ***Resettlement of IDPs***

In March 2010, the government announced that it was resettling the remaining 76,205 IDPs, with each family receiving six months' worth of food, money amounting to Rs25,000 (\$220), building materials and cooking

utensils. Authorities said that so far, they have already facilitated the resettlement of some 193,607 refugees in nine districts (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

## REFERENCES

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

2010 "Tamil migrants in good condition – Canada," *Inquirer.net*, 15 August.

Associated Press (AP)

2010 "Jobs for Lankans in Israel," *Sunday Observer*, 31 October.

Athas, Iqbal

2010 "Arrests made in maid's nail torture, Sri Lankan officials say," *CNN.com*, 30 August.

*Daily News*

2011 "Foreign remittances US \$3.8 bn in 2010," 8 January.

---

2010 "Lankan asylum seekers bound for Australia?" 22 October.

---

2010 "Canada firms laws against asylum seekers," 3 November.

Fernando, Manjula

2010 "Indonesia, Laos: Transit hubs for illegal immigrants," *Sunday Observer*, 24 October.

Gunasekera, Mel

2010 "Nail torture case shines light on Asia's migrant maids," *Agence France-Presse, Inquirer.net*, 15 September.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

Kannangara, Ananda

2010 "Data system to keep tab on migrant workers," *Sunday Observer*, 24 October.

*LankaNewspapers.com*

2010 "British Gov't prepared for arrival of Sri Lankan migrant ship," 31 July.

*MCOT Online News*

2010 "100 Sri Lankans arrested for illegal entry to kingdom," 8 December.

Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE)

2011 *Annual Statistical Report of Foreign Employment 2010*. Available at <http://www.slbfe.lk/downloads/eps/stat10.pdf>, accessed 22 March 2012.

*Sunday Observer*

2010 "Over 2,000 Lankans repatriated from Saudi," 21 November.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA**





## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	0.4
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.3
Percent urban (%)	72
Population per square kilometer	66
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	26
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	37 – 0.805
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	148,123
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	1
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	1
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	-

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Brunei Darussalam in 2010 registered an estimated population of 400,000, of which 148,100 were immigrants from top source countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, Indonesia. Other top source countries of immigrants in the high-income, oil-rich country were the UK, China, Singapore and Sri Lanka. On the other hand, the stock emigrant figure was estimated at 24,300, lower than the immigrant stock. Top destinations for Brunei nationals were mostly

developed countries such as Australia, Canada, the UK, the US, as well as other countries such as Germany, Ireland, Malaysia, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

According to Brunei Social Welfare Council President Hjh Mordiah Hj Jackia, Brunei will be facing an aging population due to the country's low birth rate and longer life expectancy. This will pose a problem especially with regards to caring for the elderly. Brunei will share the same problem as other countries with aging societies, such as Japan and Korea (Shen, 2010).

### ***Trafficking in persons***

Brunei was placed in the Tier 2 Watch List in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, breaking the country's Tier 2 ranking in the past years. According to the report, the government has failed to "fully comply" with the minimum standards for combating trafficking despite recognized efforts to do so. Brunei has not been active in identifying traffickers and trafficked victims, and has never prosecuted a trafficking case (USDS, 2010:92).

Brunei is primarily a destination country for trafficked men and women, especially from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand – mostly South and Southeast Asian countries. Many of the trafficked victims head to Brunei to land in domestic work or other low-skilled occupations, but end up being forced to work with debt bondage, non-payment of wages, passport confiscation, home confinement and contract switching, all of which are "factors that may contribute to trafficking." There are reports of women forced into prostitution in Brunei, and reports that women arrested for prostitution attest to having been victims of trafficking" (USDS, 2010:92). Brunei is also a source and transit country, but to a lesser extent. Victims from Malaysia and the Philippines are sent to Brunei for "work permit re-authorization" before being returned to Malaysia (USDS, 2010:92).

Brunei's first human trafficking case is set to be finalized with a verdict on 22 January 2011. If convicted, Shardali Mohd Ali, 55, will be sentenced with 10 years in prison and will be fined \$50,000, in accordance with the Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons Order 2004. This would also stand as the first prosecuted trafficking case in the country. The Malaysian national was arrested in June 2010 and has been on trial for forging a travel document to smuggle an Afghan national into Australia via Brunei as the transit country (Bandial, 2010).

### ***Unauthorized foreign workers***

Business licenses granted to locals are actually being used by shop owners who are unauthorized foreign workers in Brunei, according to Minister of Home Affairs Pehin Dato Hj Badaruddin. In the past two decades, policies geared towards national development included

providing more opportunities for Brunei locals to participate in economic activities. Locals who wanted to run businesses were granted land and business licenses. However, the shops later on were leased out to other people, who were registered with the Labour Department as employees of the original applicants, many of whom were foreigners. The ministry is trying to find new ways to ensure that the licenses are not passed on to foreigners (Masli, 2010).

## **POLICIES**

### ***Locals urged to consider private sector jobs***

According to a 2008 census report, the total number of foreign workers in Brunei's private sector slightly increased to 87,867 in 2008 from 86,502 in 2007. About 28.4 percent of workers in the commerce, insurance and financial service industries and 31 percent of workers in the oil and gas industry were foreign workers while some 49 percent of the workforce in the communications and transport sectors were locals. More foreigners were working in the construction industry (88.8 percent) and in cafes, restaurants and hotels (70.5 percent). The Ministry of Home Affairs is encouraging locals to take on private sector jobs in spite of the popular mindset of seeking jobs in the government sector (Kon, 2010b).

### ***New minimum wage policy***

Brunei is considering changing the minimum wage for workers, a move that will have a significant impact on unskilled foreign workers. Businessmen have expressed support for the proposal, though they emphasized a gradual implementation to avoid inflation. A proposal to set equal wage rates between government and private sector employees was also raised for consideration in the State Legislative Council (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

### ***New border control post***

The Brunei government in May 2010 officially began the \$6-million project to a new and upgraded border control post in Puni, Temburong District (Kon, 2010c). The upgraded border control post should be ready by 27 July 2011. Once operational, it is expected to efficiently and systematically manage the increasing flows

of people into and out of Sarawak (Yaakub and Radhi, 2010).

This is considered the first major upgrade of immigration facilities in more than 30 years. According to Immigration and National Registration Acting Director Ahmaddin Hj Abdul Rahman, the number of visitors in Temburong has risen to at least 650,000 visitors in 2009, from 632,578 in 2008 and 230,626 in 2007.

#### **Raids vs. unauthorized migrants**

Immigration Department authorities regularly conducted raids and routine checks on unauthorized migrants throughout the year as a warning to employers and unauthorized foreign workers. Many arrests were due to foreigners failing to present proper and valid documents regarding their stay in the country and overstaying. Others were compounded for working at a job other than what is indicated in their work passes, for working in the country on social visit passes or for working with other companies or employers not stated in their work passes (Absah, 2010). Investigations on labor cases were also conducted (Kon, 2010a).

#### **REFERENCES**

Absah, Hj Minor

2010 "Busy start to 2010 for Immigration & National Registration Department," *Brunei fm*, 29 March.

Bandial, Quratul-ain

2010 "Verdict on human trafficking case set for January 22," *Brunei fm*, 31 December.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

Kon, James

2010a "16 Chinese workers left in limbo," *Brunei fm*, 18 May.

2010b "Locals urged to aspire for foreign-dominated jobs," *Brunei fm*, 14 April.

2010c "Temburong to get new control post next year," *Brunei fm*, 18 May.

Masli, Ubaidillah

2010 "Concern over illegal foreign workers," *The Brunei Times*, 9 December.

Shen, Koo Jin

2010 "Brunei facing ageing population," *The Brunei Times*, 22 November.

Yaakub, Izam Said and Adam Radhi

2010 "Temburong border post gets upgrade," *Brunei fm*, 18 May.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	53.4
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.9
Percent urban (%)	31
Population per square kilometer	79
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	26
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	10.4
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	1,950
Human development index (rank – value)	132 – 0.451
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	88,695
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	132.99 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	62,015
Asylum-seekers by origin	22,300
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	215,644
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	-

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

By mid-2010, Burma's population was estimated at 53.4 million, up from 50 million in 2009 (PRB, 2010; World Bank, 2010:186). As of 2008, the country's labor force was recorded at 27.5 million, around 55 percent of the total population (World Bank, 2010:186).

The stock of Burmese emigrants in 2010 was estimated at 514,200, accounting for one percent of the population. Top destination countries included Thailand, the

US, India, Malaysia, Australia, the UK, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea and Germany (World Bank, 2010:186). Thailand is a popular destination for Burmese migrants, where many workers face problems related to border issues and work conditions, among others.

The stock of immigrants in Burma numbered around 88,700, far lower than the emigration figure. Top source countries were Asian countries, particularly China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Nearly half of immigrants – 48.7 percent – were female (World Bank, 2010:186).

### ***Thai-Burmese border issues***

In 2010, there were reports from Myawaddy-based sources that the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army has been extorting money from deported Burmese migrants and trafficking them along the Thai-Burmese border. The checkpoint, locally known as “Gate Zero,” has become a main deportation site for unauthorized migrant workers arrested in Thailand (*The Irrawaddy*, 29 June 2010). It is located at the Moei River, which is covered by the army's 999 battalion. In July, a team of officers from Burma's capital Naypyidaw was sent to the border at Myawaddy to investigate the allegations (Ellgee, 2010).

Burmese migrants at the Thai-Burmese border also face a health crisis. In October, border migrants with HIV and tuberculosis risked losing their supply of medicines, with the pull-out of an international NGO providing the drugs. The Mae Tao Clinic, which provides medical services to migrants and displaced people at the border, said that without a sure supply of the drugs, they will not be able to sustain the needed regimen for patients (*Asia Sentinel*, 10 December 2010).

### ***Border passports system***

In March, more than 100 Burmese migrants were cheated of their money when an unscrupulous border passport agency stopped operations and disappeared after collecting fees. The company began operations in Ranong province, Southern Thailand in 2009, charging each migrant 4,800 baht (\$145) in exchange for a border passport. But the company disappeared after it had collected an estimated 500,000 baht (\$15,000) from the migrants. Many Burmese migrant workers pass through Ranong province to work in other provinces (Ba, 2010).

A border passports system jointly formed by the Burmese and Thai governments aims to combat human smuggling and trafficking in Thailand by requiring Burmese migrant workers to go through three border points within Burma – namely Myawaddy, Tachilek and Kawthaung – and to be represented by Thai companies working as border passport agents when they return to the border (Ba, 2010).

Migrants groups have criticized the Burmese and Thai governments' lack of information dissemination and guidelines on the official border passports system. This was the first incident of a border passport agency scam (Ba, 2010).

### ***Burmese migrants protest in Malaysia and Thailand***

In February 2010, almost a thousand Burmese migrant detainees in a Malaysian camp went on a hunger strike to protest overcrowding and lack of water. They also demanded access to the UNHCR. The Lenggeng camp, which has a capacity of 1,250, was holding about 1,430 migrants as of August 2009 (Allchin, 2010).

On 27 October, dozens of Burmese refugees and migrant workers staged protests at the UN regional complex in Bangkok out of “the perceived lack of interest” of the UN in addressing the issues they confront in Thailand. The protests were held despite a police ban due to the Bangkok visit of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon (Shwe, 2010).

Protests by Burmese workers of Dechapanich Fishing Net Factory in northeast Thailand expanded from a call for better work conditions and rights to a demand for labor documents. In September, the workers ended a two-week strike for better worker's rights after both parties agreed to a settlement, with the company returning the documents of 569 workers. They were given the recommendation letters they requested from the company which they need to apply for other jobs. However, some 379 workers said they have not received their documents, and thus, were unable to leave the factory (Weng, 2010a). The strike began after six migrant workers were fired for taking more than three days leave per month. Upon demanding their documents, the fired workers found “cancel” written on their visas, and their overseas workers identification cards apparently tampered. Their deportation was endorsed by the employer, the Labor Protection Office and the Department of Employment (*The Irrawaddy*, 10 September 2010).

### ***Trafficking in persons***

Burma remains a Tier 3 country in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* due to the lack of signifi-

cant progress in addressing human trafficking. According to the report, Burma is primarily a source country for trafficked men, women and children forced into labor and prostitution in different countries. Many trafficked victims have initially migrated to countries such as China, India, Malaysia and Thailand, only to find themselves forced into bonded labor or commercial exploitation. Moreover, dire economic conditions in the country and political problems in the government have pushed Burmese nationals to look for employment as legal or unauthorized migrants, rendering many vulnerable to trafficking (USDS, 2010).

Internal trafficking in Burma was reported to be a “serious concern,” and this includes military involvement in the recruitment of child soldiers and the forced labor of Burmese nationals, especially those from ethnic minority groups. Men, women and children are forced to work in state projects, as well as portering for the military (USDS, 2010).

#### **Internal displacement**

Around 73,000 new displacements were reported in eastern Burma from mid-2009 to mid-2010, according to the IDMC (2011:91). Under government pressure, some armed groups turned into army-led militias which are also known as “border guard forces,” and this has led to further conflict and fighting, even in ceasefire areas, where some civilians were forcibly recruited by these groups.

After the elections on 10 November, around 20,000 people fled their homes due to fighting between government forces and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), many of whom ended up in the border into Thailand. Many returned to their homes with the cessation of fighting (IDMC, 2011:91). Main opposition groups boycotted the elections, the first to be held in 20 years. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described the elections as “insufficiently inclusive, participatory and transparent” (BBC News, 8 November 2010).

In late November, fighting between the KNLA and the border guard force forced hundreds of Burmese people to flee their homes and seek safety in Thailand. Some were repatriated by Thai authorities; others continued to go back and forth between Burma and Thailand

depending on the intensity of the clashes (IDMC, 2011:91).

Data show that there are at least 446,000 internally displaced people in Burma, comprising some 0.9 percent of the total population. Causes of displacement have ranged from armed conflict, deliberate practice of arbitrary displacement and human rights violations (IDMC, 2011:91).

Some displacements have also been caused by natural disasters. In October 2010, for instance, aid groups and residents said thousands were reportedly displaced and left homeless while others were killed after a cyclone (Cyclone Giri) hit west Burma, triggering floods and falling trees that destroyed homes (*see also CNN.com*, 26 October 2010). Aid groups set up temporary camps that could provide shelter for as many as 5,000 people (BBC News, 25 October 2010).

#### **Plight of Rohingya refugees**

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh makeshift camps were reportedly living in “open air prisons” and suffering from starvation, according to the Physicians for Human Rights, an American medical charity group. In a 2010 report titled, “Stateless and Starving: Persecuted Rohingya Flee Burma and Starve in Bangladesh,” the group claimed that Bangladeshi authorities were not doing enough to provide adequate care and were even blocking aid to Rohingya refugees. The group accused the Bangladeshi authorities for ignoring the conditions of the unregistered refugees and for “arbitrary arrests, illegal expulsion and forced internment.” Bangladeshi officials have denied the claims. The Medecins Sans Frontieres and Bangkok-based group Arakan Project have also called attention to the dire conditions of refugees in camps (BBC News, 9 March 2010).

## **POLICIES**

#### **Nationality verification (NV) process**

The Thai Cabinet in January allowed a two-year extension on the work permits of migrant workers in the country, provided that they complete the NV process. The measure supposedly aims to address unauthorized migration in the country covering over a million Bur-

mese migrant workers, and over 200,000 migrant workers from Cambodia and Laos. It is estimated that there are around three million unauthorized migrants in Thailand (Corben, 2010).

Early into the year, however, problems surrounded the NV process. Initially, Thai authorities announced that migrant workers should verify their nationality by 28 February to avoid deportation and to have their work permits renewed (Weng, 2010b). The deadline was later extended to 2 March. More than 600,000 migrants in Thailand still failed to submit the requirements for verification, which has now put them at risk of being arrested and facing expulsion. More than 50 civic groups called on the Thai government to allot more time for migrants to complete their NV (Weng, 2010d). In June, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva signed "Order of the Prime Minister's Office No. 125/2553" which created a special center to arrest and prosecute unauthorized migrant workers, including those who failed to register for NV (Saw, 2010).

The NV measure involves processing by home countries of migrant workers in Thailand, especially those from Burma, Cambodia and Laos. Cambodia and Laos in the past have sent officials to complete the NVP, while Burma has yet to do so. Burmese migrant workers are afraid of submitting biographical information, which could be used against them by the military government (Weng, 2010c). The lack of information on the new process may also be a reason migrants have been reluctant to register. Rights groups have called on the

Burmese government to send officials for the completion of the verification process, which would encourage Burmese migrants to participate in the registration (Weng, 2010c).

Jorge A. Bustamante, UN expert on the human rights of migrants, was concerned that the deportees may include those in need of international protection (Weng, 2010c).

As of 25 December 2010, a total of 308,090 Burmese migrants have completed NV, while at least 504,894 have not yet accomplished the process, as shown in Table 1.

**Burmese refugees resettled in Japan**

Eighteen Burmese refugees previously based in Thailand finally arrived in Japan in late 2010 under a UN-promoted resettlement plan. This first batch of refugees was composed of three Karen families who had been living in a camp in Thailand for about a decade. In the first six months of their stay, they would be taught Japanese (BBC News, 28 September 2010).

Japan had agreed to take in some 90 Burmese migrants under a UN-backed third country resettlement plan, the first Asian country to participate in such a program. In the past, Japan was criticized for accepting fewer refugees compared to other developed countries (BBC News, 28 September 2010).

**TABLE 1**  
**Status of NV as of December 2010**

Source country	Number of migrants eligible for NV in February 2010	Number who completed the process as of as of December 2010	Number who had not completed NV process by December 2010
Cambodia	56,479	45,417	11,062
Lao PDR	62,792	34,999	27,793
Burma	812,984	308,090	504,894
Total	932,255	388,506	543,749

Source: Data provided by the Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand (cited in Huguet and Chamrathirong, 2011:11)

Note: Figures updated as of 25 December 2010



## REFERENCES

Allchin, Joseph

2010 "Mass Burmese hunger strike in Malaysian camp," *Democratic Voice of Burma*, 22 February.

*Asia Sentinel*

2010 "Burmese migrants face AIDS medication crisis," 10 December 2010

Ba Saw Tin

2010 "Bogus agency cheats migrants," *The Irrawaddy*, 26 March.

*BBC News*

2010 "Bangladesh 'ignoring plight' of starving Burma refugees," 9 March.

---

2010 "Japan welcomes Burmese refugees," 28 September.

---

2010 "Cyclone Giri pummels west Burma," 25 October.

---

2010 "Thousands flee Burma border clash, as votes are counted," 8 November.

*CNN.com*

2010 "UN: 70,000 people in Myanmar are homeless in wake of cycle," *CNN Wire Staff, CNN.com*, 26 October.

Corben, Ron

2010 "Burmese migrant workers fear new Thai work permit rules," *Voanews.com*, 21 January.

Ellgee, Alex

2010 "Naypyidaw investigates allegations against DKBA," *The Irrawaddy*, 15 July.

Huguet, Jerrold and Aphichat Chamrathirong, eds.

2011 *Thailand Migration Report 2011 – Migration for Development in Thailand: Overview and Tools for Policymakers*. Bangkok: International Organization for Migration–Thailand Office. Available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/thailand/TMR-2011.pdf>, accessed 23 March 2012.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 Migration Information Note. Issue No. 7, September 2010. Available at [http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/IOM-Migrant\\_Info\\_Note\\_No\\_7\(en\).pdf](http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/IOM-Migrant_Info_Note_No_7(en).pdf), accessed 2 November 2011.

*The Irrawaddy*

2010 "DKBA profits from migrant worker crackdown in Thailand," 29 June.

---

2010 "Burmese workers continue 3rd day of strike," 10 September.

Saw Yan Naing

2010 "Thai PM green lights crackdown on illegal migrants," *The Irrawaddy*, 16 June.

Shwe, Thomas Maung

2010 "Burma protesters confront UN leader in Bangkok," *Mizzima.com*, 27 October.

Weng, Lawi

2010a "Migrant worker protest ongoing at Thai company," *The Irrawaddy*, 8 October.

---

2010b "Thailand extends migrant worker permits," *The Irrawaddy*, 22 January.

---

2010c "Thailand serious about deporting unregistered migrant workers," *The Irrawaddy*, 18 February.

---

2010d "Thousands of Burmese migrants miss NV deadline," *The Irrawaddy*, 3 March.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	15.1
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.6
Percent urban (%)	20
Population per square kilometer	83
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	32
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	11.24 B
GDP growth (annual %)	6.0
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	2,080
Human development index (rank – value)	124 – 0.494
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	95 – 0.672
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	335,829
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	369.46 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	137
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	51
Refugees by origin	16,301
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	129

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Cambodia in 2010 registered an emigrant stock of 350,400, with most migrating to popular destinations such as the US, France, Thailand, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. In comparison, the country's immigrant stock was at around 335,800, with most migrants originating from Vietnam, Thailand, China, France, the Lao PDR and the US (World Bank, 2010:84).

By the end of 2010, Cambodia was one of the top 10 remittance recipients in East Asia and the Pacific, with Cambodian migrant workers sending home an estimated \$364-\$369 million (World Bank, 2012; 2010:24). Previously, in 2009 and 2008, remittances reached \$338 million and \$325 million, respectively (World Bank, 2010:84).

### *Rising overseas employment*

The demand for Cambodian workers remained high in 2010, according to data provided by the Association

of Cambodian Recruitment Agencies (ACRA). Between January and October 2010, at least 22,000 workers left Cambodia for Malaysia and Thailand, higher by around 11,600 in the same period in 2009 (*Phnom Penh Post*, 7 December 2010).

In 2010, there were about 14,339 workers bound for Malaysia, higher compared to 8,114 in the same period the previous year. Of the total, 4,341 were in factory work and 9,998 in domestic work. Despite complaints of abuse by domestic workers, deployment to Malaysia has not waned.

During the same period, 8,086 workers were deployed to Thailand, up by 3,543 compared to the previous year. The increase suggests that more workers are using the legal channels, according to ACRA President An Bun Hak. He expects the demand for Cambodian workers to increase in 2011. Malaysia is expected to place job orders with ACRA for some 30,000 workers, while Thailand is set to take in around 50,000.

#### ***Impact of remittances***

The IOM, in cooperation with the NGO Legal Support for Women and Children, released a study on the impact of migrants' remittances on local communities in Cambodia (IOM, 2010). The study focused on Cambodian migrants based in Thailand.

Among others, the research found that migrants tend to underestimate debt interests and health costs. Remittances are usually transferred through informal channels and are used for the household's basic needs (IOM, 2010:10).

The study recommended expanding the study, improving access to legal migration channels while cutting the costs of access, conducting evaluations of formal and informal brokers and recruitment agencies, and including information regarding remittance transfer channels in pre-departure training seminars and other information programs (IOM, 2010:10-11).

#### ***Domestic worker abuse***

The number of Cambodian domestic workers in Malaysia reporting abuse has increased in recent years,

according to the rights group Adhoc. The organization had received 28 complaints of abuse from domestic workers who had returned from Malaysia. Irregular practices by recruitment agencies and the inattention of the government and the Labor Ministry contributed to the problem (Kunthea, 2010). The Labor Ministry eventually drafted a new sub-decree to strengthen the regulation of recruitment firms.

#### ***Trafficking in persons***

Cambodia was ranked Tier 2 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for insufficient compliance with minimum anti-trafficking standards (USDS, 2010:102). More improved law enforcement and an increase in the convictions of traffickers are needed. Corruption and impunity, the report noted, are part of the problem.

Despite efforts to combat trafficking, Cambodia remains a site of rampant trafficking. The country is a destination, source and transit country of human trafficking, including children. Cambodian men, women and children who seek work in other countries such as Malaysia and Thailand end up exploited for commercial sex and forced labor, especially in the Thai fishing industry, in agriculture, in factories, or in domestic work and street selling. Many are trapped in debt bondage and involuntary servitude in countries such as Malaysia and Saudi Arabia (USDS, 2010:100). A human rights group cited the rising cases of kidnapped men forced to work in Thai fishing vessels (Carmichael, 2010). In 2009, the number of workers who went through Cambodian recruitment agencies for work in Malaysia increase; many of these workers were reportedly under 18 years old. Many Cambodian children have been trafficked to Thailand and Vietnam to sell candy and flowers, among others (USDS, 2010:100).

Internally, rural women and children are trafficked for commercial sex, forced labor or prostitution. Cambodia is known as a site where child sex tourism is widespread and virgin girls are sold to local or foreign men (USDS, 2010:101). Cambodians migrating to Taiwan, South Korea and other Asian countries through brokered marriages are also vulnerable to forced labor or prostitution.

Among others, the report recommended conducting more intensive investigations and robust prosecutions of traffickers and officials involved in trafficking activities, sanctioning unscrupulous recruitment agencies, increased efforts to identify trafficked victims and to enforce a law that would regulate recruitment and placement of migrant workers, as well as to protect their rights (USDS, 2010:101).

## POLICIES

### *Cambodia's migration policy challenges*

Migrant labor has become an employment opportunity for Cambodians, especially the younger generation (Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training & ILO, 2010:9). However, the lack of a policy framework for protection and regulation render migrant workers vulnerable to exploitation by companies, employers and even some officials (Sothea, 2010).

Cambodia's main policy challenges are "the governance of labour migration, the protection and empowerment of migrant workers, and the harnessing of labour migration for economic development" (MoLVT & ILO, 2010:4-5). Table 1 shows specific key recommendations for the country's migration policy.

Amendments to the guidelines for recruitment firms were to be finalized by the end of the year (Kunthea and Lewis, 2010).

### *Nationality verification (NV) process*

The Department of Labor of the MoLVT issued a plan of action for carrying out the NV process for Cambodian migrants in Thailand. Migrants from Burma, Cambodia and Lao PDR are required by Thailand to undergo the NV process or risk deportation.

As of December 2010, a total of 388,506 out of 932,255 (45,417 Cambodian, 34,999 Laotian and 308,090 Burmese) migrants eligible for NV have completed the process (Huguet and Chamrathirong, 2011:11) (see Table 2).

Between 2009 and 2010, 274,000 out of around 1.3 million low-skilled migrants from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Burma did not apply for NV. Some intend to return home, while others will most likely stay in Thailand as irregular migrants. Moreover, some of those who went through the NV process had reportedly submitted false information, which will most likely prevent them from completing the process (Huguet and Chamrathirong, 2011:11).

### *Marriage migration*

In March 2010, the government temporarily banned foreign marriages between Cambodian women and South Korean men because of the higher likelihood that these are being used for prostitution. In April, the ban was lifted and was replaced with a new regulation requiring foreign men who plan on marrying Cambodian women to be physically present in all stages of the application process for international marriages (AMN, 1-31 March 2010; 1-30 April 2010).

This is not the first time the ban was enforced – in 2008, the government also banned foreign marriages between South Korean men and Cambodian women because of the sharp rise of brokered marriages. In late 2008, the ban was lifted upon the introduction of a new legislation that prohibits Cambodian women from becoming mail-order brides (AMN, 1-31 March 2010; 1-30 April 2010).

## REFERENCES

- Carmichael, Robert  
2010 "Human traffickers target young Cambodian men for fishing industry," *VOA News*, 26 May.
- Kunthea, Mom  
2010 "Workers cry abuse," *Phnom Penh Post*, 14 September.
- Kunthea, Mom and Brooke Lewis  
2010 "Ministry advocates migration," *Phnom Penh Post*, 11 August.

Huguet, Jerrold and Aphichat Chamrathirong (eds.)  
 2011 *Thailand Migration Report 2011 – Migration for Development in Thailand: Overview and Tools for Policymakers*. Bangkok: International Organization for Migration–Thailand Office. Available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/thailand/TMR-2011.pdf>, accessed 23 March 2012.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
 2010 “Analyzing the Impact of Remittances from Cambodian Migrant Workers in Thailand on Local Communities in Cambodia.” Phnom Penh: International Organization for Migration.

Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training & the International Labour Organization (MoLVT and ILO)  
 2010 “Policy on Labor Migration for Cambodia.” Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, General Department of Labour, Department of Employment and Manpower; International Labour Organization (ILO) – ILO/Japan Regional Project on Managing Cross border Movement of Labour in Southeast Asia.

*Phnom Penh Post*  
 2010 “Soaring demand for labor,” 7 December.

Sothea, Ros  
 2010 “Migrant workers lack protections: Report,” *VOA Khmer*, 10 June.

**TABLE 1**  
**Policy Challenges of Labor Migration in Cambodia**

Main Policy Challenges	Key Policy Recommendations
<p><b>“Good governance of labour migration”</b></p> <p>Policy challenges: “The development of a sound labour migration policy, a legal framework, and the effective management of labour migration based on international instruments and social dialogue.”</p>	<p>a) strengthening existing government agencies with resources to promote foreign employment and to protect the rights of migrant workers while at home and abroad;</p> <p>b) drafting comprehensive legislation governing the labour migration process and the protection of migrant workers;</p> <p>c) ensuring adequate protection for migrant workers by posting labour attachés to Cambodian Embassies and equipping them with the resources necessary to perform their duties;</p> <p>d) government adoption of the social dialogue approach and the involvement of key stakeholders, including government, employers’ and workers’ organizations, recruitment agencies, and civil society in formulating labour migration policy, programmes, and legislation; and</p> <p>e) government review of its policy on mandatory cash deposits of \$100,000 (noninterest earning) by recruitment agencies.”</p>
<p><b>“Protection and empowerment of migrant workers”</b></p> <p>Policy challenges: “The adoption of the rights-based approach to prevention and protection against abusive recruitment practices, and the enforcement</p>	<p>a) eliminating misleading propaganda and advertisements relating to labour migration, and establishing resource centres in Phnom Penh and the provinces to provide preemployment information regarding the labour migration process;</p> <p>b) implementing legislation and policies with effective enforcement mechanisms and sanctions to deter unethical recruitment practices, including provisions for the suspension or withdrawal of recruitment and placement licenses in cases of violation;</p>

**TABLE 1 (continued)**  
**Policy Challenges of Labor Migration in Cambodia**

Main Policy Challenges	Key Policy Recommendations
of national law and regulations in accordance with international labour standards and applicable regional instruments.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) establishing a list of placement fees and documentation costs payable by migrant workers;</li> <li>d) coordinating with labour-receiving countries for the adoption of standardized and enforceable employment contracts;</li> <li>e) improving the position of Cambodian migrant workers in the labor market by enhancing worker skills through relevant vocational training, both increasing their employment opportunities and reducing their vulnerability to exploitation; and</li> <li>f) providing effective remedies to all migrant workers in cases of rights violation, and creating accessible channels through which migrant workers can lodge complaints against abusive practices and fraud.”</li> </ul>
<p>“Harnessing of labour migration for economic development”</p> <p>Policy challenges: “(1) mainstreaming labor migration issues in national development plans and in the country decent work programme; (2) establishing a recognition system for skills gained from abroad; (3) promoting the productive use of migrant workers’ remittances, and (4) providing return and reintegration services.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“a) mainstreaming labour migration in both the national strategic development plan and the national employment policy;</li> <li>b) strengthening public and private employment services for counselling and matching demand for skilled labour and returned migrant workers;</li> <li>c) negotiating with the labour-receiving country the coordinated registration for returned/repatriated migrant workers at border points to facilitate their readmission (overland and by air);</li> <li>d) reducing costs of remittance transfers, and facilitating access to financial services; and</li> <li>e) promoting the acquisition of new skills abroad and minimizing brain drain in key economic sectors.”</li> </ul>

Source: MoLVT & ILO (2010:4-5)

**TABLE 2**  
**Status of NV as of December 2010**

Source country	Number of migrants eligible for NV in February 2010	Number who completed the process as of December 2010	Number who had not completed NV process by December 2010
Cambodia	56,479	45,417	11,062
Lao PDR	62,792	34,999	27,793
Burma	812,984	308,090	504,894
Total	932,255	388,506	543,749

Source: Data provided by the Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand (cited in Huguet and Chamrathirong, 2011:11)

Note: Figures updated as of 25 December 2010





## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	235.5
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.4
Percent urban (%)	43
Population per square kilometer	124
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	27
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	706.56 B
GDP growth (annual %)	6.1
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	4,200
Human development index (rank – value)	108 – 0.600
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	100 – 0.680
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	122,908
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	6.92 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	456
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	2,071
Refugees by origin	11,085
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	811

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

In 2008, Indonesia's 230-million population was confronted with an unemployment rate of 8.4 percent. Unemployment at home contributes to the large numbers of Indonesians migrating to find job opportunities abroad.

Data from the National Authority for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Overseas Workers (BNP2TKI) show that as of 2010 there were some 5.5

million Indonesian migrant workers overseas. Of this number, around 1.3 million are believed to be unauthorized migrant workers (*The Jakarta Post*, 7 April 2010). However, estimates vary. According to the USDS, for example, Indonesian migrant workers in 2010 numbered about 6.5-9 million, with large numbers in Malaysia (about 2.6 million) and in the Middle East (1.8 million). Women migrant workers make up about 69 percent of all Indonesian migrant workers (USDS, 2010:176).

Feminized labor migration from Indonesia is explained partly by the increased demand for domestic and

**TABLE 1**  
**Placement of Indonesian Labor Migrants by Gender, 2009**

GENDER	1996		2000		2004		2007	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Men	228,337	44	137,949	32	84,075	22	152,887	22
Women	288,832	56	297,273	68	296,615	78	543,859	78
Total	517,169	100	435,222	100	380,690	100	696,746	100

Source: IOM (2010:9)

**TABLE 2**  
**Placement of Indonesian Labor Migrants by Major Destination Country, 2009**

No.	Destination Country	Total
1	Malaysia	222,198
2	Singapore	37,496
3	Brunei Darussalam	5,852
4	Hong Kong SAR	29,973
5	Republic of Korea	3,830
6	Japan	96
7	Taiwan Province of China	50,810
8	Saudi Arabia	257,217
9	Kuwait	25,756
10	UAE	28,184
11	Bahrain	2,267
12	Qatar	10,449
13	Jordan	12,062
14	Oman	7,150

Source: IOM (2010:9)

manufacturing workers (IOM, 2010:9). Table 1 shows the increasing share of female migrant workers in the total number of Indonesian overseas workers. Malaysia is the top destination of Indonesian workers, followed by other Asian and Middle East countries, as seen in Table 2 (IOM, 2010:9).

With millions of overseas workers, remittances sent home reached an estimated \$6.92-\$7.139 billion by the end of 2010, according to the World Bank (2012; 2010). Earlier, from 2007 to 2009, remittances amounted to over \$6 billion each year. Indonesia ranked among the top 10 remittance recipients in East Asia and the Pacific in 2010 (World Bank, 2010:24).

Emigration-immigration figures also show a more common trend of emigration out of Indonesia than the immigration into the country. The stock of emigrants registered at 2.5 million in 2010, significantly higher compared to some 122,900 immigrants in the country. Popular destinations for emigrants included Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Singapore, the US, Jordan, Australia, Japan, Germany and the Republic of Korea. As for immigrants, many came from China and the UK.

### **Unauthorized migration**

Irregular or unauthorized migration is still one of Indonesia's main migration challenges. Indonesia continues to struggle with the flow of asylum seekers and irregular and unauthorized migrants.

