



Addressing Migration Challenges in Asia: Policy Approaches and Regional Consultative Processes

A presentation for the International Symposium on International Migration and Development, Torino, 20-30 June 2006 by Irena Vojackova-Sollorano, Regional Representative for Southeast Asia based at IOM Bangkok

Outline



- › Key trends and policy issues
 - › Trends in policy development
 - £ Unilateral trends
 - £ Bilateral agreements
 - £ Multilateral consultations through Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs)
 - › The Role of RCPs
 - › RCPs active in Asia
 - › Gaps in policy development
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Key Trends and Policy Issues



- › The key issues in the Asia and Pacific region are:
 - £ Increasing regular and irregular migration, skilled and unskilled
 - £ The rights and obligations of migrants and States
 - £ Increasing attention to remittance flows
 - £ The feminization of migration
 - £ Sub-regional challenges
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Policies of Sending Countries



- › The trend among sending countries has been to focus on the protection of their own migrants in an effort to reduce exploitation during the recruitment process and maximize the benefits of sending workers abroad
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The Policies of Receiving Countries



- › The trend among receiving countries has been to focus on flexible and time limited labour migration that address labour market gaps and industrial needs



Regional Consultative Process



- › Regional consultative processes are non-binding multi-lateral for dealing with migration issues
 - › They promote dialogue and exchange because of their non-binding nature
 - › Most Asian countries are involved in one or more of the 5 RCPs in the region
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IOM Regional Seminar on Irregular Migration

(Manila, Philippines)

Handong Kong SAR

Executive Summary

Focus

Irregular migration and trafficking; root causes of migration; border control; remittances; migrants' rights; capacity building; information sharing

