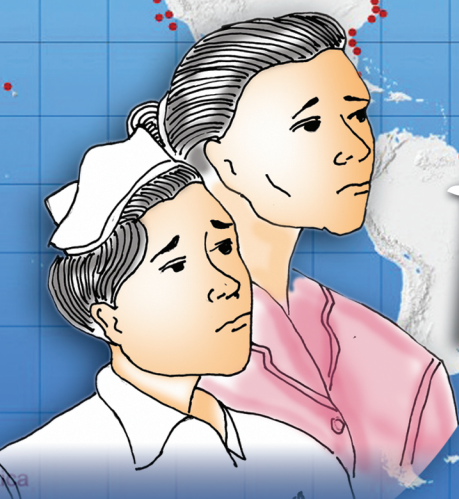


Fast Facts

on Filipino Labor Migration

2007



**NO JOB
VACANCY**

KANLUNGAN CENTRE FOUNDATION, INC.

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Kanlungan Centre Foundation, Inc. (Center for Migrant Workers)
77 K10th Street, Kamias, Quezon City
Telephone No. (632) 9282384
Telefax: (632) 4330953
Email: kcfi@philonline.com.ph
Website: www.kanlungan.ngo.ph

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Researcher and Writer: Alladin S. Diega
Editor: Nena Fernandez

Layout: Echevarria Aqino

FOREWORD

The Philippine economy has, now more than ever, become heavily dependent on the export of its own people, euphemistically termed as human capital. The income from this three-decade old economic program has various macro and micro economic benefits. The cash is used by the banks and other financial institutions and by the families of the OFWs, respectively. By spending their cash on education, health, and homes, the OFW families are instrumental in triggering the spending pattern of the country, producing the much needed growth, at least in statistical data.

For some time, Philippine labor migration has been described as one that wears a woman's face – the feminization of labor migration. Indeed as for the last decade at least, the women migrants being deployed rose to the average of 70 percent among the new hires.

The year 2007, however, saw the number of Filipina domestic workers hired abroad dropping by 72 percent in the first eight months. Also, the year-end report of the Department of Labor and Employment showed a decline in deployment of domestic helpers as the main factor in the slump in job hiring for OFWs during the said period. The government considers this shift in statistical trends as positive, since apparently only the skilled and relatively educated Filipinos will be deployed in the future. The government believes it will reduce cases of maltreatment and other abuses on the assumption that more educated OFWs are not prone to violence. But even assuming that this is true, another social problem inherent to the labor-export industry is exposed. Almost 80% of students in higher education in the Philippines are attending private schools, and only those with enough money can afford it. And since the proper skill and technical know-how is directly correlated to higher education, only those who are relatively well-off can actually access the education system and ultimately be deployed to work abroad and to earn higher wages.

And for the past 3 decades, the ability to ease poverty from the remittances from labor migration has remained unproven.

Furthermore, traditional occupational groups, and even deployment destinations are already showing some strains in their capacity to absorb foreign workers, particularly Filipino migrants.

The ordeals that migrant workers have to go through continue. In a recent study done by Joyce Ann O. Dela Cruz entitled, "Issues and Challenges under the Employment Permit System" (EPS) reveals, that in South Korea, long hours of work, poor working conditions, delayed or unpaid salaries, and misunderstanding due to language and cultural differences are the most common problems of Filipinos working under the Employment Permit System (EPS). Korea's Employment Permit System (EPS) is a government-to-government hiring scheme intended to curb the

problem over illegal recruitment. South Korea's labor ministry has increased by 20 percent the job roster quota of the Philippines in 2007 to 12,000, from 10,000 in 2006.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates remain the top two deployment destination for overseas Filipino workers. And many of the most atrocious cases of violence against Filipino migrants originate from the region that includes the two countries. Joselito Alejo's case is one. Alejo was charged with murder in 1997 in Saudi Arabia because he had the misfortune of having the same name as the real perpetrator. His case was only brought to Saudi Arabia's high court five years after he was arrested. When the Saudi court decided to impose 350 lashes, the Philippine embassy appealed for clemency. Alejo at first did not want to appeal because it meant conviction. He later acceded in order to get back to the Philippines, few years after. Ana and Lina (not their real names) were recruited to work in Saudi Arabia as chambermaids. They were turned to a rich Saudi national as sex slaves instead.