In Malaysia, estimates of unauthorized Indonesian workers have gone up to 10,000, many of whom are living in camps in Malaysian forests (*The Jakarta Post*, 22 October 2010). Authorities have arrested dozens of unauthorized migrants who have attempted to enter Malaysia using fake passports, a growing trend among some looking for work opportunities abroad (Xinhua News Agency, 2010).

The government has also been struggling with managing the flow of boat migrants headed to Indonesia as a transit point to Australia. Authorities throughout the year arrested, detained and repatriated passing boat migrants, many of whom were Afghans.

In January, about 55 Afghan and Turkish boat migrants were detained after they were found stranded in East Lombok (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010). In February, authorities in West Java province intercepted three minibuses carrying 93 asylum seekers trying to enter Australia, while in Medan City, 26 Afghan migrants were arrested after failing to present legal documents. Some 40 asylum seekers managed to escape police custody after a suspected smuggler posed as a Jakarta-based government official and ordered the release of the migrants and their transfer to West Timor, Kupang (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010). Around 63 Afghan migrants who were stranded on Lombok island after a boat accident were arrested in March, and 68 other Afghan boat migrants were found stranded on Raijua

Island in the same month. In April, a total of 125 Afghan migrants were arrested for attempting to reach Australia through Indonesian ports (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010). There were also several groups of Afghan migrants who had attempted to seek help from IOM or UNHCR offices in Jakarta, but were arrested and found to have no travel documents (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

Recently, Australia suspended the processing of asylum applications from Afghan and Sri Lankan migrants, which implies that many asylum seekers may end up staying in Indonesia without any opportunity to reach the Pacific country.

Indonesia has rejected Australia's opposition party's proposal to take in asylum-seekers in countries outside Australia, including a proposal to establishing a processing center in East Timor. For the government, the move would just become a regional solution to people smuggling (*Lanka Business Online*, 15 July 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

Indonesia retained its Tier 2 grade for the fourth consecutive year in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, indicating lack of compliance to the report's minimum standards for addressing human trafficking. All of Indonesia's 33 provinces have become source and destination areas for trafficking. Major sources are Java, West Kalimantan, Lampung, North Sumatra and South Sumatra. Indonesia is an origin country for children, men and women trafficked into forced labor and/or forced prostitution, more than it is a destination country (USDS, 2010:176).

In 2008, West Java had the highest number of human trafficking cases in Indonesia, according to the National Commission on Child Protection. Multiple trafficking cases have already prompted the government to seek out a joint project with partner agencies that will establish the Children and Women Protection and Empowerment Integrated Service Center (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

Migrant workers caught in debt bondage and forced labor are often found in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Japan, Kuwait, Syria and Iraq. According to Migrant Care, around 43 percent or three million of the

country's migrant workers are or have been trafficked victims, many of whom were victimized by both legal and illegal recruiters (USDS, 2010:176).

With globalization processes and the spread of communication and information technologies, trafficking rings have also begun to absorb technological innovations to spread their reach. Online social networking is becoming a tool for traffickers to lure victims, including children, into sex trafficking. Internal trafficking continues to be rampant throughout the country, with women and girls used for domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and work in agriculture, fishing and mining in rural areas. Child tourism is also a significant problem in the country. Traffickers have also gone as far as working with school officials to recruit young Indonesians into forced labor through false internship programs. Indonesia also has its share of women trafficked from China, Thailand and some countries in Central Asia and Eastern Europe (USDS, 2010:177).

Despite increasing the number of convictions for labor and sex traffickers and pursuing the passage of a five-year anti-trafficking action plan, Indonesia has yet to improve in the following areas: addressing specific trafficking complaints, regulating local recruitment companies, and reducing corruption among officials (USDS, 2010:177).

Among the recommendations of the trafficking report are: amending the country's legal labor export system, specifically the 2004 Overseas Labor Placement and Protection Law and the creation of the BNP2TKI; increasing the prosecution and punishment of trafficking offenders; enhancing the protection of Indonesian migrant workers, especially domestic workers; punishing public officials involved in trafficking; and increasing awareness among law enforcement officials regarding the situation of trafficking in the country (USDS, 2010:177).

#### ***Internal displacement***

At least 200,000 people were internally displaced in various parts of Indonesia as of December 2010 (IDMC, 2011:89). Thousands were temporarily forced to flee their homes after inter-ethnic violence erupted in Tarakan City, East Kalimantan in Borneo. Government

intervention later reestablished stability and most of the displaced were able to return to city.

Tens of thousands were also displaced in Papua Province throughout the year due to armed conflict between the army and members of the Free Papua Movement (IDMC, 2011:89).

In other areas in Indonesia, thousands still remain displaced, with some having been displaced for over ten years, due to clashes between ethnic or religious groups, or rebel groups and security forces (IDMC, 2011:89). In Aceh province alone, around 146,000 are still unable to return to their homes or resettle in other locations. Most are ethnic Javanese migrants driven away by Acehese rebels and who continue to struggle with the lack of economic opportunities, shelter and social services (IDMC, 2010:89-90).

In other parts of the country, such as Central Sulawesi and Maluku Province, some IDPs or former IDPs continue to suffer from lack of access to assistance, government services and sustainable livelihood (IDMC, 2010:90).

## **POLICIES**

### ***Labor protection***

In January, the government brought back at least 425 workers from the Middle East facing problems suspected to be caused by unscrupulous recruiting agencies. The migrants from Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the UAE raised the total number of repatriated Indonesian migrant workers to more than 2,000. Problems ranged from criminal charges to expired work permits to unpaid salaries. Some claimed that they were physically and sexually abused.

From January to October 2010, the Foreign Ministry had received 4,535 reports of abuse and maltreatment experienced by Indonesian workers overseas, with 2,716 cases filed and the rest still being processed. The reports ranged from employers' contract violations to sexual abuse (Budianto, 2010). According to Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, this number was under-reported. The minister said a better system must be put in place. Indonesian migrants who face abuses must

report to the consulate or embassy, but there are only 119 Indonesian representative offices, which may not be accessible to most migrants (Sagita, 2010). Protecting migrant workers is made more difficult when they are not documented (Budianto, 2010).

Earlier reports of abuse and maltreatment of Indonesians working in Malaysia and Kuwait prompted the government to temporarily suspend the deployment of workers in both countries. In March, the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration said that the suspension of deployment will remain until bilateral agreements with both countries have been signed (AMN, 1-31 January 2010). Various sectors have called on the government to ensure the protection of Indonesian workers abroad (Budianto, 2010; Lutfia, 2010b; Sari, 2010). Proposals to enhance protection include deployment ban (although it was also recognized that this was not effective), sending task forces to top destination countries, and signing of protection agreement.

The Indonesian government held talks with Malaysia and Kuwait concerning the protection of workers. The Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration plans to sign a memorandum of understanding with both countries to increase the protection and promotion of migrant workers' rights. The talks have resulted in an agreement to grant domestic workers the right to keep their passports and weekly days-off, among others. In March, Malaysia agreed to create a joint task force and a fixed placement fee for the deployment of Indonesian workers. The minimum wage was set aside from the talks because it would change Malaysian laws (AMN, 1-31 January 2010; 1-31 March 2010). The memorandum of understanding with Malaysia, which was expected to be signed in mid-August 2010 (*Antara News*, 4 August 2010), did not materialize because Malaysia did not agree to Indonesia's conditions (*The Jakarta Post*, 9 October 2010). In November, the provincial government in West Nusa Tenggara enforced a three-month moratorium prohibiting migrant workers to the Middle East. Circulars distributed to district chiefs and mayors banned the issuance of permits, after reports of a 23-year-old Indonesian woman abused and maltreated by employers in Saudi Arabia (Fitri, 2010).

### **Domestic worker law**

A new national domestic worker law, set for review this year, could change the working conditions of Indonesian migrant workers both in the country and overseas. The draft law aims to amend the country's existing labor law, which does not entitle domestic workers to a minimum wage, overtime pay, eight-hour work days and 40-hour work per week, as well as a day off per week and a vacation (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

HRW has stated that the law should ensure that domestic workers are entitled to decent food, housing, additional time for schooling or vocational training. A minimum age requirement of 15 years old should also be imposed for domestic work (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

### **Migrant Workers Convention**

The government has refused to ratify the 1990 Convention to Protect All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families despite the ASEAN Human Rights Committee's call to do so. The Immigration Directorate and the Home Affairs, Health and Foreign Affairs Ministries during a meeting concluded that the convention does not have an impact on Indonesian migrant workers, and none of the destination countries have ratified it (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

### **Manpower Ministry and BNP2TKI**

The Minister of Manpower and Transmigration in October issued a decree clarifying its role as regulator while the BNP2TKI will be in charge of migrant worker placement. However, doubts remain on whether the redefinition of responsibilities will improve access and distribution of services. Activists and business groups have welcomed the new decree, but await the results of the actual implementation.

In 2008, the ministry amended a decree that created the BNP2TKI to take over placement functions, but the change had caused confusion among migrants' agencies, especially in terms of which body will distribute overseas employment cards (Lutfia, 2010a).

Recent reports of abuses experienced by Indonesian domestic workers in the Middle East and in other countries like Malaysia have raised questions regarding the institution responsible for protecting migrants' rights (Sagita and Pawas, 2010).

Labor migration policies are issued by the Manpower and Transmigration Ministry, to be implemented by the BNP2TKI. The BNP2TKI is basically an implementing body, but does not have the authority to draft regulations. No one seems to take up the responsibility for the lack of protection for migrant workers, according to an official. Another official belied reports of conflict between the two government bodies (Sagita and Pawas, 2010).

### **Training fees abolished**

To improve services for migrant workers, the government in April stopped charging training fees from migrant workers each time they go abroad. Initially, employers of migrant workers were supposed to pay the training fees, which cost \$15 per migrant worker. However, it is often the case that the fees are deducted from migrant workers' salaries (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

### **Requirements for foreign doctors**

Foreign doctors intending to work in Indonesia must master the local language, as required in a new regulation issued by the Ministry of Health. Moreover, they are also required to register with the ministry and can only work in institutions where the government will assign them. Work permits for overseas doctors range from two to five years in duration (AMN, 1-31 March 2010)

## **REFERENCES**

*Antara News*

2010 "RI, Malaysia to sign new MoU on migrant workers," 4 August.

Budianto, Lilian

2010 "Government faces challenges in protecting migrants," *The Jakarta Post*, 1 December.

Fitri, R.

2010 "NTB decides Middle East not safe for Indonesian women," *Jakarta Globe*, 22 November.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *Labour Migration from Indonesia: An Overview of Indonesian Migration to Selected Destinations in Asia and the Middle East*. Jakarta: IOM.

*Lanka Business Online*

2010 "Indonesia lukewarm on Australia asylum centre plan," 15 July.

Lutfia, Ismira

2010a "Decree on migrant workers in place, but observers await action," *Jakarta Globe*, 17 October.

2010b "Indonesia urged not to turn backs on abused workers," *Jakarta Globe*, 1 December.

Sari, Dianing

2010 "Sending migrant workers to countries without legal guarantees must stop," *Tempo Interactive*, 22 November.

Sagita, Dessy

2010 "Saudi deal won't be migrant worker cure-all: Indonesian minister," *Jakarta Globe*, 30 November.

Sagita, Dessy and Zaky Pawas

2010 "Who's in charge of protecting Indonesia's migrant workers?" *Jakarta Globe*, 23 November.

*The Jakarta Post*

2010 "Indonesia collects Rp100 trillion from labor export," 7 April.

2010 "Government to resume labor export to Malaysia," 9 October.

2010 "Thousands of illegal workers from Indonesia live in uncertainty in Malaysia," 22 October.

Xinhua News Agency

2010 "Over 20 Indonesians held in Malaysia for illegal entry," *People's Daily Online*, 8 December.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	6.4
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.1
Percent urban (%)	27
Population per square kilometer	27
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	35
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	7.30 B
GDP growth (annual %)	9.4
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	2,460
Human development index (rank – value)	122 – 0.497
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	88 – 0.650
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	18,916
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	40.85 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	71
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	8,413
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	-

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

As of 2010, Lao PDR had more emigrants than immigrants. The stock number of emigrants was estimated at 366,600, accounting for about 5.7 percent of the country's 2009 population of 6.3 million (6.4 million as of mid-2010). Top destinations were the US, Thailand, France, Canada, Australia, Japan, Germany, Belgium, Cambodia and New Zealand. The stock number of immigrants was about 18,900. The top source countries were mainly from Asia, namely Vietnam, China,

Thailand, Cambodia and Burma (World Bank, 2010: 157).

World Bank data show that in 2010, Lao PDR received about \$40.85 million worth of workers' compensation from employees and remittances (World Bank, 2012).

Internal displacement figures in Lao PDR remain undetermined, though the repatriation of over 4,000 Hmong refugees by Thailand in December 2009 has been recorded as a new displacement for 2010 (IDMC, 2011:90).



### **Unauthorized migration**

Although Lao PDR is mainly a country of origin, it actually hosts foreign workers, most of whom are not documented. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW), there are around 200,000 unauthorized foreign workers in Lao PDR. The figure is four times higher than the 50,000 foreigners in the country who are work permit holders (*Vientiane Times*, 28 December 2010). A different estimate puts the number of foreign workers at 110,000, of which 80 percent are unauthorized laborers (*KPL Lao News Agency*, 2010).

Many come to the country to look for income or livelihood opportunities. They enter the country to work in jobs created by foreign direct investment projects (*KPL Lao News Agency*, 2010), or to work for a grant project (some of whom stay past completion), or they arrive as tourists but end up overstaying to work (*Asean Affairs*, 25 November 2010). Many foreigners work as hawkers and market vendors, and others take on casual work. Local business owners and employees have complained that such migrants adversely affect their businesses because they avoid tax payments and sell cheaper goods and services. Moreover, they do not contribute to government revenue since they avoid business registration fees (*Vientiane Times*, 28 December 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* placed Lao PDR under the Tier 2 Watch List, indicating the country's substandard performance in mitigating human trafficking. Progress in law enforcement against trafficking has been slow: only three trafficking prosecutions were noted and no offenders were convicted during the reporting period. No public official involved in the process of trafficking was arrested, convicted or punished. There were no reports of trafficked victims, and the government had largely depended on NGOs and international groups to provide victim assistance (USDS, 2010:206).

Some of the report's recommendations include the following: to increase investigations and prosecutions for trafficking offenders; to strengthen cooperation with Thailand in addressing cross-border trafficking; to

improve identification of Lao citizens who are trafficked internally; to train authorities to identify victims and implement formal victim identification; to support anti-trafficking awareness campaigns for clients of commercial sex; and to strengthen cooperation with civil society groups and international organizations (USDS, 2010:206).

Lao PDR is a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked into forced labor, and for women and girls trafficked into forced prostitution. Lao PDR is a transit country where Burmese, Chinese and Vietnamese women are brought to Thailand for forced labor or sex trafficking. Many Lao-tians, on false promises of employment opportunities have paid brokers to give them jobs in Thailand, but instead have ended up in forced labor in construction and fishing industries, or in forced prostitution. Some Laotian women and girls have reportedly been trafficked and married off to Chinese men. Ethnic minorities are highly vulnerable to trafficking (USDS, 2010: 206).

### **Call to release repatriated Hmong**

Following his visit in July 2010, US Senator Al Franken said he will call on his government to push for the release of 158 Hmong refugees who were repatriated along with 4,000 other Hmong asylum seekers to Lao PDR in December last year. Lao PDR officials, on the other hand, told foreign diplomats that the refugees want to remain in the country (*VOA News*, 8 July 2010).

In December 2009, the Thai military repatriated by force about 4,371 Hmong asylum seekers to Lao PDR, claiming they were economic migrants (Mydans, 2009). The Hmong were on their way to Australia via Thailand before they were detained and later repatriated (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010). Thailand had also deported 158 Hmong refugees detained for three years in an immigration center in Nong Khai, even though they were already given refugee status by the UN and were offered resettlement in Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and the US (Frelick, 2010; McCartan, 2010).

The Hmong asylum seekers were members of a tribe that assisted the US in military operations in Lao PDR from 1961 to 1975. They said they do not wish to re-



**TABLE 1**  
**Status of NV as of December 2010**

Source country	Number of migrants eligible for NV in February 2010	Number who completed the process as of December 2010	Number who had not completed NV process by December 2010
Cambodia	56,479	45,417	11,062
Lao PDR	62,792	34,999	27,793
Burma	812,984	308,090	504,894
Total	932,255	388,506	543,749

Source: Data provided by the Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand (cited in Huguet and Chamrathirong, 2011:11)

Note: Figures updated as of 25 December 2010

turn to Lao PDR for fear of persecution by the government. The US, the UN and human rights and aid groups have called on Thailand to reconsider its decision, but the clamor ushered no results. The Washington-based advocacy group Refugees International also raised concern of persecution against the Hmong by Laotian authorities (Mydans, 2009).

Since the war in Lao PDR in 1975, around 150,000 Hmong refugees in Thailand have been processed by the US for resettlement. However, since 2007 Thailand had banned foreign governments and international agencies to interview the asylum seekers. According to some refugee experts, the asylum seekers include both refugees and economic migrants (Mydans, 2009).

**POLICIES**

***Proposal to register foreign workers***

The MLSW plans to register foreign workers and to encourage companies and firms to comply with efforts to control the growing number of unauthorized foreign workers in the country. Foreign workers who fail to register would be repatriated. The proposal has been submitted to the government secretariat for approval (*Asean Affairs*, 25 November 2010; *Vientiane Times*, 28 December 2010).

The growing number of unauthorized migrants has become a concern for Laotian officials who view the trend as a threat to providing jobs for locals. Irregular migration flows have been difficult to control partly due to porous borders with neighboring countries (*KPL Lao News Agency*, 2010).

***Nationality verification (NV) process***

As of December 2010, there were nearly 35,000 Laotian migrants in Thailand who have completed their applications for the NV process, but more than 27,000 still have not (see Table 1).

The Thai government has required neighboring countries Burma, Cambodia and Laos to have their migrants undergo the NV process, or else face deportation. The measure involves processing by home countries of migrant workers in Thailand.

**REFERENCES**

*Asean Affairs*  
2010 "Around 200,000 illegal foreign workers work in Lao PDR," 25 November.

Frelick, Bill  
2010 "Refugees are not bargaining chips" *The New York Times*, 1 January.

Huguet, Jerrold and Aphichat Chamrathirong, eds.  
2011 *Thailand Migration Report 2011 – Migration for Development in Thailand: Overview and Tools for Policymakers*. Bangkok: International Organization for Migration–Thailand Office. Available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/thailand/TMR-2011.pdf>, accessed 23 March 2012.

KPL Lao News Agency

2010 “110,000 foreign workers work in Lao PDR,” *Lao Voices*, 7 June.

McCartan, Bill

2010 “Superpower competition for little Lao PDR (Page 2 of 2),” *Asia Times Online*, 25 March.

Mydans, Seth

2009 “Thailand begins repatriation of Hmong to Lao PDR,” *The New York Times*, 27 December.

*Vientiane Times*

2010 “Govt set for crackdown on illegal foreign workers,” 28 December.

*VOA News*

2010 “US Senator urges release of Hmong refugees,” 8 July.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	28.9
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.6
Percent urban (%)	63
Population per square kilometer	87
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	30
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	237.80 B
GDP growth (annual %)	7.2
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	14,220
Human development index (rank – value)	57 – 0.744
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	50 – 0.493
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	2.36 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	1.30 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	128
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	11,339
Refugees by origin	552
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	80,651

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

***Migration and population trends***

Malaysia's population mid-2010 was estimated at 28.9 million (PRB, 2010), higher than the 27.6 million count according to the preliminary report of the fifth Population and Housing Census 2010 conducted by the Department of Statistics, Malaysia (*New Straits Times*, 22 December 2010).

Although Malaysia is both an origin and a destination country, it has more immigrants than emigrants. In

2010, the immigrant stock in Malaysia was estimated at more than 2.36 million, accounting for 8.4 percent of the population, with most migrants coming from Indonesia, the Philippines, China, Bangladesh, India, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Burma and Pakistan. On the other hand, there were only 1.48 million emigrants from Malaysia, making up only 5.3 percent of the population. The top destination countries include: Singapore, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, the UK, the US, Canada, New Zealand, India, Japan and Germany (World Bank, 2010:170). In the same year, Malaysia was one of the top 10 emigration countries in East Asia and the Pacific region, after China, the Philippines, Indonesia

and Vietnam, and it was the top immigration country in the same region (World Bank, 2010:23). In South-east Asia, Malaysia and Singapore are the two top destinations for international migrants (IOM, 2010:170).

Estimates of documented and undocumented foreign workers in the country vary, but most indicate that the figures for both types are close. In 2009, the number of foreign workers in Malaysia was said to be over 1.9 million, with Indonesians making up a large share (at about 991,940), followed by Bangladeshis, Nepalese, Burmese and Indians (AMN, 1-31 May 2010). Another estimate puts the number of regular migrant workers at 1.8 million, with some authorities saying that unauthorized migrants number about the same. Other estimates put the number of unauthorized migrants at 2.5 million (AMN, 1-31 January 2010). The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* states that there are about two million documented migrant workers as of 2009, and undocumented migrants number about 1.9 million (USDS, 2010:223).

Inward remittance flows in 2010 were estimated between \$1.30-\$1.576 billion, higher compared to \$1.110 billion in 2009 and \$1.329 billion in 2008 during the economic crisis (World Bank, 2012; 2010:170). Alternately, outward remittance flows from migrant workers were significantly higher, averaging at \$6 billion annually since 2007 to 2009. In 2009, outward remittance flows were recorded at \$6.8 billion, higher compared to \$6.786 billion in 2008 and \$6,412 billion in 2007 (World Bank, 2010:170).

### **Unauthorized migration**

Throughout the year, there were numerous reports on arrested asylum-seekers and unauthorized migrants. Police arrested and detained hundreds of them, mostly from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines (AMN, 1-31 March 2010; 1-30 April 2010).

Unauthorized migration has been a long-standing issue and a challenge to the government. In March, more than 500 Nepali workers were arrested for failing to present proper documents. Around 93 Rohingya refugees in the same month were also found on a boat off Langkawi (AMN 1-31 March 2010). In 2009, authori-

ties had carried out 7,099 operations through which 47,310 migrants were detained. At least 26,545 were cases of unauthorized entry while 8,655 were cases of overstaying (AMN, 1-28 February 2010). Data from the Home Ministry also show that 269 employers were charged for violating immigration laws between 2007 and 2009. The figure has grown from 61 in 2007, 64 in 2008 to 144 in 2009 (AMN, 1-31 January 2010).

From 2002 to 2008, more than 34,000 canings were carried out for immigration violations, according to Amnesty International. Malaysian law dictates that unauthorized immigrants are to be punished with six whippings, fines and a five-year jail sentence (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

### **Migrants' rights**

A report released by Amnesty International (AI) criticized Malaysia for its weak policy structure in protecting migrant workers in the country. Substandard working conditions, unpaid salaries, physical and sexual abuse, and the involvement of officials in human trafficking are issues surrounding Malaysia's foreign labor industry. Based on 200 interviews with migrant workers, the report claims that foreign workers in the country are exposed to conditions that amount to labor exploitation (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

AI called on the government to provide tougher measures that would sanction the activities of unauthorized recruiters and prosecute employers who abuse their migrant employees. The Human Resource Ministry has denied the claims of weak protective mechanisms, saying that migrant workers could seek redress from authorities, particularly the labor department (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

AI also called the government to task for the caning, extortion, random arrests and refoulement of refugees. It recommended the legalization of the status of refugees through the distribution of identification cards (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

### **Local hiring**

The Malaysian government has been finding ways to lessen dependence on migrant labor, to provide more

job opportunities for locals and to retain most of its skilled workforce. Government officials have urged Malaysian companies to hire more locals and providing them skills training instead of relying on migrant workers. The call came after data revealed that only 77 percent of the country's total workforce had attained at least a certification in secondary education (known as the *Silij Pelajaran Malaysia*). On the other hand, half of an estimated 350,000 Malaysian workers based abroad have attained tertiary education. The outflow of skilled and tertiary-educated Malaysians has raised concerns about the country's failure to retain them and encourage them to work locally (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

Earlier in the year, the government also said it will enact a measure that would increase wages for jobs that are often shunned by locals. With higher wages, locals may be encouraged to take on such jobs and there would be no need to bring in foreign workers. Moreover, the plan could reduce the recruitment of unauthorized migrant workers, which is rampant in the agricultural, restaurant and services industries (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010).

Despite the government's approach to prioritizing locals over foreigners in providing job opportunities, there are still some industries where companies and employers have expressed the need to hire foreign labor for jobs that are not desired by locals.

#### ***Domestic worker shortage***

About 45 domestic worker agencies sent a joint memorandum to the Home and Human Resource Ministries requesting the lowering of the age requirement from 21 to 17 years old to address the shortage of domestic workers in the country.

Agencies are also considering hiring more Cambodian domestic workers, especially after Indonesia suspended the deployment of workers in 2010. According to an agency representative, Malaysia needs an average of 6,000 to 7,000 domestic workers a month to meet demands and provide replacements. The government is also considering hiring from other countries, such as Timor Leste (*Bernama*, 2010a).

Indonesia's deployment ban significantly reduced Malaysia's supply of domestic workers. Some employ-

ers have become desperate, resorting to hiring temporary domestic workers for a higher fee. Around 35,000 Malaysian families are in need of domestic workers (*Tempo Interactive*, 17 January 2011).

#### ***Trafficking in persons***

Malaysia was placed under the Tier 2 Watch List in the *USDS Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. It was in Tier 3 in 2009, indicating an improvement due to the government's "greater commitment to address human trafficking" (USDS, 2010:223). The Malaysian government during the reporting period had increased criminal charges against traffickers and investigations of trafficking cases, expanded the training of officials on the 2007 anti-trafficking law and conducted more public awareness campaigns (USDS, 2010:223).

Malaysia is a destination, source and transit country for the trafficking in persons who are subjected to forced labor, forced prostitution or debt bondage. Many of the trafficked victims come from Asian countries who have migrated to Malaysia for economic opportunities, but end up in debt bondage and forced labor. Trafficking offenders in Malaysia include both individual operators and large-scale organized crime rings. Many young women end up working in hotels and restaurants, with some forced to work in commercial sex. According to the report, "many migrant workers in plantations, construction sites, textile factories, and employed as domestic workers throughout Malaysia experienced restrictions on movement, deceit and fraud in wages, passport confiscation, or debt bondage, which are practices indicative of trafficking" (USDS, 2010:223).

Malaysia is a transit point, mostly involving the transport of boat people. Arrests and fines for smuggling has decreased – in the year to October, there were only 2,907 cases as compared to 3,741 in 2009 (*The Star Online*, 20 November 2010).

## **POLICIES**

#### ***Highly skilled foreign workers***

The 10th Malaysia Plan, 2011 to 2015, includes a \$72-billion budget for economic development and other programs aimed at making Malaysia a developed coun-

try by 2020. Growth in Malaysia in the past five years has averaged 4.2 percent, partly due to the economic downturn and recession in 2009, and partly due to brain drain and red tape in processing highly skilled foreign workers (Ng, 2010). During the economic crisis, the government stopped issuing work permits to migrant workers and pursued a policy of laying off migrant workers first before locals (CARAM, 2009:3, cited in Cerna, 2010:6).

To achieve economic growth six percent annually, government plans to increase the country's highly skilled from 23 percent to 37 percent by 2015 (AMN, 1-30 June 2010; Ng, 2010). Hiring highly-skilled foreign workers is one pathway to meet the target. The government said it intends to issue open-ended visas to foreign workers earning more than RM8,000 (or \$2,500) a month. There will also be less stringent restrictions – for example, they will be able to buy cheaper homes which cost at least RM250,000 (or \$78,125), lower compared to the current threshold of RM500,000 (\$156,250) and above (Ng, 2010). A talent corporation that would bring back some 700,000 Malaysian migrant workers is also being considered (Ng, 2010).

The focus on highly skilled labor and the reduction in the number of less-skilled workers has drawn mixed reactions. Some government officials, business groups and labor groups believe that if the proposal is pursued, it should be implemented gradually. A Sabah-based political party, on the other hand, has warned that the move could push foreign workers to resort to unauthorized migration channels (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

#### **Malaysia and Indonesia discuss bilateral agreement**

Malaysia has yet to finalize a bilateral labor agreement (BLA) with Indonesia that aims to strengthen protection for Indonesian migrant workers. Provisions in the agreement include allowing Indonesian workers to have contract security, health benefits and days-off or leaves.

The two countries have held talks after Indonesia temporarily suspended the deployment of migrant workers to Malaysia in 2009, following reports of Indonesian domestic workers being abused. In March 2010,

Indonesia's Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration said the deployment ban would only be lifted once a bilateral agreement was signed by both countries (AMN, 1-31 January; 1-31 March 2010).

So far, the talks have resulted in an agreement to grant domestic workers rights to keep their passports and regular days-off (AMN, 1-31 January; 1-31 March 2010). However, Malaysia has refused to agree to a minimum wage increase for Indonesian domestic workers to RM800 or \$254 a month. Currently, domestic workers are paid around RM300 to RM400 monthly. Human Resources Minister S. Subramaniam explained that Malaysia does not have a minimum wage structure and that the government believes wages should be determined according to market forces (AFP, 2010a).

#### **Medical insurance for migrant workers**

Mandatory medical insurance for migrant workers will be implemented beginning 1 January 2011, according to the Malaysian government. The new policy requires each worker to pay an annual insurance premium of RM120 (\$38). Even long-time or old workers will be required to obtain medical insurance before they can have their work permits renewed (*Himalayan News Service*, 2010). The policy applies to all migrant workers except foreign domestic workers (Anis and Shari, 2010).

The insurance system was created in response to observations that many foreign workers leave government hospitals with unpaid bills, which have totaled to approximately \$6.7 million (*Himalayan News Service*, 2010). According to the Health Ministry, health services for foreign workers have cost the government some RM18 million a year, and the expenses have been increasing (Bernama, 2010b).

Deputy Human Resource Minister Datuk Maznah Mazlan said the mandatory insurance must be obtained from a selected panel of 32 registered insurers, and that employers who fail to accomplish this would be sanctioned and work permits would not be renewed. The Human Resource Ministry in November also said it would hold talks with stakeholders to explain the new policy (Bernama, 2010b).

Reactions towards the new policy have been mixed. IRC Global Search, a foreign worker outsourcing company, said the move will affect the operations cost, and in turn, the survival of small and medium enterprises. Such companies are already paying high levies, insurance and workers' loans, among other expenses. Another issue is the inclusion of unauthorized foreign workers in the insurance coverage. Most of the unpaid bills of foreign workers at government hospitals were incurred by unauthorized migrant workers, and that it would be unfair if employers had to pay for their expenses (Tan, 2010).

NGOs criticized the Health Ministry for the sudden move and for not properly informing employers and workers about the insurance coverage. The NGOs complained that they were not consulted and that it was unclear who the 31-32 registered insurers were. There were also concerns that the cost will be passed on to foreign workers (Raj, 2010).

#### ***Orientation courses for foreign domestic workers and employers***

Since March 2010, new foreign domestic workers and their employers have been required to undergo half-day orientation courses which cover the terms and conditions of the work contract. The course, held on weekends, aims to clarify and explain contract details to employers and migrant domestic workers, such as salaries and working conditions (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

Many of Malaysia's estimated 216,000 foreign domestic workers come from Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Burma (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

#### ***Biometric system***

A proposed biometric system is expected to confirm amnesty to unauthorized foreign workers. Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said that once the system begins its documentation of foreign workers and visitors, those without legal documentation or those who have been overstaying in the country would be granted a reprieve. If this plan is pursued, this would be the third amnesty for irregular

migrants to be granted by authorities in a decade (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

Some groups are reluctant to be registered under the system. For instance, some Rohingya asylum-seekers sought to be excluded from the program after registering under the UNHCR. They fear that under the amnesty program, they might be sent back to the Thai-Malaysian border, which occurred twice in 2002 and 2004 (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

Later in the year, in November, the Immigration Department announced that it would no longer regularize unauthorized foreign workers after giving employers enough time to register workers in 2008 and 2009. In the first phase, which ran from 1 August to 31 October in 2008, more than 300,000 foreign workers were registered. In the second phase, from 27 July until 31 October in 2009, more than 160,000 were registered (Gomes, 2010). Employers who still want to regularize their workers would now have to go through the normal process of registration. It would continue its crackdown on unauthorized migrants and will sanction their employers under Immigration Acts 1959 and 1963 (Gomes, 2010).

#### ***Autogate system***

The Immigration Department is planning to establish an autogate system in 2011 to improve operations in entry and exit points through passport verification. The autogate system, to be placed in the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and other international airports, will determine whether a passport is genuine or fake. If a passport is detected as fake or if it is being used by a different person, the gates do not open for the passport holder. At present, autogate systems are only available for local passport holders (Shuaib, 2010).

#### ***Substandard detention centers***

The Home Ministry has admitted that Malaysia's detention centers for unauthorized migrants and trafficked victims lack satisfactory standards and tight security, which has made it easy for detainees to escape. The admission came after New Straits Times reported on 13 detention centers which were not secure enough to hold a detainee population of 7,000. The detainee



population is said to include murderers, rapists and other criminals awaiting deportation after serving their jail sentence (AFP, 2010b).

Attention focused on the detention centers after early August, when 20 Afghan victims of trafficking managed to escape from the Kuala Lumpur airport immigration depot. The Home Ministry said anti-climbing fences and CCTV cameras will be installed at these centers to tighten security. A report would also be submitted to the Cabinet to justify a further upgrade of security measures (AFP, 2010b).

### **Human Trafficking Act**

Proposed amendments to the Human Trafficking Act reached the first reading in July, another step towards changing Malaysia's legislation and policy on human smuggling and trafficking. Included in the proposed changes are higher penalties for traffickers and a new section on the smuggling of migrants (Rahman, 2010).

The fines for traffickers, currently between RM50,000 to RM500,000, will be raised to RM500,000 up to RM1 million. Traffickers' gains from their operations will also be forfeited after conviction (Rahman, 2010).

The amendments distinguish between migrants who voluntarily finance their unauthorized migration into Malaysia and those who are trafficked into the country, which has been used as a transit point by syndicates (Rahman, 2010).

The inclusion of a section on migrant smuggling would punish a human smuggler with a jail sentence of 15 years or a fine, or both, and stiffer punishments if it is proven that the smuggler intends to exploit and subject the migrant to cruel treatment. Fines and jail terms are also provided for those colluding in human smuggling. The new section also establishes that no proof of conveyance or movement of the trafficked person is required to prove that a trafficking violation had been committed. The only proof required is that the trafficked person was exploited (Rahman, 2010).

Another proposed amendment is to change the name of "Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons" to "Council

for Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants" (Rahman, 2010).

