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Responding to the Economic Crisis – Coherent Policies for Growth, Employment and Decent Work in Asia and Pacific

Manila, Philippines, 18-20 February 2009

TECHNICAL NOTE

The Effect of the Global Economic Crisis on Asian Migrant Workers and Governments' Responses

ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok

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THE EFFECT OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS ON ASIAN MIGRANT WORKERS AND GOVERNMENTS' RESPONSES[1]

Manolo Abella
Geoffrey Ducanes

1. Background

It will take more time for the full scale of the global economic crisis to unravel and for its impact on the cross-border movements of labour, their conditions of employment and possible return to become manifest.[2] Although the recession in the United States started well over a year before the collapse of sub-prime financial market migration and remittances grew strongly and rapidly in many parts of the world obscuring any early signs of the effects of the on-coming crisis. Many factors remain uncertain even today, including how the fiscal and monetary stimuli that many governments have hurriedly crafted are working to revive afflicted economies. While there have been daily reports of firms shutting down and laying off workers since October last year, it is still uncertain how these have affected migrant workers who are mostly in jobs that have been rejected by national workers, or are in occupations for which there is growing demand like for health care workers in spite of economic downturns.

The current crisis is leading many to believe that the phenomenon of rapid growth of migration and remittances in many parts of the world is now ending and the coming year will see a stabilization if not an outright decline in labour migration flows. Average annual global economic growth is projected to fall sharply this year and next – to less than 1 per cent in 2009 after averaging almost 4 per cent from 2003 to 2007.[3] Some of the countries that absorbed many Asian migrant workers in the recent past, particularly the major OECD countries, have reported the sharpest downturns. United States output is expected to decline by 1.6 per cent this year and the European Union output by 2 per cent. Middle East growth is expected to be less than 4 per cent this year after growing more than 6 per cent in the two previous years.

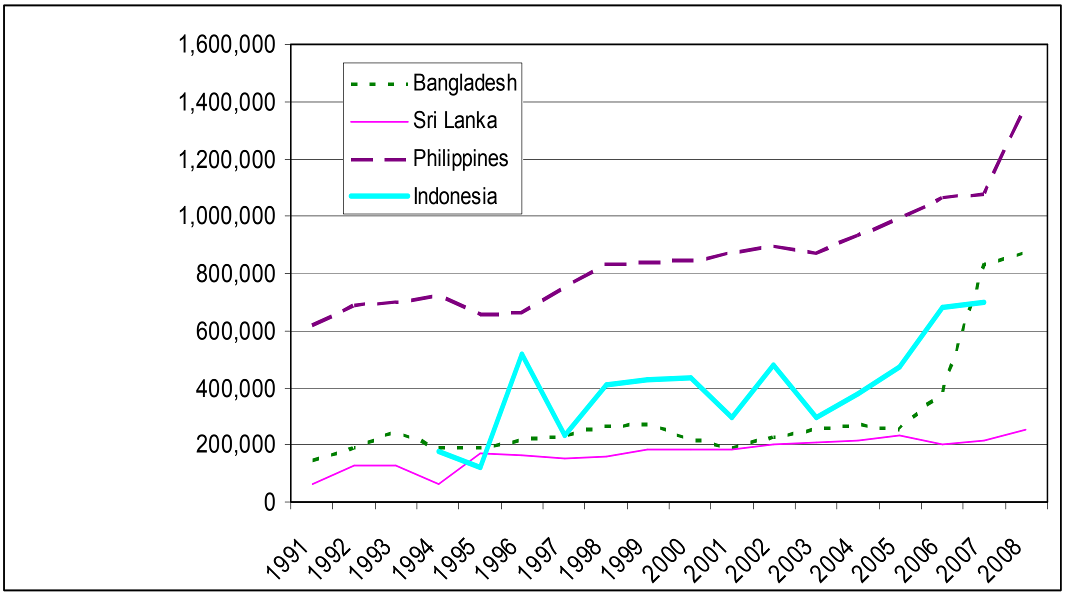
In Asia, the major countries of destination are now experiencing a sharp downturn in their economic fortunes. Singapore's economy is expected to contract by 2 to 5 per cent in 2009, Malaysia to 3.7 per cent in 2009 from 6.3 per cent in 2007, and Thailand to 3.6 per cent in 2009