Statistical data, if taken as it were, will not reveal much. It is paramount, therefore, to read deeper with a more critical eye any deployment data presented by the government agencies involved in the annual deployment of one million Filipinos.

PROFILE OF PHILIPPINE LABOR MIGRATION

The government deployed a total 1,077,623 overseas Filipino workers for 2007 or almost 3,000 OFWs a day. It was an increase of 1.4 % from the 1,062,567 deployed in 2006. This is the second time that the government through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) met the annual target of a million workers annually. Should the Arroyo administration been sensitive enough however, this breaking the one million mark is no reason to celebrate for it only shows the growing desperation of Filipinos unable to find work in the country year after year. And it is of particular interest, that when the present administration came to power in 2004, more and more Filipinos have been seeking work abroad as the data would show.

The Middle East remains the flagship of the government's deployment program. Though it only registered 5.5 percent growth from last year's deployment of 462,545, the 487,878 deployed this year represents the biggest chunk from the total number of Filipinos being deployed annually. Europe on the other hand registered a negative 23.1 percent. The drop in the number of deployment to Europe can be attributed to the rising unemployment woes in the region, notwithstanding the active recruitment program of different European governments to recruit foreign workers, particularly Filipinos. This trend might continue for the coming years.

For instance, British lawmakers are demanding additional limits on immigration to help slow the population growth in their country. (International Herald Tribune, Sept. 7, 2008). Work is drying up in Europe, denying the possible entry of thousands of migrants from Senegal, Mali, Ghana and other West African countries. (International Herald Tribune, Sept. 5, 2008). This trend seems to contradict the “under-population theory” being espoused by some migration apologists. The only “real-growth” in terms of deployment can only be said to that of Oceania with 108.6 percent growth. But its 10,691 deployment for 2007 is meager compared to that of the Middle East. Deployment to the Americas showed only a 27.5 percent growth compared with 47.6 percent last year. This is the second year that the Philippine government has been deploying Filipino registered nurses by the thousands to the United States of America.

Overseas Filipino Workers Deployment 2007 (New Hires and Rehires)			
Regions	Deployment (January-December)		
	2007	2006	% Change
Asia	218,983	222,940	-1.8%
Middle East	487,878	462,545	5.5%
Europe	45,613	59,313	-23.1%
Americas	28,019	21,976	27.5%
Trust Territories	6,674	6,481	3.0%
Africa	13,126	9,450	38.9%
Oceania	10,691	5,126	108.6%
Others	7	8	-12.5%
Workers w/ special clearance	79	231	-65.8%
Land based total	811,070	788,070	2.9%
Sea-based total	266,553	274,497	-2.9%
Total	1,077,623	1,062,567	1.4%

Source: POEA

With the exemption of the Middle East, the whole of Asia registered a negative of 1.8 percent in terms of absorbing Filipino workers for 2007. Singapore topped the list with its 49,297 representing a growth of 73.8 percent from last year, followed by Qatar with 54,473, a 73.4 percent growth. Brunei is third with its 55 percent growth (14,663). Hong Kong registered a negative 39 percent with its 59,124 hired Filipinos. Italy, one of the major European destination for overseas Filipino workers registered a negative 29 percent.

Top Ten Destination Countries 2007 (Landbased Rehires and New Hires)

Countries	2007	2006	% Change
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	237,813	194,350	22%
United Arab Emirates	120,043	82,039	46.3%
Hong Kong	59,124	96,929	-39.0%
Qatar	54,473	31,421	73.4%
Singapore	49,297	28,369	73.8%
Taiwan	37,128	39,025	-4.9%
Kuwait	36,179	40,306	-10.2%
Italy	17,818	25,413	-29.9%
Brunei	14,663	9,461	55.0%
Korea	14,257	13,984	2.0%
Other Major Destinations	184,532	240,757	-23.4%
Total	811,070	788,070	100.0%

Source: POEA

All in all, the Middle East, particularly, Saudi Arabia and the Americas are the only continents capable of absorbing Filipino workers. The Americas, however, is an unstable market for huge deployment considering that only the United States of America is capable of absorbing considerable number of Filipino workers, particularly in the medical and teaching profession. More to the point, the whole continent was only able to hire some 28,019 Filipinos for 2007 compared with Saudi Arabia's 237,813.

