



Asian Migrant Centre
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Migrant Forum in Asia
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Migration & Development: Issue & Strategy Scan in Asia

*Based on AMC Initial Strategy Scanning for MFA;
Shared at the MMN Workshop on Migration Trends & Responses
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& Asian Migrant Centre (AMC)*

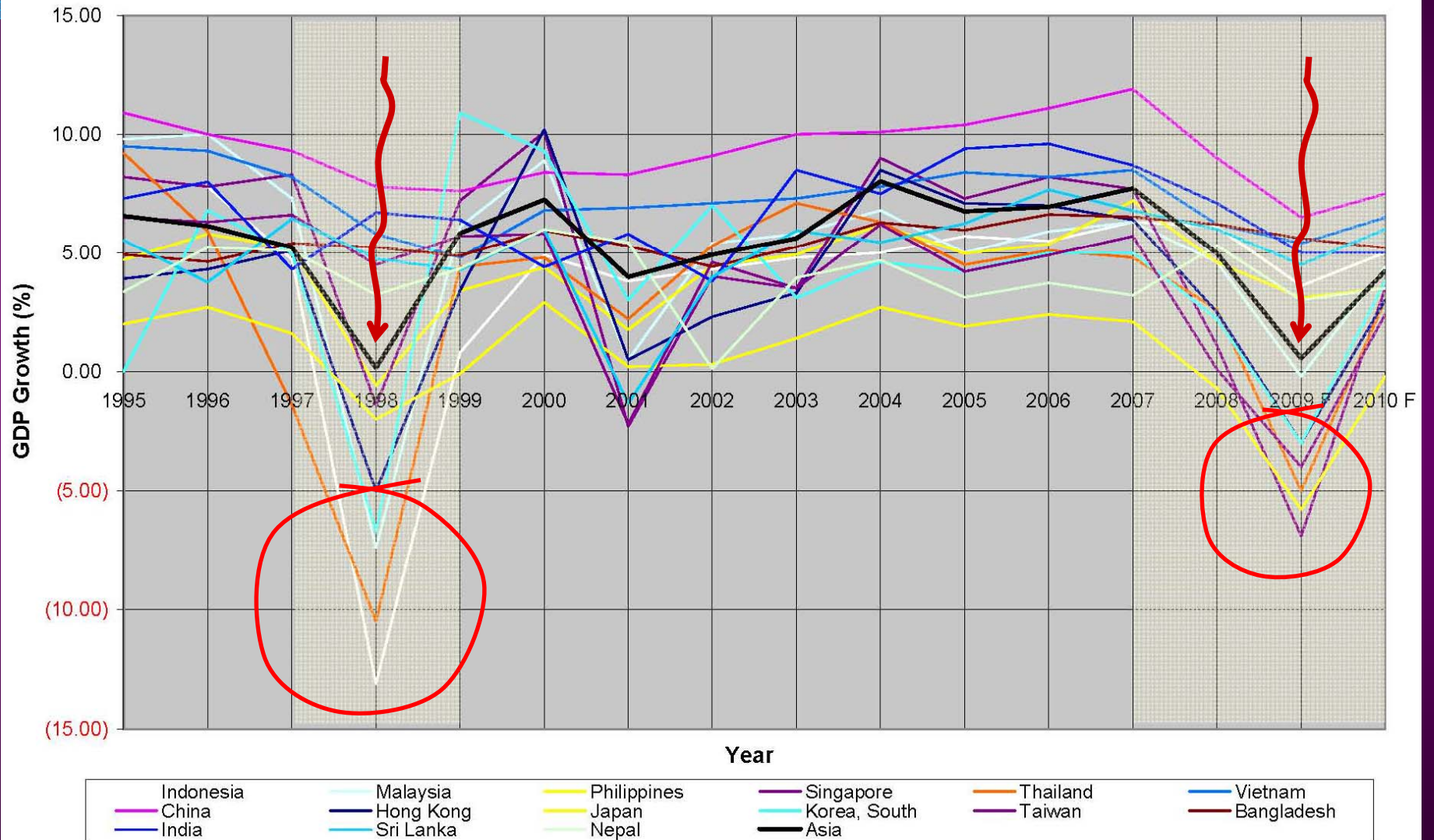
MFA Executive Committee (old & new; 2008)

