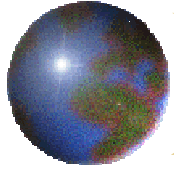


UNU Global Seminar 8th Okinawa Session
December 17, 2006

International Labor Migration History and Present Challenges

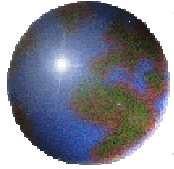
Nana Oishi

International Christian University



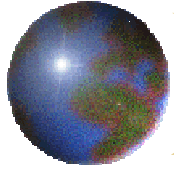
What Is International Labor Migration?

- ❖ A cross-border movement of “a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.”
 - ❖ Permanent migration
 - ❖ Temporary migration
 - Unskilled workers
 - Semi-Skilled workers
 - Skilled workers (Professionals)



International Migration: Basic Facts *(2005 Data)*

- 191 million migrants in the world
 - 3% of the global population
- Women account for 49.6% of global migrants
- 30-40 million irregular migrants
- Significant economic impact:
 - Total Global Remittances: US\$250 billion

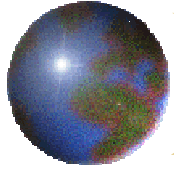


Historical Overview I: 15C-20C

Migration in the Colonial Era

- **Migration of Slaves (Slave Trade): 15-18C**
 - 1442: Africa to Portugal
 - 1550: Africa to the West Indies (UK)
 - Plantation labor (e.g. sugar, tobacco, cotton, etc.)
 - 15 million Africans were brought into the Americas

- **Migration of Indentured Labor (“Coolies”) : 19-20C**
 - Unskilled migrant labor on a contract basis
 - From China and India to work in North America and British/French colonies in Africa and Asia
 - 12 -37 million “Coolies”



Historical Overview II: 1840s-1930s

Mass Emigration from Europe

59 million Europeans left for the New World in the 1840s-1930s because of poverty.

● **Phase I (1846-1890):** 17 million

■ British, Germans, Scandinavians, and Irish

● **Phase II (1891-1920):** 27 million

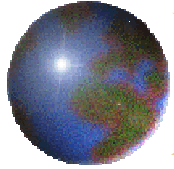
■ Southern and Eastern Europeans

■ Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, and Jewish

● **Phase III (1920 – 1939):** 15 million

■ Immigration Restrictions in the US and Canada

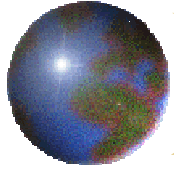
■ WWII halted the regular labor migration flows.



Historical Overview III: 1860s-1940s

Mass Emigration from Japan

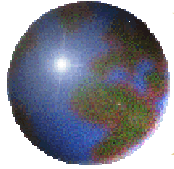
- Emigration from Japan to the Americas as Unskilled Labor
 - To North America (US & Canada): 1860s - 1920s
 - To South America (Brazil & Peru): 1920s - 1930s
- Emigration from Japan to its Colonies
 - Korea, Manchuria, Taiwan, Philippines, etc.
 - 4 million Japanese emigrated to Manchuria alone.



Historical Overview IV: 1945-1973

Postwar Recovery and Re-opened Borders

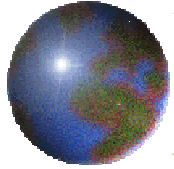
- ✿ Postwar Mass Migration in Europe & Asia
- ✿ Guest Worker Programs
 - ❑ To: UK, France, Germany, Belgium, and Switzerland
 - ❑ From: Southern Europe, Northern Africa, and Others
 - ❑ Bracero Program in the US
- ✿ Colonial Migration
- ✿ Permanent Migration to North America & Australia
 - ❑ US & Canada: More open immigration policies
 - ❑ Australia: Abolished its White Australia Policy



Historical Overview V: 1973 – 1990

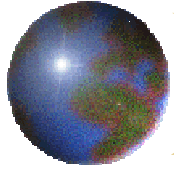
Restrictions, Settlement and Diversification

- Europe:
 - Oil Shock → Restrictive Immigration Policies
 - Settlement and Family Reunification
- North America
 - Ethnic diversification among migrants
 - Family reunification
- Asia:
 - Increasing temporary migration in NIEs
 - Feminization of migration began in the 1980s
- Middle East:
 - Diversification of migrant sources to South & S.E. Asia



Recent Trends in International Labor Migration: 1990-2005

- ⊕ Continuing increase in legal migration
- ⊕ Growing illegal migration
(including human trafficking)
- ⊕ Globalization of migration
- ⊕ Feminization of migration



Why Has Labor Migration Grown?:

The Causes of Labor Migration (Martin et al, 2005)