Europe and Asia, two of the major continents expected to absorb overseas Filipino workers are already showing strains from their capacity to hire foreign workers. Asia remains a viable destination primarily because of the Middle East, and specifically Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. But even this will not remain forever. Already, both the governments of the said two countries have laid down programs designed to absorb their own citizens. Europe as a market is also problematic because of its traditional preference of hiring migrants from Africa. The rest of Asia is also showing some weaknesses in its capacity to absorb, partly because other developing countries, notably Indonesia, Bangladesh and Vietnam are eyeing deployment of their workers to cope with their own unemployment problems.

**2007 Deployment by Top Ten Destinations
New Hires and Rehires**

Countries	2007	2006	% Change
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	238,419	223,459	6.7%
United Arab Emirates	120,657	99,212	21.6%
Hong Kong	59,169	96,929	-39.0%
Qatar	56,277	45,795	22.9%
Singapore	49,431	28,369	74.2%
Taiwan	37,136	39,025	-4.8%
Kuwait	37,080	47,917	-22.6%
Italy	17,855	25,413	-29.7%
Brunei	14,667	9,461	55.0%
Korea	14,265	13,984	2.0%
Other Destinations	180,379	172,490	
Total	811,070	788,070	100.0%

What job categories are we deploying?

The top ten occupational grouping of deployed Filipino workers further tells a strain in the capacity of the foreign countries to absorb Filipino workers, even among the traditional occupational groups. The Philippine government was able to deploy 47,878 household and related workers for 2007 compared with 91,451 last year. It could be because of the “improved” qualification set by the government to foreign employers hiring Filipino household workers. But the production and related workers also registered a much lower deployment of 25,917 compared with 43,234 for 2006. The same is also true with hotel and restaurant workers with 9,276 deployed for 2007 compared with 15,693 last year.

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Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	238,419	223,459	6.7%
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Brunei	14,667	9,461	55.0%
Korea	14,265	13,984	2.0%
Other Destinations	180,379	172,490	4.6%
Landbased Total	811,070	788,070	2.9%

For 2007, deployment of overseas performing artists or OPAs did not make it to the top ten list by occupational group. A first time in many years. From 71,489 in 2004, the government was only able to deploy 6,421 for 2007. Although Japan drastically cut-down its hiring of OPAs in response the US Government criticism regarding possible encouragement of human trafficking a few years ago, it still remains the main deployment country for OPAs with its 4,592 new hires for 2007 followed by South Korea with 1,350. South Korea, it can be noted, is showing a growing trend of hiring OPAs which started in 2003 with only 237.

Deployment of Overseas Performing Artists (OPAs) by Selected Destinations (New Hires) 2003-2007

Destination	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Japan	57,605	70,628	38,533	6,672	4,592
Korea	237	615	687	487	1,350
Hong Kong	5	22	75	42	113
United Arab Emirates	26	9	14	0	100
Saipan	0	5	17	30	45
Bahrain	0	12	9	24	43
Indonesia	3	2	0	0	23
Italy	0	0	0	0	22
Malaysia	29	51	21	2	22
China	15	47	93	62	21
Other destinations	128	210	169	200	90
GRAND TOTAL	58,001	71,489	39,495	7,431	6,421

For seven years now, many Filipino nurses had been trying their luck in other countries. In Saudi Arabia for instance, Filipino nurses were being deployed in the thousands annually since 2000. The US registered only a meager 186 deployed for 2007. However, this does not reflect the actual numbers of those nurses leaving for the US because many of them opted not to undergo the usual process under POEA but process their papers directly. For 2007 for instance, the Commission on Overseas Filipinos registered some 128,910 Filipinos in the US under temporary category. This is different with permanent (immigrants) and undocumented, both of which number, more than half a million.