The goal to strengthen anti-trafficking legislation is part of the 10th Malaysia Plan, 2011-2015. According to the Home Ministry, Malaysia has become a transit point for trafficking syndicates. Sabah, for instance, has earned the reputation of being a trafficking hotspot for the sex trade. The plan also targets the reduction of undocumented foreign workers in the country (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

### **Jobs for refugees**

The Malaysian Trade Union Congress in February suggested allowing refugees in the country to work instead of hiring more foreign workers, which could help ease labor shortage, improve the economy and show that the country is a humane society. Human Resources Minister Dr. S. Subramaniam plans to present a proposal that would provide refugees employment while they await resettlement (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

As of September 2010, there were about 90,000 registered refugees in Malaysia, according to the UNHCR. The Foreign Ministry said the government has been cooperating with the UNHCR and the IOM in repatriating refugees to their origin countries or to resettling them in a third country. However, refugee-related issues have not been discussed during bilateral talks with countries such as Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand (Bernama, 2010c).

It was announced that a Cabinet meeting would be held in mid-December to determine whether refugees will be allowed to work in the country. At present, refugees are only allowed to perform "odd-jobs." There are no specific laws for refugees, who are mostly viewed as unauthorized immigrants (Kaos, 2010).

## **REFERENCES**

- Agence France-Presse (AFP)  
2010a "Indonesian maid minimum wage unacceptable – Malaysia," *Inquirer.net*, 9 August.



2010b "Malaysia admits lapses at migration detention camps," *The Brunei Times*, 25 August.

Anis, Mazwin Nik and Izatun Shari

2010 "Compulsary medical insurance policies for foreign workers from next year," *The Star Online*, 26 November.

Bernamea

2010a "Maids from Timor Leste an option, says Dr Subra," *The Star Online*, 22 August.

2010b "Health insurance for foreign workers must be from registered panel," *The Sun Daily*, 29 November.

2010c "Over 90,000 refugees in Malaysia," *The Malay Mail*, 11 November.

Gomes, Elton

2010 "Employers of illegals to face action," *The Borneo Post*, 26 November.

*Himalayan News Service*

2010 "Medical insurance must for Malaysia migrants: Up to four lakh Nepalis to be affected," *The Himalayan Times*, 30 November.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

Kaos, Jr., Joseph

2010 "Refugees' right to work in Malaysia," *The Malay Mail*, 18 November.

*New Straits Times*

2010 "Malaysia's population now over 27 million," 22 December.

Ng, Eileen

2010 "Malaysia woos foreign talent in 5-year growth plan," *Associated Press, Bloomberg Business week*, 10 June 2010.

Rahman, Zulkifli Abd

2010 "Stiffer fines for human traffickers under changes to Act," *The Star Online*, 6 July.

Raj, Reena

2010 "NGOs cry foul over lack of disclosure on foreign workers' health insurance," *The Malay Mail*, 7 December.

Shuaib, Iwan Shu-Aswad

2010 "Autogate system for foreigners," *The Star Online*, 20 November.

Tan Sin Chow

2010 "Recruiter: Review medical cover for migrant workers," *The Star Online*, 1 December.

*Tempo Interactive*

2011 "Malaysia suffering from lack of domestic workers," 17 January.

*The Star Online*

2010 "Malaysia no longer base for human trafficking, says MOF," 20 November.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	94.0
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.1
Percent urban (%)	63
Population per square kilometer	313
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	35
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	199.59 B
GDP growth (annual %)	7.6
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	3,980
Human development index (rank – value)	97 – 0.638
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	78 – 0.623
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	435,423
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	21.42 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	139,509
Asylum-seekers by origin	675
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	73
Refugees by origin	953
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	243

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

The Philippines was cited as one of the top emigrant countries in the world (World Bank, 2010:18). By the end of 2010, it was estimated that there were more than 4.27 million emigrants, many of whom were based in the following top destination countries: the US, Saudi

Arabia, Canada, Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Italy, Qatar, the UAE and the UK (World Bank, 2010:205). Filipino emigrants accounted for about 4.6 percent of the total Philippine population.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) presents a different estimate. As of December 2010, the stock estimate of overseas Filipinos had reached 9.4 million,<sup>1</sup> comprising of permanent (47 percent), temporary (45

<sup>1</sup> Based on CFO (n.d.) definitions, permanent migrants are “immigrants, dual citizens or legal permanent residents abroad whose stay do not depend on work contracts;” temporary migrants are those “whose stay overseas is employment related, and who are expected to return at the end of their work contracts;” and irregular migrants refer to “those not properly documented or without valid residence or work permits, or who are overstaying in a foreign country.”

**TABLE 1**  
**Stock Estimate of Top 10 Destinations of Overseas Filipinos (as of December 2010)**

REGION/COUNTRY	PERMANENT	TEMPORARY	IRREGULAR	TOTAL
World Total	4,423,680	4,324,388	704,916	9,452,984
(Percentage)	47%	45%	8%	100%
1. United States	2,882,420	128,109	156,000	3,166,529
2. Saudi Arabia	354	1,482,185	30,000	1,512,539
3. Canada	581,095	80,444	6,135	667,674
4. UAE	1,711	606,443	28,000	636,154
5. Australia	302,120	40,007	3,465	345,592
6. Malaysia	26,004	90,269	200,000	316,273
7. Japan	150,254	127,264	12,840	290,358
8. United Kingdom	92,669	94,071	10,000	196,740
9. Hong Kong	23,509	141,240	5,000	169,749
10. Kuwait	502	160,604	8,000	169,106

Source: CFO (n.d.)

percent) and unauthorized or irregular migrants (8 percent) (Table 1).

On the other hand, there were only 435,400 immigrants to the country, making up 0.5 percent of the population. About 51.1 percent of the migrants were women. The top origin countries were: the US, China, the UK, Bahrain, Japan, Antigua and Barbuda, Indonesia, Brazil and Angola (World Bank, 2010:205).

As of 2009, the country registered a high unemployment rate at 7.4 percent. The lack of employment opportunities has compelled millions of Filipinos to work abroad.

#### **Labor deployment**

Despite economic shifts and legislative amendments in 2010, the government, the private sector and recruitment firms expect continuing demand for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). In its OFW Deployment Report released in January 2010, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) said the construction and health care sectors will be the primary sources of employment for OFWs in the next five years. Other sectors that will most likely hire OFWs include

energy, information and communication technologies, manufacturing, electronics, services, environment, education and transport and shipping (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010; POEA, 2010b).

Regionally, the Middle East was projected to remain the major overseas labor market for the Philippines, particularly in the construction, energy, industry and petrochemical sectors. Both Asia and Europe were forecasted to hire more highly skilled workers. The deployment report also included projections for other countries such as Guam, Singapore and Taiwan (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010; POEA, 2010b).

South Korea said it would hire some 10,000 Filipino workers beginning 2010 to meet labor demands in construction, manufacturing and services, agriculture, fishing and livestock. The country's Human Resources Department said the quota for hiring Filipinos has increased not just because of manpower needs but also because Filipino employees are preferred by Korean companies. It is estimated that as many as 24,000 Filipinos are already working in South Korea's construction and manufacturing sectors alone (Garcia-Yap, 2010).

In February, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) signed a memorandum of understanding with around 20 domestic worker agencies from Malaysia, providing opportunities for hiring Muslim domestic workers. The pact secures the deployment of around 700 domestic workers to Malaysia monthly, most of whom are expected to complete a government training program. Philippine officials said the agreement can encourage more cooperation between ARMM and Malaysia, which prefers Muslim workers (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

In October, the POEA announced that it has lifted the ban on deploying au pairs to Europe implemented 13 years ago. Countries such as Denmark, Norway and Switzerland are now possible destinations for Filipino au pairs, as all three countries have agreed to comply with Philippine government standards to provide them protection (Abella, 2010; POEA, 2010a).

The global economic crisis which started in 2008 displaced OFWs, some of which resulted in repatriations. According to the POEA, as of September 2009 more than 4,000 Filipino workers from Taiwan and 1,300 from the UAE were displaced (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010). Among the 6,957 displaced OFWs, around 4,495 were able to come home. Labor officials said the repatriated Filipino workers will receive livelihood and skills training, as well as assistance in finding jobs in the Philippines (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

In 2010, overseas Filipinos figured in disasters and conflict situations. In January, Filipinos based in Haiti were among those affected by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit the island, which inflicted damage to infrastructure and killed thousands of people (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010). In August, the death of Hong Kong tourists in Manila following a failed rescue operation raised fears among OFWs in Hong Kong SAR (*abs-cbnNews.com*, 25 August 2010; Pareño, 2010).

### **Remittances**

OFW remittances are widely acknowledged as a significant contributor to the Philippine economy; less acknowledged are the social and cultural remittances overseas Filipinos channel to the country. Contrary to

popular perceptions, OFW families use remittances for investments, such as businesses, community-based projects, education for their children and housing. In 2010, OFW families played an important role in the local real estate boom. Aside from traditional housing, an increasing number of OFWs have been eyeing condominiums, which to a certain extent has been influenced by their exposure to different lifestyles abroad (Macaraig, 2010).

The Philippines in 2010 was still one of the top remittance recipients in the world, with remittance inflows at around \$21.3-21.4 billion by the end of the year (World Bank, 2010:205; 2012). The country received the fourth highest remittance total globally, after India (\$55 billion), China (\$51 billion) and Mexico (\$22.6 billion).

Despite the global economic downturn, remittances continued to pour into the Philippines. By the end of 2009, remittances reached \$17.35 billion, marking a new record total for money sent home by OFWs. The figure increased 5.6 percent compared to the \$16.43 billion received in 2008 (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010). Remittance inflows suggest that the impact of the global crisis had not been as severe as had been expected. Authorities attributed the continued increase to the sustained hiring rate of Filipino engineers, medical professionals and teachers, as well as the number of Filipinos who found jobs in alternative markets.

Seafarers accounted for a large share of the remittances recorded in 2009, sending home around \$3.4 billion, a 12-percent increase compared to \$3.03 billion in 2008 (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010). From January to November 2010, remittances from sea-based workers increased by nearly \$250 million or 11.3 percent from the same period the previous year (Jaymalin, 2010).

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the country's central bank, announced that beginning the third quarter of 2010, the remittance processing fee will be cut down to Php50 (a little over \$1). The fee is significantly lower compared to previous charges which were as high as Php550 (or \$11.95). The new policy would take effect under the Philpass Remit System (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

### **Unauthorized migration**

In 2009, more than 18,000 undocumented Filipinos returned home from the US to avoid being arrested and deported for their unauthorized stay. The figure was based on the 2009 Immigration Enforcement Actions report by the US Department of Homeland Security (US DHS) published in August 2010. Filipinos were the third largest group of undocumented migrants who voluntarily returned to their home countries to avoid risks of being detained, after Mexicans (above 400,000) and Canadians (more than 250,000) (Jaleco, 2010). Of the estimated four million Filipinos in the US, one in four is believed to be undocumented. According to the US DHS, some 270,000 are without legal documents and account for about two percent of unauthorized migrants in the country (Jaleco, 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

The Philippines in 2010 remained on the Tier 2 Watch List in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for a second consecutive year, indicating a strong need for more measures to fight trafficking, despite current government efforts. The report stressed the need for more convictions and prosecutions for labor and sex traffickers. Addressing corruption was mentioned as an important factor in eliminating rampant trafficking in the country (USDS, 2010:270).

The Philippines is considered primarily a source country for trafficked victims, especially those who end up in forced labor and prostitution. Large numbers of Filipino men and women initially leave for work abroad but are later forced to work in construction sites, factories or in domestic work, mostly in Asia and in the Middle East. The report also noted that internal trafficking and child tourism are also rampant (USDS, 2010:270).

The UNHCR also called on the Philippine government to strengthen institutions to counter human trafficking, including training government officials and encouraging vigilance of civil society, the media and the private sector. UN estimates show that at least 80,000 Filipinos have been trafficked (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

In view of the rising cases of Filipinos falling victim to contract substitution and human trafficking, Susan

Ople of Blas F. Ople Policy Center called on the government to strengthen and improve policies. Following are her recommendations: more OFW representation in the Board of Trustees of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA); establish more OFW assistance centers in provinces; sufficient budget should be allocated to fund legal and welfare services in countries where human trafficking and welfare cases are widespread; and embassies and consulates must also file cases against foreign employers or recruitment agents involved in contract substitution, rape and the maltreatment of workers (*Manila Standard Today*, 8 June 2010).

Other policy and institutional responses related to anti-trafficking efforts include the following:

- In March, the Bureau of Immigration that it plans to deploy around 27 officers to different entry ports to block opportunities for human traffickers (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).
- In November, the Supreme Court ordered all trial courts to speed up the resolution of trafficking cases which involve violations stated in Republic Act No. 9208, or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (Panesa, 2010).
- In November, Vice President Jejomar Binay ordered the creation of an inter-agency task force against human trafficking, to be headed by his office. Members of the task force will include the POEA, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Manila International Airport Authority, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police (*abs-cbnNews.com*, 19 November 2010)
- In December, the Bureau of Immigration created the Trafficking in Persons Unit to track down foreigners who smuggle people in and out of the Philippines and those involved in trafficking (Ramirez, 2010a).

### **Seafarers held hostage by pirates**

Throughout the year, there were several reported cases of seafarers becoming victims of pirates, with some successfully rescued and repatriated. In April, 19 Filipino seafarers were among those held hostage when Somali pirates seized South Korean-owned M/V Samho

Dream (AMN, 1-30 April 2010). In December, 24 Filipino seafarers onboard a Greek-owned vessel was seized by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean. As of December 2010, more than a hundred Filipino seafarers from eight different hijacked vessels were being held hostage by the pirates (Philippine News Agency, 2010).

#### ***OFWs claim abuse***

During the year, hundreds of Filipinos working abroad complained of labor abuse and poor working conditions. There were also several repatriations of distressed workers, mostly from Middle East countries.

In April, 574 OFWs from the Middle East were repatriated after experiencing maltreatment, poor working conditions and unpaid salaries. Some also had cases with immigration and police authorities. Of the distressed workers, 426 came from Saudi Arabia, 100 from the UAE, 28 from Jordan, 13 from Bahrain and seven from Syria. In 2010, a total of 2,448 Filipinos were repatriated from Saudi Arabia alone, according to the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah (*abs-cbnNews.com*, 25 January 2011). In November, 163 Filipinos deported from Lebanon had suffered physical, verbal and other forms abuses while they were working there (Ramirez, 2010b).

In June, labor officials announced that they will help some 236 Filipino medical professionals working for a hospital in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The workers claimed their employer had stopped paying their salaries for six months, and that the hospital may close without giving them their release papers (AMN, 1-30 June 2010). During the year, over 200 Filipino employees at a Saudi Arabian construction firm protested against their employer, claiming delayed payment of wages, non-payment of overtime work compensation and unnecessary salary deductions, as well as discrimination and maltreatment. The firm, however, denied the workers' claims and said the issue was immediately resolved without any prolonged strike (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

According to Migrante-Middle East, an OFW militant group based in the region, almost 10,000 undocumented and runaway OFWs were in the Middle East as of December 2010. John Leonard Monterona of Mig-

rante said that the number of "troubled" OFWs in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE and other Middle East countries continues to grow. Many of the runaway OFWs had complained of maltreatment and sexual abuse by their employers. The problems were aggravated by lack of assistance from consulate officials and embassies (Esplanada, 2010). However, the DFA said that the figure had no basis, adding that the department is doing its best to attend to the cases of migrant workers.

#### ***OFWs susceptible to HIV***

Eight out of 112 reported cases of Filipinos with HIV were OFWs, all of whom contracted the infection through sexual contact, according to reports in November. Since the beginning of 2010, at least 160 OFWs have tested positive for HIV.

From 1984 to October 2010, a total of 5,729 cases of HIV-positive Filipinos were recorded. Of the total, 1,501 involved OFWs (Sabater, 2010a). OFWs are said to be vulnerable to HIV since "they are exposed to foreign cultures that abet high-risk behavior, including commercial sex sans the use of prophylactics" (*abs-cbn News.com*, 25 December 2010).

#### ***US citizenship***

According to the US DHS, a total of 38,934 Filipinos were granted US citizenship, suggesting the country's sustained popularity as a destination for emigrants. The two largest groups who were naturalized were Indians and Mexicans (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

According to the World Bank, in 2010 the Philippines-US corridor was one of the top 10 migration corridors in the world (World Bank, 2010:18). The US also remained the top destination country for Filipino emigrants (CFO, n.d.).

## **POLICIES**

#### ***Labor migration as an option***

In 2010, newly elected President Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III promised that his administration will focus on local job generation to address overseas migration



“by necessity” and to end the country’s often-criticized dependence on labor out-migration. He also emphasized protecting Filipino migrants’ rights and directed agencies to monitor OFWs’ conditions (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010).

### ***Magna Carta for Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos***

On 8 March, Republic Act (RA) 10022 lapsed into law, officially amending the Magna Carta for Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos, also known as RA 8042 or the Migrant Workers Act of 1995. RA 10022 is the second law amending the Magna Carta. It includes provisions concerning the deployment of workers only to countries that meet standards for protecting OFWs, stiffer punishments for illegal recruitment mandatory insurance, and mandatory repatriation of underaged migrant workers, among others (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010; Congress of the Philippines, 2010).

A key amendment bans contract substitution, wherein migrant worker applicants sign a contract in the Philippines but are later forced to sign another one upon arrival in the destination country (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010). According to the amendment, those who engage in contract substitution will be imprisoned between 12 and 20 years and will be fined at least Php1 to Php2 million (equivalent to around \$22,000 to \$43,500) (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010). The amendment also covers the reprocessing of workers – i.e., job orders that lead to non-existent employment, or work or employer that is different from what is stated in the contract – under “illegal recruitment” (Mamanglu, 2010). Also, under the amended law, government officials who allow the deployment of OFWs to countries that do not meet international labor standards will be punished with dismissal from service or a disqualification from holding an appointive public office for five years (Mamanglu, 2010).

### ***Mandatory insurance***

The implementation of the mandatory insurance for OFWs in November 2010 raised concerns on the effect of the new policy on the deployment and recruitment of OFWs, a significant resource for Filipino families and the Philippine economy.

Recruitment agencies warned that the requirement will reduce the demand for OFWs; some employers in the Middle East and Hong Kong SAR had asked for exemption; and some OFWs said the insurance is redundant and does more harm than good. The House of Representatives and Vice President Jejomar Binay sought to review the mandatory insurance scheme (*abs-cbn News.com*, 28 November 2010; Dalangin-Fernandez, 2010; Lee-Brago, 2010; Roncesvalles, 2010), but the POEA pushed for the enforcement of mandatory insurance.

In December, the POEA said that the enforcement of the law did not reduce OFW deployment. In fact, deployment figures increased following the implementation of the law, an indication of the continuing demand for Filipino workers and the willingness of recruitment agencies to comply with the requirement (Fabunan, 2010).

### ***Migration-related bills***

House Bill 3001 was passed in December by Pampanga Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo – it proposes to amend the Overseas Absentee Voting Act (also known as Republic Act 9189) and to apply a more effective means for overseas Filipinos to participate in the national elections. The bill aims to expand overseas Filipinos’ accessibility to voting sites by establishing more field and mobile registration centers where they can sign up for overseas absentee voting (OAV). The bill also seeks to include pre-departure registration with accredited agencies that will be selected by the Commission on Elections. There was a low OFW voter turnout in the May 2010 elections: a total of 364,187 OFWs had registered for the OAV, but only 233,092 were actually able to vote (Calonzo, 2010).

Senate Bill No. 2601 was filed by Senator Francis Escudero to protect applicants for overseas jobs from excessive placement fees. Other prohibitions proposed in the bill include the non-return of placement fees when deployment does not push through, the forced issuance of post-dated checks for paying placement fees, and forcing applicants to loan money to pay for their fees (Torregoza, 2010).



In June, the Senate ratified the Immigration Act of 2009, a bill that Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan says “calls for the institution of policies and procedures that make it easier for foreigners to visit or do business in the Philippines” (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010; Carandang, 2010).

The new act aims to streamline and update government policies to address current immigration demands and issues, as well as to tighten the system for recruiting and screening immigration officials and employees. The act grants the President the power to deny the entry of a foreigner if he/she deems the admission detrimental to the country’s interests, to waive passports or documentary requirements for immigrants or non-immigrants, and to grant permanent residence status to non-immigrants (Carandang, 2010).

### ***Bilateral Labor Agreements***

The DOLE signed Administrative Order No. 383, also known as the constitution of the Committee on Bilateral Agreement Matters, that will draft oversee BLAs between the Philippines and other countries. The setting up of the committee is in line with RA 10022, which amended the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995. The committee has the following functions: to evaluate existing BLAs, to monitor the implementation of such agreements, to coordinate with other agencies in proposing BLAs, and to recommend changes or the termination of BLAs (*abs-cbnNews.com*, 28 October 2010).

According to the order, the committee will be chaired by the DOLE undersecretary for employment, with the POEA administrator as vice-chairman. Members will include heads from the OWWA, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Professional Regulation Commission, the Institute for Labor Studies, the Bureau of Local Employment, International Affairs Bureau and the DOLE Legal Service (*abs-cbnNews.com*, 28 October 2010).

### ***Regional action plan to protect migrant workers***

In March, the Non-Aligned Movement comprising 118 member countries signed the Manila Declaration on

Peace and Development through Interfaith Dialogue and its Action Plan. The declaration emphasizes and promotes the responsibility of countries to protect the rights of migrant workers, including OFWs (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010; Sabater, 2010b).

The intergovernmental group signed the treaty in Manila during the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development (SNAMMM), a move seen as a step forward for countries to ratify the UN convention on migrants’ rights, which had been ignored by many labor-receiving nations, including the European Union and the US (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

According to SNAMMM chairman and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, the Manila Declaration is the first in the NAM to include the recommendations of civil society. It contains programs of action that promote a culture of peace and development, as well as interfaith dialogue (Sabater, 2010b).

### ***Foreign Labor Operations System***

The DOLE plans to establish the Foreign Labor Operations Information System, an online system that would help labor offices abroad to assist distressed OFWs. The proposed system also aims to enhance the documentation of OFWs and their employees (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

### ***ePassports***

The government has begun to release ePassports through 19 designated regional consular offices, replacing the machine-readable passports. The authorization of these offices would provide applicants a more convenient way of securing passports without having to travel to Manila (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

Some Filipino migrants, such as those based in Hong Kong SAR, have criticized the new system, particularly the additional application fee of \$10. Foreign affairs representatives, on the other hand, say the fee is necessary to provide a more secure passport that meets international standards (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

### **Drug Courier Task Force**

The government created the Drug Courier Task Force to identify and punish drug smuggling syndicates and to raise awareness about the dangers of drug smuggling through media campaigns (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010; 1-31 March 2010). More and more Filipinos are lured into becoming drug couriers or drug mules, according to the DFA. Several Filipinos have been recruited to smuggle drugs to countries such as Iran, Malaysia and Thailand (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010). The Philippine mission in Tehran said Filipinos fall into such traps because they are offered high wages or job offers in return for carrying drugs (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010). Filipinos are also said to be vulnerable to being selected as drug mules because many of them are articulate, computer-literate and willing to do anything to earn money and escape poverty (Ong, 2010).

It is estimated that more than a hundred Filipinos have been sentenced to death in countries such as China, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Kuwait and the US. Most of the crimes committed were drug-related (Ong, 2010). At least 70 were convicted of drug smuggling and trafficking and were on death row, according to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. The figure is only a small share of an estimated 630 Filipino “drug mules” all over the world. Of the total, 303 are in Asia and the Pacific region, 121 in Europe, 122 in the Americas, and 89 in Africa and the Middle East (Ong, 2010).

Even as the government sought appeals for clemency of the death sentence meted to Filipinos convicted in China and in the Middle East, it cut down by half legal assistance funds for OFWs in the 2011 budget. Legal assistance funds are used to hire lawyers to defend OFWs with legal cases (Romero, 2010).

### **Internal displacement**

Outgoing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ordered authorities to facilitate the return of around 84,000 IDPs back to their communities in Mindanao. In May, around 360 families from temporary evacuation centers had already returned to their homes, with food and relief goods (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

During the early part of 2010, about 130,000 people were displaced due to armed conflict, but assistance from the regional government and international aid agencies encouraged many to return, bringing down the numbers to about 15,000 to 20,000. The remaining IDPs have been living in camps in the Maguindanao Province, in the ARMM. At least 70,000 new displacements were recorded throughout the year, many of which were caused by clan wars and violence (also known as *rido*), driven by economic, political and land ownership issues. Temporary displacements were also triggered by clashes between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Abu Sayyaf, as well as fighting between the military and the New People’s Army. Displacements in the Philippines are commonly caused by armed conflict, generalized violence and human rights violations (IDMC, 2011:93). Armed conflict in the Southern Philippine region has gone on for the past 30 years, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes, with some returning to areas of origin but only to be displaced yet again (IDMC, 2011:93-94)

### **REFERENCES**

- Abella, Jerrie M.  
2010 “RP lifts ban on deployment of au pairs in Europe,” *GMANews.tv*, 29 October.
- abs-cbnNews.com*  
2011 “2,448 distressed OFWs left western Saudi in 2010,” 25 January.
- 2010 “Some OFWs in HK feel ire of locals,” 25 August.
- 2010 “DOLE pushes bilateral labor deals for OFWs,” 28 October.
- 2010 “Binay orders creation of task force vs human trafficking,” 19 November.
- 2010 “VP calls for suspension of compulsory insurance for OFWs,” 28 November.
- 2010 “New HIV cases up 40% in November,” 25 December.

Calonzo, Andreo C.

2010 "Rep. Gloria Arroyo wants Overseas Absentee Voting Act amended," *GMANews.tv*, 26 December.

Carandang, Rolly T.

2010 "Senate ratifies RP Immigration Act of 2009," *Manila Bulletin*, 5 June.

Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)

n.d. "Stock Estimate of Overseas Filipinos as of December 2010." Available at <http://cfo.gov.ph/pdf/statistics/Stock%202010.pdf>, accessed 13 January 2012.

Congress of the Philippines

2010 Republic Act No. 10022: An Act Amending Republic Act No. 8042, Otherwise Known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as Amended, Further Improving the Standard of Protection and Promotion of the Welfare of Migrant Workers, their Families and Overseas Filipinos in Distress, and for Other Purposes. Fourteenth Congress of the Philippines, Regular Session. Available at [http://www.congress.gov.ph/download/ra\\_14/RA10022.pdf](http://www.congress.gov.ph/download/ra_14/RA10022.pdf), accessed 2 January 2012.

Dalangin-Fernandez, Lira

2010 "House to probe mandatory OFW insurance," *Inquirer.net*, 30 November.

Esplanada, Jerry E.

2010 "Undocumented OFWs in Mideast now 10,000," *Inquirer.net*, 29 December.

Fabunan, Sara Susanne D.

2010 "Demand for OFWs still high despite insurance expense, POEA insists," *BusinessMirror*, 29 December.

Garcia-Yap, Aileen

2010 "10,000 Pinoy workers needed in South Korea," *Cebu Daily News, Inquirer.net*, 8 October 2010.

Jaleco, Rodney

2010 "18,000 Pinoy TNTs go home than risk arrest," *ABS-CBN North America News Bureau, abs-cbnNews.com*, 20 August 2010.

Jaymalin, Mayen

2010 "Remittances from seafarers up 11.3%," *The Philippine Star*, 1 November.

Macaraig, Mynardo

2010 "Filipinos working abroad fuel real estate boom at home," *Agence France-Presse, abs-cbn news.com*, 15 December.

Mamanglu, Shianee

2010 "Changes to Migrant Workers law welcomed," *Manila Bulletin*, 20 January.

*Manila Standard Today*

2010 "Trafficking in humans hits worrisome level, says Ople," 8 June.

*Migration News*

2010 "Southeast Asia," University of California, Davis, January (Vol. 17, No. 1). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3580\\_0\\_3\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3580_0_3_0), accessed 19 December 2011.

Ong, Czarina Nicole O.

2010 "70 Pinoy 'drug mules' worldwide on Death Row," *Manila Bulletin*, 12 December.

Panesa, Edmer F.

2010 "Supreme Court orders courts to give priority to cases of human trafficking," *Manila Bulletin*, 10 November.

Pareño, Roel

2010 "OFWs in HK apprehensive over hostage taking repercussion," *Philstar.com*, 24 August.

Philippine News Agency

2010 "24 Filipino crew in hijacked 'M/V Renauro' off Indian Ocean," *Manila Bulletin*, 14 December.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)

2010a "Government lifts ban on deployment of au pairs," 27 October. News Release. Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Website. Available at [http://www.poea.gov.ph/news/2010/PR\\_Oct2010\\_aupair.pdf](http://www.poea.gov.ph/news/2010/PR_Oct2010_aupair.pdf), accessed 5 January 2012.

---

2010b "Overseas Filipino Workers still in demand in 2010 and beyond," 7 January. News Release. Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Website. Available at [http://www.poea.gov.ph/news/2010/PR\\_Jan2010\\_EMPLOYMENT%20PROSPECTS.pdf](http://www.poea.gov.ph/news/2010/PR_Jan2010_EMPLOYMENT%20PROSPECTS.pdf), accessed 5 January 2012.

Ramirez, Jun

2010a "Elite team to run after foreigners in smuggling," *Manila Bulletin*, 28 December.

---

2010b "Many deported OFWs suffered abuses in Lebanon, BI reveals," *Manila Bulletin*, 24 November.

Romero, Paolo

2010 "Palace slashes by half legal assistance funds for OFWs in 2011 national budget," *The Philippine Star*, 9 September.

Roncesvalles, Carina

2010 "Pinoy workers in Hong Kong protest compulsory insurance," *The Philippine Star*, 11 November.

Sabater, Madel R.

2010 "Number of HIV cases among OFWs up," *Manila Bulletin*, 2 December.

---

2010 "Manila Declaration on Peace, Dev't adopted," *Manila Bulletin*, 19 March.

Torregoza, Hannah L.

2010 "Chiz seeks cap on OFW placement fees," 6 December.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	5.1
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.6
Percent urban (%)	100
Population per square kilometer	7,526
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	17
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	208.77 B
GDP growth (annual %)	14.5
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	55,790
Human development index (rank – value)	27 – 0.846
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	10 – 0.255
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	1.97 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	13
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	76
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	7

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

High-income Singapore in 2010 registered a substantial share of immigrants, numbering around 1.97 million or about 40.7 percent of the country's population (5.1 million as of mid-2010). In Southeast Asia, Malaysia and Singapore are considered main destinations of international migrants (IOM, 2010:170; World Bank, 2010:221). Most migrants come from Malaysia, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the US, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong SAR, China and Canada (World Bank, 2010:221).

As of 2009, Singapore's total population and labor force population were estimated at five million and 2.8 million, respectively (World Bank, 2010:221).

Singapore is said to be targeting a population mark of seven million. From 2005 to 2009, the population increased by around 150,000 per year, most of which is largely attributed to immigration (*Migration News*, April 2010).

In 2009, Singapore accepted 60,000 permanent residents, compared to the 79,000 admitted the year before. About 20,000 people were naturalized in 2009 (*Migration News*, April 2010).

**TABLE 1**  
**Employment in Singapore (Dec. 2009, 2010)**

EMPLOYMENT	DEC. 2009	DEC. 2010
Employment ('000)	2,990.0	3,105.9
Local	1,936.5	1,992.7
Foreign	1,053.5	1,113.2
Employment Change ('000)	37.6	115.9
Local	41.8	56.2
Foreign	-4.2	59.7
Growth ('000)	1.3	3.9
Local	2.2	2.9
Foreign	-0.4	5.7

Source: Ministry of Manpower, Government of Singapore (2011)

Singapore has become a major host country of foreign workers. As of December 2010, Singapore registered about 3.1 million workers, of which 1.113 million were foreigners. There were more foreign workers during the year compared to 2009 (see Table 1). Their share of the total workforce – around 35.84 percent - was also higher compared to 25 percent in 2004 (*Migration News*, January 2010).

Singapore's economic growth has been partly reinforced by the large foreign workforce in sectors such as construction, hospitality and services. Singapore has relied on foreign workers willing to take on jobs that are rejected by locals, such as occupations in construction and service work (Oi, 2010). Singapore, however, is becoming more selective, with a preference for hiring foreign talent or highly skilled and educated professionals for the business and finance industries (AP, 2010).

Local Singaporeans have complained that foreigners are competing with citizens for jobs. Other complaints include the poor performance of foreign employees in restaurants and stores, crowded subways, and violent crimes (AP, 2010).

In 2009, the country recorded the emigration of 297,200 persons. The top destination countries were:

Malaysia, Australia, the UK, the US, Canada, New Zealand, India, Brunei Darussalam, the Netherlands and Japan. The stock number of emigrants only accounted for about 6.1 percent of Singapore's population (World Bank, 2010:221).

#### **Trafficking in persons**

In 2010, Singapore was placed on the Tier 2 Watch List in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for the government's insufficient compliance to minimum standards in curtailing human trafficking. The report noted that the government has shown "... no increasing efforts to prosecute and punish forced labor offenses or to identify both victims of sex trafficking and victims of forced labor" (USDS, 2010:292). During the reporting period, there were no convictions and prosecutions made on labor traffickers. Two sex trafficking offenders were convicted and punished, but the report said Singapore should be more successful in punishing those who engage in human trafficking. Some proactive measures were made to identify traffickers and defend victims, but these were deemed insufficient in increasing prosecutions (USDS, 2010:292).

Singapore is mainly a destination country for trafficked women and girls often forced into prostitution. Some migrant workers end up in forced labor. Potential traf-

ficked victims are mainly foreign workers from countries such as Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka, who may end up in the hands of traffickers due to deception, the confiscation of passports, physical or sexual abuse and the restriction of movement. It is possible that some organized crime groups may be engaging in the international sex trafficking of women and children to Singapore. Child sex tourism also continues to be rampant (USDS, 2010:292).

Singaporean officials criticized the US report as “mere political ritual” (AMN, 1-30 June 2010). In July, the Singaporean government released a response to the trafficking report, asserting that it does not have a severe human trafficking problem. The government said that it has a “comprehensive and holistic three-pronged approach of Prevention, Prosecution and Victim Assistance which the US has chosen to ignore.” The framework, according to the response, is evident in the extremely low number of substantiated trafficking cases (AsiaOne, 3 July 2010).

Meanwhile, Singaporean authorities in May said the city-state may have become a transit point for smuggled or trafficked migrants. Police reported that about 10 Afghan boat migrants had been found near the coast of Johor, and that syndicates have been transferring Afghans to the Changi International Airport before they are brought to Malaysia, Indonesia and finally Australia (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

## POLICIES

### *Reducing dependence on migrant labor*

The Singaporean government said it plans to control and restrict the inflow of foreign workers to manage immigration. In July, it hiked foreign worker levies to improve migrant labor intake control. Previous levies which ranged from S\$150 to S\$450 were increased by about S\$10 to S\$250 per month. The decision has raised concerns on the impact of the levy hike on businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (AMN, 1-31 March 2010). The government will also increase tuition fees for non-citizen permanent residents and reduce subsidies for health care and housing (Migration News, April 2010).

If Singapore achieves economic growth of seven to nine percent in 2010, some 100,000 new jobs would be created and will be given mostly to locals, with only a few to be filled by temporary foreign workers (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

Despite these measures, migrant advocates insist these will not achieve a reduced dependence on migrant labor, and that employers would find ways to make deductions from migrants to pay higher levies (Migration News, July 2010).