MFA General Forum (December 2008, Mumbai)

Key Migration & Development Issues, Strategies

Key development issue #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neoliberal globalisation; globalised economic crises; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Economic recessions (sending & receiving countries); -Worsened poverty, inequality; gendered impacts, dimensions • Continued dominance of capital, corporates and economic elites; continued neoliberal impositions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Privatisation, trade liberalisation, SAPs, etc. -Free trade agreements (FTAs), "growth areas"; • Emerging role of G-20, BRIC?
Civil society campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-neoliberal campaign; derail WTO; stop unfair FTAs; accountability of IFIs; global financial/economic governance; • Right to Development; sustainable development; human security
Advocacy targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WTO, IMF, WB, ADB, G-8, ASEAN, GFMD, IFIs, corporates, national governments
Action groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWINFS, Focus, Jubilee South/APMDD, MFA, AMC, SAPA, World Social Forum/WSFM, etc.
MMN position?	

GDP Growth: Asia (1995 to 2010)



Economic Growth (revised due to global, EU eco crisis)

Eco Growth	2007	2008	2009	2010 (f)
Global	5.0%	1.9%	-1.7% [f: WB]; -1.3% [f: IMF]	2.0% [WB; adjstd EU crisis]
U.S.	2.0%	1.1%	(-)2.4%	3.5% [Fed; June]
China	11.9%	9.0%	8.7%	8.0%
Eurozone	2.6%	0.7%	-3.2% [f: ECB]	-0.1% [EU Com]
Asia ex Jap.	9.5%	6.3%	3.4%	6.0% [ADB]
East Asia	10.4%	8.4%	7.0%	
SEA & Pacific	6.4%	5.1%	4.2%	

Source: AMC infobank

Governments' Dev't Failures: Shifted Burdens

- Failure to provide decent jobs/incomes in the country
 - migrants shoulder the responsibility of finding jobs abroad;
- Failure to develop the national economy
 - migrants, through their income and remittances, shoulder the responsibility of propping up the economy, supporting the currency, helping finance budget deficits and debt payments, providing basic social services (housing, education, health, etc.)
- Failure of international development commitments
 - poverty, joblessness, and wealth disparities have widened globally;
 - under the Millennium Development Goals, developed countries promised to allocate 0.7% of their GDP for overseas development aid (ODA) -- but only a handful of governments honored this;
 - migrants are again targeted to “finance development” through their remittances. In fact, this is one of the main agendas of GFMD; the GFMD may become a mechanism for making the migrants bear the burden of financing development.

International (U.N.) agreements on development

- **U.N. Declaration on the Right to Development**
 - U.N. General Assembly resolution (G.A. Resolution 41/128) adopted on 4 Dec 1986.
 - Right to development is a basic, universal and inalienable human right.
 - Reaffirmed in the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the 2000 Millennium Declaration, and the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
- **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)**
- **Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**
- **9 core U.N. conventions**
- **8 fundamental ILO conventions**

Anti-neoliberal campaign (WTO, WB, IMF, etc.)

WTO rally, December 2005. Migrants joined the rally to show that they are not in favor of what the WTO wants to happen ...

Advocacy for the Right to development

11th Regional Conference on Migration (“Right to Development”), October 2008

Key Migration & Development Issues, Strategies

Key development issue #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs crisis (global; sending and receiving countries) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -gendered impacts, dimensions; • Intensified vulnerability, exploitation of labour: informalised, temporary, unorganised, privatised (sending & receiving countries); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use and exploitation of migrant labour.
Civil society campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job security, stop erosion/reversal of labour rights, benefits; generating jobs in home countries; • Advancing Right to Work; decent work/fundamental labour rights; basic human rights; unionisation and organising of migrants, including DWs; solidarity with labour movements; • Recognition, empowerment of informal, vulnerable workers, e.g. domestic workers (DW), women workers, informal workers; • Protection and promotion of migrants' human rights; empowerment.
Advocacy targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National governments, ILO, UN, ASEAN, trade unions
Action groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFA, AMC, ADWA, MRI, IWG-DW, SAPA, GlobalNet/trade unions, Jubilee South/APMDD, Focus, etc.
MMN position?	