Deployment of Nurses by Selected Destinations (New Hires) 2003-2007

Destination	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Saudi Arabia	5,996	5,926	4,886	5,753	6,633
United Arab Emirates	267	250	703	796	616
Kuwait	1,544	800	546	354	393
Singapore	200	6	357	86	276
Qatar	210	191	297	141	214
USA	197	373	229	202	186
Taiwan	51	408	193	273	174
Ireland	326	166	149	249	127
United Kingdom	243	318	133	145	38
Trinidad and Tobago	-	-	113	68	17
Other destinations	236	441	162	461	330
GRAND TOTAL	9,270	8,879	7,768	8,528	9,004

Caregiver, except for Israel and Canada, is a declining occupation. This is particularly true with Taiwan which consistently led the hiring of Filipino caregivers in 2003. Only Israel and Canada show relative stable growth in terms of absorbing Filipino caregivers. But even the combined capacity of the two countries to absorb Filipino caregivers is equivalent only to the previous total hiring capacity of Taiwan.

Deployment of Caregivers by Selected Destinations (New Hires) 2003-2007

Destination	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Taiwan	14,716	13,928	11,604	8,410	6,346
Israel	1,737	3,217	2,535	2,512	2,993
Canada	1,811	2,527	753	1,992	4,170
United Kingdom	481	656	732	1,214	521
Kuwait	3	2	47	74	170
Spain	2	7	1	78	49
USA	1	2	9	33	9
Cyprus	1	3	6	42	54
United Arab Emirates	-	2	26	26	6
Saudi Arabia	-	2	413	3	27
Other Destination	126	48	20	28	54
GRAND TOTAL	18,878	20,394	16,146	14,412	14,399

The deployment of Household workers in 2007 showed a sharp decline, probably because of the minimum salary stipulated in the new POEA guideline. This is particularly true in those countries in the Middle East. Spain and Italy showed an exactly opposite trend: rising number of household workers being hired. Hong Kong however, continued its growing need for household workers and at the same time maintaining its position as top destination.

Deployment of Household Workers by Selected Destinations (New Hires) 2003-2007

Destination	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Hong Kong	13,874	16,424	17,514	19,532	22,127
Italy	95	285	68	573	4,951
Kuwait	11,070	17,018	19,707	19,097	4,806
United Arab Emirates	4,314	5,816	9,113	11,844	3,149
Saudi Arabia	8,652	7,699	9,227	11,898	2,581
Qatar	1,736	2,436	4,998	6,524	1,912
Cyprus	598	1,108	982	1,178	1,763
Singapore	974	1,305	2,429	3,162	1,568
Spain	319	527	123	616	1,542
Jordan	9	10	2,748	4,359	1,285
Other Destination	4,309	10,190	15,558	12,629	2,193
GRAND TOTAL	45,950	62,818	82,467	91,412	47,877

Sea-based workers

Though comparatively smaller than the deployed land-based workers, seafarers also face the harsh reality of unemployment in the country. Recent hostages and sea piracy for the last few years have shown the particular vulnerability of Filipino seafarers. Hostage taking has been rampant in Africa, particularly Nigeria, while piracy remains a problem in the Malacca Straits (between West Malaysia and Sumatra, Indonesia).

Deployment of Seafarers by Flag of Registry For 2007

Countries	2007	2006	%
Panama	51,619	55,016	-6.2%
Bahamas	29,681	29,457	0.8%
Liberia	21,966	22,210	-1.1%
Singapore	10,308	9,362	10.1%
Marshall Island	9,772	9,993	-2.2%

United Kingdom	8,172	7,824	4.4%
Malta	7,513	7,803	-3.7%
Cyprus	7,052	7,255	-2.8%
Netherlands	7,017	6,653	5.5%
Norway	6,975	7,260	-3.9%
Other Flag of Registry	66,825	67,189	-0.5%
Total	226,900	230,022	-1.4%

Deployment of Seafarers
by Top 10 Positions (For the Year 2007)

Position	No. of Seafarers	%
Able Seaman	32,483	14%
Oiler	20,205	9%
Ordinary Seaman	17,422	8%
Second Mate	7,882	3%
Messman	7,859	3%
Chief Cook	7,765	3%
Bosun	7,743	3%
Third Eng. Officer	7,235	3%
Third Mate	7,216	3%
Waiter, Waitresses	6,917	3%
Other Skills	107,035	47%
TOTAL	226,900	

For 2007, waiters, male and female, made it to the top 10 sea-based deployment. More and more Filipinos are accepting this relatively lower-paying job because of the comparatively high tip coming from the passengers especially from cruiseships. Majority of Filipino seafarers being deployed however, remain at the bottom of pecking order such as able seamen, oilers, and ordinary seamen. Notwithstanding the presence of foreign-owned manning agencies with scholarships, many Filipino students enrolled in Marine Engineering are normally incapable of finishing their degrees primarily because of the costly tuitions and they usually seek work aboard on their second year in college.