[1] Manolo Abella and Geoffrey Ducanes put together this report mainly from country reports presented in the session on the Impact of the Economic Crisis on Labour Migration in Asia in the ILO/SMC Workshop on Building a Comparable, Up-to-date, and Sustainable Database on Labour Migration held in Manila on 21-22 January 2009. Please see references for the country reports.
[2] Asian labour migration here refers both to migration into Asian countries and migration from Asian countries. Much will depend, for instance, on the effectiveness of the economic stimulus package many countries are or are planning to undertake.
[3] Martin, P. (2009). The Recession and Migration: Alternative Scenarios.

from 4.8 per cent in 2007.[4] The region's less developed origin countries are similarly dependent for their growth on a buoyant global export market as well as to inflows of foreign investments, and are likely to feel even greater "push" forces for migration than before.

Some destination countries have started to shut their doors to more foreign workers. However, some origin countries continue to report that their nationals are still leaving in significant numbers to work abroad. Figure 1 shows that labour outflows from the region's major origin countries – the Philippines, Bangladesh and Indonesia – have been growing rapidly since 2003.

Figure 1: Annual outflows of migrant workers from selected Asian countries



Source: National agencies in each country in charge of overseas workers' deployment.

2. Migrants not uniformly distributed across affected countries

It matters greatly how the economic slowdown will touch different regions of the world because migrant workers are not uniformly distributed across the same countries. South Asian workers are largely concentrated in the Gulf States where public investments are foreseen to remain strong in spite of the severe drop in oil prices. Accumulation of reserves over many years of high oil prices are enabling governments of that region to continue with their planned large scale infrastructure projects, thus making up for some of decline in investments in the private sector. The economies of major labour- importing countries – Saudi Arabia and Kuwait along with Qatar – are expected to have stable growth, although that of the United Arab Emirates which had earlier experienced rapid growth is now expected to decline.

- **India**'s huge overseas population is scattered in all corners of the globe but it has a specially large presence in the Gulf States. It is estimated, for example, that about 90 per cent of Kerala's 1.85 million overseas workers are in the Middle East.

[4] World Bank East Asia Update December 2008. The growth forecast for Malaysia by private think tanks for 2009 is lower at from 1.3 to 1.5 per cent.

- Similarly, 80 per cent of **Sri Lanka**'s 1.5 million overseas workers are in that region.
- Authorities in **Bangladesh** report that 80 per cent of migrant worker deployment in the past three decades was to the Middle East.
- From **Pakistan**, some 3.65 million workers were recorded to have gone to the Gulf States, some 400 thousand of them most probably still there.
- Aside from those in India, some 700,000 **Nepalis** are working abroad, among whom some 450,000 are in the Gulf Cooperation Council States.

This heavy concentration of their migrants in the Gulf region has in the past been considered by authorities in South Asian countries as a cause for concern but in view of the region's relative stability it is now seen as an advantage.

Because of their more open economies destination countries in South-East and East Asia are likely to be more affected by a global recession than those in South Asia. The Republic of Korea, Taiwan (China), Thailand, and Malaysia have already started to experience a sharp decline in their exports of manufactures, tourist arrivals, and inflows of foreign investments. Severe drops in prices of major export crops like palm oil have added to the problems faced by Malaysia and Indonesia. The Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers reported that orders received by the export-based manufacturing sector have dropped by 30-40 per cent over the past few months, forcing them to cut output by 40 per cent. The electronic and electric exports sector, which employs about 462,000 workers, faces bleak prospects in particular, as its exports to the United States fell by 15 per cent in the first 3 quarters of 2008.

Unlike their counterparts in the South, migrant workers from South-East Asia are more evenly spread, some settled permanently in North America while most others are working temporarily in other countries within the region or in one of the Gulf States.

