

Moving Forward:
International Migration and
Development Prospects in Asia

Maruja M.B. Asis
Scalabrini Migration Center-Philippines

Asia: A Region in Motion

- › A region of intense and diverse migration flows since the 1970s
 - › A primary source region of permanent migrants in traditional countries of settlement
 - › Presently, India, China, and the Philippines are major source countries
 - › Various waves of refugee migration
 - › Prominence of labor migration
 - › Unauthorized migration is substantial

Asia: A Region in Motion

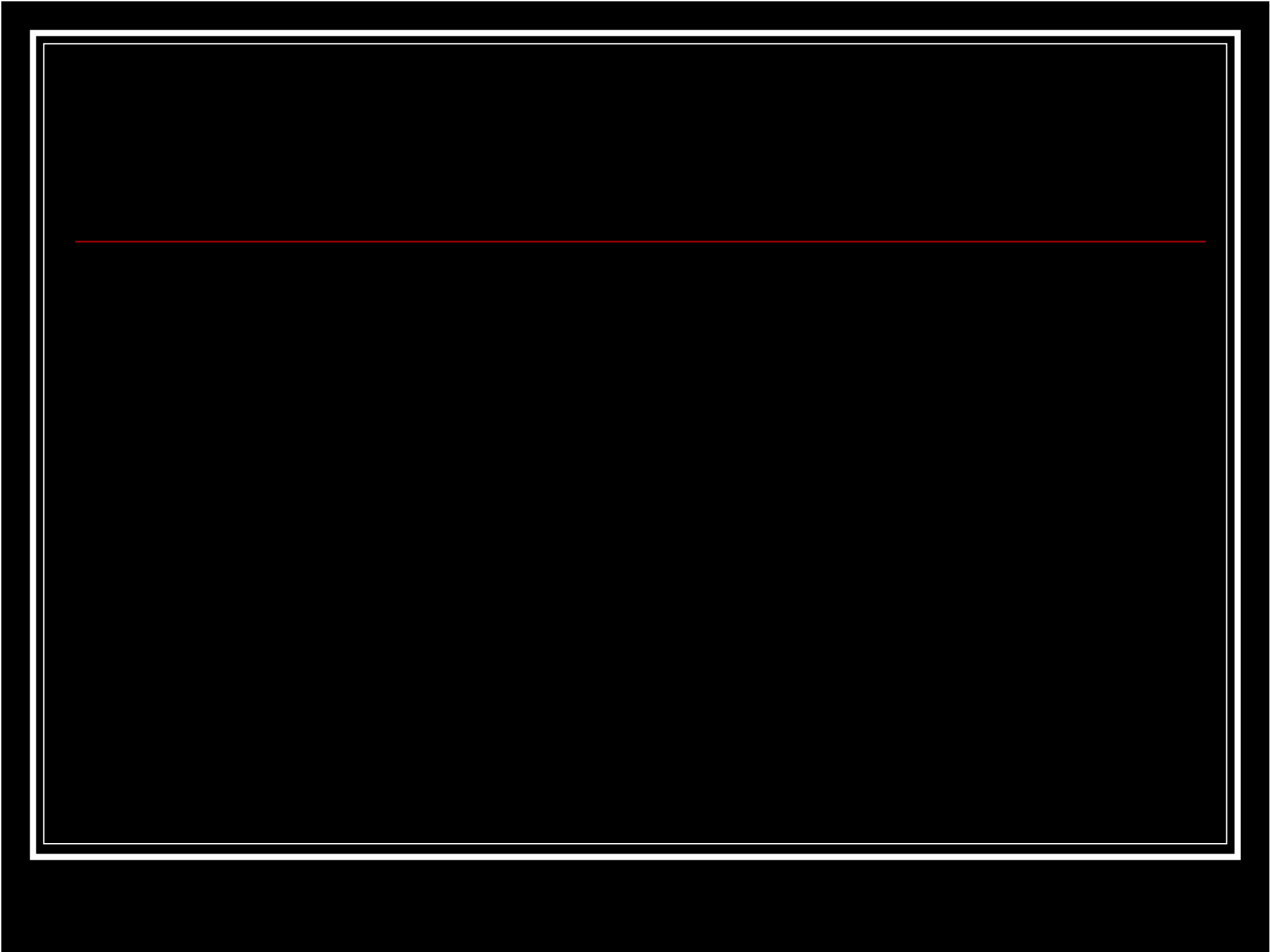
- › Labor migration is firmly in place
 - › 1970: labor migration to the Middle East, mostly male
 - › 1980s: intraregional migration stepped up, esp. in Southeast Asia; start of female migration
 - › 1990s: start/resumption of highly skilled migration
- › Labor migration: strictly temporary and limited integration for the less skilled; permanent residence and family reunification for the highly skilled

1. Development Implications of International Migration

- › Different migration flows imply different nature and levels of migrants' inclusion in the origin and destination countries
- › Varying development implications: remittances, brain drain/brain gain issues, role of transnational communities in the development of their home countries

1. Development Implications of International Migration

- › Examples of “success stories”
 - › Taiwan, from brain drain to brain gain
 - › S. Korea, from country of origin to country of destination
 - › China and the overseas Chinese
 - › *Role of the government in all three cases*
 - › *Return of scientific talent & entrepreneurs in Taiwan and S. Korea; investments & entrepreneurs in the case of China (also India)*



2. Recent Initiatives: International Migration and Development

- › Extending the “nation” to the diaspora via absentee voting, dual citizenship – ex. Philippines (2003)
- › The overseas population as partners in development– ex. Commission on Filipinos Overseas’ Link for Philippine Development Program (since 1989); Singapore International Foundation’s Overseas Singapore Program
- › Celebrating the diaspora – ex. India’s Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (Non-Resident Indians Day) held every 9 January; various commemorations in the Philippines, also migrant workers as the new heroes

2. Recent Initiatives: International Migration and Development

- › Examples from NGOs/Migrants' Associations/Others
 - › Encouraging migrant group savings and investing these for small businesses or projects in communities back home
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3. Prospects of Co-Development in Asia

- › Limited and of recent vintage: government-to-government discussion on labor migration
- › Discussion and cooperation has focused on regulating the movement of people (legal migration); common ground in curbing unauthorized migration, esp. trafficking
- › In general, a “benign neglect” of migrants’ rights
- › From regional integration to co-development: a long shot?