Global Jobs Crisis: Unemployment Rates 2007 to 2009

Unemp.	2007	2008	2009 (latest forecast)
Global	5.7%	6.0%	*190 million jobless
Asia			*5.9% of 113 million jobless by end 2009 (ILO proj); to increase by 23 million.
U.S.		5.8%	*8.5 to 8.8%; more than 10 million jobless in 2008; 13 mln jobless now
China	4.0%	4.2%	*4.6%; over 8 mln jobless [gov't]; 10.0% [others] *not including 20 to 30 million 'floating population' who are jobless
Euro zone		12 mln	*30 mln jobless as of Mar 2009 [ECB]

Source: AMC infobank



Empowerment and alliance building: Domestic Workers

**Building trade unions, federations and alliances of DW.
[Above] 2nd Assembly of the Asian Migrant Domestic
Workers Alliance (ADWA), Jakarta, May 2008**

Campaign for the Rights & Recognition of DW (“8-HR”)

- The “International Campaign for the Rights and Recognition of Domestic Workers”, also known as the “8-HR Campaign” was launched in 2009.
- The “8-HR Campaign” demands a stop to the slavery-like treatment, and the full and equal recognition of DW as work. This means:
 - a. The **8-hour work standard (ILO Convention #1)** should apply to DWs;
 - b. The following **8 essential rights and conditions** must be ensured for DWs:
 1. Rights and redress;
 2. Remuneration (decent wages);
 3. Rest and recreation;
 4. Regulation of recruiters, brokers;
 5. Retirement, insurance protection;
 6. Residency and mobility rights;
 7. Reproductive, health, family rights;
 8. Return and reintegration.



Campaign for the Rights & Recognition of DW (“8-HR”)

Lobbying for ILO Domestic Workers Convention

- **MFA, ADWA, MRI, the International Working Group of DWs, and trade union partners led delegation at ILC June 2010 in Geneva.**
- **Succeeded in lobbying ILO to adopt a Convention on DW supplemented by a Recommendation.**

Key Migration & Development Issues, Strategies

Key development issue #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt and development; • Taxation and public spending; privatisation of basic and social services (water, power, health and social services); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shifting burden of social services to people, migrants; exploitation of migrants' remittances.
Civil society campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt repudiation; debt reparation by the North (not more debt or aid); • Tax justice; accountability and people's participation in governance on public finances; fight against corruption and leakages, priorities in public finances; State responsibility; • Gender equity and social justice; • Migration-for-development based on Right to Development framework, State responsibility;
Advocacy targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National governments, IFIs (IMF, WB, ADB, etc.), ASEAN, etc.
Action groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee South/APMDD, MFA, Focus, WSF / WSFM, etc.
MMN position?	

Economic growth: SEA and GMS countries

Country	1995-'00 ave.	2001-'05 ave.	2007	2008	2009	2010 (f)	1995-2010 ave.
Burma	8.3% (g)	12.8% (g)	11.9% (g)	-	-	-	10.6% ('95-'07)
China	9.0%	9.6%	11.9%	9.0%	8.7%	8.0%	9.4%
Cambodia	7.2	9.4	10.2	6.5	2.5	4.0	7.8
Vietnam	7.4	7.5	8.5	6.2	5.4	6.8	7.3
Lao PDR	6.3	6.3	7.5	7.2	5.5	5.7	6.5
Timor Leste	-	5.9	7.8	-	-	-	5.6 ('00-'07)
Malaysia	5.8*	4.7	6.3	4.6	(-)2.0*	6.0	4.9
Singapore	6.7*	4.3	7.7	1.1	(-)10.0*	8.0	4.8
Philippines	3.8*	4.5	7.2	4.6	0.9	5.5	4.3
Indonesia	2.2*	4.7	6.3	6.1	3.6	5.0	4.0
Thailand	2.0*	5.0	4.9	2.5	(-)2.3*	4.5	3.3

*Economic recession: 1997-1998 (Asia); 2008-2009 (Global)

g = Gov't data f=Forecast

Debt & Deficit: SEA and GMS countries

Country	Debt as % GDP	Notes	Budget Deficit as % GDP	Notes
Burma	-		-	
China	28.0%	As of 2009	0.4%	As of 2009
Cambodia	-		2.1%	As of 2008
Vietnam	-		4.7%	As of 2008
Lao PDR	-		-	
Timor Leste	-		-	
Malaysia	39.0%	As of 2008	7.0%	As of 2009
Singapore	-		5.7% (surplus)	As of 2008
Philippines	32.0%	As of 2008	3.8%	As of 2009
Indonesia	33.0%	As of 2008	2.5%	As of 2009
Thailand	39.0% → 50%	As of 2009	4.5%	As of 2009