- The **Philippines** has large numbers of workers in the Gulf States – some 2.18 million workers – representing 43 per cent of the 5.1 million Filipinos working on temporary contracts abroad. The Philippines also has substantial number of workers in North America (700,000), Europe (668,000), and East and South-East Asia (1 million).
- There are about half a million **Vietnamese** workers employed in some 40 countries but notably in Malaysia, Taiwan (China), Republic of Korea, and the Gulf States. In the case of other South-East Asian origin countries the impact of the crisis is more difficult to forecast.
- About half of **Indonesia**'s workforce abroad are in Malaysia where many are well integrated in the informal economy, while the other half are in the Middle East comprising mostly of women employed in households.
- Most of the workers from **Cambodia**, **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, and **Myanmar** are employed in neighboring Thailand which has already seen a sharp decline in employment in industry. However, most migrants are in the informal economy which has in the past shown a great capacity to absorb workers in some form of employment regardless of the state of the economy.

3. Employment of foreign workers

Impact on region's major labour-receiving countries

Intra-regional movements of labour are likely to slow down significantly in the coming months on account of the already substantial slide of the economies of key destination countries.

- **Malaysia** has more than 2.1 million registered foreign workers, 53 per cent of whom are Indonesians, 15 per cent Bangladeshis, 10 per cent Nepalese, and 7 per cent Indians. The only available official figures, as of September 2008, appear to grossly underestimate the number of retrenched foreign workers at less than 6,000. The majority of those retrenched are from the manufacturing sector, which together with the services sector, is expected to be the hardest hit by the crisis. Malaysia has a total of 752,000 registered foreign workers in manufacturing and 212,000 registered foreign workers in services. In addition, the country has 313,000 foreign workers in construction and 301,000 domestic helpers.[5] About 300,000 Malaysians are working in Singapore, and they are projected to be affected by crisis as well, with 35-50,000 of them expected to be retrenched.

- **Thailand** has some 1.8 million foreign workers mostly coming from neighboring Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. Many are working in agriculture and fishing, food processing, construction, and various low-skill services. According to the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), foreign workers in manufacturing – particularly factory work and food processing, and in agriculture – especially crop farming and animal husbandry, are the most vulnerable to be laid off. The TDRI estimates that some 330,000 jobs in these sectors will be lost. How many of these will be national workers and how many will be migrants is difficult to say although the government is urging business to keep their national workers. On the other hand, demand for household domestic workers is not expected to be affected by the crisis.

- **Singapore** has about 900,000 foreign workers, about 30 per cent of its total workforce. Of these, 143,000 are professionals from all over the world and the rest low-skilled workers mainly from other ASEAN countries and from China, India and Sri Lanka. No official data has yet been released on laid-off foreigners, but the financial service company Credit Suisse projects that some 100,000 jobs in the manufacturing and services sectors will be lost in 2009. More privately-funded projects are expected to be cancelled or delayed and more jobs will be lost in 2010 particularly in the maritime and construction industries which are heavily dependent on foreign workers.

- The **Republic of Korea** has more than 400,000 foreign workers, excluding ethnic Korean Chinese who number more than 200,000. In December 2008 Korea suffered a decline in total employment for the first time in more than 5 years. In the same month there was a record number of applications for unemployment benefits. The number of foreign workers who have requested relocation has grown steadily, from 3,642 in January to 6,707 in November. Those seeking relocation are primarily employed in small and medium-sized companies many of which have gone bankrupt or shut down.

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[5] These figures are as of July 2008.

Crisis as seen in region's origin countries

Data coming from Asia's origin countries still do not capture the impact of the crisis on the movements of workers across borders. This is understandable since workers are only required to register when they leave, but not when they return.[6] Nevertheless, information coming from various sources suggest that the last few months have not seen a significant reversal of trends in Asian migration

- In **Bangladesh**, the effect of the crisis did not become manifest until January of 2009. Total reported emigration still rose by 5 per cent from 2007 to 2008 to reach an all time high of 875,000 workers. However the volume of emigration in the first month of 2009 was already 40 per cent lower than the monthly average from January to November 2008. Some of the decline can be attributed to causes other than the global crisis. Deployment to important destination countries like Malaysia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia actually started declining in 2008 or even earlier for a variety of reasons, but these were more than offset by large worker flows to the United Arab Emirates and to Singapore. The effects of the crisis may also depend on skill level and sex of the workers. While the deployment of semi-skilled and low skilled workers declined, that of professionals and skilled workers increased.