2007 Seafarers Deployment by Sex

Total	Male	Female	Not Stated
226,900	216,874	6,619	3,407

LABOR AND MIGRATION

For 2007, it was estimated that 8,726,520 Filipinos were scattered in 198 countries. Some 500,000 Filipinos were added from the 2006 data of 8,233,172. Those falling under permanent category, presumably immigrants, comprised about 3,692,527, while those with temporary status registered with 4,133,970. A considerable number, 900,023, was listed under irregular category.

Stock Estimate of Overseas Filipinos As of December 2007

Region/Country	Permanent	Temporary	Irregular	Total
WORLD TOTAL	3,692,527	4,133,970	900,023	8,726,520
AFRICA	1,983	69,880	18,540	90,403
Egypt	877	2,302	2,000	5,179
Equatorial Guinea	40	5,812	660	6,512
Libya	75	9,490	680	10,245
Nigeria	280	2,455	700	3,435
Others/Unspecified	711	49,821	14,500	65,032
ASIA, EAST & SOUTH	213,736	747,069	258,640	1,219,445
Brunei	50	20,848	440	21,338
Hongkong	11,471	116,066	3,000	130,537
Japan	133,528	38,329	30,700	202,557
Korea (South)	6,187	62,528	12,000	80,715
Macau	56	20,292	3,000	23,348
Malaysia	26,002	90,965	128,000	244,967
Singapore	29,850	70,616	56,000	156,466
Taiwan	2,357	67,153	4,500	74,010
Others/Unspecified	4,235	260,272	21,000	285,507
ASIA, WEST	4 082	2 055 647	121 850	2 181 579
Bahrain	85	40,818	3,800	44,703
Israel	1,001	29,879	6,000	36,880
Jordan	108	14,356	8,000	22,464
Kuwait	94	129,708	10,000	139,802
Lebanon	380	22,138	3,300	25,818
Oman	100	33,164	9,000	42,264
Qatar	15	189,943	5,600	195,558
Saudi Arabia	350	1,046,051	20,000	1,066,401
UAE	703	493,411	35,000	529,114
Others/Unspecified	1,246	56,179	21,150	78,575
EUROPE	284,987	555,542	112,990	953,519
Austria	24,252	3,405	2,000	29,657

Belgium	3,960	3,310	2,500	9,770
Denmark	6,493	2,733	0	9,226
France	7,049	1,026	39,000	47,075
Germany	44,130	8,106	2,100	54,336
Greece	92	23,252	6,000	29,344
Ireland	4,860	11,472	500	16,832
Italy	24,598	82,594	13,000	120,192
Netherlands	14,139	3,023	2,000	19,162
Norway	16,561	3,474	0	20,035
Spain	27,537	10,543	3,700	41,780
Sweden	7,811	10,624	0	18,435
Switzerland	8,303	1,739	2,000	12,042
United Kingdom	90,654	102,381	10,000	203,035
Other/Unspecified	4,548	287,860	30,190	322,598
AMERICAS/TRUST TERRITORIES	2,943,812	354,352	354,843	3,653,007
Canada	410,626	49,309	3,000	462,93
United States	2,517,833	128,910	155,843	2,802,586
CNMI	1,288	10,979	500	12,767
Guam	12,675	9,392	500	22,567
Others/Unspecified	1,390	155,762	195,000	352,152
OCEANIA	243,927	84,927	33,160	362,014
Australia	221,892	19,455	9,000	250,347
New Zealand	21,188	1,715	120	23,023
Palau	5	4,324	400	4,729
Papua New Guinea	770	9,522	2,640	12,932
Others/Unspecified	72	49,911	21,000	70,983
SEABASED WORKERS	0	266,553	0	266,553

WOMEN AND MIGRATION

While Filipino migration has taken the face of a woman over the years, there has been a considerable drop in the number of Filipino women deployed for 2007. Data from the POEA show that only 47 percent (or 146,337) of the 306,383 new hires in 2007 were women. This number is 38,117 short of the previous year's volume of 184,454 Filipina new hires.