Key Migration & Development Issues, Strategies

Key development issue #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collapse of livelihoods & local economies; • Food security; sustainable and people-centered economic development
Civil society campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security, rural development; • Human security, right to development; advancing basic human rights (health, life, work, etc.); • Promoting social justice; gender justice; • Migrant investments and remittances for community development.
Advocacy targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National governments, IFIs (IMF, WB, ADB, etc.), ASEAN, UN, ILO, development agencies, etc.
Action groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers groups/La Via Campesina, trade unions; • MFA, AMC; cooperatives, social enterprise and community development groups, MFIs (INAFI, etc.), MSAI partners, etc.
MMN position?	

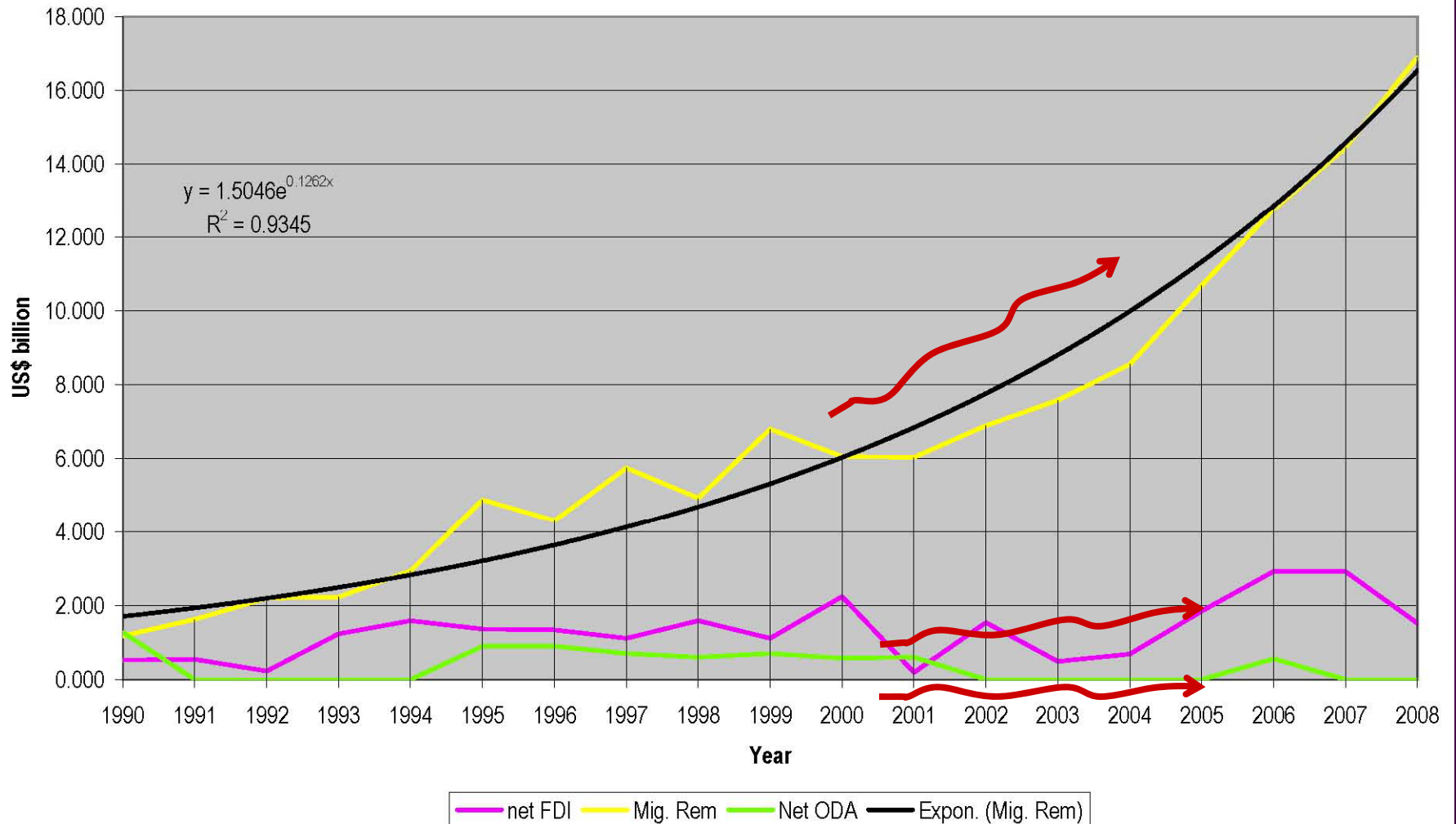
Key Migration & Development Issues, Strategies

