



APMRN Update

Newsletter of the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network No. 10, May 2001

- ◆ News from the 4th APMRN International Conference and Business Meeting
- ◆ December 18 declared the international day of the migrant by the United Nations
- ◆ Reports from regional network meetings in Australia and the Philippines
- ◆ The APMRN expands to South Asia
- ◆ Australia's treatment of refugees
- ◆ Participation Program report from Korea
- ◆ Stephen Castles moves to Oxford
- ◆ APMRN to produce academic book on *Migration in the Asia Pacific*

4th APMRN Conference highlights diversity of migration research

Representatives from most of the regional migration research networks that make up the APMRN were present at the Richmond Hotel in Manila for the 4th APMRN International Conference and business meeting which was held on March 19-21, 2001. This was followed by a one-day national workshop organised by the Philippines Migration Research Network (PMRN) held at the Philippine Social Science Center in Quezon City.

Short reports from all networks on their activities since the last international conference in Japan (September 1999) were compiled as a booklet and distributed. The result was an indication of the astonishing diversity of research in the regional networks and by individual members, which gave those attending a good indication of how far the APMRN has progressed beyond the initial capacity-building stage.

Apart from APMRN members, the conference attracted a number of scholars from North America, international organisations and NGOs, many of whom have since become members of the network and are collaborating on a range of new projects.

The papers for each network addressed the four main themes identified for the conference:

- The magnitude, trends and patterns of migration and settlement in countries of the Asia-Pacific region and the national and international factors that are associated with such trends;
- The implications of increased international migration on the nation-state system especially in the light of the growth of global markets and of the trends toward regional integration;
- The role and place of ethnic minorities in society and the problems associated with multiculturalism; and
- Policy strategies aimed at addressing concerns arising from migration and ethnic diversity in the Asia-Pacific region.

The papers were collated, bound and distributed by the Philippine Social Science Council on the first day of meetings, the first time this has been achieved at an APMRN International Conference.

APMRN Update is the newsletter of the Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN), an initiative of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme of UNESCO and the Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS).

The APMRN Secretariat coordinates the activities of migration scholars in Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Pacific, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

For more information on the APMRN and its research, please contact Charles Hawksley at the APMRN Secretariat, CAPSTRANS, University of Wollongong, Australia.

Phone: +61 2 4221 4710

Fax: +61 2 4228 6313

Email: apmrn@uow.edu.au

URL: www.edu.au/research/centres/capstrans/apmrn/apmrn.html

(Continued page 2)



Management of Social Transformations



4th APMRN Conference

(from p.1)

Representatives of UNESCO's Paris and Bangkok social sciences secretariats made presentations, as did representatives of the Philippines Congress, the Department of Labor and the Philippines Social Sciences Council.

Oral reports were presented on the preliminary findings of the three Ford Foundation projects that are currently operating: female migration in the age of globalisation in South East Asia (China, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand); return skilled and business migration and development (Australia, Bangladesh, China, Taiwan and Vietnam); and irregular migration (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand). Professor Supang Chantanavich presented the findings from the female migration project which has already been completed and published.

The quality of the presentations was high, as was the level of discussion. Many felt that intellectually it was the most stimulating APMRN conference to date, and both Nadia Auriat (UNESCO Paris) and Malama Meleisea (UNESCO Bangkok) considered it to be a very successful meeting as far as their expectations for the MOST programme are concerned.

The APMRN Secretariat wishes to thank Dr Virginia Miralao, Claire Nuyda, Ernie Acosta, Lorna Makil, Monette Jimenez, and all the staff from the the Technical Services and Information section of the PSSC for their dedicated work in conference preparation.



APMRN members enjoy some nibbles, a quiet drink and conversation after the first day of the 4th International APMRN Conference at the Richmond Hotel in Manila.

(Photograph by Ariel Manuel, PSSC)

APMRN NEWS IN BRIEF

Since *Update No. 9* there have been a number of personnel changes in APMRN regional networks. In Hong Kong, Dr Elizabeth Sinn of the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong is the new regional coordinator. Dr Sinn is a historian with research interests in modern China and Hong Kong. She recently published *The Last Half Century of Chinese Overseas*.

Dr Diana Wong of the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies at the National University of Malaysia is the new regional coordinator for that country. Diana attended the recent APMRN conference in Manila and was a plenary speaker at the CAPSTRANS *Social Transformation in the Asia Pacific* conference in December 2000 in Wollongong.