- In recent years, annual labour emigration from **Sri Lanka** has averaged over 200,000 per year, with half of those for employment as housemaids. The government is specially concerned with the bleak economic outlook for the United Arab Emirates where an estimated 150,000 Sri Lankans are employed. So far the number of Sri Lankans reported to have been laid off appears insignificant (i.e. 100 Sri Lankans employed in construction, banking, and maintenance sectors reported as having been retrenched), but the government expects the situation to become much worse.[7]

- In the **Philippines**, the number of contract workers who left the country for employment abroad continued to increase reaching a total of 1.377 million in 2008, an increase of some 28 per cent over the previous year.[8] This means a daily deployment of some 3,772 documented migrant workers[9]. Although remittances slowed down in the latter half of 2008 overall growth for the first 11 months was 15 per cent reaching a total of $15 billion. According to the Department of Labor and Employment, reported displacements up to 20 January 2009 had only reached 4,000 Filipino workers mainly in Taiwan (China) (3,494), the United Arab Emirates (297), Brunei (69), and Macau (China) (45). The most common reasons cited for the displacement of the workers were bankruptcy of their companies and a slowdown in operations.

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[6] Note also that the data on migrant workers leaving may not take into account all those leaving for employment abroad. In India the reported number of migrant workers only apply to those required by law to register with the Protector of Emigrants. All those exempted (generally those with ten years of education) are thus excluded from the count.

[7] Minister for Foreign Employment has been quoted as saying that he expects about 10,000 Sri Lankans to lose their jobs in the Middle East. See Lee, M. (2009). As Economies Sour Asian Migrant Workers Face Abuse, Debt. Reuters News Report on 3 February 2009.

[8] Department of Labor and Employment (2009)

[9] They are referred to as overseas foreign workers (OFWs) in the Philippines.

- According to the most recent OECD database, there are more than 4 million South and South-East Asian workers in seven high-income OECD countries expected to significantly contract in 2009.[10] Substantial numbers come in particular from the Philippines (1.2 million mainly in the US and Canada) and India (1.1 million mainly in the US, the UK, and Canada). When the dust has settled, many more Asian workers are expected to be laid off in these countries.

4. Impact on working conditions

There are concerns that the brunt of adjustment to the economic crisis will fall hardest on the shoulders of migrant workers. When the demand for labour slackens it is expected that those in the weakest bargaining position, usually temporary migrant workers and in particular the undocumented, will accept almost any condition just to retain their jobs. The problem is most serious for newly-arrived workers who have not yet earned enough to recoup their heavy investment in getting recruited and traveling to a foreign country.[11] Given the very narrow margins they accept for benefiting from migration, a premature termination of their employment can have disastrous consequences for their families.

Lay offs have already been reported for those industries most directly affected by the crisis but other forms of adjustments such as work-sharing and reductions in wages and benefits are not yet reflected in any formal statistics.

- No concrete official numbers are as yet available, but in **Singapore**, for instance, it has been reported that more foreign workers complain about pay cuts, not being paid on time, having their working days reduced, and not being provided food, shelter and healthcare, which employers are legally obliged to provide.
- In **Malaysia** the manufacturers' federation reported that many firms adjusted to the crisis by reducing the number of working days, hours of overtime work, and in some instances forcing workers to use their annual leave.

5. Remittances

In recent years the region experienced unprecedented rates of growth of recorded migrants' remittances. Table 1 and Figure 2 below shows that double digit rates of growth were recorded for a number of Asian countries, notably Nepal, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines. While some of it may be due to better monitoring and diversion of flows from informal to formal channels like the banks, there has indeed been a significant rise in remittances received by migrants' countries of origin, supporting large increases in consumption spending. Remittances today equal as much as 15.5 per cent of Nepal's GDP and has been credited for the sharp decline in numbers living below the poverty line during an extended period of political and economic turmoil. Remittances are the major net foreign exchange source for Bangladesh, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