In July, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Hong said the government will still hire around 100,000 foreign workers during the year to help keep inflation low and maintain economic growth, a departure from his earlier statement to reduce the number of migrant workers (AP, 2010). Nevertheless, he assured the public that the government will control immigration inflow, and will only admit foreigners who can contribute to the country. He said, “We will develop and invest in our people, but we also need to reinforce the Singapore team with talent and numbers from abroad” (Migration News, October 2010; Oi, 2010).

The government’s statement to restrict migrant worker flows is believed to be political, especially since citizens have been complaining about the increasing number of migrants in the country. Foreigners already account for a third of Singapore’s three-million strong labor force. A recent survey conducted by the Institute of Policy Studies found that more than six out of 10 citizens believe Singapore’s immigration policy was adversely affecting national unity (Oi, 2010).

### *Errant recruiters*

The Ministry of Manpower plans to identify and sanction errant and unlicensed recruitment agencies hiring foreign workers in response to the 1,280 complaints the ministry received last year concerning malpractices of employers (AMN, 1-31 March 2010). There are around 2,500 licensed employment agencies in Singapore, but unlicensed agencies are still in business (Saad, 2010).

From January to November, the ministry withdrew the licenses and security deposits of some 15 employment



agencies that violated the Employment Agencies Act, compared to 11 companies sanctioned the year before. Directors and licensees were banned from accepting key appointments and obtaining licenses in other agencies. The offenses of the 15 employment agencies included the unauthorized employment of foreigners and false declarations in work permits (SG Press Centre, 2010).

In November, amendments to the Employment Agencies Act were tabled in the agenda of the Parliament, considered a first in 26 years (Saad, 2010). The Ministry of Manpower noted loopholes in current laws and regulations concerning the recruitment of foreign labor, and so tougher penalties are needed, including increasing fines and jail terms. Licensed recruitment agencies that submit employment-related applications for unlicensed agents will also be penalized, while rank and file staff of all agencies will need to register and obtain certification. Security deposits will also be increased (Saad, 2010).

There is also a plan to create an Office of the Commissioner of Employment Agencies, which will be responsible for the implementation of the Employment Agencies Act. Amendments are expected to take effect in April 2011, although agency staff members still have until 2014 to get certified, while directors and managers need certification by 2012 (Saad, 2010).

In 2009, non-government organizations complained of rising cases of illegal deployment of migrant workers. About 412 complaints from migrant workers were reported by groups such as Transient Workers Count Too and the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics. The Parliamentary Committee for Manpower had called for more stringent measures and tougher penalties for errant employers (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

Migrants' rights groups have been calling on the Singaporean government to ensure protection for foreign workers and to provide additional rights for them, such as being able to switch employers without permission and to lift the ban on migrant workers unless they have been charged for criminal offenses (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

### ***Medical insurance for foreign workers***

The minimum coverage of medical insurance for foreign workers has been raised to S\$15,000 since 1 January, applicable to all insurance policies renewed or signed at the start of the year onwards. Since January 2008, employers have been required to provide medical insurance for foreign workers, including work permit holders, foreign domestic workers and S Pass holders. The regulation was implemented along with the withdrawal of health care subsidies previously provided to foreigners (Ministry of Manpower, 2010a).

The new measure seeks to improve medical services for foreign workers. In the past, many foreign workers did not have enough insurance coverage when they are hospitalized. According to employment agencies, about nine out of ten foreign workers cannot cover their medical expenses with the S\$5,000 insurance, with some being forced to spend for additional costs (Hong, 2009).

Security bond conditions also underwent changes. An employer only loses S\$5,000 instead of S\$15,000 when a foreign worker absconds. If a foreign worker intermarries with a citizen or permanent resident or becomes pregnant, the employee's work permit will be revoked but the employer will not lose the S\$5,000 security bond. If the employer exerts reasonable effort to find a foreign worker, the ministry will only forfeit half of the security bond (Hong, 2009).

Employers of non-Malaysian work permit holders, including employers of foreign domestic workers, are required to prepare a S\$5,000 deposit for the security bond (Hong, 2009).

### ***English proficiency test required for foreign workers***

The Ministry of Manpower in February announced that foreign workers will be required to pass an English proficiency test before they can obtain work permits. The new Service Literacy Test, which covers both listening and speaking exams, costs S\$34 and must be taken by those working in beverage, hotel and retail sectors. A foreign worker who fails can retake the exam. How-



ever, a second failure means waiting for another six months before getting another chance to take the test (AMN, 1-28 February 2010; Ministry of Manpower, 2010b).

## REFERENCES

### *AsiaOne*

2010 "Singapore's detailed response to TIP report," MICA Press Release, 3 July.

### Associated Press (AP)

2010 "Singapore's PM: We need more foreign workers," *Philstar.com*, 15 July.

### Hong, Lynda

2009 "Security bond conditions revised, insurance coverage increased for foreign workers," *Channel NewsAsia*, 25 September.

### International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

### *Migration News*

2010 "Southeast Asia," University of California, Davis, January (Vol. 17, No. 1). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3580\\_0\\_3\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3580_0_3_0), accessed 19 December 2011.

2010 "Southeast Asia," University of California, Davis, April (Vol. 17, No. 2). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3600\\_0\\_3\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3600_0_3_0), accessed 19 December 2011.

2010 "Southeast Asia," University of California, Davis, July (Vol. 17, No. 3) Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more\\_entireissue.php?idate=2010\\_07&number=3](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more_entireissue.php?idate=2010_07&number=3), accessed 19 December 2011.

2010 "Southeast Asia," University of California, Davis, October (Vol. 17, No. 4). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more\\_entireissue.php?idate=2010\\_10&number=4](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more_entireissue.php?idate=2010_10&number=4), accessed 19 December 2011.

### Ministry of Manpower

2011 Manpower Statistics in Brief, Singapore, 2011. Ministry of Manpower, Government of Singapore. Available at [http://www.mom.gov.sg/Publications/mrsd\\_msib2011\\_03Jun11.pdf](http://www.mom.gov.sg/Publications/mrsd_msib2011_03Jun11.pdf), accessed 20 December 2011.

2010a "New \$15,000 minimum for foreign worker medical insurance." Ministry of Manpower, Government of Singapore. Available at <http://www.mom.gov.sg/newsroom/Pages/HighlightsDetails.aspx?listid=11>, accessed 20 December 2011.

2010b "New service literacy test for work permit holders." Ministry of Manpower, Government of Singapore. Available <http://www.mom.gov.sg/newsroom/Pages/HighlightsDetails.aspx?listid=32>, accessed 20 December 2011.

### Oi, Mariko

2010 "Singapore's tough balancing act on immigration," *Asia Business Report/BBC World*, 26 August.

### Saad, Imelda

2010 "Sweeping law changes proposed to tackle illegal employment agents," *Channel NewsAsia*, 22 November.

### SG Press Centre, Government of Singapore

2010 "Singapore cracks down on government agencies," *Gov Monitor*, 16 November.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	68.1
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.6
Percent urban (%)	31
Population per square kilometer	133
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	21
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	318.52 B
GDP growth (annual %)	7.8
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	8,190
Human development index (rank – value)	92 – 0.654
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	69 – 0.586
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	1.16 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	1.76 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	228
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	10,250
Refugees by origin	348
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	96,675

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Thailand was one of the top emigration and immigration countries in East Asia and the Pacific in 2010. Thailand's stock of immigrants was approximately 1.16 million, or around 1.7 percent of the total population (World Bank, 2010:240). Thailand's top source countries of immigrants are China, Burma, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Japan, India, Vietnam and the US.

Estimates of foreign workers in Thailand vary – according to the Ministry of Labor, as of January 2010 there were 1.3 million migrant workers in the country (MCOT, 18 August 2010). Officials estimate around 1.4 million migrant workers, of which about 80 to 90 percent came from Burma while the rest originated from Cambodia and Lao PDR. However, labor groups say there are actually around three to four million Burmese migrants, which implies a larger estimate of the total number of migrant workers in the country (AMN, 1-31 January 2010; 1-28 February 2010).

Refugees made up 11.2 percent of the immigrant stock. Many asylum seekers in Thailand have raised concerns and issues regarding the government's approach to controlling the entry, detention and repatriation of refugees. Asylum-seeking groups include those from military-ruled Burma and the Hmong from Lao PDR (World Bank, 2010:240).

In the same year, the stock of emigrants stood at 810,000 or around 1.2 percent of the total population. Popular destinations for emigrants include the US, Cambodia, Malaysia, Germany, Japan, Australia, the UK, Sweden, Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Korea (World Bank, 2010:240).

### **Unauthorized migration**

In 2010, Thailand continued its crackdown against irregular migrants all over the country, arresting, detaining and repatriating hundreds of them. Most of the arrested were Burmese and Sri Lankan migrants, many of whom are believed to be asylum seekers who fled their countries of origin due to armed and political conflict.

Cases of Burmese migrants smuggled in pick-up trucks have been reported. In April, 54 Burmese migrants (17 men, 37 women) died from suffocation inside an airtight container truck. They were among 121 Burmese passengers who paid 5,000 baht each to a syndicate to enter Thailand and reach a resort island where they hoped to find jobs (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010; 1-30 April 2010).

In May, authorities raided a garment factory in a Thai border town: 750 migrants were arrested and 5,000 Burmese migrants were forced into hiding (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

In October, authorities arrested 61 Sri Lankan Tamil migrants, who were later charged for overstaying and unauthorized entry into Songkhla province. About 114 Sri Lankans were rounded up, though a number were freed when they presented valid documents (*AFP*, 2010). In the same month, about 128 Tamils were arrested and held for possible deportation, though some were registered with the UN as asylum seekers (*AFP*, 2010).

In Phuket, a special task force comprising government and police officers was formed to arrest and deport unauthorized migrant workers without permits. The regional task force is part of the Thai government's nationwide crackdown against foreigners without valid documents (*Phuket Gazette*, 27 November 2010).

### **Abuse and discrimination of migrant workers**

Rampant cases of migrant workers claiming abuse and discrimination, mostly by employers and recruiters, figured in various reports throughout the year. Many of these cases involved Burmese migrants.

On 15 December, about 5,000 Burmese migrant workers of a poultry company protested and went on strike against alleged abuse and violation of labor laws, according to a report by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC, 2010). The migrant workers claimed they were paid lower wages and had fewer benefits compared to local workers. From December 18 to 20, another 3,000 Burmese workers went on strike at another factory after Thai security officers attacked the female relatives of a worker. On the 21st, the workers continued their protest, demanding for the reinstatement of the workers who were let go for participating in past strikes. They also demanded for better welfare benefits as dictated by labor laws (ITUC, 2010).

In a report titled *From the Tiger to the Crocodile: Abuse of Migrant Workers in Thailand*, HRW claimed that migrant workers in Thailand suffer from human rights violations: the lack of protection provided by Thai labor policies, failures and gaps in regulations, provincial decrees that restrict freedom of expression and mobility, killings, physical abuse and torture by police and security forces, extortion by local authorities, forced labor and trafficking, labor rights abuses in the workplace, and mistreatment in the registration system (HRW, 2010).

The State Enterprise Workers Relations Confederation filed a formal complaint with the ILO, saying that the Thai Government has failed to grant compensation to Burmese migrant workers for accidents in the workplace. The confederation stated that the government has violated the Equality of Treatment (Accident Com-

pensation) Convention, also known as ILO Convention No. 19 (ITUC, 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* placed Thailand on its Tier 2 Watch List, sliding down from its Tier 2 rank for the period 2005 to 2009. The assessment lauded the Thai government's implementation of the Anti-human Trafficking Law of 2008, training programs, and awareness campaigns, but noted that Thailand has not made significant progress in fighting forced labor and forced prostitution. There was limited effort to identify trafficked victims, law enforcement is marred by widespread corruption and there were only few convictions for sex and labor trafficking (USDS, 2010:320).

Thailand is a source, destination and transit country of trafficked victims. Migrants, ethnic minorities and stateless people have higher chances of falling into the hands of traffickers than Thai citizens. Thai nationals are also trafficked abroad and exploited for forced labor and sexual exploitation in countries such as Malaysia, Taiwan and the US.

The report recommended that Thailand needs to: improve the identification of trafficked victims, increase the investigations and prosecutions of trafficking offenders, and improve labor inspection standards (USDS, 2010:320-321).

## **POLICIES**

### ***Thailand needs more foreign workers***

In December, Labor Minister Chalermchai Sri-on announced plans of bringing in more foreign workers to address labor shortages and ordered a review of the labor import plan. The government is considering hiring workers from countries that do not share borders with Thailand, such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam. In the meantime, the registration of foreign workers from Burma, Lao PDR and Cambodia will resume in 2011 so they can be legalized after their work permits expire in February 2011 (*Asean Affairs*, 18 December 2010; *Bernama*, 2010).

The 2008 economic crisis severely hit Thailand's labor force – the country's share of workers declined by 10 percent at the time (NTS, 2009, cited in IOM, 2010:175). Similar to Malaysia and Singapore, the government responded by reducing the number of work permits given to foreigners, especially those working in manufacturing or services (Koser, 2009, cited in IOM, 2010: 177).

### **Nationality verification (NV) process**

The NV process aims to provide migrant workers protection by national labor laws, social security benefits and the opportunity for undocumented migrants to be regularized. On the down side, the process could take as long as two years to complete (*AMN*, 1-31 January 2010).

The controversial registration system poses many difficulties for migrants. In January, the Cabinet already approved a two-year extension for migrants to complete the NV process, provided that they submit personal information to their respective home governments before 28 February. Migrants who failed to do so were to face deportation. Various organizations have called on the Thai government to extend the deadline (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010). In June, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva signed a law ordering the arrest and prosecution of migrants who failed to complete the NV process (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010). Part of the Prime Ministerial order issued on 2 June was the establishment of the Centre to Suppress, Arrest and Prosecute Alien Workers Working Underground, which would handle the crackdown on and prosecution of undocumented migrant workers. After a crackdown was conducted from 1 to 29 December, the Department of Employment reported figures showing that out of at least 6,217 migrant workers investigated, about 1,595 were found to be unauthorized foreign employees. It also reported that the Centre has begun pursuing legal cases against the unauthorized migrants and their employers (Labour Migration Programme, IOM Thailand Office, 2011).

As of late December 2010, official figures show that only around 388,506 migrants were able to complete the NV process, while 543,749 have yet to do so. The

**TABLE 1**  
**Status of NV as of December 2010**

Source country	Number of migrants eligible for NV in February 2010	Number who completed the process as of December 2010	Number who had not completed NV process by December 2010
Cambodia	56,479	45,417	11,062
Lao PDR	62,792	34,999	27,793
Burma	812,984	308,090	504,894
Total	932,255	388,506	543,749

Source: Data provided by the Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand (cited in Huguét and Chamrathirong, 2011:11)

Note: Figures updated as of 25 December 2010

number of those who have completed the process was barely half of the total number of migrants eligible for NV, which was estimated at around 932,255 (see Table 1).

Cambodia and Laos had allowed their nationals to submit their applications in Thailand, and their processing is proceeding smoothly. However, the process has been difficult and slow for Burmese migrants. Burmese migrants were required to claim their temporary passports and work permits in three border points guarded by the Burmese military government. Many Burmese have been reluctant to go through the process for fear of being arrested and persecuted by Burmese authorities (AMN, 1-31 January 2010; 1-28 February 2010).

The NV process has been criticized for the limited time given to migrants to complete the process, the unclear directives, lack of information given to migrants, exorbitant rates charged by private companies implementing the NV process, and reports of lack of cooperation of Burmese authorities (AMN, 1-31 January 2010; 1-28 February 2010; 1-31 March 2010; 1-30 June 2010).

For many workers' rights groups, the NV process will not stop the inflow of migrant workers, many of whom will most likely go through irregular channels and will be more vulnerable to abuse by employers, illegal recruiters and traffickers (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

#### ***Asylum-seekers and refugees***

The Thai government has been under fire for its reported harsh treatment of asylum seekers and its insistence in repatriating them – including those believed to be genuine refugees fearing persecution.

Authorities have been criticized for repatriating 4,000 Hmong to Lao PDR, despite claims from international organizations and rights groups that there are confirmed and registered refugees among them. The government also attempted to send back 3,000 Karen refugees to Burma after the national elections in Burma in November, the first since 1990 (Wade, 2010a). This did not push through because such a move would lead to outcry and protest from many refugees. In October, the foreign ministry also issued a statement denying any plan to repatriate Karen refugees (Wade, 2010b). The conflict between government forces and rebels in connection with the elections led to new displacements (IDMC, 2011:91). There are 150,000 refugees along the Burma-Thailand border.

Earlier, in February, 27 US politicians and 70 non-government organizations wrote to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva asking him to reconsider the repatriation of Karen refugees. Some groups also expressed concern about the security of the refugees during repatriation (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

## REFERENCES

- Agence France Presse (AFP)  
2010 "Thailand arrests 61 Sri Lankan Tamil migrants," *Daily Times*, 31 October.
- Asean Affairs*  
2010 "Thailand to accept more foreign workers," 18 December.
- Bernama*  
2010 "Thailand welcomes more foreign workers," *Burma Digest*, 18 December.
- Huguet, Jerrold and Aphichat Chamrathirong, eds.  
2011 *Thailand Migration Report 2011 – Migration for Development in Thailand: Overview and Tools for Policymakers*. Bangkok: International Organization for Migration–Thailand Office. Available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/activities/countries/docs/thailand/TMR-2011.pdf>, accessed 23 March 2012.
- Human Rights Watch (HRW)  
2010 *From the Tiger to the Crocodile: Abuse of Migrant Workers in Thailand*. New York: Human Rights Watch. Available at [http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/thailand0210webwcover\\_0.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/thailand0210webwcover_0.pdf), accessed 28 December 2011.
- Labour Migration Programme, IOM Thailand Office  
2011 "Migrant Information Note (Issue #9 – January 2011)." Labour Migration Programme, IOM Thailand Office. Available at [http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/IOM-Migrant\\_Info\\_Note\\_No\\_9\(en\).pdf](http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs11/IOM-Migrant_Info_Note_No_9(en).pdf), accessed 16 April 2012.
- International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)  
2010 Annual Survey of Violations of Trade Union Rights ("Violations"). Available at <http://survey.ituc-csi.org/Thailand.html?edition=247#tabs-5>, accessed 28 December 2011.
- MCOT  
2010 "1.5 million foreign workers in Thailand, mostly illegally," 18 August.
- Migration News*  
2010 "Southeast Asia," University of California, Davis, January (Vol. 17, No. 1). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3580\\_0\\_3\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3580_0_3_0), accessed 19 December 2011.
- Phuket Gazette*  
2010 "Illegal worker 'sweep' to target Phuket," 27 November.
- Wade, Francis  
2010a "Thailand planning Burma refugee return," *Democratic Voice of Burma*, 4 October.
- 2010b "Thailand 'will not' return Burma refugees," *Democratic Voice of Burma*, 8 October.





## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	88.9
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.2
Percent urban (%)	28
Population per square kilometer	268
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	24
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	106.43 B
GDP growth (annual %)	6.8
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	3,070
Human development index (rank – value)	113 – 0.572
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	58 – 0.530
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	69,307
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	8.0 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	1,129
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	-
Refugees by origin	338,698
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	1,928

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

*Migration and population trends*

As of 2010, Vietnam's population registered at 86.9 million, lower compared to 87.3 million in 2009 (General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2010; World Bank, 2010:257). PRB (2010) data, on the other hand, indicate a higher estimate of 88.9 million as of mid-2010. The stock number of emigrants in 2010 stood at 2.2 million, accounting for about 2.5 percent of the population. Most emigrants headed to the US, Australia, Canada, Cambodia, Germany, France, the Republic of

Korea, Japan, the UK and Thailand. There were fewer immigrants, with a stock figure of 69,300, or about 0.1 percent of the country's population (World Bank, 2010:257).

Some 60,000 documented migrant workers are based in Vietnam, of whom around 35,000 are Chinese. In addition, there were about 20,000 undocumented migrant workers, many of whom are manual laborers (AMN, 1-30 April 2010; *Thanh Nien News*, 29 March 2010). Other estimates vary. For instance, data from the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) show that there are about 56,930 foreign

workers in the country, of whom some 53 percent do not have work permits (*VietNamNet Bridge*, 27 January 2011).

### **Labor deployment**

In 2010, the government targeted an annual deployment of 85,000 Vietnamese workers. From January to May 2010, around 29,000 workers were deployed to different countries abroad. The top destinations were Malaysia and Taiwan, where there are no strict requirements for language proficiency and specific skills (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010; 1-30 June 2010).

Around 12,500 Vietnamese workers were set to be deployed to South Korea within the year to work in agriculture, construction, fishing and manufacturing, according to the Overseas Labor Management of the Department of the MOLISA (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010). The number is noticeably higher compared to 4,837 Vietnamese sent there in 2009, a low figure due to the economic crisis at the time (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010). Vietnam is one of 15 countries allowed to send workers to South Korea (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010). New Zealand also expected to receive 200 guest workers from Vietnam during the year (*Vietnam Business News*, 12 July 2010). However, some labor recruitment companies say the government may not reach its target of 85,000 workers by the end of the year for several reasons, including the ongoing recovery of industries abroad, policy changes in labor export laws and other risks involved in hiring foreign workers (*Viet Nam News*, 22 August 2010).

International labor migration has become part of Vietnam's employment policy and strategy. In 2007 alone, Vietnam deployed 79,000 workers overseas, mostly to Malaysia, South Korea and Taiwan. In the past years, more women were being deployed to Malaysia and Taiwan (Institute of Labour Science, 2010:13). There are about 500,000 Vietnamese migrant workers employed in 30 different sectors and in 40 different countries, according to a government report presented at a National Assembly Committee meeting in Hanoi on 14 September (*Vietnam Business News*, 15 September 2010).

### **Remittances**

In 2010, remittances to Vietnam surpassed \$8 billion, a significant increase of 25.6 percent from \$6.3 billion in 2009, according to the State Bank of Vietnam. Central Institute for Economic Management deputy director Vo Tri Thanh said the surge is due to increased interest rates and real estate investments (*Viet Nam News*, 5 January 2011). The rise in remittances also indicates the country's gradual recovery from the recent global economic crisis (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010).

In 2008, Vietnam was one of the top 10 remittance recipients among developing countries, receiving about \$7.2 billion. In 2009, during the economic crisis, the country's remittances slightly decreased to about \$6.8 billion (the figure is slightly different from the State Bank's estimate), but the decline is lower than what was expected for all developing countries (*Nguoi Viet*, 15 September 2010).

Remittances to Vietnam have contributed to economic development over the years. According to the World Bank, financial remittances have helped decrease poverty levels from 37 percent in 1998 to 29 percent in 2002. This has been a significant improvement considering that in 1984, Vietnam was one of the five poorest countries in the world, with 75 percent of its population living in poverty (*Nguoi Viet*, 15 September 2010).

### **Unauthorized migration**

The increase in the number of Vietnamese workers abroad includes not only those officially deployed, but also those who go through irregular or unauthorized channels. There are reportedly around 20,000 undocumented Vietnamese migrant workers (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

Unauthorized Vietnamese migrants are finding jobs in China's Pearl River Delta. The region has seen increasing inflows of migrants due to the demand for foreign workers willing to work for low pay. Since a new labor law was introduced setting a higher minimum wage for local workers, several companies have resorted to

hiring unauthorized migrants willing to settle for lower salaries (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010; Dueck, 2010).

Laos and Thailand are other destinations for unauthorized migrants from Central Vietnam. Hundreds of people from Yen Thanh and Dien Chau districts in Nghe An go to Laos annually to look for scrap metal that can be sold. Those from Ha Tinh Province cook for construction workers or run small shops in Laos and Thailand. Nghe An's Immigration Department reported receiving as many as 300 passport applications to Laos every day (Hoan, 2010).

Other unauthorized migrant workers have reached as far as Russia in their search for employment. In March, some 220 Vietnamese workers were arrested in an illegal factory in a village near Moscow, where their labor and living conditions were below standards (*Tuoi Tre*, 2 March 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

More than 3,500 women and about 500 children in Vietnam have been sold abroad, and authorities dealt with almost 1,600 human trafficking cases from 2006 to 2010, according to the Public Security Ministry. At least 2,900 people were arrested for alleged involvement in the trafficking cases. Data show that more than 60 percent of the victims were sold to China while 11 percent were sent to Cambodia. Trafficked victims are subjected to forced labor and prostitution. In Phnom Penh alone, it is believed that the Vietnamese make up 60 percent of the 45,000 sex workers in the Cambodian capital, many of whom are believed to be trafficked victims (*VietNamNet Bridge*, 17 December 2010).

Between 2005 and 2010, around 3,190 women and children rescued from traffickers were given skills training and treated for possible psychological illnesses or trauma (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

Trafficking incidents in Vietnam have continuously increased over the years. Vietnamese men, women and children are trafficked to and within different countries for forced labor or sexual exploitation, mostly in Cambodia, China, Thailand, Hong Kong SAR, Macau, Ma-

laysia, Taiwan, South Korea, the UK and the Czech Republic (*VietNamNet Bridge*, 17 December 2010).

Vietnam was placed under the Tier 2 Watch List in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for less than minimum standards in addressing human trafficking. Despite efforts, the government has failed to control and mitigate the flows of trafficked persons into forced labor and sexual exploitation, among others (USDS, 2010:349). Vietnam's Tier 2 Watch List ranking indicates a lack of progress in prosecuting and punishing labor trafficking offenders and in protecting the victims (USDS, 2010:350).

Vietnam is both a source and destination country for trafficked victims who end up in conditions of forced labor or prostitution. It is a destination of child sex tourism, with demand coming from China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the UK, Australia, Europe and the US. However, the report says the problem is not perceived as rampant or widespread. Children are also forced into bonded labor, sexual exploitation and forced begging and street hawking in Vietnam's cities, usually by organized crime syndicates. There have also been documented reports of recruitment agencies "being unresponsive" to workers who seek help when being exploited (USDS, 2010:349).

### **Marriage migration**

China is becoming a destination of Vietnamese women in marriage migration. In the past, more marriages were arranged with South Koreans and the Taiwanese. Agencies say the Chinese have become popular among Vietnamese women who want foreign spouses, and alternately, many Chinese men are looking for Vietnamese women instead of Chinese ones (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010; Ewing, 2010).

Among others, China's one-child policy which has led to a shortage of Chinese women of marriageable age and perceptions of Vietnamese women as obedient are driving the demand for Vietnamese brides (Ewing, 2010). According to a marriage agency in Vietnam, due to the high demand in China, it will focus most of its services to China (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

## POLICIES

### *Training of migrant workers*

To enhance their skills and knowledge, the Vietnam Association of Manpower Supply announced the creation of a training program that would provide training to departing Vietnamese before they are deployed. Funded by the Vietnam Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Western Union fund, the program will be implemented by labor export companies in the country until the end of 2010. Vietnamese workers bound for Libya, Taiwan and the UAE will also be given handbooks that will orient them about their host countries (*Vietnam Plus*, 25 June 2010).

### *Foreign workers in Vietnam*

A new regulation implemented by the MOLISA requires migrant workers in the country to obtain work permits beginning July 2010. Some workers, however, have pointed out the lack of clear guidelines for permit application (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

Officials said they will enforce Decree 47, which orders the deportation of foreign workers who have been working for more than three months without a permit. Fines have also been doubled for employers who hired foreign workers under 18 years old and those who do not meet health standards (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010).

Prior to this new measure, the government's decree on foreign workers only included conditions for granting work permits to foreigners, but not for punishment. The change grants officials authority to expel and sanction unauthorized foreign workers. It will also push Vietnamese employers to ensure their local authorities are updated with foreign worker statistics (*Thanh Nien News*, 29 March 2010).

## REFERENCES

Dueck, Cameron  
2010 "Foreign workers replacing Chinese migrants," *Financial Times*, 9 June.

Ewing, Kent  
2010 "Foreign workers (and wives) pour into China," *Asia Times Online*, 30 April.

General Statistics Office of Vietnam  
2010 "Population and population density in 2010 by province." Available at [http://www.gso.gov.vn/default\\_en.aspx?tabid=467&idmid=3&ItemID=11728](http://www.gso.gov.vn/default_en.aspx?tabid=467&idmid=3&ItemID=11728), accessed 9 December 2011.

Hoan, Khanh  
2010 "Vietnamese workers leave home for illegal work in Laos, Thailand," *Thanh Nien News*, 13 March.

Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs)  
2010 *Labour and Social Trends in Viet Nam 2009/10*. Hanoi: International Labour Organization. Available at [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms\\_142174.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_142174.pdf), accessed 8 December 2011.

*Nguoi Viet*  
2010 "Remittances to Vietnam: \$7 billion a year," *New America Media*, 15 September.

*Thanh Nien News*  
2010 "New Vietnam rule to expel foreigners without work permits," 29 March.

Tuoi Tre  
2010 "Illegal Vietnamese workers arrested in Russia," *Vietnews*, 2 March.

*VietNamNet Bridge*  
2011 "Vietnam doesn't welcome foreign unskilled labor." 27 January 2011.

2010 "Over 4000 Vietnamese women and children trafficked abroad in five years," 17 December.

*Vietnam Business News*  
2010 "New Zealand provides over US\$7 million to Vietnam in 2010-2011," 12 July.

---

2010 "Ensuring the rights of Vietnamese guest workers," 15 September.

*Viet Nam News*

2011 "Remittances make surprising surge in 2010," 5 January.

---

2010 "Labor exports may miss target," 22 August.

*Vietnam Plus*

2010 "Training programme launched to help guest workers," 25 June.



**WEST ASIA/MIDDLE EAST**





## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	1.3
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.3
Percent urban (%)	100
Population per square kilometer	1,807
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	20
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	39 – 0.801
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	55 – 0.512
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	315,403
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	26
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	69
Refugees by origin	87
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	165

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

As of March 2010 there were 593,660 workers in Bahrain, of which 455,304 or 77 percent were foreigners and 138,356 or 23 percent were locals. The top two source countries were India and Pakistan, which contributed some 300,000 and 30,000 workers, respectively (Ahmed, 2010:23; Hamada, 2010; World Bank, 2010:67). HRW has a slightly higher estimate of for-

eign workers in Bahrain (460,000), mostly from South Asia (HRW, 2011:514).

In 2009, remittances from Bahrain reached \$1.39 billion, accounting for 6.6 percent of the GDP (World Bank, 2010:19).

### *Migrants' rights*

Providing protection to migrant workers is a major challenge. Foreign workers continue to face labor disputes,

maltreatment, physical or verbal abuse and poor working conditions. According to a report by HRW (2011: 514), “prolonged periods of withheld wages, passport confiscation, unsafe housing, excessive work hours and physical abuse” (see also Hanratty, 2010; *Migration News*, 2010; Torr, 2010).

The HRW said government action to address migrants’ grievances has been mostly ineffective. Nonetheless, there were some efforts to increase the protection of migrants. In May 2010, the government produced a draft labor law granting domestic workers the right to an annual vacation and end-of-term pay, though it does not contain provisions for days-off and maximum work hours. Another provision is the “case management” system, which aims to speed up the handling of labor complaints and making litigation an option for migrants who want redress (HRW, 2011:515).

In 2009, Bahrain amended its *kafala* or sponsorship system, allowing workers to change employment without the consent of the employer and upon submitting certain requirements. Workers have until thirty days to stay in the country and to look for new employment. However, the reform does not apply to domestic workers. Rights groups have also criticized the difficulty of meeting some of the requirements (HRW, 2010:17).

The high incidence of suicide among migrant workers also points to the difficult conditions of migrant workers. The suicide of Indian workers and two Ethiopian domestic workers in January (Haider, 2010; *Migrant Rights*, 2010) was another alarming sign. Data in recent years show more foreigners committing suicides than locals. In 2008, of the 131 people who committed suicide in Bahrain, 95 were foreigners; in 2007, 93 out of 120 people who took their own lives were also foreigners. No official figures are available yet for 2009 and 2010, but the Health Ministry said the outcome would most likely show a rising trend. Experts say most of those who committed suicide were poor migrant workers with domestic problems and financial difficulties, such as debt and loans for money used to find work abroad (Haider, 2010). Clearly, migrant workers do not just face disputes and issues at the workplace but also suffer from emotional, physical and psychological problems.

The Bahrain Human Rights Society has called on the government to take action concerning the rising trend, saying that the number of incidents will escalate if living conditions for migrant workers were not improved. The Migrant Workers Protection Society also said authorities must launch awareness campaigns and provide counseling services for those who are desperate, in dire condition and at risk of taking their own lives (Haider, 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

In April, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs released its first assessment report on human trafficking which surveyed the government’s anti-trafficking performance. This is said to be the first trafficking assessment report undertaken in the Gulf region. The report covers information regarding three trafficking prosecutions made between December 2008 and January 2010, as well as government legislation and policies that aim to curb trafficking in the country. It also raises the issue of violations of migrants’ rights, mentioning that many foreign workers in the country face conditions of involuntary servitude (DPA, 2010; *Khaleej Times Online*, 2 May 2010).

Bahrain’s rank in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* was lowered to Tier 2 from the Tier 2 Watch List, although this indicates that despite some progress, the country still has not fully complied with the minimum standards for combating trafficking. The USDS report said the government had accomplished three prosecutions against traffickers and had shown effort to raise rights awareness among trafficking victims. However, it did not provide protection for victims or prosecute labor trafficking offenses (USDS, 2010:73).

Bahrain is mainly a destination country for those trafficked into forced labor or prostitution. Most of the victims come from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Ethiopia and Eritrea. In many cases, they voluntarily migrate to Bahrain to work but are later forced into labor or sexual exploitation. Women trafficked into the country for prostitution come from Thailand, the Philippines, Morocco, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Russia, China, Vietnam and some Eastern European countries (USDS, 2010:73).

The report called on Bahrain to continue the implementation of the 2008 anti-trafficking law, to increase efforts to investigate trafficking cases and prosecute and convict traffickers, and to support the ILO convention on domestic workers (USDS, 2010:73).

## POLICIES

### *Unauthorized migration*

At least 8,000 irregular migrant workers underwent the Easy Exit Scheme, which had been offered beginning February as an alternative to paying fines for overstaying or violating foreign employment terms. The Easy Exit program was extended in May and officially ended on December 30. However, not all opted to go home through the scheme (AMN, 1-31 May 2010; Grewal, 2010; Labor Market Regulatory Authority, 2010c, 2010e).

The program granted pardon to unauthorized foreign workers who failed to renew their residence permits or overstayed on visit visas. Fines were waived for those who volunteered to leave Bahrain under the scheme, though they still had to pay BD25 for expired visit visas and BD15 for expired employment visas. They were given a month to leave the country upon registration at their respective embassies. Migrant workers who failed to register under the scheme and to renew their visas will be considered unauthorized workers and will be arrested and punished (Grewal, 2010).

According to the LMRA, most of those who left the country under the scheme were Bangladeshi. By the end of September, more than 4,500 of them went to their home country, with 1,000 more expected to leave as well. Large numbers of Indian and Pakistani migrants also approached their embassies for registration (Grewal, 2010; LMRA, 2010b, 2010d).

