

## Gender and Labour Migration in Asia



IOM International Organization for Migration

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**G**lobally, the landscape of international migration has become increasingly diversified as a result of broader changes in the global economy in addition to policy shifts in recent years. Over the last 30 years, Asia has been a region of movement and migration whether first to the Gulf countries in the 1970's or to the booming Asian tiger economies in the late 1980's. However, what has developed especially since the 1990's has been a "gendered migration process." The increased visibility of women as labour migrants in the region has brought a number of economic and social issues to the forefront. Furthermore, the vulnerability of male migrants in terms of rights, access to services and the change in gender roles is another issue highlighted, yet under researched. These new migration patterns have affected gender roles in the family and community in both the destination country and country of origin; the dynamics of the migrant family; the migration process; the rights, equality and protection of both female and male migrant workers; the sending and use of remittances; and the relative stability of female and male migration even in times of economic crisis.

*Gender and Labour Migration in Asia* contains six country chapters which aim to place gender on the labour migration and development agenda in Asia: four based on research led by IOM offices in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, an additional separate study led in the Philippines on the Filipino migrant family and a paper related to gender and migration in China produced as a follow up to the IOM, DFID (UK) and People's Republic of China conference on Migration and Development organized in China in 2005.

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