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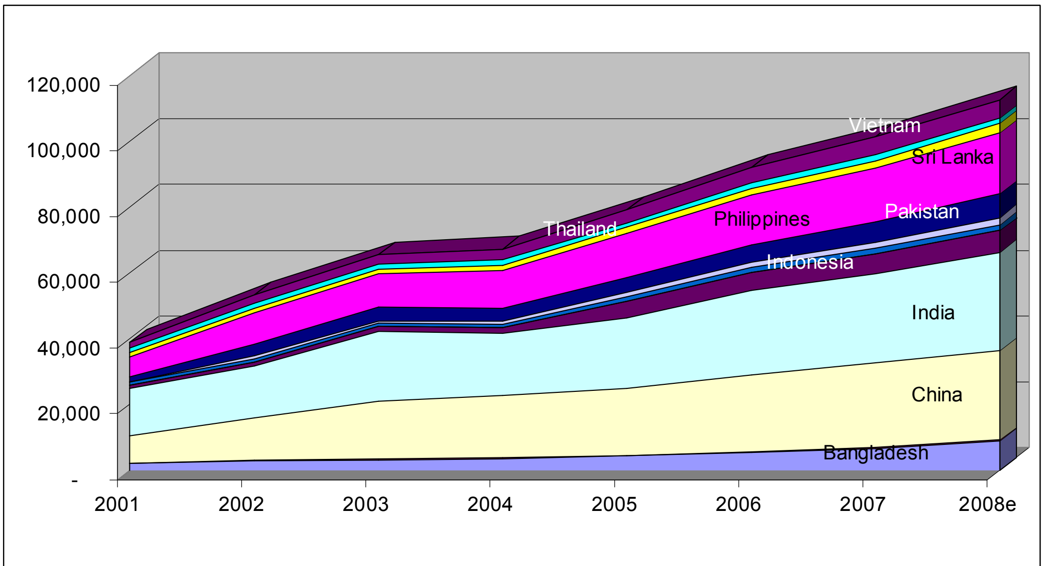
[10] These are the US, Canada, the UK, France, Italy, Japan, and Spain. See Annex Table 2 for the expected decline in economic output and the number of South and Souteast Asian workers by country.
[11] It is not uncommon for migrant workers to invest the equivalent of six month's pay to get their jobs abroad.

The observed stability of remittances during the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s and its generally counter-cyclical behavior have led many to expect that the present crisis is unlikely to lead to a decline in flows. The World Bank has predicted a significant slow-down in its rate of growth, not a decline in volume. What happens to remittances will no doubt feature prominently in assessing the consequences of the crisis since they have a much bigger impact on the economies or origin countries than what the simple percentage shares of GDP suggest. They largely go to income groups with high levels of consumption but who proportionately save more hence remittances represent high-powered money with large short-term and long-term multiplier effects.

A mixed picture emerges from the reports submitted by correspondents of ILO's Migration Information System for Asia (MISA). In the Philippines, the annual growth of migrants' remittances averaged almost 16 per cent over the previous six years. For 2009 the central bank predicts that remittances are still likely to grow but at a slower rate of from 3 to 6 per cent. In some sending countries in the region, a drop in remittances received has actually started to be felt. In Sri Lanka remittances received in November 2008 were 13 per cent lower than the average for the first 10 months of the year.