Other personnel changes have occurred in Vietnam where Dr Dang Anh of the Institute of Sociology, Hanoi, is the new regional coordinator; in Korea where Dr Hye-Kyung Lee of Pai Chai University takes over from Professor Seok; and in Australia, with Associate Professor Christne Inglis of the Faculty of Education at the University of Sydney now filling the role of Australian coordinator. Professor Huang Ping will now share coordination of the Chinese network with Professor Luo Keren of the East China Normal University in Shanghai.

The APMRN Secretariat thanks all previous regional coordinators and extends a warm welcome to all new coordinators.

APMRN expands to South Asia

The movement of peoples from South Asia into Asia Pacific states has been an important factor in the economic and social development of the region. Until now it has remained outside of the purview of the APMRN but the recent decision to expand the network, taken at the APMRN business meeting in Manila, will result in the inclusion of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The APMRN Secretariat is pleased to inform members that Dr Tasneem Siddiqui of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit at the University of Dhaka will be regional coordinator for Bangladesh. Negotiations are continuing with scholars in India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan to identify coordinators and establish migration networks.

New APMRN Chair

The APMRN business meeting in Manila resolved that there should be fixed terms for office holders and certain changes to the composition of the network's decision making structure.

After some five years as APMRN Chair Professor Supang Chantanavich, regional coordinator for Thailand, has handed over to the regional coordinator for the Pacific, Professor Vijay Naidu from University of the South Pacific.

With the decision taken to expand the APMRN into Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, the business meeting resolved that each of the APMRN's four sub-regions (the Pacific, SE Asia, NE Asia and South Asia) will be represented by a Deputy Chair. The South Asia connection was always planned for the APMRN, but was been delayed until networks and international collaboration with policy-oriented research were more firmly established.

The APMRN Deputy Chairs will be Professor Paul Spoonley (Pacific - NZ); Associate Professor Stella P. Go (SE Asia - the Philippines); Dr Huang Ping (NE Asia - China); with the South Asian representative still to be decided.

A number of ideas for collaborative research were suggested at the business meeting including projects on:

- Migration and health
- Migration, gender and governance
- Migration between China and Japan
- Education and migration
- Exploring civil society options for migrant communities
- Key relationships between poverty and migration
- Development displacement

The Fifth International APMRN Conference will be held in Fiji in September, 2002. Notwithstanding the current political tensions, Fiji is the obvious choice given the role Professor Naidu has played in the APMRN since its inception, his position as APMRN Chair, and his role in developing an embryonic Pacific Migration Research Network (PacMRN).

(A full report of the 4th APMRN International Conference and business meeting is available from the APMRN website.)

AUSTRALIA'S TREATMENT OF REFUGEES

As a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (and the 1967 Protocol) Australia is obliged to offer sanctuary to those seeking to escape persecution. The legal definition of a refugee requires asylum seekers to be outside of their country of origin and to have a well founded fear of persecution if they remain or return. This fear must be based on one or more grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

The Australian governmental response to the influx of refugee claimants has been to detain asylum seekers in processing camps and to adopt a "blame the victims" approach which distinguishes between refugees who wait patiently overseas in refugee camps and those who arrive in Australia without official permission (Manne, *SMH*, 7/5/2001).

These processing centres are located in the South Australian desert at Woomera, and at Port Hedland and Derby in the north of Western Australia. Management of these centres has been subcontracted to Australasian Correctional Management Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of the US correctional company Wakenhut. Several riots and allegations of mistreatment have occurred in these centres. Refugee advocates claim that the length of time taken to process applications, sometimes up to three years, leads to a feeling of frustration and despair. Other complaints concern the management of the centres themselves.

The Australian government's policy of mandatory detention for all claiming refugee status has led to widespread domestic and international criticism. Margaret Piper of the Refugee Council of Australia told a recent Australian Migration Research Network workshop that Australia is the only country in the world that insists on the mandatory incarceration of women and children, in addition to men.

A Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee inquiry into the operation of Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program submitted its findings in June 2000. Unusually this Committee did not split along party lines, instead presenting a unanimous report. Despite being seen as a blueprint for change, the forty-three recommendations of the committee were essentially rejected by the government on February 8, 2001, which felt that its handling of the issues raised was adequate.

(continued p. 6)

DECEMBER 18 DECLARED UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MIGRANTS

On 4th December 2000, the United Nations proclaimed December 18 to be the International Day of the Migrant. This day recognises the contributions made by millions of migrants to the economies and well-being of their host and home countries, and is aimed at promoting respect for their basic human rights. Although it is now 10 years since the adoption of the International Migrants' Rights Convention by the UN General Assembly, it not yet in force. The UN proclamation invites UN member states, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to observe this day by disseminating information on human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, sharing experiences, and undertaking action to ensure the protection of migrants.