In line with the Easy Exit scheme, authorities also carried out regular inspection raids that resulted in several arrests. From January to June alone, the LMRA, together with the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Interior and Labor, conducted about 57 inspection campaigns and arrested 338 unauthorized migrant workers, of which 110 were set for deportation. Plans to conduct an average of 20 inspections per month for the second half of the year were also announced. The

government also asked large companies and firms not to cooperate or deal with employment and recruitment firms that have had a history of bringing in unauthorized migrant workers. The multi-pronged approach has reportedly brought down the number of unauthorized migration in the kingdom from 48,000 to 43,000 (LMRA, 2010a; 2010e).

## REFERENCES

- Ahmed, Omar F.  
2010 *Broken Promises: Human Rights, Constitutionalism and Socio-economic Exclusion in Bahrain. Great Britain. Islamic Human Rights Commission.* Available at [http://www.ihrc.org.uk/attachments/9458\\_Report%20on%20Bahrain-Book-240x170-v05.pdf](http://www.ihrc.org.uk/attachments/9458_Report%20on%20Bahrain-Book-240x170-v05.pdf), accessed 18 January 2012.
- Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA)  
2010 "Bahrain issues its first human trafficking assessment report," 29 April.
- Grewal, Sandeep Singh  
2010 "Job visas warning to expats," *Gulf Daily News*, 28 December.
- Haider, Anika  
2010 "Surge in suicides sparks action call," *Gulf Daily News*, 31 January.
- Hamada, Suad  
2010 "Passport confiscation still hounds migrant workers," *IPS-Inter Press Service*, 4 June.
- Hanratty, Tom  
2010 "Abuse claim by 22 maids," *Gulf Daily News*, 24 August.
- Human Rights Watch (HRW)  
2011 *World Report 2011: Events of 2010.* New York: Human Rights Watch.
- 2010 *Slow Reform: Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers in Asia and the Middle East.* New York: Human Rights Watch.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010*. Geneva: IOM.

*Khaleej Times Online*

2010 "Bahrain issues report on human trafficking," 2 May.

Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA)

2010a "338 illegal expat workers arrested in Bahrain," *LMRA Media Blog*, 3 July. Available at <http://blog.lmra.bh/en/archives/959>, accessed 19 January 2012.

2010b "4,500 illegal Bangladeshis leave kingdom," *LMRA Media Blog*, 29 September. Available at <http://blog.lmra.bh/en/archives/1096>, accessed 19 January 2012.

2010c "8,000 make an Easy Exit," *LMRA Media Blog*, 31 December. Available at <http://blog.lmra.bh/en/archives/1139>, accessed 19 January 2012.

2010d "Easy Exit scheme gaining in popularity," *LMRA Media Blog*, 15 June. Available at <http://blog.lmra.bh/en/archives/933>, accessed 19 January 2012.

2010e "Illegal workers still residing in Bahrain 43,000," *LMRA Media Blog*, 9 June. Available at <http://blog.lmra.bh/en/archives/901>, accessed 19 January 2012.

Migrant Rights

2010 "Two Ethiopian maids commit suicide in Bahrain in less than a week," 16 January. Available at <http://www.migrant-rights.org/2010/01/16/two-ethiopian-maids-commit-suicide-in-bahrain-in-less-than-a-week/>, accessed 19 January 2012.

*Migration News*

2010 "Middle East," University of California, Davis, July (Vol. 17, No. 3). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3625\\_0\\_3\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3625_0_3_0), accessed 19 December 2011.

Torr, Rebecca

2010 "30 protest over wages protests," *Gulf Daily News*, 1 December.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	75.1
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.3
Percent urban (%)	69
Population per square kilometer	46
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	23
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	70 – 0.702
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	98 – 0.674
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	2.13 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	1.18 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	16,026
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	1,775
Refugees by origin	68,795
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	1.07 M

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Iran is both a major destination and source country of migrants with an estimated 1.295 million emigrants and nearly 2.13 million immigrants by the end of 2010. The immigrant stock accounted for 2.8 percent of Iran's total population of 75.1 million as of mid-2010 (up from 72.9 million as of 2009), while the share of the emigrant stock was at 1.7 percent (World Bank, 2010:140).

Most Iranians migrate to the following destination countries: the US, Qatar, Canada, Kuwait, Germany, Israel, the UK, Sweden, the UAE and Bahrain. Iranians remitted home around \$1.14-\$1.18 billion in 2010 (World Bank, 2012; 2010:140). Majority of migrants to the country came from Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Armenia and Turkmenistan.

### *Refugee migration*

Iran's sizable immigrant stock reflects the population of refugees, mostly Afghans, who started coming to

**TABLE 1**  
**Persons of concern, Islamic Republic of Iran**

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Percent female	Percent under 18
Refugees	Afghanistan	1,027,600	1,027,600	-	-
	Iraq	45,700	45,700	-	-
	Various	80	80	38	40
Asylum-seekers	Afghanistan	1,600	1,600	45	37
	Various	140	140	35	36
Returnees (refugees)	Various	20	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,075,140</b>	<b>1,075,120</b>		

Source: UNHCR (2011a:213), *Global Report 2010*

Iran in the 1970s when the former Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. In recent years, the Iranian government actively sought to repatriate them – at least a million Afghans had been repatriated in the past three years. (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, 2011:13; RFE/RL, 2010).

Despite the repatriation efforts, refugees in 2010 made up 45.4 percent or nearly half of the total number of immigrants, making Iran one of the top ten destinations for refugees (World Bank, 2010:140). Iran hosts some 980,000 refugees and is the third country with the highest intake after Pakistan and Syria (IOM, 2010:119). UNHCR data (Table 1) indicate that as of June 2010, there were over a million Afghan and some 42,000 Iraqi refugees officially registered in the country, such that by the end of 2010, there were an estimated 1.1 million refugees in Iran (UNHCR, 2011a:213; UNHCR, 2011b:6).

Most Afghans had been forced out of their country because of conflict. In addition, many Afghan asylum seekers also attempt to enter Iran to escape drought, poverty and unemployment (RFE/RL, 2010).<sup>1</sup> According to the World Bank, the Afghanistan-Iran migration

corridor registered about 1.7 million migrants passing through, making it one of the top ten migration corridors in the world (World Bank, 2010:6).

The Iranian government cooperates with international organizations in managing and providing assistance to refugees, especially in terms of resettlement and voluntary repatriation. UNHCR's *Global Report 2010* reported that around 8,000 Afghans and more than 1,500 Iraqis had returned home on voluntary repatriation, while some 410 Afghans had been resettled in third countries. Resettlement quotas were raised for vulnerable asylum seekers as well. In 2010, the Iranian government registered some two million Afghans who were previously undocumented and announced a health insurance plan for registered refugees (UNHCR, 2011a:213).

The Iranian government came under fire in 2010 for the executions of Afghans imprisoned for drug smuggling or trafficking charges, a punishment that sparked anger and criticism among Afghans and raised questions on human rights (*BBC News*, 6 May 2010, 13 May 2010; Qureshi, 2010).

<sup>1</sup> For a Iran's migration history, see Hakimzadeh (2006).

Afghan MPs, activists and protesters say that about 45 to 50 Afghans were executed in early 2010, while some 4,000 to 5,000 others were still languishing in jails on death row. However, Tehran and Kabul officials said that only six were executed at the time. Iranian officials refused to confirm how many are on death row. Tehran's envoy to Kabul also denied the alleged ill-treatment of Afghans (*BBC News*, 6 May 2010; 13 May 2010).

The Iranian government was also criticized for incidents of border killings during the year, in which border guards gunned down several Afghans trying to enter Iran. In February, five of seven Afghans trying to cross the border were shot down by Iranian border guards, all teenage boys (Salahuddin, 2010). In October, Iranian guards shot an Afghan woman attempting to cross the border into Iran with her children. The woman later died at the hospital due to the gunshot wound (RFE/RL, 2010).

The border problem is aggravated by the rampant trafficking of heroin and opium from Afghanistan. The Afghanistan-Iran border is 936 kilometers long, and has become a transit point for drug, human and weapon smuggling. While Iran's security forces have been placed at the border to deter attempts of smuggling and trafficking, there have also been reports of guards arresting and beating unauthorized migrants, justifying their actions with accusations of migrants' involvement in crimes (RFE/RL, 2010; Salahuddin, 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

For the fifth consecutive year, Iran was ranked Tier 3 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for sub-standard performance in curbing human trafficking, failing to show any significant efforts. The report stated that trafficking within and from the country is "extensive," and authorities have not made any effort to prosecute traffickers nor protect victims (USDS, 2010:180).

Most trafficking victims within and from Iran are forced into labor or prostitution, especially Afghan and Iranian women and children. Media reports suggest that organized criminal groups transport people along with smuggled drugs and weapons through Iran's borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan (USDS, 2010:179-180).

## REFERENCES

- BBC News*  
2010 "Afghans demonstrate against Iranian 'ill-treatment,'" 6 May.
- 
- 2010 "Afghans protest against 'refugee executions' in Iran," 15 May.
- Hakimzadeh, Shirin  
2006 "Iran: A vast diaspora abroad and millions of refugees at home," *Migration Information Source*. Available at <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=424>, accessed 19 January 2012.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
2010 *World Migration Report 2010*. Geneva: IOM.
- Qureshi, Ahmad  
2010 "Iran executes seven Afghan immigrants," *Pajhwok Afghan News, Rawa.org*, 2 June.
- Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)  
2010 "Afghan officials say woman shot dead by Iranian forces," *Payvand.com*, 29 October.
- Salahuddin, Sayed  
2010 "Afghans protest to Iran over border killings," Reuters, 2 February.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
2011a "Islamic Republic of Iran." In *UNHCR Global Report 2010*, pp.213-217. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4dfdbf52a.html>, accessed 23 January 2012.
- 
- 2011b *UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2010*. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4ef9cc9c9.html>, accessed 23 January 2012.





## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	31.5
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.6
Percent urban (%)	67
Population per square kilometer	72
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	43
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	82.15 B
GDP growth (annual %)	0.8
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	3,370
Human development index (rank – value)	-
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	123 – 0.751
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	83,380
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	71.0 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	1.34 M
Asylum-seekers by origin	29,927
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	3,073
Refugees by origin	1.68 M
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	34,655

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

*Migration and population trends*

Iraq is both a major destination and host country for thousands of refugees from conflict-ridden and poverty-stricken countries, particularly those in the Middle East. It is mainly a source country of migrants, primarily due to the millions of Iraqi refugees spread out in several countries.

As of 2010, Iraq's emigrant stock was estimated at over 1.54 million, accounting for 4.9 percent of the total

population (31.5 million). The popular destinations for emigrants, most of whom are refugees, are the following: Iran, Jordan, Germany, Israel, Sweden, the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and the Netherlands (World Bank, 2010:141).

Despite being a conflict zone, Iraq still ranked as one of the top ten destination countries for refugees in 2010. The country's immigrants reached 83,400 or about 0.3 percent of the population. More than half were refugees (52 percent) from the following source countries: Kuwait, Iran, Syria, West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Lebanon, the UK and Saudi Arabia (World Bank, 2010:8,141).

Migrant workers in Iraq fill vacancies in industries such as hotels and services. These sectors rely heavily on foreign workers because Iraqis prefer government jobs (*Migration News*, 2010; World Bank, 2010:141). The deployment ban adopted by some origin countries has driven migrant workers underground. According to the Nepalese government, some 30,000 of its nationals may be unauthorized migrant workers in the country, while the Philippine government believes around 15,000 Filipino workers entered Iraq from other countries to evade the deployment ban. In July, the Nepalese government lifted the ban while the Philippines retained it.

The United Nations Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) has received anecdotal evidence indicating the abuse, exploitation and trafficking of migrant workers in Iraq (AFP, 2010; Alave, 2010; UNAMI Human Rights Office/OHCHR, 2010:59)

### **Refugee migration**

Iraqis make up the second largest refugee population in the world (1.9 million), second only to Afghans (2.8 million). About 45 percent of them are based in Syria, while others are living in Jordan and Lebanon. As of August 2010, the total number of Iraqi refugees officially registered with the UNHCR was 207,639 (IOM, 2010:119; IRIN, 2010).

Some 52,000 Iraqi refugees had already been resettled, but around 48,000 more need to be accepted by other host countries because of ongoing conflict in the country (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010). Refugee applications have come from Iraqi asylum seekers based in several countries, such as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey.

Gaining admission has been a difficult process. For instance, Norway, Sweden and the UK had rejected many of these applications and planned to deport the asylum-seekers to their origin country. Some refugees have voluntarily returned to Iraq due to difficult living conditions in other countries (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010; IRIN, 2010).

### **Internal displacement**

Iraq's IDPs decreased by 35,000 to around 2.8 million in 2010, but the figure still remains high. Internal displacement in the country is rooted in government repression before 2003, the conflict after the US invasion in 2003 and violence that ensued after the destruction of Askari Shrine in 2006. Other major causes include deliberate arbitrary displacement and human rights violations (IDMC, 2011:78; IOM, 2010:119). IDPs protected and assisted by UNHCR, including persons in IDP-like situations were estimated at 1.3 million as indicated in the table above. UNHCR figures refer to the number of IDPs reported by local authorities since 2006, while IOM's estimate of 2.8 million includes IDPs before 2006 (IDMC, 2011:77).

### **Trafficking in persons**

Iraq retained its Tier 2 Watch List ranking in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, indicating a sub-standard performance in combating human trafficking. A positive development mentioned by the report is the Iraqi government's move to draft an anti-trafficking bill (USDS, 2010:181).

Men, women and children are trafficked within and out of Iraq mainly for forced labor or prostitution. Women and girls as young as 11 years old are brought to countries such as Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait and the UAE for forced sex. IDPs and refugees in Iraq are also at risk of being trafficked.

Aside from locals, men and women from Asian countries such as Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka have also been trafficked and forced into labor in the country (UNAMI Human Rights Office/OHCHR, 2011:32; USDS, 2010:181).

## **REFERENCES**

- Agence France-Presse (AFP)  
2010 "Nepal lifts ban on travel to Iraq to save jobs," 29 July.

Alave, Kristine L.

2010 "Ban on worker deployment to Iraq stays," *Inquirer.net*, 30 July.

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)

2010 "The Middle East: Refugees and internally displaced persons by country," *The Guardian* (*guardian.co.uk*), 5 October.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 - The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

*Migration News*

2010 "Middle East: Dubai, Israel, Iraq," University of California, Davis, January (Vol. 17, No. 1). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/MN/more.php?id=3582\\_0\\_3\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/MN/more.php?id=3582_0_3_0), accessed 23 January 2012.

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Human Rights Office / Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNAMI Human Rights Office/OHCHR)

2011 *2010 Report on Human Rights in Iraq*. Baghdad: UNAMI Human Rights Office /OHCHR. Available at [http://www.uniraq.org/documents/UNAMI\\_HR%20Report\\_English\\_FINAL\\_1Aug11.pdf](http://www.uniraq.org/documents/UNAMI_HR%20Report_English_FINAL_1Aug11.pdf), accessed 24 January 2012.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	7.6
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.6
Percent urban (%)	92
Population per square kilometer	342
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	27
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	217.33 B
GDP growth (annual %)	4.7
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	27,630
Human development index (rank – value)	15 – 0.872
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	28 – 0.332
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	2.94 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	1.41 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	798
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	5,575
Refugees by origin	1,301
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	337

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

*Migration and population trends*

Israel in 2010 hosted more than 2.9 million immigrants, representing 40.4 percent of the total population of 7.6 million as of mid-2010 (up from 7.4 million as of 2009). The figure increased 10.5 percent from 2005 to 2010, indicating a continued inflow of international migrants, many of whom are migrant workers employed in various sectors. Around 55.9 percent of the immigrant stock was female. Majority of the migrants came from Russia,

Ukraine, Morocco and other countries in Central Asia and the Middle East. Given the large numbers of migrant workers, outward remittance flows reached \$3.283 billion in 2009 (UN DESA, 2009, cited in IOM, 2010:211; World Bank, 2010:144).

An emigrant stock of more than a million or 14 percent of the population was recorded in 2010. Majority of Israeli migrants went to: West Bank and Gaza, the US, Canada, Germany, the UK, Jordan, Australia, France, the Netherlands and Belgium. Inward remittance flows reached \$1.379 billion in 2010, higher compared to

\$1.267 billion in 2009 (World Bank, 2010:144). An updated World Bank (2012) estimate puts the figure at \$1.41 billion in 2010.

Aside from permanent migrants, the country also brings in foreign workers to occupy vacant jobs in different sectors, mostly to perform low-skilled work. In 2010, the number of legal foreign workers in the country was around 90,000, majority of whom were working in agriculture, construction and caregiving. The hiring of care workers also increased during the year (OECD, 2011).

Unauthorized migration is rampant – in 2010, around 100,000 irregular and unauthorized migrants were believed to be working in the country. However, numbers vary according to sources. The Population and Immigration Authority reported a total of 34,566, while a Cabinet inter-ministerial committee stated an estimate of around 125,000 (OECD, 2011; *AMN*, 1-31 January 2010; *People's Daily Online*, 29 November 2010).

### **Return migration**

The global economic crisis beginning in 2008 prompted many Jewish Israelis to consider returning home. In 2008, it was reported that Israelis in the US sought help from the Israeli consulate to help them return home because of difficulties posed by the crisis (*YNet News*, 25 November 2008).

The return migration trend pushed the government to adjust immigration policies. From 2008 to 2010, the Israeli government managed the *aliyah* (immigration to Israel under the Law of Return), facilitating the return of Israeli and Jewish migrants from China, India, the US and Ethiopia, among other countries. Based on the Law of Return, an individual who has at least one Jewish grandparent can immigrate to Israel. It also allows immigration for Jews and their family members through family reunification with an Israeli citizen (OECD, 2011). In the past two years, at least 20,000 Israelis returned to the country under the "Returning Home on Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> Program," which included a benefit package for returnees (*CBNNNews.com*, 14 May 2010; Stahl, 2010).

In May 2010, the government also announced a new immigrant status to be offered to returning Israelis. An

Israeli who has resided outside the country for six years or more will be eligible for a benefit package similar to that of a new citizen. Immigration Absorption Minister Sofa Landver said the program is "essential for bringing Israelis spread out across the world back to Israel." The benefit package includes exemption from customs, sales and value added taxes on home appliances for the first two and a half years of living in Israel, as well as tax breaks on purchased vehicles (*CBNNNews.com*, 14 May 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

Israel was placed for the fourth year on Tier 2 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. Despite law enforcement activities and providing shelters for trafficked victims, the government had not been able to identify labor trafficking victims during the reporting period. The effectiveness of law enforcement also declined when anti-trafficking responsibilities were removed from the Immigration Police and delegated to the Ministry of Interior (USDS, 2010:184).

Men and women, mostly low-skilled workers from Thailand, China, Nepal and other countries in South and Southeast Asia, including some from Romania and Turkey, have been trafficked into Israel for forced labor. Migrants who voluntarily go to Israel for contract labor end up in forced work, coerced through the withholding of passports, restrictions of movement, non-payment of wages and physical threats. Labor trafficking is rampant in the agriculture, construction and sometimes the home healthcare sectors. Traffickers are said to be legal employers and recruitment agents both in Israel and migrants' home countries (USDS, 2010:184).

The report noted that the trafficking of women for prostitution (mostly from China and Central Asia) had somewhat declined after the implementation of the 2006 anti-trafficking bill (USDS, 2010:184).

### **Internal displacement**

Internal displacement in Israel has been difficult to determine, though reports on the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza have suggested large-scale displacement in which the Israeli government has played a sig

nificant role. In 2010, around 160,000 people in the occupied Palestinian territory (mainly West Bank and Gaza) were internally displaced. According to the IDMC, “Palestinians have been displaced due to Israeli settlement construction, settler violence, Israeli military incursions and clearing operations, evictions, land appropriations and house demolitions, discriminatory denial of building permits, and the revocation of residency rights in East Jerusalem. Many people had also been displaced by violence committed by settlers” (IDMC, 2011:80).

In April, the Israeli military issued an order to deport “infiltrators” from the West Bank who did not hold an Israeli permit to live in the area, or face imprisonment for up to seven years. Human rights groups have criticized the directive, saying that many Palestinians were never previously required to obtain Israeli residence permits. The decision could drive away thousands of Palestinians, most of whom were born in the Gaza Strip and possessed Gaza-issued ID cards (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

The total number of displaced Palestinians is estimated at 7.1 million. Most are based in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Out of the figure, 6.6 million are refugees and around 427,000 are IDPs (IRIN, 2010). Some 340,016 Palestinians, as well as 1,310 refugees and 1,062 asylum seekers from Israel are registered with the UNHCR (IRIN, 2010).

## POLICIES

### *Immigration law*

In February, the Israeli government issued a resolution that includes developing a new immigration law. However, there will also be discussions concerning an opposition proposal by the following year (OECD, 2011).

Related to this, to decrease dependence on foreign labor and to provide employment and training to Israelis, the government applied reduced quotas to the agricultural, construction and restaurant sectors for 2009-2010, with plans to gradually eliminate foreign worker hiring in construction (OECD, 2011). The Finance Ministry has been reducing the number of migrant work-

ers to open more jobs for locals (*Migration News*, 2010).

### *Unauthorized migration*

In January, the Cabinet began discussing penalizing employers hiring unauthorized foreign workers through criminal charges, fines and the removal of hiring permits (AMN, 1-31 January 2010). This was reinforced by the start of the “Clean and Tidy” campaign initiated by the Population, Immigration and Borders Authority in March. The campaign involves the Immigration Police and representatives of the Ministries of Industry, Trade and Labor working together to investigate and sanction households employing unauthorized migrant workers (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

Also in January, the Cabinet approved the deportation of children of migrant workers who did not meet the criteria required for staying in the country. Children who will be allowed to remain must either have been born in Israel or had arrived in the country before the age of 13. Parents must have also entered the country through legal procedures. Thirteen ministers voted for the proposal, while ten opposed and four abstained. Out of more than 1,200 migrant children, 800 met the criteria. The 400 children who did not were to be deported within a month (Ravid and Weiler-Polak, 2010).

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the decision aims to curb the inflow of unauthorized migrants and their children, who have been receiving education and health care from the government. He also said the measure seeks to defend Jewish identity (Sanders, 2010). However, the United Nations Children’s Fund or UNICEF criticized the decision because it violated the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed by Israel and 200 other countries (Ravid and Weiler-Polak, 2010).

In November, the Cabinet agreed to establish an open detention center for unauthorized migrants who enter the border between the country and Egypt. The center will be located in West Negev and will provide basic lodging, food and health care to detainees. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told ministers at a session that the influx of unauthorized migrants must be mitigated as it is “changing the character of the coun-

try" and "threatens Israelis' jobs." He added, however, that refugees would still be accepted (*People's Daily Online*, 29 November 2010). An inter-ministerial committee will be created to investigate the feasibility of the project within two months, after which a decision will be reached (*People's Daily Online*, 29 November 2010).

## REFERENCES

### CBNNews.com

2010 "Returning Israelis granted 'immigrant status,'" 14 May.

### Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)

2010 "The Middle East: Refugees and internally displaced persons by country," *The Guardian* ([guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk)), 5 October.

### International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 - The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

### Migration News

2010 "Middle East: Dubai, Israel, Iraq," University of California, Davis, January (Vol. 17, No. 1). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/MN/more.php?id=3582\\_0\\_3\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/MN/more.php?id=3582_0_3_0), accessed 23 January 2012.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

2011 "Israel" (Country Notes). In *International Migration Outlook: SOPEMI 2011*. Paris: OECD. Available at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/44/11/48351304.pdf>, accessed 2 February 2012.

### People's Daily Online

2010 "Israel gov't greenlights illegal migrant detention center," 29 November.

Ravid, Barak and Dana Weiler-Polak

2010 "Cabinet approves deportation of 400 migrant children from Israel," *Haaretz.com*, 8 January.

Sanders, Edmund

2010 "Israel to deport hundreds of migrant workers' children," *Los Angeles Times*, 2 August.

Stahl, Julie

2010 "Immigration to Israel up in 2010," *CBN News.com*, 30 December.

### YNet News

2008 "Economic woes turn(s) Israelis homeward," *CBNNews.com*, 25 November.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	6.5
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.6
Percent urban (%)	83
Population per square kilometer	73
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	38
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	27.57 B
GDP growth (annual %)	3.1
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	5,800
Human development index (rank – value)	82 – 0.681
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	76 – 0.616
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	2.97 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	3.64 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	621
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	2,159
Refugees by origin	2,252
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	450,915

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

In 2010, Jordan had an immigrant stock of 2.97 million or around 45.7 percent of the total population (estimated at 6.5 million by mid-2010). Nearly half (49.2 percent) of migrants were female. Eighty-five percent

of Jordan's immigrants consisted of refugees (World Bank, 2010:148).

According to the World Bank (2010:7), Jordan in 2010 hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide at 2.5 million, majority of whom were Iraqi refugees. The government of Jordan, on the other hand, estimated around 451,000 refugees, all reportedly Iraqi (UNHCR, 2010:6,25).<sup>1</sup> Other major migrant inflows, especially for

<sup>1</sup> According to the UNHCR, Iraqi refugees in Jordan are now considered living in a "protracted refugee situation," defined as, "one in which 25,000 or more refugees of the same nationality have been in exile for five years or longer in a given asylum country" (UNHCR, 2010:25).

foreign labor, came from the West Bank and Gaza, Egypt, Syria, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, China, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and the Philippines (World Bank, 2010:7, 148).

Emigrants from Jordan numbered about 733,600, comprising 11.3 percent of the population. The major destinations for Jordanian migrants in 2010 were the West Bank and Gaza, Saudi Arabia, the US, Germany, Oman, Canada, Egypt, Australia, the UK and Italy (World Bank, 2010:148).

Outward remittance flows from Jordan-based migrant workers were around \$502 million in 2009 while remittances sent by Jordanians abroad amounted to \$3.64-\$3.79 billion in 2010, higher than the \$3.597 billion in 2009 (World Bank, 2012; 2010:148).

Thousands of migrant workers in Jordan were severely affected by the global economic crisis. Out of the 10,500 laid-off workers, 6,750 were foreigners, majority of whom were working in the textile industry. Jordan-based recruitment agencies also reported a decline in demand for foreign workers in the Gulf region (Awad, 2009, cited in IOM, 2010:213; *Jordan Times*, 2010, cited in IOM, 2010:215).

## POLICIES

### *Migrants' rights*

HRW commended the Jordanian government for efforts to promote and provide protection to domestic migrant workers, particularly through reforms such as the standard work contract in 2003. In 2008, Jordan was the first Arab country to include foreign domestic workers under its labor law, requiring a weekly rest day for them. However, the report also noted the remaining challenge of implementing the reforms (AMN, 1-30 April 2010; *Migration News*, 2010). In November, the group urged Jordan, along with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to further improve and strengthen protective measures for migrant workers, following cases of Sri Lankan domestic workers who complained of abuse by their employers from these countries. A Sri Lankan domestic worker based in Jordan claimed that her employer forced her to swallow nails (*VOA News*, 16 November 2010).

### *Trafficking in persons*

The Jordanian government in March announced a national anti-trafficking strategy that will prioritize policies and measures for international cooperation, law enforcement, prevention and protection of victims. Justice Minister Ayman Odeh stated that identifying trafficked victims, raising public awareness and promoting bilateral cooperation are important in addressing human trafficking in the country. These initiatives build on Jordan's existing anti-trafficking efforts, such as the adoption of the Anti-Human Trafficking Law and ratification of international agreements such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The government has formed a national committee to develop policies and programs that aim to prevent human trafficking (AMN, 1-31 March, 2010; Middle East North Africa Financial Network, 2010).

The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* cited the implementation of the anti-trafficking law as resulting to several investigations and prosecutions. During the year, the government also crafted bylaws that establish standards for hiring domestic workers and managing recruitment agencies, establishing a long-term shelter for victims, and producing a strategy for raising public awareness. Despite these efforts, Jordan was placed on Tier 2 because of limited assistance to victims, limited punishment of traffickers, lack of significant progress in raising public awareness, and limited cooperation with embassies of source countries (USDS, 2010:191).

According to the report, men and women are often trafficked to Jordan for forced labor and prostitution (USDS, 2010:191). Moroccan and Tunisian women who arrive in Jordan looking for work have ended up in prostitution. Foreign domestic workers, mostly from Asia, have been subjected to forced labor upon arrival in Jordan with threats and physical abuse. Their passports were also confiscated and their movements limited. By the end of the reporting period, around 400 domestic workers from Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka sought assistance and shelter at their respective embassies in the country (USDS, 2010:191).

**REFERENCES**

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
 2010 *World Migration Report 2010 - The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

Middle East North Africa Financial Network (MENAFN)  
 2010 "National strategy to combat human trafficking launched," *MENAFN.com*, 3 March.

*Migration News*

2010 "Middle East: Dubai, Israel, Iraq," University of California, Davis, January (Vol. 17, No. 1). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3582\\_0\\_3\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3582_0_3_0), accessed 7 February 2012.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2010 *UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2010*. Geneva: UNHCR. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4ef9cc9c9.html>, accessed 7 February 2012.

*VOA News*

2010 "Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia urged to protect foreign workers," *VOAnews.com*, 16 November.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	3.1
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.0
Percent urban (%)	98
Population per square kilometer	175
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	27
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	47 – 0.771
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	43 – 0.451
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	2.10 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	97
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	3,275
Refugees by origin	988
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	184

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

In 2010, immigrants in Kuwait numbered 2.10 million or around 68 percent of the country's estimated population of 3.1 million (as of mid-2010). Of the immigrant stock, female migrants constituted 30 percent while refugees represented around 1.8 percent. Majority of them were migrants from top source countries such as India, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Syria, among other Asian countries (World Bank, 2010:155).

The size of the migrant stock suggested a gradual recovery from the economic crisis, which had led to a decline in the hiring of foreign labor. Foreign workers are estimated at around 1.81 million, higher compared to around 1.74 million in 2009, 1.75 million in 2008 and 1.77 million in 2007 (AMN, 1-31 March 2010; Hasan, 2010).

Kuwait was the fourth ranked country with the largest share of foreign population after Qatar (87 percent), Monaco (72 percent) and Saudi Arabia (70 percent). Majority of migrants in Kuwait are foreign workers employed in the construction, domestic and service

sectors (UN DESA, 2009, cited in IOM, 2010:209; World Bank, 2010:2).<sup>1</sup>

With a large population of migrant workers, Kuwait has registered high levels of outward remittance flows over the years. By the end of the year, Kuwait was the fifth top remittance-sending country in the world in terms of the share of the GDP (eight percent), and was also the 9<sup>th</sup> sending country in terms of actual remittance flows (9.9 billion) (World Bank, 2010:15,16).

Outward migration was significantly lower, with only 259,400 emigrants, constituting a population share of 8.5 percent. Most Kuwaiti migrants went to Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the US, Canada and the UK. Some moved to India, Jordan, Australia, Egypt and Denmark (World Bank, 2010:155).

### **Migrants' rights**

HRW has urged the Kuwaiti government to strengthen migrant rights' policies. In 2010, another call was made to abolish the *kafala* or sponsorship system, which HRW said has reinforced the exploitation of migrant domestic workers.

Around a third of foreign laborers in Kuwait are domestic workers. Other estimates ranged from 560,000 to 700,000 foreign domestic workers, mostly from Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka (AMN, 1-28 February 2010; Hasan, 2010).

Despite the government's claim of protecting migrants' rights, HRW says many domestic workers in the country continue to experience labor abuses, from extremely long work hours to the withholding of wages and experiencing physical and sexual violence (AMN, 1-31 January 2010, 1-31 May 2010; Hasan, 2010).

The sponsorship system's structural reinforcement of abuse, control and exploitation experienced by hundreds of foreign domestic workers in Kuwait was reported in HRW's 2010-released publication titled, "Walls at Every Turn: Exploitation of Migrant Domestic

Workers through Kuwait's Sponsorship System." The report was based on interviews with runaway domestic workers at embassies and at a government-run shelter. The report revealed that in 2009 more than 10,000 domestic workers from Ethiopia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka filed complaints to their respective embassies, claiming they were abused by their employers. One embassy of a labor-exporting country received around 950 claims of rape and sexual harassment from domestic workers. According to HRW, the situation of domestic workers exacerbated by the lack of laws that provide basic rights, limitations to working hours and required rest days (Hasan, 2010).

Due to rising cases and claims of abuse, some labor-sending countries have sought to limit the deployment of their nationals to Kuwait. In 2010, Nepal announced that it will discourage sending domestic workers until the Kuwaiti government can ensure protection by signing the international convention on migrants' rights (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

### **Unauthorized migration**

From January to February at least 1,000 unauthorized or irregular migrant workers were deported, with 2,000 others detained at their respective embassies for pending immigration cases (AMN, 1-28 February 2010). In April, the Labor and Interior Ministries announced that they will deport thousands of irregular Egyptian migrants registered with bogus or illegal companies. Ministry staff found to have been involved with the forging of documents will be sanctioned while companies will face charges (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

### **Stateless persons**

One of Kuwait's major population issues is the large presence of stateless persons or individuals who lack a legal nationality that binds them to a country, also known as the *bidoon* or *bedoun* (Arabic for "without," from *bidoon jinsiya* or "without citizenship"). UNHCR data show that as of June 2010, there were 93,000 stateless persons in Kuwait, mostly those belonging to

<sup>1</sup> In 2010, there were only 857 asylum applicants and 654 refugees residing in Kuwait, most of whom came from Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan (Refugees International, 2010; UNHCR, 2010).

the Bedouin tribes that resided and travelled across Kuwait, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq before the rise of permanent national borders. The lack of citizenship and legal status has barred stateless persons from access to education, employment, health and government facilities and services. It also adversely affects one's sense of belonging, identity and family life (Refugees International, 2010).

Refugees International criticized the Kuwaiti government's inaction in resolving the plight of stateless persons. It urged officials to take steps to support the rights and well-being of the *bidoon* by evaluating their cases for the eventual granting of citizenship and to create a campaign against discrimination. It also recommended the need to revise the nationality law, support human rights initiatives, and establish a human rights institution (Refugees International, 2010).

#### **Trafficking in persons**

Kuwait was placed on Tier 3 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for lack of progress in implementing anti-trafficking laws and protecting victims. The government also showed reluctance to prosecute Kuwaiti citizens involved in the crime. The report states: "The government acknowledged some workers face difficulties but denied this contributes to a systemic trafficking problem" (USDS, 2010:203).

Kuwait is mainly a destination country for trafficked men and women from India, Egypt, Bangladesh, Syria, Pakistan, the Philippines and other Asian and Middle Eastern countries. Majority migrate to Kuwait for employment in construction, domestic work and sanitation sectors, but later fall prey to conditions of forced labor. Sponsors, labor agents and recruitment agencies are largely involved in human trafficking for forced labor. A number of Kuwaiti employers have reportedly smuggled and sold domestic workers for employment in Saudi Arabia without consent (AMN, 1-30 June 2010). Migrants have also been trafficked into prostitution (*Arab Times Online*, 27 December 2010; USDS, 2010:203).