For one, women migrants under the professional and technical category went down to 21,761 from the 24,046 in 2006. This trend has been consistent for the last few years, contrary to several articles from newspapers which points supposedly to the improving lot of women workers in the world of work. In 2004, there were 80,470 women workers deployed under this category.

Women migrants remain the main composition under the service workers category. Service workers include household workers and related housekeeping service workers, caretakers (building), and caregivers and caretakers, and waitress. These are the very work positions in which by experience, women migrants are prone to being victims of physical and sexual abuse, drug dependence, prostitution, mysterious or violent deaths, and trafficking.

DEPLOYMENT OF NEWLY HIRED OFWS BY SEX

SKILL CATEGORY	2006			2007		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Professional and Technical Workers	24,046	17,212	41,258	21,761	21,464	43,225
Administrative and Managerial Workers	289	528	817	424	715	1,139
Clerical Workers	4,641	3,271	7,912	8,880	4,782	13,662
Sales Workers	3,112	2,405	5,517	5,389	2,553	7,942
Service Workers	128,186	16,135	144,321	86,241	20,894	107,135
Agricultural Workers	91	716	807	79	873	952
Production Workers	23,344	80,240	103,584	20,016	101,699	121,715
For reclassification	745	3,161	3,906	3,547	7,066	10,613
TOTAL	184,454	123,668	308,122	146,337	160,046	306,383

The International Labour Organization provides significant evidence of the feminization of labor migration, a trend most evident in Asia, where hundreds of thousands of women emigrate each year. According to the ILO, many Asian migrants are teachers and nurses, but even more are employed as domestic workers or are recruited to work in “sweatshops.” Sweatshops have increased because of the globalization of international brands of garments, shoes, toys and sports equipment and working conditions are often poor. For example, in Saipan (in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, administered by the United States), more than 50,000 young female migrants from China, the Philippines, Bangladesh, and Thailand were discovered working as virtual prisoners in workshops. They were forced to labor 15 hours a day, seven days a week. (“Towards a Fair Deal for Migrant Workers in the Global Economy” ILO 92nd Session, 2004).

REMITTANCES

Remittances from temporary and permanent Filipino migrants in 198 countries remain to be a major source of foreign exchange for the Philippine government, a singularly important factor that had kept the country’s economy afloat. In 2005, remittances channeled through formal channels reached some US\$12.8B.

The huge amount of money however, was hardly felt by the country’s burgeoning number of poor. The direct beneficiaries of the remittance mainly used it in food, education and some investments particularly in building houses. This fact is correlated by a study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that although remittances have boosted the country’s consumption-led growth, they have not reduced poverty in the Philippines. The paper recommended that government should package bonds and offer them as savings or investments of OFWs. Income can be used to fund local infrastructure.

Remittances Coursed Through Banks Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	
Year	Amount (in US\$)
2000	6,050,450,000
2001	6,031,271,000
2002	6,886,156,000
2003	7,578,458,000
2004	8,550,371,000
2005	10,689,005,000
2006	12,761,308,000
2007	14,449,000,000

Top Ten Sources of OFW Remittances, 2007 - 2006

Country of Origin	2007	2006	% Change
United States of America	7,564,887	6,526,429	15.9%
Saudi Arabia	1,141,319	1,117,915	2.1%
United Kingdom	684,007	561,670	21.8%
Italy	635,939	574,662	10.7%
Canada	595,079	590,627	0.8%
United Arab Emirates	529,963	427,246	24.0%
Japan	401,612	453,398	-11.4%
Singapore	386,409	285,126	35.5%
Hong Kong	383,160	413,723	35.5%
Taiwan	183,357	168,998	8.5%

OFW remittance trends

- OFW remittances have doubled over the past six years. From around \$6 billion in 2000 to 2002, it rose to more than \$14 billion in 2007.
- Since May 2006, OFW monthly remittances have been surpassing the billion-dollar level.
- The 2007 total remittances were higher than the government forecast level of \$ 14.3 billion. It is up by 13.23 percent compared to 2006's full-year of \$ 12.761 billion

Factors in the increase of OFW remittances

- Active deployment program of the government (currently, almost 3000 Filipinos leave the country daily to work abroad according to the POEA), coupled with the increasing demand for Filipino workers in the international labor market.
- Government's effort to promote sending of remittances thru formal (banking) channels. This in turn encouraged the financial institutions to expand banking services, establish more remittance centers abroad, and tie up with foreign financial institutions for the banking needs of OFWs.

