



IOM International Organization for Migration



# INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

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*International Migration* is a peer-reviewed social science journal, interdisciplinary in scope, seeking broad geographical coverage of international migrations throughout the world, with an emphasis on contemporary policy issues in international migration. Articles appearing in this journal provide cutting-edge analyses of important policy issues related to different aspects of international migration and present state-of-the-art research findings of import to policy makers and programme developers as they design policies and programmes for various types of international migrants.

Labour migration is an increasingly important aspect of globalization, posing new challenges as well as opportunities for policy makers in terms of management of migratory flows. Labour migration can represent an enormous potential for countries at either end of the migration spectrum. For countries of origin, it can provide a form of development support, especially through remittances, transfer of human capital, and creation of business and trade networks. In receiving countries, labour migration can augment labour scarcity stemming from demographic changes, facilitate occupational mobility, and add to the human capital stock.

This issue of *International Migration* opens with a cluster of three articles discussing various aspects of labour migration to and from several different countries. Katherine Donato, Michael Aguilera, and Chizuko Wakabayashi explore the effects of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 on the labour market conditions of migrants from Mexico, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic working in the United States. The authors estimate multivariate models that capture the effects of demographic characteristics, human and social capital (including migration-specific human and social capital), legal status, period of trip, and national origin on the hourly wages earned by heads of households and whether they received cash wages during their last trip to the United States.

Suresh Narayanan and Yew-Wah Lai examine the impact of immigrant labour, primarily from Indonesia, on the construction industry in Malaysia, a sector where migrant labour accounts for 70 per cent of the workforce. The authors analyse the cost-effectiveness of relying on a migrant labour force and call for diversification of immigrant labour sources as well as enhanced efforts to attract domestic workers by improving working conditions in the construction industry. Susan Thieme and Simone Wyss's paper, based on a 2002 case study of Sainik Basti in Western Nepal, provides an analysis of migration patterns and remittance transfers from the point of view of migrants and their non-migrating household members. The authors indicate that different destinations call for specific ways of organizing the migration process and demand specific assets from prospective migrants. Savings are remitted by carrying them personally or using the *hundi* system, an indigenous, informal banking and money transfer system common in Asia.

All three articles in the cluster are important to current policy discussions on labour migration, including, for example, recent heated debates in the United States about the presidential guest worker programme proposal or an ensuing discussion of the principles for action included in the final report of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) regarding economic and developmental impact of international migration.

This issue of *International Migration* includes also two articles on scientific mobility in the European Union (EU), an increasingly important policy consideration in the context of EU enlargement. Louise Ackers considers the relationship between highly skilled scientific migration and the transfer of knowledge in the EU, with a particular focus on the mobility of Italian scientists, to map out a research agenda of scientific migration in the context of EU expansion. Sonia Morano-Foadi discusses the role the expectation of scientific mobility plays in shaping and advancing the European Research Area within the context of the European Commission's Mobility Strategy.

Since September 11, 2001 security has dominated migration policy discourse. In this issue, Maggie Ibrahim examines Canada's new immigration legislation to illustrate the way in which the highly securitized discourse of migration informs governmental policy.

The issues ends with a Notes and Commentary article by Irena Omelaniuk on best practices to manage migration in China. The article is part of the Cooperative Efforts to Manage Emigration (CEME) project, which examines ways in which countries of origin, transit, and destination can cooperate to better manage migration.

As in previous years, we include an index of all articles published in *International Migration* this year for your reference.

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