## **POLICIES**

### ***Migrants' rights***

In 2010, the Kuwaiti government announced plans to abolish the *kafala* or sponsorship system in February 2011, which will coincide with the launch of the labor affairs authority (IOM, 2011:76; Toumi, 2010). Under the sponsorship system, foreign workers are not allowed to work or switch jobs without the approval of their sponsor. Local and international organizations have criticized the system and have urged government to abolish it (Toumi, 2010).

In other developments, the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry announced the establishment of a shelter for abused workers and of a shareholding company that will manage the recruitment of domestic workers. Company shares will be owned by the government, private businesses and citizens. The ministry will also take over the processing of entry visas for foreign workers employed in private industries. The Interior Ministry, meanwhile, will retain responsibility of approving the visas (AMN, 1-28 February 2010; 1-30 April 2010).

The Immigration Bureau added new requirements for hiring foreign domestic workers, a measure that has earned complaints from several migrant workers. Before a domestic worker can enter the country for employment, the bureau now requires documentation certifying the endorsement of a local manpower agency and proper clearance from police regarding character and income (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

## **REFERENCES**

- Arab Times Online*  
2010 "Workers sold... Resold': Recruiters turn traffickers," 27 December.
- Hasan, Omar  
2010 "Abuse of maids in Kuwait rising—Human Rights Watch," *Agence France-Presse, Inquirer.net*, 7 October.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2011 *World Migration Report 2011: Communicating Effectively about Migration*. Geneva: IOM.

Refugees International

2010 "Kuwait: Still stalling on statelessness" (field report). Refugees International. Available at <http://www.refintl.org/policy/field-report/kuwait-still-stalling-statelessness> (PDF: <http://www.refintl.org/sites/default/files/051110%20statelessness.pdf>), accessed 17 February 2012.

Toumi, Habib

2010 "Kuwait to scrap sponsorship system," *Gulf-news.com*, 26 September.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2010 "UNHCR Kuwait Fact Sheet, June 2010." United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4c90815f9.html>, accessed 17 February 2012.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	4.3
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.5
Percent urban (%)	87
Population per square kilometer	409
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	25
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	39.01 B
GDP growth (annual %)	7.0
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	14,080
Human development index (rank – value)	-
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	758,167
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	8.18 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	1,518
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	1,417
Refugees by origin	15,869
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	7,949

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2010)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Lebanon is both an origin and destination country for thousands of migrants, as well as a major site for asylum seekers and refugees. In 2010, Lebanese emigrants numbered 664,100, accounting for around 15.4 percent of the country's total population (4.3 million as of mid-2010). Major destinations of Lebanese migrants were mostly developed countries such as Australia, Canada and the US. Some migrated to European coun-

tries like Germany, France and Sweden (World Bank, 2010:159).

The stock of immigrants reached 758,200 by the end of 2010, representing around 17.8 percent of the population. Of the immigrant stock, nearly half or 49.2 percent were female (World Bank, 2010:159). Refugees comprise a significant share of Lebanon's immigrant profile. In 2010, Lebanon was the eighth top destination country of refugees, and it ranked the seventh top destination country in terms of the share of refugees in relation to the migrant population. The refugee

population in Lebanon comprises some 61 percent of the total migrant population (World Bank, 2010:7,8).

Statistics from the Ministry of Labour show that in 2009, 145,684 work permits were issued to foreigners, accounting for 11 percent of the labor force in the country. Foreign workers in Lebanon are mainly women from Asia and Africa employed as domestic workers (80 percent of the total number of work permits in 2009 were issued for this occupational group) (Central Administration of Statistics Statistical Yearbook 2009, cited in Yaacoub and Badre, 2011:15).

Remittances from overseas-based Lebanese are a significant part of the country's economy. Lebanon ranked as the sixth country where remittances have a large share of the GDP: in 2009, remittances contributed 17 percent to the country's GDP. Lebanon received \$7.56 billion of remittances in 2009; in 2010, the amount rose to \$8.18 billion. As a major destination country, outward remittances are also significant. Outward remittance flows were recorded at nearly \$5.75 billion in 2009, higher compared to \$4.37 billion in 2008 (World Bank, 2010:14-16,159).

### ***Migrants' rights***

Media reports, research reports and rights groups' claims suggest that many migrant workers in the country live in abusive and vulnerable labor conditions, especially foreign domestic workers (e.g., Murdock, 2010). According to the IOM, female migrant workers in Lebanon have been abused physically, sexually and verbally; those who run away from their employers end up being arrested and deported (Murdock, 2010).

An estimated 200,000 foreign domestic workers were employed in Lebanon in 2010, mostly as housekeepers, nannies and nurses. Most come from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Labor laws in Lebanon offer little protection for them. The 2006 conflict revealed problems faced by foreign domestic workers. Many cases of employer abuse and exploitation of foreign domestic workers have prompted source countries like Ethiopia, Madagascar and the Philippines to impose a deployment ban (AMN, 1-31 January 2010; 1-30 April 2010). The government in 2009 had adopted a law requiring a standard contract for foreign domes-

tic workers, which provides basic rights. However, Beirut HRW Director Nadim Houry said the law has been largely ineffective, since contracts migrants sign are not translated in their language and there has not been any enforcement mechanism (Murdock, 2010).

A June 2010 survey found that among foreign domestic workers in Lebanon, only a third were allowed to leave the house by themselves and only 20 percent were given weekly days off (*Migration News*, 2010). Most employers confiscate their workers' passports and do not grant them regular rest days, while some withhold wages. Despite legal action or reports to authorities, however, accused employers are often let go without punishment or sanction (Murdock, 2010).

In September, HRW released "Without Protection: How the Lebanese Justice System Fails Migrant Domestic Workers," a report on the Lebanese government's ineffective response to protect migrant domestic workers from cases of abuse and mistreatment, with most employers being given only light sentences or are left unpunished. Cases of abuse included employers confiscating passports of domestic workers, locking them inside houses for long periods and starving them. Based on a review of 114 judicial cases and police reports and interviews with diplomats, lawyers and migrant workers, the report revealed several obstacles that prevented migrant workers from filing cases or reporting to authorities (Sandels, 2010).

Other problems that contribute to the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers include lack of information dissemination and translation, long processes, stringent visa policies and the *kafala* or sponsorship system (Sandels, 2010). HRW has called on Lebanon to raise the protection of migrant domestic workers by providing legal aid and interpreters, pushing for reforms of the sponsorship system, and inspecting households and employees suspected of abusing their workers (Sandels, 2010).

In 2010, Lebanon signed a bilateral agreement with Nepal to regularize labor migration and to strengthen protection for Nepalese migrants (IOM, 2011:77). In June, the Ministry of Labor established a hotline to receive abuse claims and complaints of migrant workers, which will later be investigated. It also aims to in

**TABLE 1**  
**Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Persons of Concern, 2010 and 2011**

Type of Population	Origin	Jan 2010		Dec 2010 – Jan 2011	
		Total in Country	Of Whom Assisted by UNHCR	Total in Country	Of Whom Assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Iraq	48,220	10,000	45,250	8,000
	Various	280	280	450	450
Asylum-seekers	Sudan	220	300	350	350
	Iraq	200	250	300	300
	Syria	100	150	200	200
	Various	80	100	150	150
Others of concern	Lebanon	500	500	500	500
	Various	80	80	80	80
TOTAL		49,680	11,660	47,280	10,030

Source: *UNHCR Global Appeal 2010-2011*

tervene in any conflict or dispute between migrant workers and their employers (Migrant Rights, 2010; Sandels, 2010).

#### ***Asylum-seekers and refugees***

Estimates of asylum-seekers and refugees in Lebanon vary. UNHCR data (2010) suggest some 50,000 refugees, asylum seekers and other persons of concern from Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon and other countries (Table 1).

In addition, some 300,000 to 400,000 Palestinian refugees are in the country (Houry, 2010; Muir, 2010). Most of the refugees live in camps and in poor living conditions.

In 2010, the Lebanese government passed a law that allows Palestinian refugees free work permits and social security. However, they are not allowed to work in the public sector or take on skilled or professional jobs. They are also prohibited from buying property and will not be able to access state education and medical services. Palestinian groups have welcomed the new law, but some remain skeptical and others still aim to clamor for more rights (Muir, 2010).

#### ***Trafficking in persons***

In the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*, Lebanon was placed on the Tier 2 watch list. According to the report, the government progressed in terms of the referral of trafficking victims to safe houses and increased awareness and interest in child trafficking and labor abuses faced by foreign domestic workers. However, no specific charges for trafficking cases were reported and the government still needs to improve the identification of foreign trafficking victims, the punishment of offenders, the allocation of resources for protecting victims, and raising public awareness (USDS, 2010:209).

Men, women and children are trafficked into and from Lebanon mainly for forced labor and prostitution. Domestic workers from Ethiopia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and the Philippines have often ended up in conditions indicative of forced labor, and those who leave their employers are stripped of their legal status unless a change in sponsorship has been prearranged. There have been cases of employers confiscating passports, withholding payment and physically, sexually or verbally abusing foreign domestic workers. It is also believed that Lebanon is a transit point for trafficked

women and children from Eastern Europe, who are later brought to Middle Eastern countries for prostitution (USDS, 2010:209).

### **Arbitrary detention**

Protesting against arbitrary detention, 14 local and international human rights groups collectively called on the Lebanese government to release foreigners and refugees serving time in jail despite completing their sentences. The Lebanese Center for Human Rights reported that some 230 foreigners mostly imprisoned for immigration violations had already completed their sentence, but were still being held in prison. Around 13 of them were refugees (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

### **Internal displacement**

As of 2010, at least 76,000 IDPs were recorded in Lebanon. Majority were driven out of their homes by long-term conflict and violence which started as far back as the civil war in 1975. The number of IDPs shifted over the years, registering a peak growth of 800,000 in 2006. No new displacements were recorded for the year, but there are still remaining long-term IDPs. According to the IDMC, the government does not have a comprehensive national policy for IDPs, though some mechanisms for recovery and reconstruction have been put in place in the past. However, without an overall policy framework, such assistance and measures have been inconsistent. IDPs relied on their communities for assistance, while some national and international organizations also provided aid, reconstruction support and social services (IDMC, 2011:79).

## **REFERENCES**

- Houry, Nadim  
2010 "Impossible choices for Iraqi refugees in Lebanon," 25 March. Human Rights Watch. Available at <http://www.hrw.org/news/2010/03/25/impossible-choices-iraqi-refugees-lebanon>, accessed 13 February 2012.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
2011 *World Migration Report 2011: Communicating Effectively about Migration*. Geneva: International Organization for Migration.
- Migration News*  
2010 "Gulf, Middle East," University of California, Davis, October (Vol. 17, No. 4). Available at [http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3644\\_0\\_3\\_0](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/more.php?id=3644_0_3_0), accessed 9 February 2012.
- Migrant Rights  
2010 "Lebanese Ministry of Labor to create a complaints office for foreign workers," *Migrant-rights.org*, 4 February.
- Muir, Jim  
2010 "Lebanon grants Palestinian refugees right to work," *BBC News*, 17 August.
- Murdock, Heather  
2010 "Migrant workers face abuse inside Lebanese homes," *VOANews.com*, 3 November.
- Sandels, Alexandra  
2010 "Lebanon: Employers hurt foreign maids with impunity, rights group says," *Los Angeles Times*, 16 September.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
2010 "Lebanon." *UNHCR Global Appeal 2010-2011: Real People, Real Needs*. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4b05121f9.html>, accessed 5 March 2012.
- Yaacoub, N. and L. Badre  
2010 *Statistics in Focus: The Labour Market in Lebanon*. Beirut: Central Administration of Statistics, Lebanon.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	3.1
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.8
Percent urban (%)	72
Population per square kilometer	10
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	27
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	-
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	-
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	826,074
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	39.01 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	8
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	13
Refugees by origin	63
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	78

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

In 2010, the high-income country had a stock immigrant population of around 826,100, making up 28.4 percent of the total population (2.8 million as of 2009; 3.1 million as of mid-2010). Most migrant workers come from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Compared to other countries, the migrant stock is not as feminized – only around 20.8 percent were female (World Bank, 2010:198).

Emigrants from Oman numbered about 15,300, representing 0.5 percent of the population. Most left the country for Jordan, the UK and the US (World Bank, 2010:198).

As of January 2010, there were around 850,000 to 870,000 foreign workers in Oman, around five times higher compared to the number of employed nationals and makes up around 30 percent of the population. The figure increased to about 1.065 million foreign workers by the end of March 2010 (AMN, 1-30 April 2010; Shaibany, 2010).

Foreign workers in Oman sent home some \$5.3 billion in 2009, making the country the third top remittance sender in the world in terms of the share of the GDP (9.9 percent). In comparison, remittances from overseas-based Omani amounted to around \$40 million in 2010 and \$38 million in 2009 (World Bank, 2010:198).

Oman's proposed infrastructure projects are expected to increase the demand for foreign workers. From building airports to power plants, the projects would create around 4,000 jobs for nationals. However, National Economy Minister Ahmad Mekki said there were not enough locals to fill job vacancies, hence the need to hire more migrant workers. Industry experts say demand is strongest in the construction sector because Omanis were either unqualified or were unwilling to accept jobs in this sector (Shaibany, 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

The USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* gave Oman a Tier 2 ranking. During the reporting period, authorities had been able to prosecute and convict trafficking offenders. According to Oman's Police and Customs in February, 33 people – 19 Omanis and 14 foreigners – have been charged since the implementation of the human trafficking law in 2008. However, the report concluded that performance in identifying trafficked victims was found lacking (AMN, 1-28 February 2010; USDS, 2010:258).

Men and women from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries from South and Southeast Asia are trafficked to Oman for forced labor. The country is also a destination and transit country for women trafficked into prostitution. Most of these women come from China, India, Morocco and from Eastern Europe and South Asia (USDS, 2010:258-259).

## **POLICIES**

### **Migrants' rights**

The Omani government banned private companies and establishments from withholding the passports of migrant workers, and also prohibited them from making their employees work at noon during the summer months (June to August). The decisions were made

after the Manpower Ministry and the National Commission for Human Rights reviewed labor laws and measures to protect the rights of migrant workers (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

### **Unauthorized migration**

In 2010, Oman offered amnesty to irregular migrant workers, a chance for them to regularize their employment status or to return to their origin countries without fees or sanctions (Palma, 2010). The government initially set the deadline in March but was extended twice (May and July) upon the request of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka (AMN, 1-31 March 2010; 1-30 June 2010).

In March, over 10,000 Bangladeshis, 19,300 Indians, 2,200 Pakistanis, 350 Sri Lankans and 112 Filipinos had registered with their respective embassies (AMN, 1-31 March 2010). In May, some 10,000 Bangladeshis and nearly 2,500 Pakistanis voluntarily returned to their home countries (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

Estimates have put the number of irregular workers at around 150,000. Registered foreign workers as of May numbered up to 163,000, but the figure is expected to increase as some of the migrants have opted to regularize their status (AMN, 1-28 February 2010; 1-30 May 2010).

## **REFERENCES**

- Palma, Porimol  
2010 "10,000 workers to return from Oman," *The Daily Star*, 5 February.
- Shaibany, Saleh al  
2010 "Oman project boom raises demand for foreign labour," Reuters, *Arabian Business* (*arabianbusiness.com*), 3 January.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	1.7
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.8
Percent urban (%)	100
Population per square kilometer	152
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	13
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	38 – 0.803
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	94 – 0.671
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	1.31 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	7
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	16
Refugees by origin	112
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	51

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

In 2010, Qatar's stock of immigrant population of 1.31 million accounts for 86.5 percent of the country's total population of 1.4 million as of 2009 (which increased to 1.7 million as of mid-2010). This demographic profile makes Qatar the leading country with the largest immigrant stock as a percentage of the population, followed by Monaco (71.6 percent) and the UAE (70 percent). Qatar's immigrant stock of 1.31 million originated from the following countries: Pakistan, India,

Nepal, Iran, the Philippines, Egypt and Sri Lanka. Female migrants made up only 25.8 percent of the stock (World Bank, 2010:18,209).

Qatar's emigrant stock at 9,900 is about 0.7 percent share of the population. Majority of Qatari migrants have left for the US, Jordan, Canada, the US and Australia, among other countries (World Bank, 2010:209).

### *Labor migration*

Qatar is projected to register a 16-percent economic growth in the coming years, a forecast that suggests



more job opportunities for foreign workers (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010).

Around 325,000 Nepali workers are estimated to be employed in Qatar. Majority of Nepalese workers are blue-collar and low-skilled, often lowly paid. The Qatari government plans to establish training centers in Nepal with private agencies to provide skills upgrade opportunities for workers to be deployed to Qatar (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010; 1-30 April 2010).

Filipino workers have also increased in number, totaling to about 250,000 as of this year, the third largest foreign worker population. The Philippines and Qatar signed a bilateral agreement in 2009, after which, the deployment of Filipino workers to Qatar rose sharply. However, many Filipino migrant workers in the country are unauthorized. Philippine Labor Secretary Mariano Roque said that around 70 percent of Filipino domestic workers in Qatar are undocumented (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010).

In terms of public perception, a survey in Qatar found most of Qatari nationals have a positive view of foreign workers and their contribution to the country's development is acknowledged (Social & Economic Survey Research Institute, 2010, cited in IOM, 2011:11).

#### ***Asylum seekers and refugees***

Only a limited number of asylum seekers and refugees reside in Qatar. UNHCR and World Bank data show that the country hosted a total of 51 refugees, 16 asylum seekers and 1,200 stateless persons from 2010 to 2011. Some programs offer assistance to refugees and displaced persons. In 2010 the country's Reach Out To Asia program granted \$280,000 or Dh1 million to the American Near East Refugee Aid to fund skills training to Lebanese and Palestinian refugees, as well as displaced Arabs in non-Palestinian areas (Toumi, 2010c). On the other hand, a total of seven asylum seekers and 112 refugees from Qatar are residing outside the country (UNHCR, 2012).

#### ***Trafficking in persons***

Qatar was on the Tier 2 Watch List in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. Among others, the re-

port found has yet to enact key anti-trafficking laws and to show progress in prosecuting and punishing traffickers, or in identifying victims (USDS, 2010:276).

Qatar is primarily a destination and transit country for men and women trafficked for forced labor, mostly sourced from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Indonesia, other Middle East countries and Northern Africa. The country is also, to a lesser extent, a trafficking site for prostitution (USDS, 2010:275-276).

## **POLICIES**

### ***Domestic worker law***

As part of the country's national strategy, the government plans to draft in January 2011 a law that will provide more rights for domestic workers. The new national strategy will focus on economic and social issues and will include women empowerment as one of its pillars. The plan will also emphasize the family as the core of progress and the significant role of domestic workers, especially in households where both the husband and wife are working. The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers has created a committee that will review the law, which aims to cover the provisions for the rights of household or service workers that are not included in current labor legislation (*The Peninsula*, 21 October 2010; Toumi, 2010b).

Key features of the draft House Workers Law include articles on the rights and responsibilities of house workers concerning the following: contracting, recruitment, holidays and working hours, benefits and employment procedures through licensed manpower agencies. It also requires the documentation of employment contracts and defines the terms of agreement between employer and worker, including for annual leave tickets and wages (*The Peninsula*, 21 October 2010).

The plan is a response to calls from international organizations for Gulf countries to develop legislation that would better protect migrant workers, especially foreign domestic workers (Toumi, 2010b). The lack of protective legislation and policies has been a long-standing issue amid reports of rampant labor abuse and poor working conditions of foreign workers. Research find



ings from a study sponsored by the National Human Rights Committee revealed that more than 850 construction companies in Qatar did not provide standard living and working conditions for foreign workers, with some committing acts similar to some forms of human trafficking. In 2009, these companies were suspended for failing to comply with labor laws, allowing laborers to work in harsh conditions which included high temperature, high humidity and insufficient health and safety procedures. Some workers were forced to live in extremely small quarters and were also forced to perform additional tasks without pay (Toumi, 2010a).

#### **Sponsorship law**

Under the country's new sponsorship law, foreign women employed on independent work visas in the private sector and earning at least QR7,000 (\$1,920) monthly are now allowed to sponsor families. Foreigners employed by government organizations are excluded due to existing provisions for family accommodations. However, several foreigners have complained of family visa application rejections despite having complied with all requirements. A Central Municipal Council member has questioned the rejections, stating that it would be beneficial for the local economy if foreigners were allowed to bring in their families. The issue raises the question of whether family sponsorship policies in the country – including those for female migrant workers – are being or will be effectively implemented (AMN, 1-28 February 2010; 1-30 April 2010).

#### **Regulation of recruitment firms**

The Ministry implemented stricter policies for private recruitment companies to deter discourage selling free visas and to reduce incidents of runaway workers. The ministry said it plans to establish a unit at the Doha International Airport to monitor the arrival of new migrant workers and to ensure that they will not be left stranded. Companies of stranded migrant workers will be penalized, and those who fail to provide proper health and living conditions for workers will be arrested. They will also be required to obtain endorsement from the Labor Department inspection team and submit employees' salary records. Labor officials will also be assigned to assess the validity of a company's foreign

labor demand and to evaluate the working environment and facilities (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

#### **REFERENCES**

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
2011 *World Migration Report 2011: Communicating Effectively about Migration*. Geneva: International Organization for Migration.

*The Peninsula*

2010 "Challenges of law on domestic workers," 21 October.

Toumi, Habib

2010a "Foreign labourers live in poor conditions," *Gulf news.com*, 27 December.

2010b "Qatar to draft law on domestic workers," *Gulf news.com*, 23 November.

2010c "Qatar funds courses for refugees," *Gulfnews.com*, 15 November.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2012 "Qatar 2012 Regional Operations Profile – Middle East," United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e4868d6.html>, accessed 15 February 2012.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	29.2
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.6
Percent urban (%)	81
Population per square kilometer	14
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	30
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	434.67 B
GDP growth (annual %)	3.8
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	55 – 0.752
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	128 – 0.760
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	7.29 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	236.48 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	80
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	87
Refugees by origin	667
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	555

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

In 2010, Saudi Arabia registered an immigrant stock of nearly 7.3 million immigrants, making it the fourth top destination country for migrants in the world, following the US (42.8 million), Russia (12.3 million) and Germany (10.8 million). Migrants accounted for 27.8 percent of the kingdom's 25.4 million population as of 2009 (which increased to 29.2 million as of mid-2010) (World Bank, 2010:1-2). Majority of migrants work in urban areas, where 82.3 percent of Saudi Arabia's

population resides. Major origin countries are: India, Egypt, Pakistan, Yemen, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Sudan and Jordan. Of the total number of immigrants during the year, female migrants and refugees accounted for 30.1 percent and 3.3 percent of the stock (World Bank, 2010:1-2,216).

The stock of emigrant population was about 178,700 or some 0.7 percent of the total population. Most Saudi citizens migrated to Jordan, the US, the UK, Canada and Egypt, among other countries (World Bank, 2010:216).

According to the Labor Ministry, in 2008, the start of the global economic crisis, and 2009, foreign labor intake remained high, with the government issuing at least a million to 1.5 million work visas for foreigners (AMN, 1-30 June 2010; Shaheen, 2010). During the same period, Saudi Arabia faced problems in generating jobs for its nationals. Overall, migrant workers outnumbered employed Saudi nationals (4.7 million vs. 4.3 million); most migrant workers were employed in less-skilled occupations.

A growing trend of urban to rural migration was observed during the year. The high cost of living, housing expenses, noise pollution and other social problems in urban areas has led to a rising number of Saudis migrating to villages, suburbs and other locations in rural areas. However, some urban-to-rural migrants continue to work in the cities but have opted to reside in the suburbs (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

### **Remittances**

With millions of migrant workers in the kingdom, outward remittance flows from Saudi Arabia have been notably high. In 2009, migrant workers in Saudi Arabia remitted \$25.97 billion to their home countries, higher compared to almost \$21.70 billion in 2008. The figures outweighed inward remittance flows, estimated at around \$233-\$236 million in 2010 and \$217 million in 2009 (World Bank, 2012; 2010:216).

In 2009, Saudi Arabia was considered the second highest remittance-sending country in the world (\$25.97 billion) after the US (\$48.3 billion). However, as a percentage of the GDP, it ranked as the 7th top remittance sender (six percent), following Luxembourg (20 percent), Lebanon (17 percent), Oman (10 percent), Maldives (nine percent), Kuwait (eight percent), and Bahrain (seven percent) (World Bank, 2010:15-16).

### **Migrants' rights**

Cases of migrant worker abuse are still rampant in Saudi Arabia, especially among domestic workers. Some distressed migrants have run away from their employers

and sought assistance from their embassies. In April, at least 400 distressed Filipino workers were scheduled for repatriation from the kingdom (AMN, 1-30 April 2010). In August, some 150 Sri Lankan runaway workers were expected to be deported after leaving their employers mainly due to underpayment or non-payment of wages, and some cases of harassment and ill-treatment (Rasooldeen, 2010). In November, the Indonesian Consulate in Jeddah filed a complaint against an employer who reportedly abused and tortured an Indonesian domestic worker (Khan, 2010a).

### **Trafficking in persons**

For the fifth consecutive year, Saudi Arabia was ranked Tier 3 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. Despite the enactment of the anti-trafficking law, provisions do not include criminal sanctions for common trafficking practices such as withholding exit visas and passports, as well as orders to retain trafficking victims within the country for investigations and court trials. The report cited the government's efforts in coming up with a National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Persons. Nevertheless, weak action outweighed anti-trafficking developments – victim protection continues to be limited, and the government had not prosecuted or sanctioned traffickers through implemented laws. Some government officials are in denial of certain forms of trafficking and at times have “conflated trafficking with smuggling and the problem of religious pilgrims overstaying their visas to work illegally,” although this conflation has been mentioned in the National Plan of Action (USDS, 2010:285).

Saudi Arabia is mainly a destination country for men and women trafficked mostly for forced labor. Individuals from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Indonesia and some African countries migrate to the country for domestic or other low-skilled work, but are later forced to work with their movements controlled and restricted. Children from Yemen, Nigeria, Pakistan and other African countries have also been forced to beg or to work as street vendors in the country, usually controlled by criminal groups (AMN, 1-30 April 2010; USDS, 2010:285).

## POLICIES

### ***Amnesty for unauthorized migrants***

The Saudi government announced a six-month amnesty period beginning 25 September, offering a chance for thousands of irregular migrants to voluntarily leave the country. A blanket royal pardon was announced for all overstaying foreigners on Haj and Umrah pilgrimage visas and other temporary visit visas. The pardon applies to all overstaying and residency law violations which were committed before the amnesty period. Those who fail to leave the country during the amnesty period will face penalties such as imprisonment and fines (Abella, 2010; *The Saudi Gazette*, 22 September 2010). An estimated three million unauthorized migrants are believed to be present in Saudi Arabia (*The Saudi Gazette*, 22 September 2010).

In 2010, the Saudi government intensified the crackdown against irregular migration. In February, raids in Faisaliya district netted at least 110 irregular migrant workers from Ethiopia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Yemen while more than 100 migrants were arrested in Riyadh (*AMN*, 1-28 February 2010). In May, more than 1,200 foreigners were arrested for passport-related offenses (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010). Authorities have also arrested agents employing runaway domestic workers (Humaidan, 2010).

Labor-sending countries have cooperated with the Saudi government concerning the deportation of irregular and unauthorized migrants, including those who have volunteered to return. From July to August 2010, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Jeddah repatriated around 698 Filipinos (137 children, 399 women, 162 men) who were living in the Hajj Seaport Terminal, used as a government-run temporary shelter for deportees or those on voluntary deportation (Labor Communications Office, 2010).

Saudi Arabia and India agreed to implement legislation that would protect migrant workers and prevent unauthorized labor migration. India's Union Minister of Overseas Affairs Vayalar Ravi said the Indian Embassy will cooperate with Saudi Arabia concerning the repa-

triation of Indian migrants during the amnesty period (Khan, 2010b).

Irregular migrants in the border areas faced dire conditions. In December, at least 30 Yemeni migrants deported and violently expelled to the Saudi-Yemeni border have died from beatings and poor health (Reuters, 2010). The issue has raised concerns over the government's treatment of unauthorized migrants.

Authorities believe the intensified crackdown on unauthorized migration has led to some results. A report from the Border Guard said that in the last two years the number of unauthorized entry into the country has declined by around 72,000. From January to July 2010, a total of 105,494 attempts of unauthorized entry through land and sea routes were recorded. In 2009, 309,201 migrants were held at border points, lower compared to 381,460 in 2008 (*The Saudi Gazette*, 22 September 2010).

### ***Reduced hiring of migrant workers***

The Saudi Arabian government plans to reduce dependence on foreign labor by gradually decreasing the issuance of work visas on a yearly basis. In 2009, work visas were cut down by 15 percent to 1.54 million from 1.81 million in 2008 (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

In March, the Labor Recruitment Committee announced plans to reduce the hiring of domestic workers from Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam due to problems in the selection processes and insufficient orientation on culture and life in Saudi Arabia before deployment (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010). Indonesia's Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration clarified that the Indonesian government did not issue an order to ban the deployment of domestic workers, contrary to reports of a ban proposed by Saudi Arabia's consul and recruitment agencies (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010).

### ***Sponsorship transfer***

The Labor Ministry approved a measure that requires migrant workers to work for their employers for a minimum of two years before taking a sponsorship trans-

fer. The new policy took effect in April and extends the duration of stay with an employer to promote employment relations and to prevent the black market trading of work visas. However, a sponsorship transfer still requires the employer's consent (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

In other news, the Shoura Council in March recommended that dependents and family members of foreign workers who died or sustained work-related injuries should be compensated from the General Organization of Social Insurance (GOSI). GOSI should also shoulder the repatriation costs of migrant worker members who have been disabled or the remains of those who have passed away (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010).

## REFERENCES

Abella, Jerrie M.

2010 "Saudi amnesty not for all overstaying OFWs – report," *GMA News.tv*, 7 October.

Humaidan, Muhammad

2010 "Agents of runaway maids make SR20,000 a month," *Arabnews.com*, 4 August.

Khan, Ghazanfar Ali

2010a "Police yet to act over maid torture, says Indonesian diplomat," *Arabnews.com*, 18 November.

2010b "Riyadh, Delhi to resolve labor issues," *Arabnews.com*, 26 September.

Labor Communications Office, Department of Labor and Employment

2010 "No more OFWs in Seaport Hajj Terminal as of September 1, DOLE reports." Department of Labor and Employment. Available at <http://www.dole.gov.ph/secondpage.php?id=1350>, accessed 27 February 2012.

Rasooldeen, Md

2010 "150 runaway Sri Lankans to be deported this week," *Arabnews.com*, 16 August.

Reuters

2010 "Illegal migrants' death compounds crisis," *Gulfnews.com*, 6 December.

Shaheen, Abdul Nabi

2010 "Saudi Labour Ministry issues 1m work visas to expatriates last year," *Gulfnews.com*, 24 November.

*The Saudi Gazette*

2010 "Royal pardon for illegal residents," 22 September.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	22.5
Rate of natural increase (%)	2.5
Percent urban (%)	54
Population per square kilometer	122
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	37
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	59.15 B
GDP growth (annual %)	3.2
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	5,120
Human development index (rank – value)	111 – 0.589
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	103 – 0.687
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	2.21 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	1.41 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	9,752
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	2,446
Refugees by origin	18,428
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	1.01 M

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2010)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

As of 2010, the Syrian Arab Republic had an immigrant stock of 2.21 million, of which 71.7 percent or nearly 1.58 million were refugees from Iraq, the West Bank and Gaza. Migrants constitute around 9.8 percent of the total population (21.1 million as of 2009; 22.5 million as of mid-2010). Of the immigrant stock, nearly half or 49 percent were women (World Bank, 2010: 7,237).

The emigrant stock in 2010 numbered 944,600 or 4.2 percent of the total population. Major destinations of Syrian emigrants were Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Western countries such as Canada, Germany and the US (World Bank, 2010:237).

Remittances sent home by Syrian migrant workers abroad reached an estimated \$1.41 billion in 2010, higher compared to \$1.332 billion and \$1.4 billion in 2009 and 2008, respectively. Generally, these remittances were significantly larger compared to those sent home by migrants in Syria, totaling to only about \$212 million for both 2009 and 2008 (World Bank, 2010:237).

### **Refugee migration**

Although not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, in 2010, Syria ranked as the fourth top destination country for refugees in the world. UNHCR estimates as of January 2011 also reported about 2,446 asylum seekers and 300,000 stateless persons residing in the country. Majority come from Iraq, West Bank and Gaza, and to a lesser extent from Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia and Sudan (UNHCR, 2012; IRIN, 2010; World Bank, 2010:7).

Syria hosts the largest number of Iraqi refugees in the world. As of July 2010, a total of 151,907 Iraqi refugees, 4,317 non-Iraqi refugees and 1,156 non-Iraqi asylum-seekers were registered with the UNHCR in Syria. The figure is expected to increase due to the rising number of refugee applications. A UNHCR representative said that since the beginning of 2010, they receive an average of 1,900 applications every month, with the peak number reaching 3,500 in August (IRIN, 2010; UNHCR, 2010). About 40 percent of Iraqi refugees live in vulnerable conditions and are in need of assistance and medical care. Local integration is difficult and improbable due to the lack of livelihood opportunities and the weakening economy (UNHCR, 2012, 2010; IRIN, 2010). While a considerable number has been resettled in third countries and some have returned home voluntarily, most have remained in Syria. A UNCHR survey of more than Iraqi refugees in Syria found that many did not want to be repatriated due to political uncertainty (46 percent), unstable security conditions (15 percent), poor educational opportunities (13 percent) and housing shortages (six percent). The survey covered only the Al Waleed border connecting Syria and Iraq, but similar results were found among families interviewed in the Iraq-Jordan border (UNHCR, 2010).

Syria is also a source country of refugees. There are some 18,500 Syrian refugees abroad while Syrian asylum seekers were counted at 9,764 (UNHCR, 2012; IRIN, 2010; World Bank, 2010:7).

### **Trafficking in persons**

Syria was placed on the Tier 2 Watch List of the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*; it was in Tier 3 from 2006 to 2009. In 2010, the government had passed an

anti-trafficking law and issued two decrees to support protection for migrant domestic workers (USDS, 2010:312).

However, the government's overall performance for the year still failed to meet minimum standards for eliminating trafficking. Increased efforts to investigate and punish traffickers were not evident, authorities were not able to recommend trafficked women to shelters, and there were insufficient efforts to disseminate crucial information about trafficking to the public and training for law enforcers (Micha et al., 2011:20; USDS, 2010:312).

Syria is primarily a destination site for trafficked women and children, mostly for forced labor or prostitution. Most come from Ethiopia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Somalia, initially hired as domestic workers but are subjected to involuntary servitude by employers. Women from the Russian Federation and Ukraine, recruited as cabaret dancers and entertainers, are trafficked into prostitution in Syria. The report also observed growing child sex tourism for tourists coming from Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait (USDS, 2010:312-313).

A recent study found that Iraqi refugees in Syria, especially women and girls, were at a high risk of being trafficked for forced labor or prostitution (Micha et al., 2011). The study also reported that traffickers forge documents and force girls as young as 11 into legal marriages, which later end in divorce upon arrival at the destination site. Reports suggest that some families have left Iraqi girls along the Iraqi-Syrian border due to economic desperation or the expectation that traffickers will provide employment for these girls (Micha et al., 2011:17-19). It is believed that 95 percent of those working in Syrian brothels are Iraqis, and most are young teenage girls (Choudhury, 2011, cited in Micha et al., 2011).