Key development issue #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass labor migration - trade (import/export), exploitative; dependency; • Benefits and costs of migration - misuse of remittances; anti-development impacts of remittances; migration-for-development;; empowering migrants as development stakeholders.
Civil society campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop labour export policy - migration as a choice; stop exploitative labour trade; stop dependency on labour export; jobs/livelihoods in own country; • Adoption of coherent, rights-based, gendered migration policies; non-discrimination of migrants; equal pay for equal work; • Economic empowerment of migrants; people and migrant participation in national development agenda; migrant's role in people-centered, sustainable community/economic development; • Promotion and support for migrant savings for alternative investment (MSAI) strategy; migrants' reintegration strategies.
Advocacy targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National governments, recruiters, employers, UN, ILO, ASEAN, GFMD, WTO (GATS) , IMF/WB (remittance);
Action groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Global Action on GFMD (PGA), MFA, MRI, ADWA, AMC, WSFM, SAPA, TIGRA, etc.
MMN position?	

Philippine dependency on migration

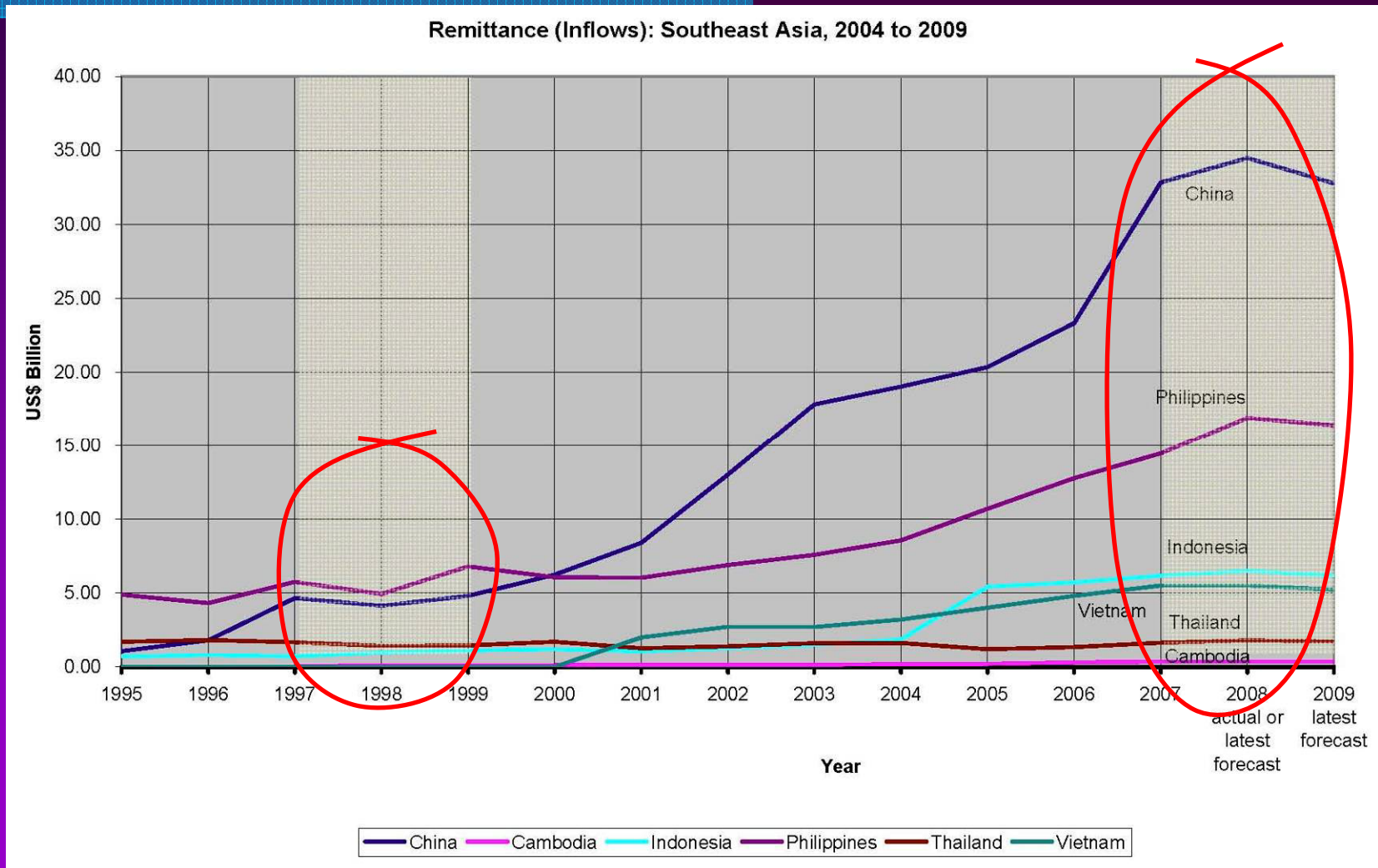
- **10% of population is abroad;**
 - around 4 million immigrants;
 - around 6 million OFWs;
- **22% of labour force is abroad;**
- **40% of population dependent on overseas Filipinos (OF's);**
- **OFs contribute 8%-12% of GDP;**
- **OFs assume burden of social services (housing, education, health care, etc.); contribute significantly to local infrastructure, local development, local livelihoods;**
- **Help stabilise, strengthen currency, credit standing;**
- **Increase international reserves;**
- **Help with economic stability and growth.**