According to estimates by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) around 150 million persons currently live outside their countries of origin. The UN's International Labour Office (ILO) counts 97 million of these as migrant workers and members of their families. Migrant workers and permanent immigrants usually fill difficult jobs, pay taxes and often subsidise the economies of host countries with cheap labour while they generate billions of dollars in income for their home countries.

Recent estimates by the World Bank show that migrant remittances to home countries account for 73 billion dollars annually, which puts the financial contribution of migrants second only to world petroleum exports in international trade monetary flows.

Despite providing key agricultural, construction, service and high tech labour in many countries, migrant workers - including a growing number of women - are often subject to abuse and violent attacks because they are foreigners. Such violations have become widespread and today occur across the globe. Women, who are estimated to make up 50% of the world's migrants, are particularly vulnerable. The recognition of these abuses as an international human rights issue is still fairly recent. The UN proclamation of December 18 as the International Day of the Migrant is an important step toward greater public awareness of the problems faced and provides a rallying point for everyone concerned with the protection of migrants' rights.

Professor Stephen Castles moves to Oxford

After fifteen years at the University of Wollongong Professor Stephen Castles has left as Director of CAPSTRANS to take up the position of Director, Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford. Stephen will remain involved with the APMRN through collaborative projects and will co-edit the book *Migration in the Asia Pacific* (p.6).

Stephen Castles was instrumental in the creation of the research agendas of the Centre for Multicultural Studies and of the APMRN and forged many links with scholars and NGOs throughout the Asia Pacific region. His writings have examined issues in migration and multiculturalism in a world of increasing capital and labour flows and have been translated into several languages.

Part of Stephen's new work at the Refugee Studies Centre is the production of the journal *Forced Migration Review* (FMR). This magazine is published three times a year in English, Spanish and Arabic and is produced in collaboration with the Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council. FMR is circulated to some 4,500 individuals and organisations worldwide and readers include refugees and IDPs, academics, NGOs, research institutes, donors, inter-governmental and governmental agencies.

The English version is free for students, the unwaged, refugees, institutions in the South and for individuals living in the South and not in receipt of Northern-level salaries. For more information please visit FMR's website at :

<http://www.fmreview.org/>

or email:

fmr@qeh.ox.ac.uk.

The APMRN Secretariat wishes Stephen well in his new position and looks forward to continued collaboration with him on a variety of migration projects.

Migration and Multicultural Studies Program Director Associate Professor Robyn Iredale is the new APMRN Secretariat Director.

The new Director of CAPSTRANS is Professor Ken Young, formerly of the Swinbourne Institute of Technology in Victoria, Australia.

Korean Migration Research Network's UNESCO Participation Project, 1999–2000

The Korean Migration Research Network (KMRN) has completed its UNESCO Participation Project (PP) on *International Labor Migration in Korea: Labor Relations and Social Adjustment*.

The research was undertaken by a team headed by former KMRN coordinator, Professor Hyunho Seok, and current KMRN coordinator Professor Hye-Kyung Lee, with Professors Soo-Dol Kang, Kiseon Chung and Jung-Whan Lee.

The project investigated the international migration policies of the Korean government, examined factors associated with labor relations and social adjustment of migrant workers, and explored the perpetuation phenomena of international labor migrations.

For the study, the research team conducted a series of surveys with workers in Korea and overseas countries including China, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam.

In Korea the team surveyed a total of 742 migrant workers (122 Korean Chinese, 109 Chinese, 147 Vietnamese, 141 Filipinos, and 223 Indonesian) and 383 Korean supervisors and managers employed in 189 sample companies.

In overseas countries a total of 1,078 local workers (104 Korean Chinese, 287 Chinese, 210 Vietnamese, 227 Filipinos, and 250 Indonesian) and 383 Korean managers in 59 sample companies were surveyed.

These surveys produced a large amount of data that can now be used for various comparative and cross-cultural analyses of labor relations and social adjustment of migrant workers in Korea, and for local workers employed by Korean companies overseas.

The major findings from the surveys were reported at a national symposium on “Foreign Workers in Domestic and Overseas Korean Companies” held on November 26, 1999. This symposium was organized by the research team and co-sponsored by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and Center for Future Human Resource Studies.

The primary purpose of the symposium was to disseminate the findings to be used in developing appropriate policies for migrant workers and managing international migration in Korea. About 50 scholars, government officials and representatives of NGOs who are concerned with migration problems participated in the symposium. The event provided an opportunity to expand the membership of the Korean Migration Research Network.

Three conference papers and one book, *Migrant Workers in Korea I* (1998), have already come from the KMRN team and two other books, *Migrant Workers in Korea II*, and *Asian Workers in Overseas Korean Companies*, will be published during 2001. Findings from the survey research are being used to improve welfare policies for foreign workers employed in Korean companies.