### **Internal displacement**

The IDMC reported that in 2010, no new displacements were recorded in Syria. However, the number of people internally displaced was re-estimated at 433,000, up from an earlier estimate of about 140,000. Internal displacement in Syria persists mainly due to a long history of generalized violence and conflict since the Is



raeli occupation of Golan Heights in the 1960s and 1980s. IDPs presently constitute two percent of the total Syrian population (IDMC, 2011:81).

## POLICIES

### *Anti-trafficking efforts*

In January 2010, President Bashar Al-Assad issued Legislative Decree No. 3, ordering penalties for convicted traffickers. Tougher punishment for male traffickers or men involved in trafficking activities was included. However, sanctions on girls forced into prostitution were only reduced but not totally abolished. As mentioned earlier, the year also saw the passage of an anti-trafficking law and two decrees promoting the protection of foreign domestic workers.

In a joint effort with the IOM, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the Juvenile Welfare Association for Girls established an Aleppo-based shelter for trafficked women in January. Funded by the European Union, the Aleppo shelter is the second in the country; the first shelter was established in Damascus in 2008 (Micha et al., 2011:20; *Syria Today*, February 2010).

## REFERENCES

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)

2010 "The Middle East: refugees and internally displaced persons by country," IRIN, part of the Guardian Development Network, *The Guardian*, 5 October.

Micha, A., Abou-Atta, I., Macaud, M. and Sarah Barnes  
2011 Karamatuna: An investigation into the sex trafficking of Iraqi women and girls. Social Change through Education in the Middle East. Available at <http://sce-me.org/images/stories/sceme-projects/karamatuna-web.pdf>, accessed 19 February 2012.

*Syria Today*

2010 "New shelter for trafficked women opens in Aleppo," February.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

2012 "Syrian Arab Republic: 2012 Operations Profile." United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e486a76.html>, accessed 19 February 2012.

2010 "Iraqi refugees in Syria reluctant to return to home permanently: survey" (in News Stories), 8 October. Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4caf376c6.html>, accessed 19 February 2012.



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	5.4
Rate of natural increase (%)	1.4
Percent urban (%)	83
Population per square kilometer	64
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	17
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	297.65 B
GDP growth (annual %)	1.4
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	32 – 0.815
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	45 – 0.464
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	3.29 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	-
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	29
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	86
Refugees by origin	424
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	538

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## MIGRATION AND POPULATION TRENDS

The immigrant stock in the UAE in 2010 reached 3.29 million, accounting for 70 percent of the country's total population of 4.6 million as of 2009 (it went up to 5.4 million as of mid-2010). Immigrants to the UAE come from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as those from Egypt, the Philippines, Yemen, Iran and Sudan. Around 27.4 percent of migrants are female (World Bank, 2010:250). The UAE ranks third after Qatar (86.5 percent) and Monaco (71.6 percent) in terms of the share of foreign to local population

(World Bank, 2010:2). The India-UAE migration corridor was also named one of the top ten in the world, registering about 2.2 migrants (World Bank, 2010:5).

Emigration was significantly lower at 55,900 or only 1.2 percent of the population. Major destinations for emigrants are the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and India, among others (World Bank, 2010:250).

The UAE economy highly depends on the migrant workforce for low-cost labor, although most foreign workers are hired for low-skilled jobs in the construc

tion, domestic and service sectors. A large portion of the country's healthcare laborers are also foreigners. A study by the Emirati Nurses Association revealed that only seven percent of the nursing workforce in the UAE were citizens, indicating the strong migrant intake in the healthcare sector. The top senders of nurses were India and the Philippines (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

### ***Labor migration declines due to crisis***

The global economic crisis in 2008-2009 has significantly affected labor migration in the UAE and the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Ratha et al., 2009, cited in IOM, 2010:214). Several companies had closed and many workers – both local and foreign – were laid off.

Some companies abandoned their migrant workers, leaving them stranded without passports or wages (IOM, 2011:76). About 1,400 Indian and Pakistani workers abandoned by their employers in a labor camp without water or electricity protested against their conditions and the lack of assistance from their respective governments. By May, almost 200 workers were repatriated. The rest of the workers said they have been relying on relief goods from private donors (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

A survey of workers in the UAE showed that ten percent of nationals have lost their jobs. Fifty-eight percent of foreigners or migrants were looking for another job, and 33 percent planned to return home or to find another destination country (The National, 2009b, cited in IOM, 2010:214). The high unemployment rate among nationals has compelled the UAE to implement alternative policies that would encourage employers to hire more locals than foreigners (UC Davis, 2010a, cited in IOM, 2011:76)

### ***Trafficking in persons***

The UAE government was ranked Tier 2 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010*. The report stated that there was evident progress in the conviction and prosecution of sex traffickers and some effort to protect trafficking victims (USDS, 2010:334). Authorities reported an increase in the number of trafficked victims in the past year – in 2009, 43 human trafficking

cases were filed, up from 20 in 2008 and 10 in 2007. At least one conviction pushed through (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

However, government response to forced labor has generally been weak. This has been reinforced by the UAE's belief that forced labor is not associated with trafficking, especially if the migrant is over 18 years old and voluntarily entered the country (USDS, 2010:334).

According to the report, the UAE is primarily a destination country for trafficked victims from South and Southeast Asia, subjected to forced labor or prostitution. The sponsorship system in the country is a factor that allows employers to control and exploit their migrant workers, especially domestic workers (USDS, 2010:334).

## **POLICIES**

### ***Sponsorship system stays***

Despite recognizing that the kafala or sponsorship system must be examined, Labor Minister Saqr Gobash Saeed Gobash said the policy will most likely be retained (IOM, 2011:77; Salama, 2010; Saseendran, 2010). Several calls were made to replace or reform the sponsorship system.

In early 2010, the Ministry of Labor had submitted to the Cabinet a proposal that calls for the replacement of the sponsorship system. The proposal was still under review as of February (AMN, 1-28 February 2010). The Federal National Council also called on the government to abolish the sponsorship system in three to five years and to allow the free movement of migrant workers to prevent their exploitation. Aside from scrapping the sponsorship system, rules to protect foreign workers must be set in place. They must be allowed to switch jobs upon the termination of a contract and their passports must not be withheld from them (Salama, 2010). In December, it was announced that the government will be issuing a new work permit that will allow migrant workers to change jobs after two years without being banned from the country for six months for leaving their employers (Asian News International, 2010).

In other developments, the government recently implemented its labor law, an act lauded by diplomats from labor-sending countries, particularly those representing Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Jordan and Sri Lanka. The law promotes equal opportunities for employment, prohibits the exploitation of workers and supports the Wage Protection System (which began in 2009) that ensures laborers are regularly paid. The law applies to foreign workers as well and aims to protect their rights (AMN, 1-31 January 2010; IOM, 2010:210).

In May, the UAE and India signed a memorandum of understanding that aims to prevent contract substitution by limiting the issuance of work permits based only on the Indian worker's information as submitted by the recruitment agency (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

In December, the government also approved the decision to reduce the validity duration of labor cards and residency visas for private sector workers to two years (Al Jalandy, 2010).

### **Unauthorized migration**

The UAE government carried out intensified raids against unauthorized or irregular migrant workers. In January, authorities arrested at least 518 irregular migrants, and 100 foreigners suspected of violating immigration laws were also detained and investigated in February. Law enforcers also arrested those involved in sheltering irregular migrants (AMN, 1-28 February 2010). By the end of March, at least 4,000 irregular migrants were arrested, including those who overstayed in the country or entered without permission through borders (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

In the first quarter of 2010, at least 1,094 runaway domestic workers were also arrested. The Ministry of Interior coordinated with their respective embassies to arrange for their deportation (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

The government is planning to improve devices and technologies in entry ports and immigration stations to reinforce stricter measures in screening foreigners entering the UAE (AMN, 1-31 March 2010). The Ministry of Interior also launched a pilot program that aims to build community awareness and provide rewards for reporting unauthorized migrants to law enforce-

ment authorities. The program includes a 24-hour hotline that will direct reports to the police (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

### **Anti-trafficking initiatives**

In 2010, the Dubai Criminal Court through Chief Justice Ahmed Ibrahim Saif ordered the creation of a special court panel that will handle human trafficking cases and speed up trial proceedings. It will also prioritize hearing the testimonies of trafficking victims so they can return home as soon as possible. The panel's work began on November 7 (*Khaleej Times Online*, 10 November 2010).

The Ministry of Interior also formed a panel which will be responsible for initiating anti-trafficking measures and programs in cooperation with other agencies. To be headed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the panel is expected to promote awareness concerning human trafficking, setting up shelters for victims and conducting research to be used for amending or drafting new anti-trafficking legislation (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

In March, the Court of Appeals sentenced three Iraqis to 10 years imprisonment for involvement in the trafficking of a 17-year-old Iraqi girl for prostitution in the UAE. Five other Iraqis who cooperated in trafficking two Iraqi girls into the UAE for prostitution were sentenced to various jail terms, while three other defendants were given six-month imprisonment for participating in the crime (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

## REFERENCES

- Al Jalandy, Bassma  
2010 "UAE residency visa, labour card validity cut to two years," *Gulfnews.com*, 8 December.
- Asian News International  
2010 "UAE offers reprieve for foreign workers with six month visa ban," *Oneindia.com*, 28 December.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
2011 *World Migration Report 2011: Communicating Effectively about Migration*. Geneva: IOM.

---

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 - The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

*Khaleej Times Online*

2010 "Dubai forms special court panel for human trafficking," 10 November.

Salama, Samir

2010 "Call for scrapping of sponsorship system in UAE," *Gulfnews.com*, 9 November.

Saseendran, Sajila

2010 "Sponsorship to stay in UAE," *Khaleej Times Online*, 13 October.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	23.6
Rate of natural increase (%)	3.0
Percent urban (%)	29
Population per square kilometer	45
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	44
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	133 – 0.439
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	138 – 0.853
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	517,926
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	1.24 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	220,994
Asylum-seekers by origin	627
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	2,557
Refugees by origin	2,075
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	190,092

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

A country of 23.6 million people (as mid-2010), Yemen is primarily a country of origin of migrants. In 2010, Yemen's emigrant stock reached more than 1.13 million or around 4.8 percent of the total population. Majority of Yemeni migrants are in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Israel, Jordan, the UK, West Bank and Gaza, Sudan, Germany and France.

Labor migration helps in alleviating unemployment, which has reached an alarming 40 percent, according to official data. Labor migration can also strengthen Yemen's relations with other GCC countries. Unemployment in Yemen has been the result of lack of livelihood and income opportunities, low economic productivity and the negative impact of the recent global economic crisis (Darem, 2010).

According to Dr. Mutaher Al-Abbasi of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemeni work

ers in the GCC countries have reached 860,000, representing 8.5 percent of all migrant workers in the region. Most are working in Saudi Arabia and the UAE (Darem, 2010).

Yemen also receives immigrants. The immigrant stock was around 517,900. Immigrants to Yemen originate from Sudan, Somalia, Egypt, Iraq, West Bank and Gaza and Syria (World Bank, 2010:260). A large portion of immigrants consists of refugees from African countries, namely Ethiopia and Somalia. The IOM reported an increasing number of irregular or unauthorized migrants and refugees mainly from Somalia and to a lesser extent from Ethiopia, from 50,000 in 2008 to 74,000 in 2009, according to the UNHCR (2009b, cited in IOM, 2011:208). The Gulf of Aden has become the entry point into Yemen for many of these African migrants.

Yemeni migrants remitted an estimated \$1.2-1.4 billion in remittances in 2010 (World Bank, 2012; 2010), higher compared to \$1.378 billion in 2009. On the other hand, remittances out of Yemen amounted to about \$337 million (World Bank, 2010:260).

### ***Internal displacement***

Around 176,000 new displacements in Yemen were reported, considered the largest new movement in the Middle East in 2010. Armed violence and conflict involving the governorates of Al Jawf, Hajjah, Amran and the Saudi Army resulted in the internal displacement of around 342,000 people by August 2010, with over 800,000 other people affected by the clashes. In September, around 6,000 to 12,000 people were internally displaced following clashes between the government and suspected militants in a southern province, and 700 more were displaced during a fight between the army and a separatist group in Lahj and Dahl (IDMC, 2011:82).

By the end of 2010, the number of IDPs was estimated at about 250,000 or one percent of Yemen's total population. Displacements were generally caused by multiple incidents of "armed conflict, deliberate policy or practice of arbitrary displacement, generalized violence" and "human rights violations" (IDMC, 2011: 14,82).

By the end of 2010, some 90,000 people returned to their homes or origin areas, one of the largest return

movements in the Middle East in 2010 (IDMC, 2011:15). However, estimates and reports on sustainable returns are difficult to verify as the government has prohibited international agencies from assisting IDPs outside camps. Only 15 percent of IDPs were based in official camps by mid-2010. Limited funding and resources, including clean water, food and health care were also obstacles to providing sufficient humanitarian and state assistance (IDMC, 2011:82).

### ***Stranded migrants***

Desperate living conditions in the Yemeni-Saudi border have become fatal for an increasing number of irregular, stranded migrants. In December, thirty stranded migrants living along the border died from extremely poor health and lack of access to food and resources. Many of these migrants have made the perilous journey from their conflict-ridden origin countries to Saudi Arabia, but were arrested and deported to the border with Yemen (IOM, 2010; Schlein, 2010).

The IOM has been assisting some 2,000 stranded Ethiopians on the border, providing care to vulnerable members and preparing them for voluntary return (IOM, 2010; Schlein, 2010). From November 2009 to March 2010, IOM helped facilitate the voluntary return of some 785 migrants (IOM, 2010; Tekle, 2010).

### ***Trafficking in persons***

Yemen retained its Tier 2 Watch List status in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for the second consecutive year. The report states that Yemen failed to show significant progress in prosecuting and punishing traffickers, as well as identifying and protecting their victims. Preventive measures and significant steps to curb commercial sexual exploitation were also lacking during the reporting period. However, protection and reunification services were provided for victims of child trafficking, especially those repatriated from Saudi Arabia (USDS, 2010:352).

Yemen is a source of women and children trafficked into forced labor and prostitution, mainly in Saudi Arabia and within the country itself. Young women and girls are sold for sex, with some forced to marry child sex tourists who later abandon them or force them into



prostitution. Children have been made to work as beggars and in households and small shops in Oman, Saudi Arabia and local cities such as Aden and Sana'a (USDS, 2010:352).

As a destination country, Yemen is a site where women and children from the Horn of Africa are trafficked for domestic servitude or prostitution. Many of the victims are Somali refugees. Criminal groups have also trafficked African children to Saudi Arabia, while Somali pirates have subjected Africans to forced labor and prostitution (USDS, 2010:352).

## POLICIES

### *Border security tightened*

In July, the government ordered the closure of coastal borders and sea routes and banned the entry of boats and vessels to deter Somali pirates and unauthorized migrants from entering Yemen. The navy tightened security along Yemen's waters, conducting patrol rounds and operations. Security officers were also ordered to arrest all unauthorized migrants attempting to cross the borders without valid documents. Waters surrounding Yemen have been used by human smugglers and traffickers to bring in migrants or victims into the country, such as the route via the Gulf of Aden. Somali pirates have also seized boats and vessels owned by Yemenis through sea routes (*Radio Bar-kulan*, 19 July 2010).

At least 101 Ethiopians in Ebyan province and around 14 more in coastal towns were arrested as of May 2010 (*Radio Bar-kulan*, 18 May 2010). In August, more than 150 Ethiopian migrants were detained in the city of Sana'a and handed over to Passport and Immigration Authorities for unauthorized entry into Yemen. Authorities said they will be deported (*Ethiopian Review*, 18 August 2010).

## REFERENCES

Darem, Faisal

2010 "Economists say hiring Yemeni migrant workers benefits Yemen and Gulf countries," *Al-Shorfa.com*, 25 March. Available at [http://al-shorfa.com/cocoon/meii/xhtml/en\\_GB/features/meii/features/main/2010/03/25/feature-02](http://al-shorfa.com/cocoon/meii/xhtml/en_GB/features/meii/features/main/2010/03/25/feature-02), accessed 7 February 2012.

*Ethiopian Review*

2010 "Yemen deports 150 Ethiopian immigrants," 18 August. Available at <http://www.ethiopianreview.com/content/28819>, accessed 7 February 2012.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 "Increasing numbers of stranded migrants dying on Yemeni-Saudi Border," (Press Briefing Notes), 3 December. Available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/media/press-briefing-notes/pbnAF/cache/offonce?entryId=28815>, accessed 7 February 2012.

*Radio Bar-kulan*

2010 "Yemeni government worried of Ethiopian immigrants," 18 May.

2010 "Yemeni government orders the closure of sea routes," 19 July.

Schlein, Lisa

2010 "Stranded migrants dying on Yemeni-Saudi border," *VOANews.com*, 3 December.

Tekle, Tesfa-Alem

2010 "IOM resumes returning Ethiopian migrants from Yemen, appeals for \$1 million," *Sudan Tribune*, 2 December.



**OCEANIA**



## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	22.4
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.7
Percent urban (%)	82
Population per square kilometer	3
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	19
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	2 – 0.937
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	18 – 0.296
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	4.71 M
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	4.84 B
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	10
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	3,760
Refugees by origin	37
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	21,805

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration population data*

The stock population of international migrants in Australia increased from about four million in 2000, to 4.3 million in 2005 and to 4.7 million in 2010. Immigrants accounted for 21.9 percent of the country's estimated population of 21.5 million (IOM, n.d.) (22.4 million as of mid-2010). Most are from the UK, New Zealand, China, Italy and India. The emigrant stock in 2010

reached 450,000; their major destinations were the UK, the US, New Zealand and Canada (World Bank, 2010). The foreign labor force has also grown since 2000, and accounted for 24.9 percent of the population in 2006 and 25.8 percent in 2007 (OECD, 2009a, cited in IOM, 2010).

Data from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC, 2011) show that in the financial year of 2010-2011, the number of permanent migrants added to the resident population was 213,409, which was 2.1

percent higher compared to the previous year.<sup>1</sup> Of this total, 127,458 were settler arrivals while 85,451 obtained onshore grants. Regionally, most of the permanent additions came from Northeast Asia (18 percent), Southern Asia (16.2 percent), Europe (15.6 percent) and Oceania (15.3 percent). In terms of countries, the largest groups came from China (13.8 percent), New Zealand (12.1 percent), India (10.3 percent), the UK (9.6 percent), the Philippines (5.2 percent) and South Africa (4.3 percent).<sup>2</sup>

In its 2010 report, economic think tank BIS Shrapnel forecasts that Australia's population growth will slow down in the next two years due to decreasing overseas migration rates. Net overseas migration was expected to decrease to 175,000 in 2010/11 to 145,000 in 2011/12, resulting in a population growth of 1.5 percent and 1.3 percent in 2010/11 and 2011/12, respectively (Australian Associated Press, 2010).

In the year to October 2010, net migration decreased: the number of permanent and long-term arrivals outnumbered departures by 210,400, lower than the previous year's record of 324,700. In the same period, a total of 9,370 overseas migrants settled in Australia, the lowest number recorded since March 2004. Companies and firms view the decline in migration as problematic, especially for the supply of foreign labor for job positions that cannot be filled by local workers (Martin, 2010).

The impact of declining migration on Australia's labor force may be offset by immigration policy reforms that would allow the country to bring in more foreign workers. Government reports indicate that Australia has begun to face population aging due to low fertility levels and increasing life expectancy (DIAC, 2010a). Immigration currently accounts for 60 percent of Australia's population growth rate and suggests that it will be the primary source of labor force growth in the next few years (DIAC, 2010a).

### **Asylum seekers**

Asylum seekers continued to arrive in Australia throughout 2010, posing a major challenge for the government. In the year to July, about 75 boats carrying more than 3,500 asylum seekers were intercepted. The figure is higher than the total recorded for the whole of 2009, which was about 60 boats carrying more than 2,700 passengers. As of July, the number of asylum seekers in Christmas Island's immigration detention center reached a total of 2,571, exceeding the facility's maximum holding capacity of 2,040 (Colebatch, 2010).

Overcrowding in the detention facility prompted authorities to find alternative locations – teaching rooms were converted into dormitories, additional facilities and tents were set up to accommodate more people, and other asylum seekers were sent to detention facilities in the mainland or were granted visas. A number were sent to Brisbane and Melbourne where their visa claims were finalized, while some were brought to Darwin for questioning (AMN, 1-31 March 2010; 1-30 April 2010). There were about 1,503 asylum seekers and 151 boat crew members in the Australian mainland, many of whom were based in Darwin and in the northwestern areas (Colebatch, 2010). About 89 Iraqis, Sri Lankans, Afghan and Iranian detainees whose applications were denied were sent to the Villawood Immigration Detention Center in Sydney for repatriation. In June alone, more than a hundred Afghan and Sri Lankans were brought to the town of Leonora in Western Australia, while 300 were taken in by the town of Derby in the same region.

Aside from expenditures in setting up various facilities, expenses for the transportation of asylum seekers from Christmas Island to the Australian mainland have reached nearly \$8 million in total. According to the government, \$7.2 million will be needed to shoulder transportation costs in bringing asylum seekers to other areas (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

<sup>1</sup> According to the DIAC (2011), permanent additions include two components: 1) "Those persons who while already in Australia on a temporary basis are granted permanent residence status; 2) "Those persons who arrive from overseas and are entitled to stay permanently in Australia."

<sup>2</sup> DIAC (2011) categorizes permanent migrants by birthplace, by eligibility, by occupation and by state or territory of intended residence. In this case, the data are mentioned in terms of the birthplace of the permanent additions.

A UNHCR report released in 2010 said that despite Australia's wealth, its refugee intake in 2009 was relatively lower than that of other countries with less growth and resources. Australia hosted only 22,548 out of an estimated 10.4 million refugees, or about 0.22 percent of the total. The country was placed 47<sup>th</sup> in the global rankings of countries hosting large numbers of refugees. However, on a per capita basis, Australia was ranked 68<sup>th</sup>, with just 1.06 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants (Refugee Council of Australia, 2011).

The Refugee Council of Australia noted the country's "modest but valuable contribution" in accepting asylum applications. In 2009, Australia accepted a total of 6,170 asylum applications, accounting for only 1.6 percent of the 377,160 applications received by 44 industrialized countries. However, the number is 29 percent higher than the total recorded the previous year. The country was 16<sup>th</sup> in the overall rankings and 21<sup>st</sup> in the per capita ranking (*AMN*, 1-31 March 2010; *RCOA*, 2010).

The pacing of application processes coupled with the increasing rate of incoming asylum seekers are adding more pressure to the authorities to speed up operations. The slow pace has stoked frustration among asylum seekers. In September, dozens of Afghan asylum seekers broke out of the detention center in northern Australia to protest against prolonged detention and the delay in the processing of refugee applications. Some had been detained for almost 10 months, while others were awaiting deportation. About 76 were taken into police custody after their 7.5 hours sit-in near a busy highway (*The Star Online*, 1 September 2010).

In April, the government was also criticized after temporarily suspending the processing of refugee claims from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka based on improved security conditions in the two countries. The UNHCR said the suspension would not just prolong the detention of asylum seekers, but it could adversely affect their health and well-being (*AMN*, 1-30 April 2010). Amnesty International criticized the move, while the International Crisis Group disagreed with the claims of improved conditions in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka (*AMN*, 1-31 May 2010). Human Rights Watch also urged the government to lift the suspension (*AFP*, 2010a).

In a July report, however, the United Nations said there was no longer any need for international protection due to the improved human rights and security situation in Sri Lanka, but that there were still at-risk asylum seekers such as journalists, human rights activists and people linked to the Tamil Tigers (Needham, 2010).

As of July 2010, it was estimated that only 39 percent of the 6,258 asylum applications received since the beginning of 2009 have been processed and reviewed. Of the 2,534 people with finalized cases, around 2,382 or 94 percent were accepted as refugees and given visas, while 152 were rejected and repatriated (Colebatch, 2010).

### **Human smuggling**

From January to May 2010, police caught 1,247 people entering Australia unauthorized, an increase from 800 in 2009 (*AMN*, 1-30 June 2010; Saragih, 2010). Most were asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, which are conflict-ridden countries. Others were from Iraq, Iran and Burma. Asylum seekers heading to Australia often pass through the Indonesian route. Australian and Indonesian police forces agreed to strengthen cooperation in handling the increasing number of human smuggling cases occurring between both countries.

According to Dr. Leanne Weber and Prof. Sharon Pickering, increased border protection has been met with more opportunities for people smugglers as well as more border-related deaths. While much has been spent on strengthening border control in various parts of the world, this in turn has increased the market for people smuggling. Asylum seekers ending up in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand due to Australia's restrictive interception system, for instance, have become a target market for people smugglers (Weber and Pickering, 2010).

### **Trafficking in persons**

Australia maintained a Tier 1 ranking in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for the government's holistic anti-trafficking response, which includes a national policing strategy, special investigation teams, a

victim support program and regional cooperation efforts. During the reporting period, the government was said to have convicted and prosecuted trafficking offenders, improved victim protection, pursued a long-term research project on trafficking and provided training to government officials. The report also notes that relative to the total population, the number of trafficked victims in Australia is modest (USDS, 2010:66).

Australia is a destination and source site for trafficked women, most of whom end up in forced prostitution, as well as for men, women and children who are forced into labor or commercial sex. Most of the victims come from Asian and Eastern European countries. Some women who migrated to Australia for work but are later forced into illegal prostitution (through captivity, physical violence, intimidation, manipulation using drugs, among others) came from the following countries: China, Malaysia, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. The report added that for the first time, a woman from Australia was identified as a trafficking victim in the US. Some migrant workers from China, India, South Korea and the Pacific islands have reported the confiscation of documents, confinement, physical threats and debt bondage, which the report considers as indications of forced labor. Most traffickers are part of organized crime groups (USDS, 2010:66).

The Australian Institute of Criminology released a report in 2010 which showed that labor trafficking in Australia was underreported and was minimally addressed through a few prosecutions (David, 2010; Mercer, 2010). The report highlights the problem that while there is an awareness of trafficking related to forced prostitution and the sex industry, labor exploitation and trafficking outside this industry is less known. Some instances of labor trafficking are not recognized as such by various agencies and service providers due to a lack of awareness of what practices are considered criminal or which indicate more complex forms of exploitation or labor trafficking. While assistance is available, it was also found that many migrants find it difficult to complain or to seek help and assistance due to factors, such as language, lack of knowledge on migrants' rights and family obligations, among others (David, 2010).

### ***Student migration***

In the past few years, student migration in Australia grew significantly. According to the DIAC, international education is one of the country's top export industries, with foreign students comprising the second largest group of temporary entrants. In 2008 alone, about 409,136 temporary permits were granted to foreign students, higher compared to 321,631 permits issued in 2006. Chinese and Indian students account for a large portion of the student migrant population. It is estimated that there are about 90,000 Chinese and 49,800 Indian students in the country (DIAC 2006, 2008 and 2009a, cited in IOM, 2010).

However, between 2009 and 2010, the number of student visas issues dropped to 270,499, a decline of 15.4 percent compared to 2008-2009 (DIAC, 2010b). Australia's crackdown on student visas through changes in the visa system has led to the decline of overseas student applications, according to IDP Education chief Tony Pollock. In April, for instance, the number of student visa applications decreased, particularly from India and China, the top source countries for overseas students (Healy, 2010).

Reports of abuse and exploitation of the student migration system prompted investigation into the phenomenon. In 2010, the DIAC began investigations on claims that more Asian women on student visas end up doing sex work in various brothels all over the country. Fraud officers working with the department have noted the rampant abuse of the country's student visa system (Hartman, 2010).

## **POLICIES**

### ***State Migration Plans***

In 2010, the Australian government began to implement the State Migration Plan (SMP) across the country. The Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory and Victoria began introducing their respective SMPs in November, while Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia followed in December. South Australia was expected to implement its plan in January



2011 (DIAC, n.d.). The introduction and implementation of these plans are ongoing processes as each plan still has to go through the Ministry of Immigration and Citizenship. The SMP allows different State/Territory governments to determine the applicants eligible for state-sponsored visas based on both their occupation and the specific labor needs of the state (Australian Visa Bureau, n.d.).

**Skilled migration program**

The Australian government in 2010 also amended the skilled migration program to improve the hiring and selection of skilled and professional foreign labor. The Ministry of Immigration released a revised Skilled Occupation List in which the list of jobs under the working visa program was reduced to about 180 occupations. Included in the list are dentists, surgeons, nurses, engineers, teachers, IT professionals and welders. However, tightened requirements have made application processes tougher for hairdressers, dance instructors and chefs (AMN, 1-31 May 2010).

The streamlining of the list is said to place priority on hiring highly skilled and professional workers in healthcare, engineering and mining sectors, among others. The list also gives preference to foreign workers who were offered jobs by Australian companies. However, the Opposition believes the program reform may lead to unemployment, while private colleges warned a decline in the enrollment rate (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

In the past, the program was criticized for facilitating the settlement of foreign students in Australian institutions in the country and for easing the application of qualification rules on less-skilled laborers. A number of foreign students enrolled in semi-skilled or less-skilled vocational courses as a route to securing permanent residence in the country. Many of these students are from Brazil, China, India, Nepal, South Korea and Thailand (AMN, 1-28 February 2010).

**Regional immigration center**

In October, the Immigration Ministry said it will once again attempt to seek support from Indonesia, Malay-

sia and East Timor for the establishment of an offshore regional immigration center. While asylum applicants are already being processed in Christmas Island, the Australian government is still looking to East Timor as a potential regional immigration center (AFP, 2010b). In the past months, talks about setting up a regional facility with Indonesia and East Timor were unsuccessful – Indonesia’s Foreign Minister said they were aiming for a broader regional framework that would deal with the whole issue of people smuggling and trafficking, and that a regional center would only be one part of the solution (*Lanka Business Online*, 15 July 2010). East Timor, on the other hand, considered the plan as unworkable (Franklin and Fitzpatrick, 2010).

**REFERENCES**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)  
 2010a “Australia urged to end asylum freeze and ‘refugee bashing,’” *Inquirer.net*, 5 July.

2010b “Australia renews push for regional immigration centre,” *Channelnewsasia.com*, 8 October.

Australian Associated Press  
 2010 “Population will slow: BIS,” *The Age*, 17 May 2010.

Australian Visa Bureau  
 n.d. “State Migration Plans: Australian State Migration.” Government of Australia, Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Available at <http://www.visabureau.com/australia/state-migration-plans.aspx>, accessed 9 March 2011.

Colebatch, Tim  
 2010 “Few boat arrivals sent home, but most cases unresolved,” *The Age*, 6 July.

David, Fiona  
 2010 *Labor trafficking*. AIC Reports: Research and Public Policy Series 108. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. Available at <http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/A/9/0/%7BA90867A2-1558-4B01-A233-34B3381D2F6D%7Drpp108.pdf>, accessed March 2011.

Department of Immigration and Citizenship – Australia (DIAC)

2011 “Immigration Update 2010-2011.” Australian Government, Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/immigration-update/update-2010-11.pdf>, accessed 27 April 2012.

2010a “Fact Sheet 15 – Population Projections.” Department of Immigration and Citizenship Website. Available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/15population.htm>, accessed 16 March 2010.

2010b “Fact Sheet 46 – Temporary Entry: An Overview.” Department of Immigration and Citizenship Website. Available at [http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/46temporary\\_entry.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/46temporary_entry.htm), accessed 16 March 2010.

n.d. “State Migration.” Australian Government, Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/state-plans.htm>, accessed 9 March 2011.

Franklin, Matthew and Stephen Fitzpatrick  
2010 “PM Julia Gillard retreats on Timor Plan,” *The Australian*, 9 July.

Hartman, Kim I.  
2010 “Asian girls with student visas working at foreign brothels,” *DigitalJournal.com*, 13 September.

Healy, Guy  
2010 “Overseas students down 40pc,” *The Australian*, 12 May.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
n.d. Australia: Facts and Figures. International Organization for Migration Website. Available at <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/australia>, accessed 16 March 2011.

2010 *World Migration Report 2010 – The Future of Migration: Building Capacities for Change*. Geneva: IOM.

*Lanka Business Online*

2010 “Refugee flow: Indonesia lukewarm on Australia asylum centre plan,” 15 July.

Martin, Peter

2010 “While immigration drops, businesses are crying out for more staff,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 December.

Mercer, Phil

2010 “Human Trafficking Under-reported in Australia, Criminologists Say,” *VOAnews.com*, 10 November.

Needham, Kristy

2010 “Gillard’s lifeline on Sri Lanka,” *The Age*, 6 July.

Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA)

2011 *Australia’s Refugee and Humanitarian Program 2011-12: Community views on current challenges and future directions*. Refugee Council of Australia. Available at [http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/2011-12\\_Intake Sub.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/resources/2011-12_Intake Sub.pdf), accessed 8 March 2011.

2010 “Australia makes modest contribution to protecting victims of persecution.” March 24. Refugee Council of Australia. Available at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/docs/releases/2010/100324%20RCOA%20response%20to%20UNHCR%20stats.pdf>, accessed 14 March 2011.

Saragih, Bagus

2010 “RI, Oz strengthen police ties over increasing people smuggling cases,” *The Jakarta Post*, 16 June.

*The Star Online*

2010 “Refugees in Australian detention stage protest,” *Thestar.com.my*, 1 September.

Weber, Leanne and Sharon Pickering

2010 “Border control no solution for global problem,” *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 December.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

POPULATION INDICATORS	2010
Population (mid-2010, millions)	4.4
Rate of natural increase (%)	0.8
Percent urban (%)	86
Population per square kilometer	16
Population ages 0-14 (% of total)	20
SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	2010
GDP (current US\$)	-
GDP growth (annual %)	-
GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$)	-
Human development index (rank – value)	3 – 0.907
Gender inequality index (2008, rank - value)	25 – 0.320
MIGRATION INDICATORS	2010
International migrant stock	962,072
Workers' remittances and compensation of employees, received (current US\$)	842.56 M
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	-
Asylum-seekers by origin	4
Asylum-seekers by country/territory of asylum	216
Refugees by origin	15
Refugees by country/territory of asylum	2,307

Sources: PRB (2010), UNDP (2010), UNHCR (2011), World Bank (2012)

## ISSUES AND TRENDS

### *Migration and population trends*

Out of New Zealand's population of 4.4 million (as of mid-2010), the immigrant stock was estimated at 962,100 or 22.4 percent of the total population. Immigrants were mainly from the UK, Australia, Samoa and India, among others. This is a significant increase compared to the island country's immigrant population in 2000, which stood at 685,000 (IOM, 2010). Based on past trends, the UN DESA expected that the island country's share of migrants in relation to the total popu-

lation would increase to 22.4 percent, surpassing Australia's 21.9 percent (UN DESA, 2009, cited in IOM, 2010).

As regards the stock of emigrants, about 624,900 or 14.5 percent of the total population migrated to other countries, mostly to Australia, the UK, the US, Canada, Thailand and Japan (World Bank, 2010).