Figure 2: Migrants' remittances to Asian countries of origin, 2001-2008



Source: World Bank

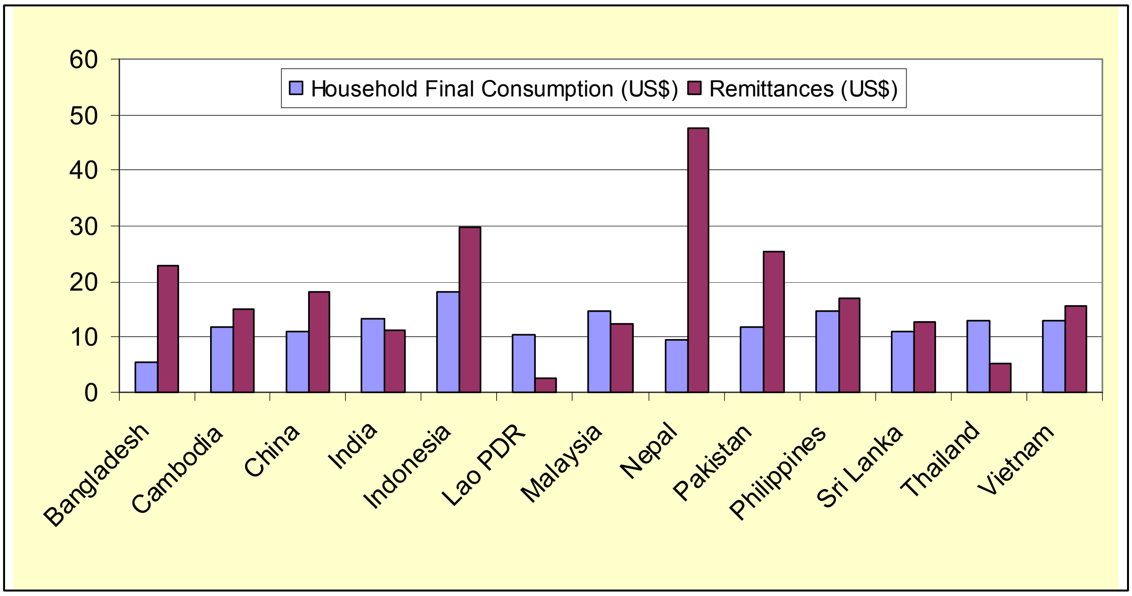
The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment has observed a weakening of demand for garment workers, domestic workers, and general labourers, and expects remittances to slow down in growth and may even decline in 2009. Labour outflows have actually been slowing down from a peak of 24,970 in September 2008, 20,225 in October, 19,239 in November, and 16,811 in December. What happens in the Middle East, where 75 per cent of Sri Lankan overseas workers are, will be particularly crucial for remittances to Sri Lanka. The same is true for India, where remittances account for 3 per cent of national disposable income, and there is a high concentration of its workers in the Middle East.

Table 1: Migrants' Remittances and their importance to origin economies

	Estimated migrant workers' remittances 2008 (US$ million)	**Compound rate of growth of remittances 2001-2008**	**Compound rate of growth of consumption expenditures 2001-2008**	**2007 Remittances as a share of GDP** (%)
Bangladesh	8,893	22.9	5.5	9.50
Cambodia	353	14.9	11.8	4.20
China	27,000	18.2	11.1	0.80
India	30,000	11.2	13.2	2.40
Indonesia	6,500	29.8	18.1	1.50
Lao PDR	1	2.6	10.4	0.00
Malaysia	1,810	12.5	14.6	1.00
Nepal	2,254	47.7	9.5	15.50
Pakistan	7,072	25.3	11.9	4.20
Philippines	18,669	17.2	14.7	11.60
Sri Lanka	2,720	12.6	11.0	8.10
Thailand	1,800	5.3	13.0	0.70
Vietnam	5,500	15.5	13.0	7.90

Source: World Bank

Figure 3 : Growth of remittances and final consumption in Asian countries 2001-08



Source: World Bank

6. Governments' Responses

In destination countries

As a result of the crisis, several of the labour receiving countries in the region have stopped issuing new work permits to or renewing work permits of foreign workers. In addition, as a move to counter the rising unemployment of local workers, some are providing companies incentives to replace foreign with native or national workers.

- The **Singaporean** Government is urging companies to avoid lay-offs by finding means to cut costs, but in case of unavoidable retrenchment, to lay off foreigners first. To boost domestic output, the Government is increasing public spending. It is hiring more teachers and healthcare workers, and is also bringing forward construction projects that it had previously deferred. The Ministry of Manpower is tasked to ensure the enforcement of the legal obligations of employers and the proper settlement of disputes between foreign workers and employers, which are expected to increase as a consequence of the crisis. The Ministry is blacklisting errant employers.

- The **Malaysian** Government has issued a freeze on the issuance of work permits for foreign workers, and like Singapore, has instituted a policy to terminate foreign workers first. It has also instituted a policy to fast-track the deportation of undocumented foreigners, under which offenders simply handed a fine and sent home, without going though court proceedings and jail.[12] This policy is reported to have already resulted in the deportation of 65,000 undocumented foreigners. To help its own overseas workers, the Malaysian Government has tasked its Labour Office to register all returning Malaysian workers in need of assistance.