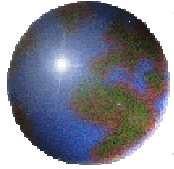
✚ Economic Disparities

- ✚ Growing economic disparities in the world
- ✚ Demand-pull factor: Labor recruitment
- ✚ Supply-push factors
 - Low wages
 - Unemployment & underemployment

✚ Social Networks

✚ Others

- ✚ Desire for new experience/adventure
- ✚ Development of transportation and information flows



The Impacts of Migration on Sending Countries

⊕ Economic Dimensions

- ⊠ Remittances

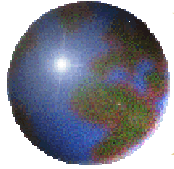
- ⊠ Brain drain → Declining public services in health and education

⊕ Social Dimensions

- ⊠ Culture of migration

- ⊠ Disintegration of Family

- ⊠ Gender Dimensions



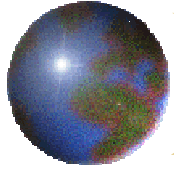
The Impacts of Migration on Receiving Countries

✚ Costs

- ▣ Social services
- ▣ Potential social tensions (?)

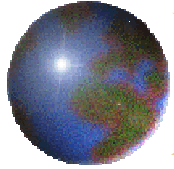
✚ Benefits;

- ▣ Meeting the labor demand for economic growth
- ▣ Lower labor costs (in practice)
- ▣ Less human capital investment
- ▣ Replacement Migration: Demographic needs
- ▣ Cultural diversity



Global Migration and the Challenges in the 21st Century

1. Migration and Development
2. Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking
3. Integration and Reintegration of Migrants
4. Protection of Vulnerable Migrants
5. Governance of Global Migration



Challenge 1: Migration and Development

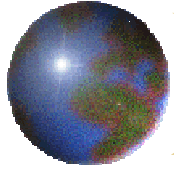
✿ Remittances

- ✻ US\$250 billion: More than ODA and FDI

- ✻ Potential for Development

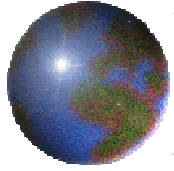
✿ The Roles of Migrant Communities

✿ Brain drain vs. Brain circulation (Brain gain)



Challenge 2: Growing Irregular Migration

- ✦ 30-40 million Irregular Migrants
- ✦ Global Human Trafficking
 - ▣ 2.4 million victims across the world
- ✦ Human Trafficking as a Profitable Industry
 - ▣ Generating US\$32-84 billion a year
- ✦ Japan as a Destination and a Transit Point



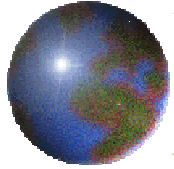
Challenge 3: Integration of Migrants

✚ Integration in Destination Countries

- ✚ Assimilation vs. Multiculturalism
 - Not dichotomy
 - The need for language acquisition
- ✚ Socio-economic and political rights of migrants
- ✚ Non-Citizenship: Stateless children

✚ Reintegration in Origin Countries

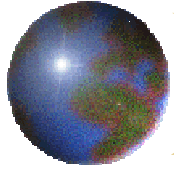
- ✚ Social and economic reintegration of migrants
- ✚ Assistance for Training in Investment & Business Skills



Challenge 4:

Protection of Vulnerable Migrants

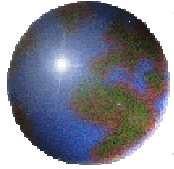
- Feminization of global migration
- Migrant women in vulnerable sectors:
 - Domestic work
 - Care work
 - Entertainment (Sex industry)
- Children as migrant labor
- Lack of protection mechanism
 - No coverage by national labor laws
 - Contract violations
 - Abuse and exploitation



Challenge 5:

The Governance of Global Migration

- ❁ The UN Migrant Workers Convention
- ❁ The ILO Conventions
 - ❑ Migration for Employment Convention (No.97)
 - ❑ Migrant Workers Convention (No.143)
- ❁ Bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation
 - ❑ Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs)
 - ❑ Multilateral consultations (e.g. Berne Initiative, Global Migration Group, etc.)
- ❁ Towards the Global Governance Mechanism
 - ❑ ILO Multilateral Framework on Labor Migration
 - ❑ UN High-level Dialogue → Global Migration Forum



Conclusion: The Implications for Japan

- ✿ Protection of migrants' rights by ratifying international legal instruments (e.g. the UN Convention and the ILO Conventions)
- ✿ Integration of Migrants and Their Families
 - ▣ Socio-economic integration of the second generation migrants
- ✿ EPA → 400 foreign nurses and 600 care workers from the Philippines will arrive in 2 years
 - ▣ Increasing dependency on migrants in care sector?
 - ▣ Taking responsibility for brain drain?