APMRN links with METROPOLIS

The APMRN is strengthening its links with the Metropolis Project, a North American/European research and policy network focusing on migration and city development.

The organisations have already linked websites and exchanged publications and other materials and the APMRN will convene a workshop at the 6th International Metropolis Conference in Rotterdam in November, 2001.

The APMRN Secretariat has also offered to host a meeting of the Metropolis International Steering Committee in Sydney in early 2002, in combination with an Australian Migration Research Network workshop.

Research cooperation with the Canadian-based Metropolis will be beneficial as the MOST Programme of UNESCO is a stakeholder in both organisations and there are many similar areas of investigation.

For more information on Metropolis see their website at: <http://canada.metropolis.net/> which has French and English links.

CAPSTRANS conference

Migration issues played a large part in the recent CAPSTRANS Conference *Social Transformation in the Asia Pacific* organised jointly with the UNESCO-MOST Program, and sponsored by the Japan Foundation and Qantas. The main conference was at University of Wollongong from December 4-6, 2000, with a pre-Conference Symposium at University of Newcastle on 1st December.

Plenary Sessions focussed on the need to rethink development studies in the context of global change, and the role of social science in shaping the work of such bodies as the World Bank. Democracy, civil society and the state were re-examined in the light of recent upheavals.

Four panel sessions dealt with *Migration, Multicultural Societies and the Post-Colonial Nation State* and included twelve papers on a variety of issues concerning the Philippines, Australia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, return migration, Indo-Fijians, South Indian IT professionals and the role of the state in enabling migration. Further information about this conference, and some of the papers, are available from the CAPSTRANS website at:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/research/centres/capstrans/conference.html>

Australia's treatment of refugees

(from p. 3)

The tactic of detaining refugees awaiting determination has led to a decrease in the number of people seeking asylum in Australia. Those granted status as "genuine" refugees are however treated somewhat differently to those granted assylum from overseas and receive a temporary visa, limited access to social services and no rights to bring family members here. But with refugee determination in the two largest groups seeking protection being as high as 98% in the case of ethnic Azaris fleeing Afghanistan and up to 70% for Iraqis, the policy of mandatory incarceration, especially of women and children, has been questioned.

In making the point that Australia would not treat white "kith and kin" in the same fashion, The *Sydney Morning Herald* columnist Robert Manne wrote (7th May, 2001) that Australia has in the past two years "thrown away, as if it were of no account, a noble postwar reputation for humane and decent treatment of political refugees".

Postscript: A Pakistani man who had been granted refugee status in Australia set himself alight outside Parliament House in April 2001 to protest against the government's refusal to allow his wife and three daughters, one of whom had cerebral palsy, to come to Australia. He died on 28 May, 2001.

Regional Network Meetings

AUSTRALIA: The Australian Migration Research Network (AMRN) held a two-day workshop on *Current Government Policy and Impacts on Migration* on 22-23 February, 2001, at the University of Sydney. Hosted by Australian coordinator Associate Professor Christine Inglis with APMRN Secretariat Director Associate Professor Robyn Iredale, the workshop attracted 25 participants. Papers on skilled migration, refugee and humanitarian issues and transnational communities were discussed. Three PhD candidates also gave presentations on their research topics.

PHILIPPINES: The Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN) held its Conference and 5th General Assembly on 22nd March, 2001, at the Philippine Social Science Center in Quezon City. Some 37 participants attended the conference including several foreign delegates to the recently concluded 4th International APMRN Conference. Local participants included representatives from government agencies such as National Statistics Office, Commission on Population and Institute of Labor Studies of the Department of Labor and Employment, academic institutions such as the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and De la Salle University, and research and advocacy organizations such as the Institute for Church & Social Issues, Scalabrini Migration Center and the Development Action for Women Network.

APMRN TO PUBLISH ACADEMIC BOOK

The APMRN Secretariat has signed a contract with the British publishing house Edward Elgar to produce an academic book on *Migration in the Asia Pacific: Population, Settlement and Citizenship Issues*, which is expected to be published in the first half of 2002. It will showcase the diversity of migration research that has been conducted by APMRN members since 1995 and involves over twenty papers and thirty authors from twelve regional networks.

Stephen Castles will write an introduction and the book is comprised of four sections: general issues and themes in Asian and Pacific migration; labour migration; theoretical, legal and economic perspectives; and settlement and citizenship issues. *Migration in the Asia Pacific* will be edited by Robyn Iredale, Charles Hawksley and Stephen Castles.