- The **Korean** Government also stopped issuing new visas through its Employment Permit System and it is unlikely that the quota for foreign workers will be increased. The export-driven economy is in recession. Exports for January 2009 were already a third lower than the January 2008 level. To encourage small and medium-sized companies, the primary employers of foreign workers, to hire more nationals the Government has announced a subsidy scheme whereby a subsidy of 1.2 million Korean Won is granted to a firm for every newly-hired Korean worker. Like Malaysia, Korea has also intensified its crackdown on undocumented foreigners, with about 8,000 already deported since November 2008.

- In **Thailand** the Government has announced that no new work permits will be issued and that the planned registration of undocumented foreign workers will now be put off till after 2009.The work permits of about 500,000 foreign workers will not be renewed for 2010 and the authorities have threatened to deport undocumented migrant workers.

Origin Countries

The typical response of origin countries has been to closely monitor the effects of the crisis on their nationals working abroad, provide immediate assistance and look for alternative employment for those who have been displaced.

- The **Sri Lankan** Government, for example, has instructed its ambassadors to follow developments affecting Sri Lankan workers and explore possibilities to avoid the repatriation of those laid off by finding them alternative jobs.

[12] Malaysia has an estimated 1 million undocumented workers according to its Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- The **Bangladeshi** Government has taken similar measures. The Bangladesh Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has formed a special task force comprised of different ministries, civil society groups, and migrant workers' associations to monitor developments and propose action.
- In **India** not all the states are equally touched by overseas migration hence the response has been confined mainly to state level interventions.
- In the **Philippines** the overseas employment administration has established "help desks" in provinces to help match the skills of retrenched (or aspiring) migrant workers with available jobs within the country and abroad, as well as to advise them on self-employment. The Philippine President has ordered that 250 million Philippine pesos from the Overseas Workers Welfare Fund be set aside to provide livelihood support to displaced migrant workers. The Department of Labor and Employment has already sent special missions to Taiwan and Dubai to assist Filipinos who have lost their jobs or are expected to lose their jobs in reintegration. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) is also providing legal assistance to displaced workers seeking refund of plane ticket expenses, placement fees, etc. from recruiting agents or their employers.[13]

7. Summary

While it is still too early to accurately gauge the full impact of the global economic crisis on Asian labour migration, it is clear that earlier trends will not be sustained because of worsening economic conditions in major destination countries. All indications point to a deepening crisis that will further cut back international trade and foreign investments, the two important propellers of growth in the region. The current year is expected to see much lower demand for migrant workers particularly in East Asian destination countries. The jobs most likely to be affected are those in construction, finance, trade-related industries such as export manufacturing and shipping, travel and tourism. Contracts are unlikely to be renewed or even prematurely terminated as projects especially in the private sector are put off for the future or as some employers become insolvent. Migrant workers who have just recently arrived in countries of employment are going to be particularly affected since the last ones in are likely to be the first ones laid off.

The hope is that current efforts to restore confidence and stimulate investments will work quickly and bring everything back to where they were a year ago. However this is unlikely to happen. Restrictive policies on admission and employment of foreign workers adopted in response to the crisis will likely be "sticky" and stay even when recovery is achieved for a variety of reasons. Even before the crisis some governments have already announced their intention to reduce "dependence" on foreign workers and to plug the loopholes that led to the creation of a large pool of foreign workers in an irregular situation.

Conditions are expected to become harsher for many migrant workers as they try to hang on to their jobs and stay in countries of employment in the hope of eventually recouping their investments. The problem can be very severe for low-skill workers who paid huge amounts to get jobs in places like Korea or Taiwan (China). Those whose legal permits to work expire are

[13] So far, the POEA has provided legal assistance to 587 displaced workers, with 120 cases already settled.

likely to risk "overstaying" particularly because opportunities for gainful work at home are even more bleak. More and more migrant workers will sit out the crisis even if governments "crackdown" on irregular migrant workers.

On the other hand, there will continue to be some more outflows since the situation is not as dire for all workers or in all destinations. There are a few occupations such as the demand for health sector jobs which will likely remain strong. Foreign engineers are still very much in demand in some countries like Saudi Arabia where plans to build five new urban centers are unaffected by the crisis. The same is true in countries where the governments have committed to pursue stimulus packages involving major public infrastructure development.