Significance of Remittances

- Migrants from developing countries sent home more than \$300 billion in 2006, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). OFW remittances in 2006 accounted for approximately 4.25% of this amount.

- The International Monetary Fund cited the Philippines as the 3rd largest recipient of remittances among developing countries (just behind India and Mexico) in the World Economic Outlook Report in 2005.

Breakdown of OFWs remittances in cash and through banks

Types of remittances sent by OFWs:

- cash sent - 74.4%
- cash brought home - 21%
- remittances in kind - 4.6%

From the total cash remittance sent:

- sent through banks - 79.3%
- sent through door-to-door - 13.2%
- sent through other means (sent through the agency/ local office, friends co-workers, etc.) - 7.5%

Why women send money

A lot of people are migrating to earn a higher income, in the case of the Philippines because of the lack of employment opportunities. A considerable part of their income was often sent to their families in their countries of origin. Labor migration and the remittances that go with it play a major role in the global economy. In fact, in the forthcoming 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held this October in Manila, the “stakeholders” of migration include private commercial banks and even other private companies such as manufacturing corporations. Suddenly, migrants and migration are a catchphrase, especially with any fora which tackles remittances as tool for development.

Further, the gender perspective is almost lacking in any studies on patterns of remittances, transfer channels, and uses of remittances for development. A report by the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women proposes that women migrants’ patterns of remittance will vary depending on their reasons for migrating.

Household providers. This describes most women who send remittances. They may work long hours in hazardous jobs to earn as much money as possible to send home.

Movers by choice, not financial need. They probably remit less, and when they do it may be to support family investments, such as paying for their siblings’ school fees.

Dependents. They probably do not contribute much to remittance flows. The

available data tell a powerful but broad story of movement and the feminization of migration. (Carlota Ramirez, Mar Garcia Dominguez, and Julia Miguez Morais, Crossing Borders: Remittances, Gender and Development, June 2005 Working Paper (New York: The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, 2005).

THE HEAVY PRICE OF LABOR MIGRATION

The Philippines is fast competing to become the biggest labor-exporting country, notably tailing India and Mexico. And while huge amounts of annual remittances help spark local consumption, infusing blood to the ever hemorrhaging Philippine economy, the process of deploying 3,000 Filipinos daily is a source of untold misery for many of them.

The following data culled from cases handled Kanlungan Centre Foundation, Inc. for 2007, though relatively limited compared with those handled by the POEA, tells a lot of this harsh reality. Illegal recruitment remains as a major problem. For a government claiming to be model for other countries in terms of deployment program, this is something surprising. Contract violations and other related cases follow. Violence against women cases is also on the rise, including trafficking. About 36 local agencies were involved in these cases.

Summary of Cases Handled by Kanlungan for 2007

Cases	Female	Male
Illegal recruitment	42	14
Trafficking	4	-
Illegal termination	4	-
Illegal Exaction of Placement Fee	4	-
Unpaid salaries	21	-
Contract Substitution	2	-
Underpaid	13	-
Violence against women		
Physical abuse	6	-
Sexual abuse	3	-
Deprivation of food	7	-

Cases handled by POEA provide a bigger picture. From January to October of 2007 there were 132 establishments that were caught conducting illegal recruitment activities, victimizing 850 desperate job seekers, mostly residents of Metro Manila. These cases do not include the eight Filipino women who were rescued from a prostitution den in Malaysia. The POEA assisted 4,347 complainants in the filing of administrative charges against several licensed recruitment agencies for pre-employment and recruitment violations.

South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States were identified as the top countries of deployment by illegal recruiters. They deploy mostly for positions of factory workers, hotel staff, housekeepers, caregivers, and domestic helpers.

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Kanlungan Centre
Foundation, Inc.
Center for Migrant Workers

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Kanlungan Centre Foundation, Inc. (Center for Migrant Workers)
No. #77 K10th Street, Kamias, Quezon City
Telephone No. (632) 9282384
Telefax: (632) 4330953
Email: kcfi@philonline.com.ph / kanlungan2008@gmail.com
Website: www.kanlungan.com.ph

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