Philippines: ODA, FDI, Migrant Remittances



Remittances, ODA, FDI: Philippines

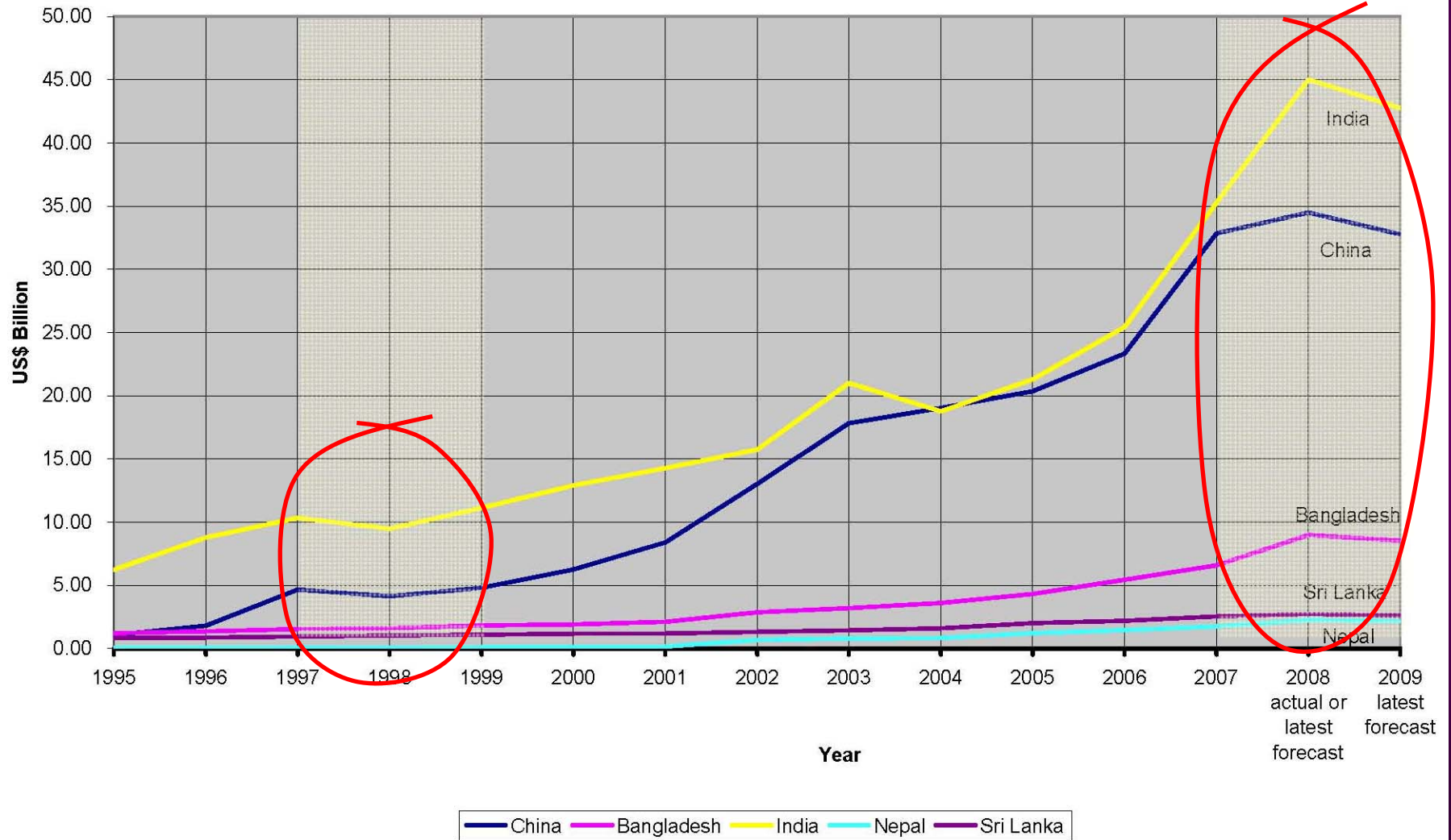
Remittance: WB expects 5% to 8% reduction in 2009



