

Domestic and International Effects of East and Southeast Asian migration



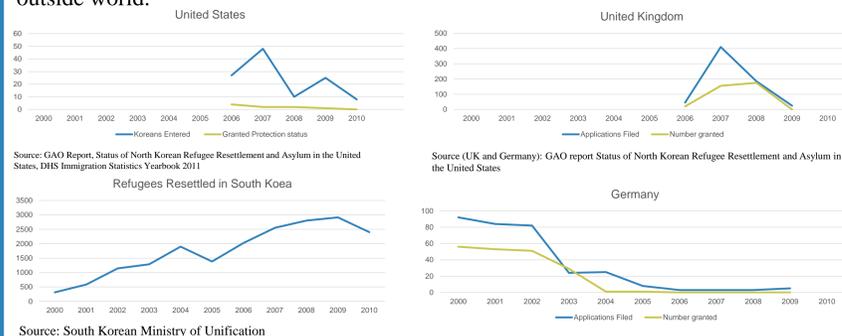
North Korea



The Philippines

Abstract and Refugee Acceptance Rates

The study of human migration out of North Korea is revealing of international trends. Migration from North Korea can be divided into two categories, refugees that flee the oppressive policies of the North Korean regime, and workers that are contracted to other countries by the North Korean government. These forms of migration elicit different responses from the international community and communicate North Korea's status to the outside world.



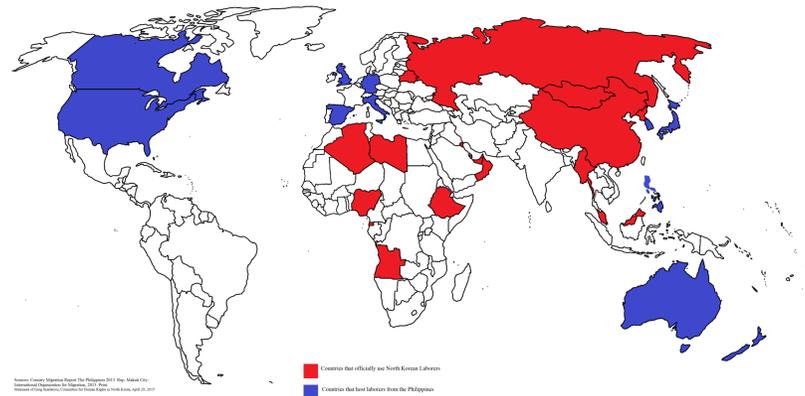
Global Policies on DPRK Refugees

- China:** 1960 Criminal Extradition Treaty, the government forcibly repatriates North Koreans found living in China. China does not recognize North Koreans as refugees and does not grant them political asylum.
- Russia:** Based on a September 2015 agreement between Russia and North Korea, any North Korean found in Russia without the correct documents will be detained, interviewed, and if they entered illegally, deported within 30 days.
- South Korea (ROK):** North Koreans are considered citizens of South Korea by South Korea's constitution. All North Koreans that flee to the south are entitled to resettlement benefits.
- United States:** Accepts North Korean refugees that demonstrate well founded fear of persecution in North Korea. The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 prevents the refugees from being refused asylum status because of their potential for citizenship in South Korea.
- Europe:** The UK recognizes South Korea as a safe country of origin, so North Korean cases often denied due to the North Koreans' potential for citizenship in South Korea. Other countries operate on case-by-case bases as well, but many deny asylum because of the citizenship issue.

Challenges for DPRK Refugees

- Russia and China do not recognize North Koreans as refugees and deport them back to North Korea to face imprisonment or worse.
- North Koreans living illegally in China face exploitation from employers because they receive no government protection.
- It is difficult for North Koreans to obtain asylum status in many countries because they are provided with citizenship in South Korea.
- In the US, North Korean asylum cases take a long time to process, and are often delayed by security checks and resistance from origin countries.
- North Koreans struggle to assimilate into South Korean society. Only 50% of North Koreans living in South Korea are employed, and many North Koreans struggle with the cultural differences of living in South Korea.

Asian Labor Exportation



North Korea

- In order to bring in money, the North Korean Government contracts its citizens to other countries for various jobs including construction and work in the manufacturing industry.
- Estimates of the number of North Koreans working abroad vary from as low as 50,000 to over 70,000 people. 16 countries officially make use of exported North Korean workers, and Russia has the largest number; between 10,000 and 25,000 workers
- The US State Department reported in 2014 that North Koreans working abroad are subjected to forced labor conditions and risk retaliation against their families if they attempt to escape their job sites.

The Philippines

- In the past 30 years, 1.8 million registered emigrants left the Philippines
- Highly skilled workers often work as physicians, teachers, seaman, mechanics, engineers, nurses, medical technicians, and entertainers while abroad
- Over 70% have a high school education or more, meaning that they have access to a greater employment pool. However, there can be great difficulty in getting receiving countries to recognize the credentials earned by Filipinos before arriving in their host country.
- Generally, compared to unskilled/labor migrants, highly skilled migrants have better living conditions, wages, and social acceptance in receiving countries.
- The largest population in of registered emigrants the United States (1.2 million people over the past 30 years)

Conclusions

- The policies of different countries towards North Korean refugees vary drastically based on each country's relationship with North Korea and the country's own laws.
- Even though South Korea provides North Korean refugees with resettlement benefits, settling there is not always in their best interest due to assimilation issues.
- North Koreans are currently very limited in their opportunities to claim political asylum after escaping North Korea. Many European countries will not accept their applications, and the process in the US is inefficient.
- North Koreans are exploited by the country's labor export policies, and face many dangers when escaping to seek political asylum.

Abstract

The research presented here provides an explanation why the Philippines exports their highly skilled labor and works to understand the economic impacts that this has on both the Philippines as well as receiving states. The research suggests that because of poor living and working conditions in the Philippines, highly skilled workers look abroad for employment. Encouraged by the government to leave, these workers are expected to support the country's economy in the forms of remittances, which has thus far been successful. Additionally, receiving states benefit from this practice, as they are able to obtain workers for less money, while still receiving high quality services.

Background

- Migration from the Philippines is unique, because unlike many countries, instead of the poor and underprivileged leaving the country in search of a better life, the global elite (or "global talent") move abroad so that they may send money (remittances) home.
- Global talent refers to people who are highly skilled in their education, jobs, and experience, which makes them desirable for other countries.

Global Policies

- The Government of the Philippines utilizes globalization to address its domestic development. To do this, they embrace policies, which encourage their globally talented citizens to migrate to wealthier countries. In turn, they expect remittances to be sent back.
- In order to help these people achieve this goal, the government has implemented administrations such as the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), which processes workers' contracts and pre-deployment checks, and licenses, regulates and monitors the more than 1000 private recruitment agencies.
- The government also works to encourage migrants to use their time abroad to act as ambassadors for the country, hoping that their migrants will spread a positive message about their country through their positive behavior and connections.

Conclusions Cont.

- While conditions in the Philippines are poor enough that independently people may decide to migrate, the government's encouragement of this practice can almost be considered as exportation of people.
- The implementation of better data collecting systems would improve research surrounding this topic, because most data do not distinguish between highly skilled and unskilled migrants, even though their experiences differ drastically.
- While the Philippines has been economically "successful" thus far because of this practice, it can also be viewed as a cop-out for creating a domestic development plan. Instead it puts this responsibility for development on the migrants.