The growth of remittances into the region will not continue at the high rates experienced in recent years but is yet to turn negative. This is because the volume of remittances depends on the number of migrant remitters still abroad and it has not declined. The most recent figures available for a number of countries do indicate a considerable slowdown from the double-digit rates recorded in the past. If this aggravates further in 2009 and 2010, the growth of consumption expenditures and investments will no doubt be affected whose ripple effects throughout the economies of countries heavily dependent on remittances like Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and even India (Kerala in particular) will be very profound unless countered by timely and commensurate fiscal and monetary measures.

It has been clear that countries, both sending and receiving, benefit from liberalizing the movements of workers. The crisis challenges states in the region to find effective safety nets for migrant workers and to resist the inclination to establish adjustment measures that could have lasting impact on restricting future movements. The ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers was a major step forward in this direction and assumes even greater relevance under the current scenario. Such and similar initiatives should not be abandoned due to the crisis.

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Annex Table 1: Reported remittances received by Asian countries, 2001-2008

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008e	*Remittances as a share of GDP, 2007 (%) Annex*
Bangladesh	2,105	2,858	3,192	3,584	4,314	5,428	6,562	8,893	*9.5%*
Cambodia	133	140	138	177	200	297	353	353	*4.2%*
China	8,385	13,012	17,815	19,014	20,337	23,319	25,703	27,000	*0.8%*
India	14,273	15,736	20,999	18,750	21,293	25,426	27,000	30,000	*2.4%*
Indonesia	1,046	1,259	1,489	1,866	5,420	5,722	6,174	6,500	*1.5%*
Lao PDR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*0.0%*
Malaysia	792	959	987	1,128	1,281	1,535	1,700	1,810	*1.0%*
Nepal	147	678	771	823	1,212	1,453	1,734	2,254	*15.5%*
Pakistan	1,461	3,554	3,964	3,945	4,280	5,121	5,998	7,072	*4.2%*
Philippines	6,164	9,735	10,243	11,471	13,566	15,251	16,291	18,669	*11.6%*
Sri Lanka	1,185	1,309	1,438	1,590	1,991	2,185	2,527	2,720	*8.1%*
Thailand	1,252	1,380	1,607	1,622	1,187	1,333	1,635	1,800	*0.7%*
Vietnam	2,000	2,714	2,700	3,200	4,000	4,800	5,500	5,500	*7.9%*

Source: World Bank

Annex Table 2: South and South-East Asian Workers in Advanced Economies Expected to Contract in 2009[1]

Country	US	Canada	UK	France	Italy	Japan	Spain	Total
projected GDP growth in 2009 (%)[2]	*-1.6*	*-1.2*	*-2.8*	*-1.9*	*-2.1*	*-2.6*	*-1.7*	*-2.0*
South Asia								
Bangladesh	49,230	10,210	49,817	729	7,683	3,390	800	121,859
India	636,950	195,640	229,760	12,809	13,551	3,185	4,120	1,096,015
Nepal	7,215	620	3,789	139	76	1,667	40	13,546
Pakistan	115,880	36,695	114,182	4,340	7,656	3,298	6,680	288,731
Sri Lanka	16,805	47,155	37,715	10,964	14,641	2,142	220	129,642
Sub-total	826,080	290,320	435,263	28,981	43,607	13,682	11,860	1,649,793
Southeast Asia								
Cambodia	72,460	11,205	448	32,026	208	606		116,953
Indonesia	38,160	4,975	2,757	1,008	408	10,245	80	57,633
Lao PDR	108,100	9,815	293	24,077	154	573		143,012
Myanmar	19,635	2,115	3,862	242	53	2,344		28,251
Malaysia	31,445	13,335	28,597	626	135	2,704		76,842
Philippines	874,150	162,795	27,675	3,617	36,399	42,492	9,960	1,157,088
Thailand	87,325	3,570	6,688	2,063	1,166	9,666	220	110,698
Vietnam	566,835	95,605	9,930	52,960	1,541	6,501	320	733,692
Sub-total	1,798,110	303,415	80,250	116,619	40,064	75,131	10,580	2,424,169
Total	2,624,190	593,735	515,513	145,600	83,671	88,813	22,440	4,073,962

1. Source: OECD Database; 2. Source: IMF Projections as of 28 January 2009