In 2010, many New Zealand residents continued to migrate, primarily to neighboring Australia where labor demand is high. By the year's end, immigration in New Zealand reached a net gain of 11,500, slightly

lower compared to the average annual gain of 11,900 in the past two decades (New Zealand Visa Bureau, 2010c). In terms of the annual permanent and long-term (PLT) migration, net migration for 2010 was 10,500, lower compared to 21,300 in 2009. There were 82,500 PLT arrivals, lower by five percent compared to the number recorded in 2009 (SNZ, 2011).<sup>1</sup>

Of the 82,500 PLT arrivals, 29,000 were Australian or New Zealand citizens. A total of 53,500 were migrants with work, student, residence and visitor visas. The number of student visas increased by 800 compared to 2009, while there were fewer migrants who arrived on work, residence and visitor visas. Work visas decreased by 2,300, while residence and visitor visas decreased by 1,000 and 500 respectively (SNZ, 2011).

According to Statistics New Zealand (2011), the main factor behind the decrease in permanent and long-term migration arrivals was the number of New Zealand citizens leaving for Australia, where there has been continued employment growth (NZVB, 2010a).

An Australian Bureau of Statistics report released in 2010 shows that New Zealand migrant workers and permanent immigrants are a positive contribution to Australia's labor force due to their education and skills attainment and work performance. In 2009, it was reported that more than 500,000 New Zealand migrants had higher employment rates and more were likely to work full-time compared to locals. In the past 20 years, the number of New Zealand immigrants in Australia rose by 89 percent to about 529,200 in 2009. New Zealand is considered the second largest source country for the total overseas population in Australia (New Zealand Press Association, 2011).

#### ***Origin countries of New Zealand immigrants***

Generally, the top origin countries for immigrants in New Zealand in recent years have been China, India and the UK. However, in the past year, there have been changing trends among the source countries of New Zealand's foreign population.

In 2010, India was the top source country of PLT migrants to New Zealand, with about 6,300 immigrants, mostly on student visas. On the other hand, the net inflow of migrants from the UK decreased from 9,100 in 2009 to 5,300 in 2010. The net inflow from China was recorded at 3,600 (SNZ, 2011).

In 2009, a total of 1,289 Chinese migrants aged 50 and above settled in New Zealand, showing that the country has become a popular destination for overseas Chinese, especially those who intend to retire. In 2009, China was considered the top source country for family immigration through the Family Sponsored Stream and the Partnership policy. About 6,361 Chinese immigrants entered New Zealand in 2009, higher compared to 6,302 immigrants from the UK (AMN, 1-31 January 2010; NZVB, 2010d). Data from the Department of Labor showed that the number of Chinese migrants on work visas decreased from a record 15,294 in 2008 to 10,866 in 2010 (*Radio New Zealand*, 5 February 2011; Tan, 2011).

The increase in the number of elderly Chinese entering and settling in New Zealand has raised some issues regarding health and other public services. There are concerns that these migrants could be a problem, as most of them are unable to speak English and are dependent on their children's support. Aside from not being able to contribute to the country's economic productivity, their stay could also "put a strain" on health and support services (Tan, 2011).

Generally, British migrants still make up the largest migrant group in New Zealand. Since 2002, there have also been more British migrants moving to New Zealand than New Zealand locals moving to the UK (IOM, 2010).

#### ***Student migration***

Government data show that in the past five years, the number of student applications from India has increased. In the past, overseas students in New Zealand were mostly from China, Japan and South Korea (AMN, 1-31 March 2010). However, from 2010, India ranked

<sup>1</sup> Permanent and long-term migrants are overseas migrants staying in New Zealand for at least a year or permanently. Some are also returning New Zealand residents after a year's absence or more (SNZ, 2011).

next to China in student migration to New Zealand, outpacing South Korea (NZVB, 2010b).

International student migration has become a growing trend in New Zealand in the past 10 years, contributing at least NZ\$2 billion yearly to the country's economy. Immigration New Zealand said that the number of student visas it has issued rose from 8,233 in 1999 to 30,726 in 2009 (AMN, 1-31 March 2010).

However, the student visa system has also been used by migrant workers as a stepping stone to obtaining residence status. Temporary migrants who have lost their jobs are reportedly turning to student visa applications as a way to extend their stay in the country and secure permanent residency (Tan, 2010).

### ***Post-quake immigration prospects***

The Christchurch earthquake in September 2010 is expected to reinforce some changes in the emigration and immigration trends in the area. ANZ Bank economists predict the aftermath of the earthquake will lead to more emigration in the next year. Christchurch's population is expected to decline by up to four percent, with many locals moving abroad or with fewer migrants settling in the area (*Australia and New Zealand Outlook*, 14 March 2011).

A recruitment firm said the government may have to relax immigration rules and bring in more skilled migrant workers to help boost the recovery of the local economy. A survey by Manpower New Zealand, a recruitment agency, found that 15 percent of companies and firms in Christchurch intend to increase their staff members once the rebuilding of the area begins (*Radio New Zealand*, 10 March 2011).

### ***Trafficking in persons***

New Zealand was ranked Tier 1 in the USDS *Trafficking in Persons Report 2010* for its notable effort to address human trafficking. During the reporting period, the government funded anti-trafficking initiatives, created a national Plan of Action, and continued to provide protective services to both internal and transnational trafficked victims, whether or not they are officially

recognized as such. However, the report also stated that the government may not have identified those involved in forced labor and forced prostitution as trafficked victims (USDS, 2010:251).

According to the report, New Zealand is mainly a source country for underage girls trafficked into forced prostitution and is also a destination site for trafficked persons in forced labor. Child trafficking victims are also found working in brothels and some teenage victims trafficked for prostitution are controlled and monitored by local gangs. In the past, most of the trafficked women in forced prostitution came from Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan, China and other parts of Asia as well as Eastern Europe, but the report stated that there was no information about such cases the past year. Some migrant workers from Asia and the Pacific islands have experienced debt bondage and involuntary servitude, with excessive fees, salary deductions, restricted travel and the alteration of contracts (USDS, 2010:251).

## **POLICIES**

### ***Immigration 2009 Act takes effect***

New Zealand's Immigration Act of 2009, which the government says modernizes the country's immigration laws, took effect late November 2010. The act introduced changes to several immigration rules but basically maintained the criteria for admission, settlement, travel or work in the country. According to Immigration New Zealand's summary report (INZ, 2010), some key changes include the introduction of an interim visa and a revised sponsorship system.

The interim visa, which will be implemented in early 2011, is granted to a foreigner whose temporary visa application is still being considered. This gives a foreigner lawful status in the country while applying for a temporary visa (INZ, 2010). For the sponsorship system, more specific criteria for sponsors of people coming to New Zealand have been introduced, such as allowing charitable organizations, companies and government agencies to sponsor individuals in certain situations. Such sponsors can support visitor and work visas under the talent category.

The government also set tighter rules for employers hiring migrant workers and increased penalties for education providers who violate rules. Processes for appeals and deportations have also been streamlined (INZ, 2010).

#### ***Silver Fern job search visa***

In April, New Zealand introduced the Silver Fern job search visa, a new visa scheme that annually allows 300 skilled young overseas graduates to find employment in the country and secure a two-year working visa once they have obtained a job position (NZVB, 2010a). The scheme is open to overseas workers aged between 20 and 35, and aims to bring in needed skilled workers into the country. However, some migrant advocacy groups have criticized the scheme, saying that foreign workers who are unable to find employment tend to end up getting stuck in the country without any assistance (AMN, 1-30 April 2010).

New Zealand Immigration maintains that it will not put a cap on the hiring of foreign workers due to the need for highly skilled labor. The government will also not limit the number of visas it will issue to international students (AMN, 1-30 June 2010).

#### ***Asylum seekers and refugees***

The New Zealand government has accepted 13 of 78 Sri Lankan asylum seekers who were rescued after their boat had sunk near Indonesia in October 2009. The boat attempted to enter Australia. The 13 refugees will be included in the 750 refugees New Zealand accepts every year as part of a UNHCR agreement. The rest of the refugees will be taken in by Australia, Canada, Norway and the US (AMN, 1-31 January 2010).

Based on the Immigration Act 2009, the government remains committed to the United Nations 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Act also includes the country's obligations under the United Nations Convention on Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Some provisions were also included to tighten rules in asylum processes to reduce potential abuse of the system (INZ, 2010).

## REFERENCES

### *Australia and New Zealand Outlook*

2011 "Economists predict 4 percent population drop for Christchurch," 14 March.

### Immigration New Zealand (INZ)

2010 "Immigration 2009: Summary of key changes." Immigration New Zealand Official Website. Available at <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/immigrationact/factsheets/summary.htm>, accessed 22 March 2011.

### International Organization for Migration (IOM)

2010 *World Migration Report 2010*. Geneva: IOM.

### New Zealand Press Association

2011 "Kiwis leading job boom in Australia – study," *New Zealand Herald*, 22 March.

### New Zealand Visa Bureau (NZVB)

2010a "Changes to New Zealand immigration policy." 9 March. New Zealand Visa Bureau Official Website. Available at <http://www.visabureau.com/newzealand/news/09-03-2010/changes-to-new-zealand-immigration-policy.aspx>, accessed 22 March 2011.

2010b "Indian students now second largest New Zealand Visa group, figures show." February 28. Available at <http://www.visabureau.com/newzealand/news/28-02-2011/indian-students-now-second-largest-new-zealand-visa-group-figures-show.aspx>, accessed 21 March 2011.

2010c "Net New Zealand immigration numbers to ease." December 22. New Zealand Visa Bureau Official Website. Available at <http://www.visabureau.com/newzealand/news/22-12-2010/net-new-zealand-immigration-numbers-to-ease.aspx>, accessed 21 March 2011.

---

2010d "New Zealand immigration boosted by Chinese migrants." January 19. New Zealand Visa Bureau Official Website. Available at <http://www.visabureau.com/newzealand/news/19-01-2010/new-zealand-immigration-boosted-by-chinese-migrants.aspx>, accessed 21 March 2011.

*Radio New Zealand*

2011 "Family migrants from China increase," *Radio New Zealand*, 5 February.

---

2011 "Call for govt to loosen immigration rules," 10 March.

Statistics New Zealand (SNZ)

2011 "International Travel and Migration: December 2010." February 4. Statistics New Zealand. Available at <http://www.stats.govt.nz/~media/Statistics/Browse%20for%20stats/IntTravelAndMigration/HOTPDec10/IntTravelAndMigrationDec10HOTP.ashx>, accessed 21 March 2011.

Tan, Lincoln

2011 "Chinese choosing NZ for retirement," *New Zealand Herald*, 4 February.

---

2010 "Student visa opens the door to NZ," *New Zealand Herald*, 10 March.





**JOURNAL ARTICLES ON MIGRATION, 2010**



### ASIA

#### ASIA, GENERAL

Asian Pacific Forum on Women

- 2010 *Law and Development. The Right to Unite: A Handbook on Domestic Worker Rights across Asia.* Available at <http://www.apwld.org/> Thailand, Chiang Mai: APWLD.

Asis, Maruja M.B., Nicola Piper and Parvati Raghuram

- 2010 "International Migration and Development in Asia: Exploring Knowledge Frameworks," *International Migration*, 48(3):76-106.

Bertrand, Jaques

- 2010 *Andre Laliberte. Multination States in Asia: Accommodation or Resistance.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

Gaetano, Arianne M. and Brenda S.A. Yeoh

- 2010 "Introduction to the Special Issue on Women and Migration in Globalizing Asia: Gendered Experiences, Agency, and Activism," *International Migration*, 48(6):1-12.

Mammis, Dimitrios

- 2010 *La migrazione dall'Asia Minore verso la Grecia (1922-1924).* Italy: Editrice Cafoscarina.

Wu, Zhe

- 2010 "Dispersion to Oceania and Developed Asia," *Asian Ethnicity*, 11(2):285-288.

#### ASIA, SOUTHEAST

Kiong, Chee Kiong

- 2010 *Identity and Ethnic Relations in Southeast Asia: Racializing Chineseness.* Singapore: Springer.

#### ASIA, WEST

Amos, Deborah

- 2010 *Eclipse of the Sunnis: Power, Exile, and Upheaval in the Middle East.* New York: Public Affairs.

Jureidini, Ray

- 2010 "Trafficking and Contract Migrant Workers in the Middle East," *International Migration*, 48(4):142-163.

### BANGLADESH

Lie, Mabel L. S.

- 2010 "Across the Oceans: Childcare and Grandparenting in UK Chinese and Bangladeshi Households," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(9):1425-1443.

Rahman, Md Mizanur

- 2010 "Remittances as a Social Process: The Singapore-Bangladesh Remittance Corridor," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(2):265-294.

### BURMA

Kusakabe, Kyoko and Ruth Pearson

- 2010 "Transborder Migration, Social Reproduction and Economic Development: A Case Study of Burmese Women Workers in Thailand," *International Migration*, 48(6):13-43.

### CHINA

Bentz, Anne-Sophie and Dekyi Dolkar

- 2010 "Tibetans in Europe," *Asian Ethnicity*, 11(2):279-283.

Carbone, Silvia

- 2010 "L'imprenditoria cinese a Messina/Chinese entrepreneurial activity in Messina," *Studi Emigrazione*, 47(3):715-737.

Chan, Kam Wing

- 2010 "The Global Financial Crisis and Migrant Workers in China: 'There is No Future as a Labourer; Returning to the Village has No Meaning'," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 34(3):659-677.

Chernov, Julie Hwang and Kamal Sadiq

- 2010 "Legislating Separation and Solidarity in Plural Societies: The Chinese in Indonesia and Malaysia," *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 16(2):192-215.

Da, Wei-Wei

- 2010 "Support Networking Strategies of Female Chinese Immigrants in London, Ontario," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(4):525-549.

- Farrer, James  
2010 "New Shanghailanders' or 'Shanghainese': Western Expatriates' Narratives on Emplacement in Shanghai," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(8):1211-1228.
- Fong, Eric and Elic Chan  
2010 "The Effect of Economic Standing, Individual Preferences, and Co-ethnic Resources on Immigrant Residential Clustering," *International Migration Review*, 44(1):111-141.
- Guo, Fei  
2010 "Demographic Structure and International Student Mobility: An Investigation of Chinese Students in Australia," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(1):143-156.
- Han, Dong  
2010 "Policing and Radicalization of Rural Migrant Workers in Chinese Cities," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 33(4):593-610.
- Hugo, Graeme  
2010 "The Indian and Chinese Academic Diaspora in Australia: A Comparison," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(1):87-116.
- Jones, Jessica  
2010 "Global Hakka: A Case Study," *Asian Ethnicity*, 11(3):343-369.
- Lau, Timm  
2010 "The Hindi Film's Romance and Tibetan Notions of Harmony: Emotional Attachments and Personal Identity in the Tibetan Diaspora in India," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(6): 967-987.
- Leggett, William H.  
2010 "Institutionalising the Colonial Imagination: Chinese Middlemen and the Transnational Corporate Office in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2010" *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(8):1265-1278.
- Lem, Winnie  
2010 "Mobilization and Disengagement: Chinese Migrant Entrepreneurs in Urban France," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 33(1):92-107.
- Lie, Mabel L. S.  
2010 "Across the Oceans: Childcare and Grandparenting in UK Chinese and Bangladeshi Households," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(9):1425-1443.
- Lieber, Marylène  
2010 "Du diplomate à l'expatrié. Les migrations chinoises en Suisse/From diplomat to expatri. Chinese migration to Switzerland," *Revue Européenne des Migrations Internationales*, 26(2):191-214.
- Marwah, Reena and Sharad K. Soni  
2010 "Tibetans in South Asia: A Research Note," *Asian Ethnicity*, 11(2):263-268.
- Nan, Haifen  
2010 "Nationalisme et résistance dans un contexte transnational: internet et le mouvement nationaliste chinois de 2008 en Allemagne," *Migrations Société*, 22(6).
- Newendorp, Nicole  
2010 "Economically Speaking, I am the Breadwinner': Chinese Immigrant Narratives of Work and Family in Hong Kong," *International Migration*, 48(6):72-101.
- Reeves, Keir  
2010 "Sojourners or a New Diaspora? Economic Implications of the Movement of Chinese Miners to the South-West Pacific Goldfields," *Australian Economic History Review*, 50(2):178-192.
- Liu, Meng, Jie Feng and Kai Zhu  
2010 "Voices of Older Ethnic Mongolian Women in Rural China: Economic and Social Context," *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 19(4):272-286.
- Myerson, Rebecca, Yubo Hou, Huizhen Tang, Ying Cheng, Yan Wang and Zhuxuan Ye  
2010 "Home and Away: Chinese Migrant Workers between Two Worlds," *The Sociological Review*, 58(1):26-44.

Waters, Johanna L.

2010 "Becoming a Father, Missing a Wife: Chinese Transnational Families and the Male Experience of Lone Parenting in Canada," *Population, Space and Place*, 16(1):63-74.

Ying, Li and Ernest Chui

2010 "Governmental Policy and Social Exclusion of Rural Migrants in Urban China," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(2):295-306.

**HONG KONG SAR**

Leonard, Pauline

2010 "Work, Identity and Change? Post/Colonial Encounters in Hong Kong," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(8):1247-1263.

Newendorp, Nicole

2010 "Economically Speaking, I am the Breadwinner': Chinese Immigrant Narratives of Work and Family in Hong Kong," *International Migration*, 48(6):72-101.

**INDIA**

Bruslé, Tristan

2010 "Rendre l'étranger familier. Modes d'appropriation et de catégorisation de l'espace par les migrants népalais en Inde/Turn the Foreign Place Familiar. Modes of Appropriation and Categorization of the Space by the Nepalese Migrants in India," *Revue Européenne des Migrations Internationales*, 26(2):77-94.

Fong, Eric and Elic Chan

2010 "The Effect of Economic Standing, Individual Preferences, and Co-ethnic Resources on Immigrant Residential Clustering," *International Migration Review*, 44(1):111-141.

Hugo, Graeme

2010 "The Indian and Chinese Academic Diaspora in Australia: A Comparison," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(1):87-116.

Korpela, Mari

2010 "A Postcolonial Imagination? Westerners Searching for Authenticity in India," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(8):1299-1315.

Lau, Timm

2010 "The Hindi Film's Romance and Tibetan Notions of Harmony: Emotional Attachments and Personal Identity in the Tibetan Diaspora in India," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(6):967-987.

Philip, Cheri L., Ram Mahalingam and Robert M. Sellers

2010 "Understanding East Indians' Attitudes Toward African Americans: Do Mainstream Prejudicial Attitudes Transfer to Immigrants?," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(4):651-671.

Rajan, Irudaya

2010 *Governance and Labour Migration: India Migration Report 2010*, 1st Ed. India: Routledge.

Sahoo, Ajaya Kumar and Dave Sangha

2010 "Diaspora and Cultural heritage: The case of Indians in Canada," *Asian Ethnicity*, 11(1):81-94.

Sahoo, Ajaya K., Dave Sangha and Melissa Kelly

2010 "From 'temporary migrants' to 'permanent residents': Indian H-1B visa holders in the United States," *Asian Ethnicity*, 11(3):293-309.

Singh, Bhupal

2010 "Workers' Remittances to India: An Examination of Transfer Cost and Efficiency," *International Migration*, 48(5):63-88.

**INDONESIA**

Eversole, Robyn and Judith Shaw

2010 "Remittance Flows and Their Use in Households: A Comparative Study of Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(2):175-202.

Fechter, Anne-Meike

2010 "Gender, Empire, Global Capitalism: Colonial Expatriate Wives," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(8):1279-1297.

Hwang, Julie Chernov and Kamal Sadiq

2010 "Legislating Separation and Solidarity in Plural Societies: The Chinese in Indonesia and Malaysia," *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 16 (2): 192-215.

Leggett, William H.

2010 "Institutionalising the colonial Imagination: Chinese Middlemen and the Transnational Corporate Office in Jakarta, Indonesia," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36 (8): 1265-1278.

Ueno, Kayoko

2010 "Identity Management among Indonesian and Filipina Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore," *International Journal of Japanese Sociology*, 19(1):82-97.

#### IRAN

Akcapar, Sebnem Koser

2010 "Re-Thinking Migrants' Networks and Social Capital: A Case Study of Iranians in Turkey," *International Migration*, 48(2):161-196.

Hojat, Mohammadreza, Danesh Foroughi, Homa Mahmoudi and Farhang Holakouee

2010 "A Desire to Return to the Country of Birth as a Function of Language Preference: An Empirical Study with Iranian Immigrants in the United States," *International Migration*, 48(3):158-173.

#### ISRAEL

Raijman, Rebeca

2010 "Citizenship Status, Ethno-National Origin and Entitlement to Rights: Majority Attitudes towards Minorities and Immigrants in Israel," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(1):87-106.

Shor, Eran and Yuval Yonay

2010 "Sport, National Identity, and Media Discourse over Foreign Athletes in Israel," *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 16(3&4):483-403.

Sigad, Laura I. and Rivka A. Eisikovits

2010 "'You Can't Exactly Act American Here in Israel!': Identity Negotiations of Transnational North American-Israeli Children and Youth," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(7): 1013-1031.

#### JAPAN

Gunji Masato

2010 "10% of Companies Recruited Foreign Students in the Past Three Years: JILPT Survey on Recruiting of Foreign Students," *Japan Labor Review*, 7 (3):86-108.

Hayakawa, Chizuko

2010 "Labor Law and Policy Issues Relating to Foreign Workers in Japan," *Japan Labor Review*, 7(3): 19-42.

Maehara, Naoko

2010 "Emotional Ambiguity: Japanese Migrant Women in Mixed Families and their Life Transition," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(6):953-966.

Nakamura, Jiro

2010 "Impacts of International Migration on the Labor Market in Japan," *Japan Labor Review*, 7(3): 68-85.

Oda, Ernani

2010 "Ethnic Migration and Memory: Disputes over the Ethnic Origins of Japanese Brazilians in Japan," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 33(3):515-532.

Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar

2010 "Homeward Bound: The Circular Migration of Entertainers between Japan and the Philippines," *Global Networks*, 10(3):301-323.

Roustan, Frédéric

2010 "Migrants japonais dans le Vietnam colonial: entre catégorisations juridiques et catégorisations visuelles, 1880-1954," *Migrations Société*, 22(2).

Tanno, Kiyoto

2010 "The Economic Crisis and Foreign Workers in Japan: Why Does Japan Treat Migrant Workers as Second Class Citizens?," *Japan Labor Review*, 7(3):109-126.

Tsuda, Takeyuki (Gaku)

2010 "Ethnic Return Migration and the Nation-state: Encouraging the Diaspora to Return 'Home'," *Nations and Nationalism*, 16(4):616-636.

Watanabe, Hiroaki

2010 "Concerning Revisions in the Foreign Trainee and Technical Intern System," *Japan Labor Review*, 7(3):43-67.

Yamada, Masahiko

2010 "The Current Issues on Foreign Workers in Japan," *Japan Labor Review*, 7(3):5-18.

**JORDAN**

Brand, Laurie A.

2010 "National Narratives and Migration: Discursive Strategies of Inclusion and Exclusion in Jordan and Lebanon," *International Migration Review*, 44(1):78-110.

**KAZAKHSTAN**

Barcus, Holly and Cynthia Werner

2010 "The Kazakhs of Western Mongolia: transnational migration from 1990-2008," *Asian Ethnicity*, 11(2):209-228.

**LAOS**

Molland, Sverre

2010 "'The Perfect Business': Human Trafficking and Lao-Thai Cross-Border Migration," *Development and Change*, 41(5):831-855.

**LEBANON**

Brand, Laurie A.

2010 "National Narratives and Migration: Discursive Strategies of Inclusion and Exclusion in Jordan and Lebanon," *International Migration Review*, 44(1):78-110.

**MALAYSIA**

Elias, Juanita

2010 "Transnational Migration, Gender, and Rights: Advocacy and Activism in the Malaysian Context," *International Migration*, 48(6):44-71.

Hwang, Julie Chernov and Kamal Sadiq

2010 "Legislating Separation and Solidarity in Plural Societies: The Chinese in Indonesia and Malaysia," *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 16(2):192-215.

**MONGOLIA**

Liu, Meng, Jie Feng and Kai Zhu

2010 "Voices of Older Ethnic Mongolian Women in Rural China: Economic and Social Context," *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*, 19(4): 272-286.

**NEPAL**

Bruslé, Tristan

2010 "Rendre l'étranger familier. Modes d'appropriation et de catégorisation de l'espace par les migrants népalais en Inde/Turn the Foreign Place Familiar. Modes of Appropriation and Categorization of the Space by the Nepalese Migrants in India," *Revue Européenne des Migrations Internationales*, 26(2):77-94.

**PAKISTAN**

Rytter, Mikkel

2010 "A Sunbeam of Hope: Negotiations of Identity and Belonging among Pakistanis in Denmark," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(4): 599-617.

**PHILIPPINES**

Aguilar Jr., Filomeno V.

2010 "The Riddle of the Alien-Citizen: Filipino Migrants as US Nationals and the Anomalies of Citizenship, 1900s-1930s," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(2):203-236.

Arnado, Janet M.

2010 "Performances across Time and Space: Drama in the global Households of Filipina Transmigrant Workers," *International Migration*, 48(6):132-154.

Arguillas, Marie Joy B. and Lindy Williams

2010 "The Impact of Parents' Overseas Employment on Educational Outcomes of Filipino Children," *International Migration Review*, 44(2):300-319.

Eversole, Robyn and Judith Shaw

2010 "Remittance Flows and Their Use in Households: A Comparative Study of Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(2): 175-202.

Okamura, Jonathan Y.

2010 "From running amok to eating dogs: a century of misrepresenting Filipino Americans in Hawai'i," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 33(3):496-514.

Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar

2010 "Homeward Bound: The Circular migration of Entertainers between Japan and the Philippines," *Global Networks*, 10(3):301-323.

Scalabrini Migration Center

2010 "Realizing Migration and Development in the Philippines: Charting New Policies, Perspectives and Partnerships," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(4):551-576.

Ueno, Kayoko

2010 "Identity Management among Indonesian and Filipina Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore," *International Journal of Japanese Sociology*, 19(1):82-97.

#### **SINGAPORE**

Rahman, Md Mizanur

2010 "Remittances as a Social Process: The Singapore-Bangladesh Remittance Corridor," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(2):265-294.

Ueno, Kayoko

2010 "Identity Management among Indonesian and Filipina Migrant Domestic Workers in Singapore," *International Journal of Japanese Sociology*, 19(1):82-97.

#### **SOUTH KOREA**

Bélanger, Danièle, Hye-Kyung Lee and Hong-Zen Wang

2010 "Ethnic Diversity and Statistics in East Asia: 'Foreign Brides' surveys in Taiwan and South Korea," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 33(6):1108-1130.

Kim, Hyun-Sil

2010 "Social Integration and Health Policy Issues for International Marriage Migrant Women in South Korea," *Public Health Nursing*, 27(6):561-570.

Kwak, Min-Jung and Daniel Hiebert

2010 "Globalizing Canadian Education from Below: A Case Study of Transnational Immigrant Entrepreneurship Between Seoul, Korea and Vancouver Canada," *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 11(2):131-153.

#### **SRI LANKA**

Eversole, Robyn and Judith Shaw

2010 "Remittance Flows and Their Use in Households: A Comparative Study of Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Philippines," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(2):175-202.

Hugo, Graeme and Swarna Ukwatta

2010 "Sri Lankan Female Domestic Workers Overseas: The Impact on Their Children," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(2):237-264.

#### **TAIWAN**

Bélanger, Danièle, Hye-Kyung Lee and Hong-Zen Wang

2010 "Ethnic Diversity and Statistics in East Asia: 'Foreign Brides' Surveys in Taiwan and South Korea," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 33(6):1108-1130.

Chuang, Hwei-Lin, Ning Hsieh and Eric S. Lin

2010 "Labour Market Activity of Foreign Spouses in Taiwan: Employment Status and Choice of Employment Sector," *Pacific Economic Review*, 15(4):505-531.



**THAILAND**

Kusakabe, Kyoko and Ruth Pearson

2010 "Transborder Migration, Social Reproduction and Economic Development: A Case Study of Burmese Women Workers in Thailand," *International Migration*, 48(6):13-43.

Pholphirul, Piriya and Pungpond Rukumnuaykit

2010 "Economic Contribution of Migrant Workers to Thailand," *International Migration*, 48(5):174-202.

Resurreccion, Bernadette P. and Edsel E. Sajor

2010 "Not a Real Worker': Gendering Migrants in Thailand's Shrimp Farms," *International Migration*, 48(6):102-131.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Coles, Anne and Katie Walsh

2010 "From 'Trucial State' to 'Postcolonial' City? The Imaginative Geographies of British Expatriates in Dubai," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(8):1317-1333.

**VIETNAM**

Nguyen-Hoang, Phuong and John McPeak

2010 "Leaving or Staying: Inter-Provincial Migration in Vietnam," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(4):473-500.

Pfau, Wade Donald and Giang Thanh Long

2010 "Remittances, Living Arrangements and the Welfare of the Elderly in Vietnam," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(4):447-472.

Roustan, Frédéric

2010 "Migrants japonais dans le Vietnam colonial: entre catégorisations juridiques et catégorisations visuelles, 1880-1954," *Migrations Société*, 22(2).

**OCEANIA**

**OCEANIA, GENERAL**

Connell, John

2010 "Pacific Islands in the Global Economy: Paradoxes of Migration and Culture," *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 31(1):115-129.

**AUSTRALIA**

Andis, Petra

2010 "The Politics of Hope and Disappointment: Ambivalence in the Post-1989 Homeland-Related Discourses among Hungarians in Australia," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(6):989-1008.

Chiswick, Barry R. and Paul W. Miller

2010 "The Effects of Educational-Occupational Mismatch on Immigrant Earnings in Australia, with International Comparisons," *International Migration Review*, 44(4):869-898.

Costa-Pinto, Maya and Andrea Whittaker

2010 "East Timorese Women in Australia: Community, Gender and Identity," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(4):501-524.

Fozdar, Farida and Brian Spittles

2010 "Patriotic vs. Proceduralist Citizenship: Australian Representations," *Nations and Nationalism*, 16(1):27-147.

Guo, Fei

2010 "Demographic Structure and International Student Mobility: An Investigation of Chinese Students in Australia," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(1):143-156.

Hawthorne, Lesleyanne

2010 "How Valuable is "Two-Step Migration"? Labor Market Outcomes for International Student Migrants to Australia," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(1):5-36.

Hugo, Graeme

2010 "The Indian and Chinese Academic Diaspora in Australia: A Comparison," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19 (1): 87-116.

Iredale, Robyn

2010 "The Australian Labor Market for Medical Practitioners and Nurses: Training, Migration and Policy Issues," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(1):37-64.

Mason, Robert

2010 "Australian Multiculturalism: Revisiting Australia's Political Heritage and the Migrant Presence," *History Compass*, 8(8):817-827.

Paganoni, Tony

2010 "Politica, etnicità e Chiesa cattolica in Australia. Questioni d'identità e di impegno: l'esperienza della Federazione Cattolica Italiana/Politics, ethnicity and the Catholic Church in Australia. Issues of identity and engagement: the case of the Federazione Cattolica Italiana," *Studi Emigrazione*, 47(1):203-226.

Paganoni, Tony

2010 "Pratica religiosa in Australia: mutamenti e implicazioni/Religious practice in Australia: mutations and implications," *Studi Emigrazione*, 47(2):471-481.

Poot, Jacques

2010 "Trans-Tasman Migration, Transnationalism and Economic Development in Australasia," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(3):319-342.

Shakespeare-Finch, Jane and Kylie Wickham

2010 "Adaptation of Sudanese Refugees in an Australia Context: Investigating Helps and Hindrances," *International Migration*, 48(1):23-46.

Tani, Massimiliano

2010 "International Labor Visits and Knowledge Flows," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19 (1):117-142.

Tani, Massimiliano, Fei Guo and Graeme Hugo

2010 "Introduction: New Developments in Australia's Skilled Migration Flows," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(1):1-4.

Turpin, Tim, Richard Wooley and Jane Marceau

2010 "Scientists Across the Boundaries: National and Global Dimensions of Scientific and Technical Human Capital (STHC) and Policy Implications for Australia," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(1):65-86.

Wise, Amanda

2010 "Sensuous Multiculturalism: Emotional Landscapes of Inter-Ethnic Living in Australian Suburbia," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(6):917-937.

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

Bedford, Charlotte, Richard Bedford and Elsie Ho

2010 "Engaging with New Zealand's Recognized Seasonal Employer Work Policy: The Case of Tuvalu," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(3):421-445.

Bedford, Richard, Anne-Marie Masgoret, Manuila Tausi and Paul Merwood

2010 "Immigrants from the Pacific: 'Drain on the Economy' or Active Participation in the Labor Force?," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19 (3):371-390.

Bell, Avril

2010 "Being 'at home' in the Nation: Hospitality and Sovereignty in Talk About Immigration," *Ethnicities*, 10(2):236-256.

Gibson, John, David McKenzie, Halahingano Rohorua and Steven Stillman

2010 "Information Flows and Migration: Recent Survey Evidence from the South Pacific," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(3):401-420.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES ON MIGRATION, 2010

Grbic, Douglas

2010 "Social and Cultural Meanings of Tolerance: Immigration, Incorporation and Identity in Aotearoa, New Zealand," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(1):125-148.

Johnston, Ron, Phillip Gendall, Andrew Trlin and Paul Spoonley

2010 "Immigration, Multiculturalism and Geography: Inter-group Contact and Attitudes to Immigrants and Cultural Diversity in New Zealand," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(3):343-370.

Maré, David C. and Steven Stillman

2010 "The Impact of Immigration on the Geographic Mobility of New Zealanders," *Economic Record*, 86(2):247-259.

Pearson, David and Charles Sedgwick

2010 "The English Question in New Zealand: Exploring National Attachments and Detachments among English Migrants," *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 16(3&4):443-464.

Poot, Jacques

2010 "Trans-Tasman Migration, Transnationalism and Economic Development in Australasia," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(3):319-342.

Reeves, Keir

2010 "Sojourners or a New Diaspora? Economic Implications of the Movement of Chinese Miners to the South-West Pacific Goldfields," *Australian Economic History Review*, 50(2):178-192.

Spoonley, Paul

2010 "Introduction: Labor Circulation; The Experience of New Zealand," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 19(3):311-318.



The need for information and data often crops up in migration analysis, discussion and policy-making. The production and dissemination of migration information have increased exponentially, thanks to rapid developments in information technology. The challenge now is how to access concise and comparative information amidst the extensive information that is out there. The *Asian Migration Outlook (AMO)* aims to respond to this challenge.

Derived from news published in English language newspapers in the continent and from other sources, *AMO* offers a summary of key migration events related to trends, issues and policies. *AMO* covers most countries in Asia and two countries in Oceania (Australia and New Zealand).

Published on the 25th anniversary of the Scalabrini Migration Center (SMC), *AMO* adds another component to the information services provided by SMC, which include the quarterly *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, the news links of *Asian Migration News*, and the database Migration Information System in Asia (MISA).