

ADB



ASIA-PACIFIC
SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2023
Social Protection in a Changing World

26–28 September • ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines

Promoting Labour and Skills Mobility Pathways for Migrant Workers

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ADB Social Protection Week 2023
Session 3A: The role of Active Labor Market
Programs on the Road to Recovery and
Reactivation



27 September 2023 | 2:00-3:15 PM (GMT+8)
Manila, the Philippines

Labour migration in Asia and the Pacific

Labour migration stock

24 MILLION

migrant workers in the region

1 out of 3

migrants in the world come from Asia and the Pacific

39% of migrant workers are women

Forms of migration

Temporary labour migration as the dominant form of migration,

Labour migration is the dominant form of international migration in the region – 63% of working-age international migrants are labour migrants

Sectors of employment



Agriculture



Manufacturing



Construction



Hospitality



Domestic and cleaning services

Major labour migration corridors

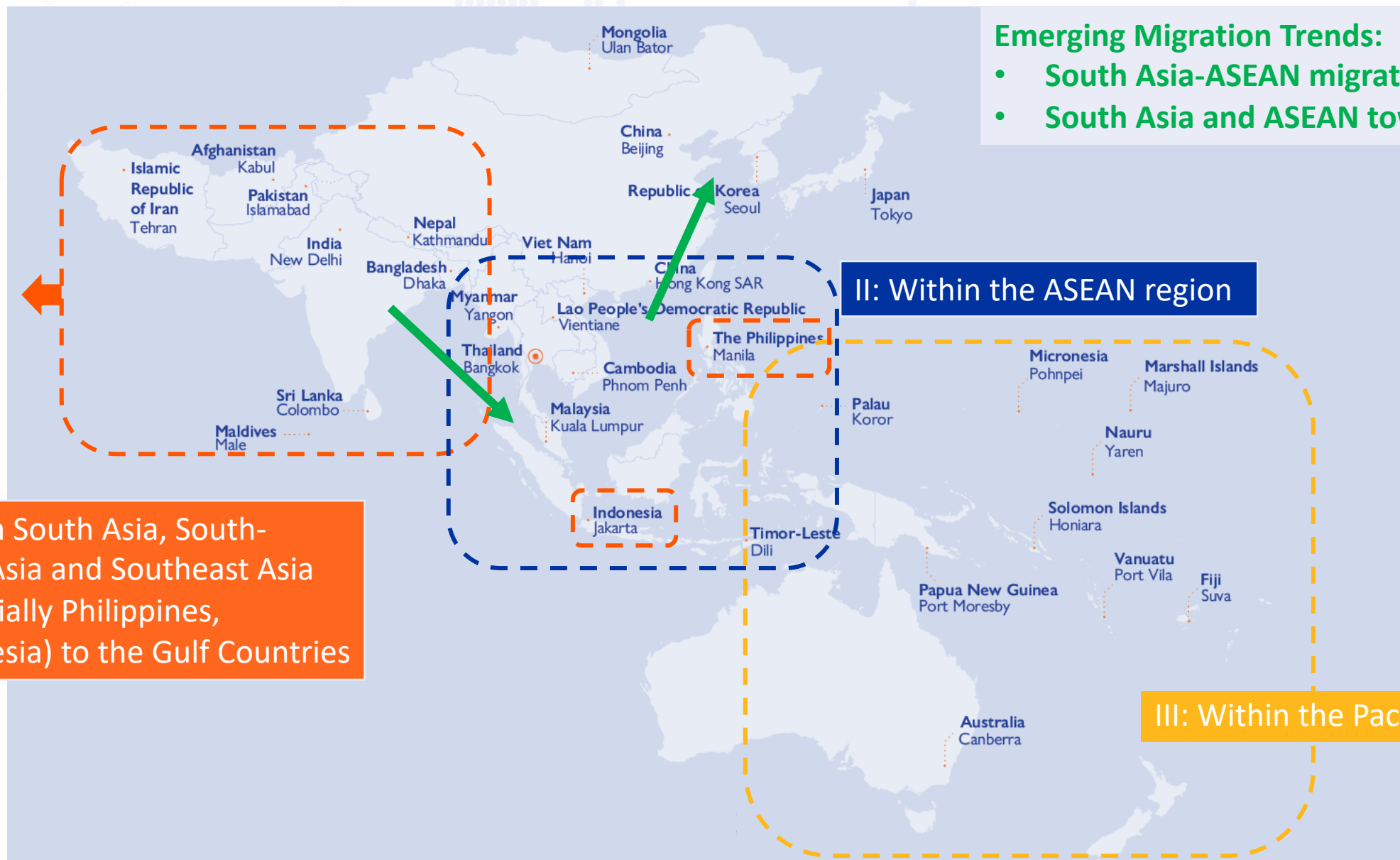
Emerging Migration Trends:

- South Asia-ASEAN migration
- South Asia and ASEAN towards East Asia

I: From South Asia, South-West Asia and Southeast Asia (especially Philippines, Indonesia) to the Gulf Countries

II: Within the ASEAN region

III: Within the Pacific Subregion



Drivers of labour migration in Asia



Income and employment differentials



Aging and demographic shifts



Economic transformation and infrastructure development



Technology and automation in the workplace



Climate change

Challenges faced by migrant workers

COSTLY REGULAR MIGRATION PATHWAYS



Costly processes associated with legal migration and employment lead to irregular migration

UNETHICAL RECRUITMENT PRACTICES



Worker-borne recruitment fees and barriers to accessing grievance and remedy mechanisms

LACK OF ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION



Migrants are often excluded from social protection in both countries of origin and destination

FORCED LABOUR



Excessive working hours



Restriction of movement



Debt bondage

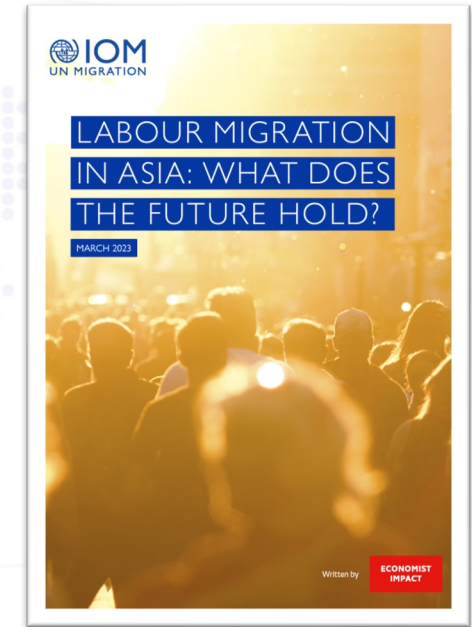
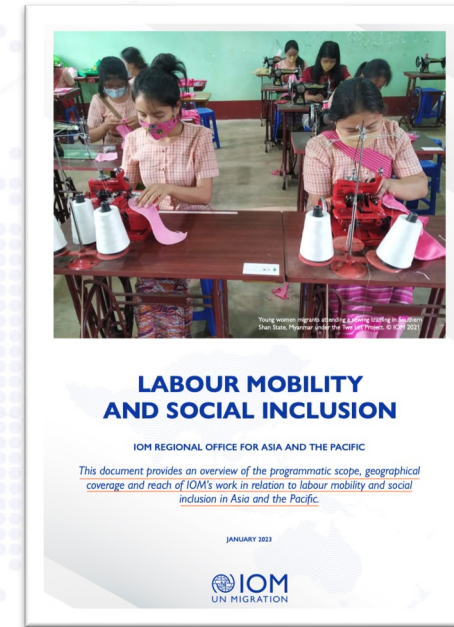
What does the future hold?

- Migrant workers will continue to play a vital role in the **economic transformation** journeys of upper-middle-income countries
- **Technology and automation** in the workplace may require migrants to upskill or reskill to keep pace
- **Climate change** will become a more conspicuous labour migration driver in the coming decade as climate vulnerability intensifies in major portions of South and South-East Asia



Further reading

- IOM Asia and The Pacific – [Regional Strategy 2020 – 2024](#)
- IOM Labour Migration and Social Inclusion [Infosheet](#)
- IOM Asia Pacific [Migration Data Report 2022](#)
- Spotlight on Labour Migration in Asia [Report](#)
- IOM x Economist Impact: Labour migration in Asia: What does the future hold? [Report](#) and [Infographic](#)



Thank you!

For more information, please visit:

<https://roasiapacific.iom.int/>