Members

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Hong Kong



International Environmental Area Pacific

Coastal and Marine Resources

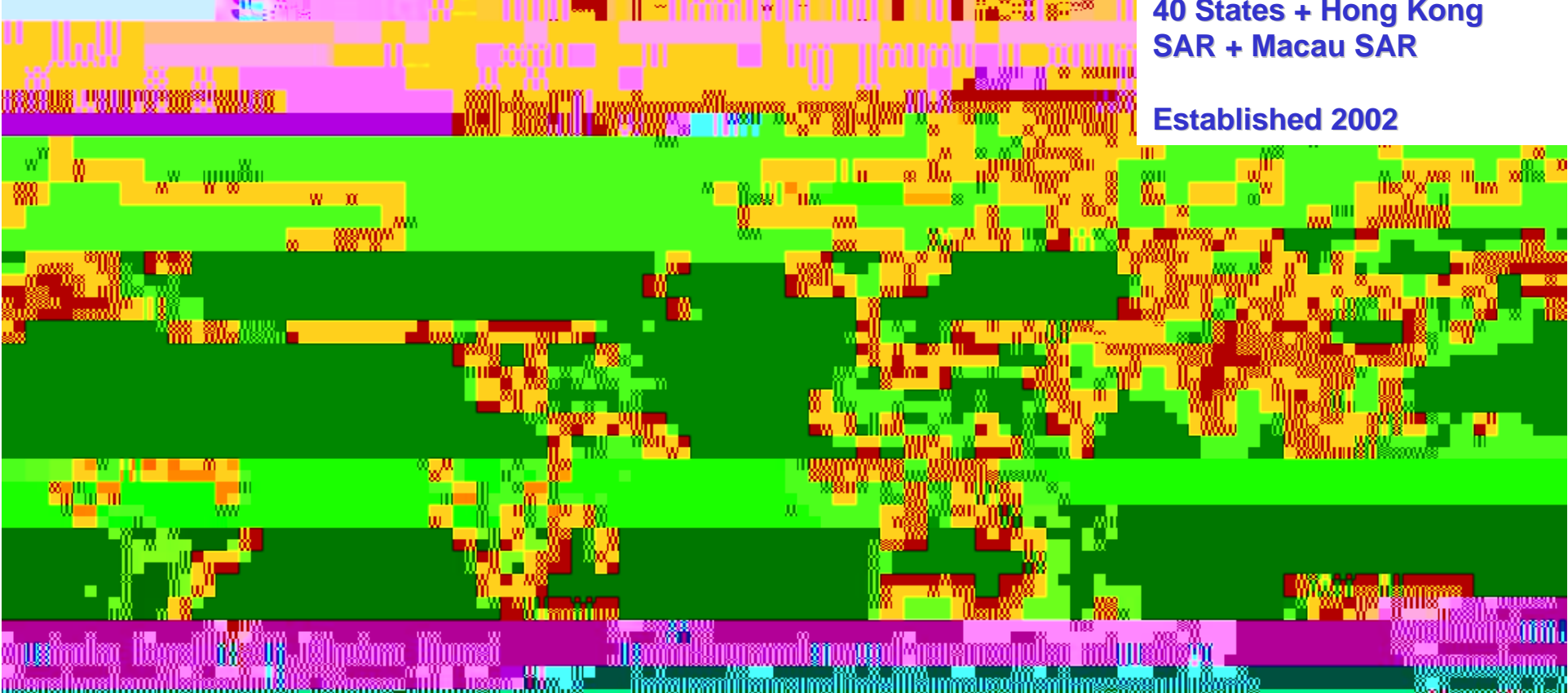




Bali Ministerial Conference on People's Empowerment in Transboundary Watersheds

40 States + Hong Kong SAR + Macau SAR

Established 2002



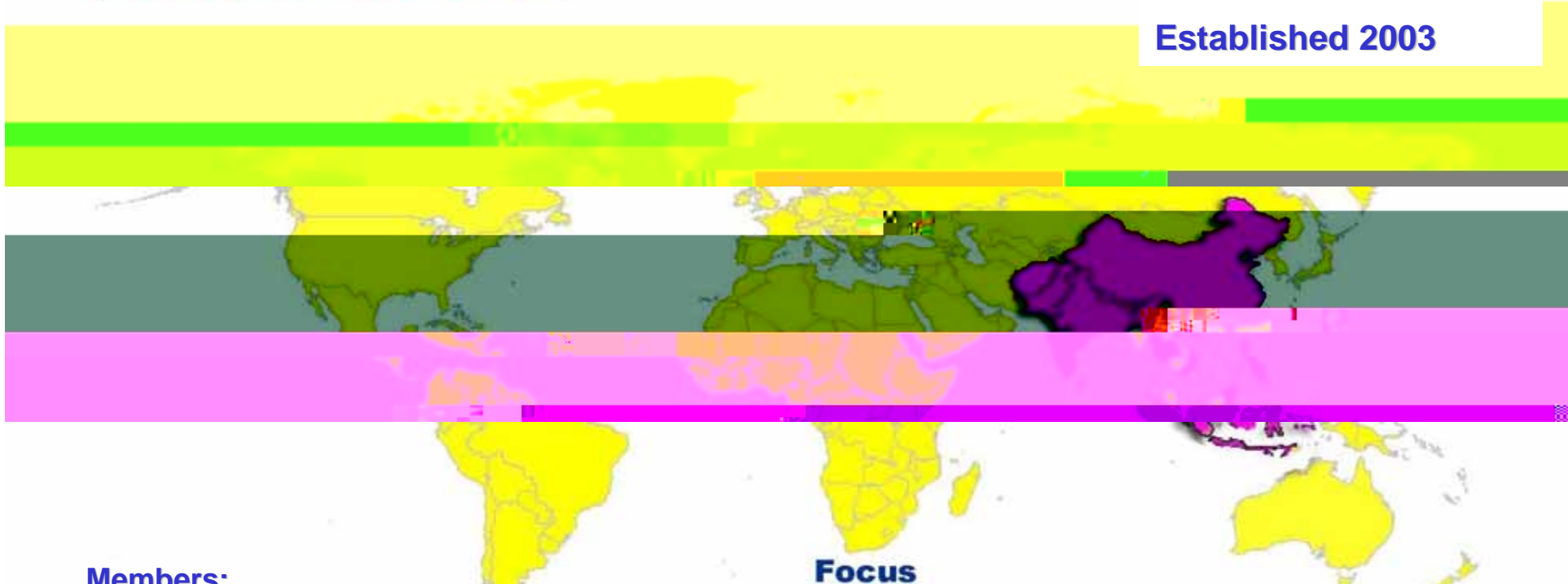
(New Caledonia), Hong Kong SAR, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Laos, Macau SAR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Vanuatu and Vietnam



Labour Migration Ministerial Consultations (Colombo Process)

11 States

Established 2003



Members:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam

Focus

Labour migration and related programmes (protection of vulnerable migrants and provision of support services to optimising the benefits of organised labour)

Participating Destination States:

Bahrain, Italy, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates



CIS Conference

12 CIS States

Established 1996



Policy Development



- › RCPs play an important role in increasing understanding of migration issues and improving dialogue between countries multi-laterally and bi-laterally
 - › Existing RCPs focus on specific migration issues – trafficking/smuggling, displaced persons etc...
 - › No forum to discuss broader migration issues or migration and development
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Policy Development



- › Migration data in Asia is at best fragmented and in many cases non-existent
 - › Better data collection is needed
 - › Effective policies require accurate and timely information
 - › Countries are consistently calling for policy oriented research in the region
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Conclusion

- › Migration is increasing within the region and is an important aspect of development, both economic and social
 - › Countries are increasingly interested in the links between the different types of migration (trafficking,
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