Remittances: Southeast Asia and China

Remittance: WB expects 5% to 8% reduction in 2009

Remittance (Inflows): South Asia, 1995 to 2009





Campaign vs neo-liberalism, labour trade

WTO rally, December 2005. Migrants and MDWs in HK were at the frontline of the rallies and protests of WTO and GATS Mode 4.

2006 U.N. High Level Dialogue on Migration & Dev't.

Civil society intervened and spoke at the U.N. High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Migration and Development (New York, July & Sept. 2006)



HLD on migration & development (2006, New York)

Global Community Dialogue @ HLD 2006, NY

[Left]: The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Migrants' Rights – spoke at the Community Dialogue organised by MRI;

[Right]: Mary Robinson, former chairperson of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights – speaking and supporting the migrants' advocacy to ensure human rights perspective in GFMD.



1st GFMD (2007, Belgium)

MFA convened the Asian consultation in preparation for the 1st GFMD (2007). CMR (HK) joined the MFA delegation at the GFMD in Belgium.



People's Global Action on GFMD (2008, Manila)

MFA, ADWA, AMC, MRI and trade union partners among the core organisers of the 9-day PGA activities in Manila, October 2008.



People's Global Action on GFMD (2009, Athens)

- **MFA, ADWA, AMC, MRI and trade union partners among the core organisers of PGA 2009 in Athens, Greece;**
- **“8-HR” campaign for recognition of DW one of the issues highlighted.**

Migrants' savings, cooperatives and alternative investments

**Asian Migrants' Credit Union
(AMCU), Hong Kong.**

MDW's savings and alternative investments

2001

2008

*FAMDEV farm (Bukidnon, Philippines):
the 8-hectare farm is currently being
developed; from savings of FDWs in HK,
Taiwan.*

Photos: Unlad, FAMDEV, AMC

Key Migration & Development Issues, Strategies

Key development issue #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate crisis; • Development-climate change-migration nexus
Civil society campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate crisis; mitigation and adaptation issues; • Climate justice; reparations by North, not aid or debt (polluters pay principle); campaign against 'false green solutions' (nuclear, mega dams, carbon credits, etc); advocacy for renewable energy; • Development-climate change-migration nexus: economic and climate displacement, climate exiles/refugees.
Advocacy targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National governments, UN, ASEAN, IFIs (WB, IMF, ADB, etc.), governments of developed countries.
Action groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee South/APMDD, Focus, MFA, AMC, environmental and climate justice partners, development partners.
MMN position?	

Debt, public services, climate change

Debt, privatisation

, ...

Thank you very much!

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