ASEF Research Exchange Workshop
Health and Migration: Hong Kong Perspective

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Presentation Outline

1) Migration in Hong Kong
2) Health and migration
3) Major policy challenges
4) Key economic and social considerations
5) Next steps
1) Migration in Hong Kong
2) Health and migration
3) Major policy challenges
4) Key economic and social considerations
5) Next steps
Hong Kong (HK) has long been a city of migrants

- Between 1945-1950 during the Chinese Civil War, 1.5 million Chinese flooded south to Hong Kong.
- Following Chinese Communist victory in 1949, over one million mainland refugees sought shelter in HK.
- Regional migration 1965-1975: Northern Vietnamese refugees fled to Hong Kong in fear of persecution by Hanoi during Vietnam War.
- Rapid economic growth and migration between 1960s and 1980s.
Migration to HK since 1997—two pathways to citizenship for mainlanders

July 1, 1997

Path 1
One Way Permits (OWP) to HK → “newly arrived migrants” in which mainlanders reunite with HK relatives

(Path 1) One Way Permits (OWP) to HK → “newly arrived migrants” in which mainlanders reunite with HK relatives

(Path 2) Births to mainland women in HK (NEP births) – visiting couples & cross border married couples

January 29, 1999
Article 24(3), The Basic Law allows right of abode to selected Chinese citizens in to HK.

September 1, 2005
Births to mainland mothers in Hong Kong sky rocket. Government increases fees to $39,000/$48,000 (booking/no booking) in February 2007

Source: HK Community Legal Information Center (CLIC) and HK Legco (LC Paper No. CB(2)1979/08-09(02)
Photo Sources: TIME Magazine, The Standard, China Embassy
Migration of ethnic minorities
Global comparison

Proportion of migrants
Countries with the highest percentage of international migrants, 2010*

- Qatar: 87%
- United Arab Emirates: 70%
- Kuwait: 69%
- Jordan: 46%
- Occupied Palestinian territory: 44%
- Singapore: 41%
- Israel: 40%
- China, Hong Kong SAR: 39%
- Oman: 28%
- Saudi Arabia: 28%

* Among those with at least one million inhabitants
**HK Population by place of birth, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>4,004,894</td>
<td>4,138,844</td>
<td>4,278,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The mainland of China / Macao /Taiwan</td>
<td>2,263,571</td>
<td>2,298,956</td>
<td>2,267,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsewhere</td>
<td>439,924</td>
<td>426,546</td>
<td>525,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6,708,389</td>
<td>6,864,346</td>
<td>7,071,576</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Majority of foreign-born population are from mainland.  
* Non-Chinese foreign-born population are ethnic minorities (~5%); predominantly Filipino, Indonesian, and South Asian workers.
HK Population by nationality, 2011
N=7,071,576

- Chinese (93.2%)
- Indonesian (1.9%)
- Filipino (1.9%)
- South Asian: Indian, Pakistani, Nepalese (0.8%)
- British (0.5%)
- American (0.2%)
- Australian (0.2%)
- Thai (0.2%)
- Japanese (0.2%)
- Others (0.8%)

Source: 2011 Population Census, Hong Kong Government
Groups of migrants in Hong Kong

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainland migrants</th>
<th>Labour migrants (aka unskilled migrants)</th>
<th>Skilled migrants (aka foreign professionals):</th>
<th>Undocumented (Illegal) migrants</th>
<th>Other groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. One-way permit holders: daily quota of 150; wait 7 years for permanent residency (N= 43,400 in 2011)</td>
<td>a. Foreign domestic workers – predominantly from Philippines, Indonesia (varies by year; 7,150/yr avg from 2003-07)</td>
<td>a. Quality migrant scheme: highly-skilled persons from mainland and overseas. (n=2,094)</td>
<td>a. Mainland: 1,631 illegal immigrants in 2011</td>
<td>• Returnees • Dependents • Non Local Students • etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Cross border births to mainland mothers (N=38,882 in 2010) → cross border migrant children</td>
<td>b. Other labour workers – predominantly Indian, Pakistani (stats unavailable)</td>
<td>b. Capital Investment Entrant Scheme: required to invest not less than $10 mil (n=13,111)</td>
<td>b. Vietnamese: 291 were arrested in 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>c. Non Local Professionals (320,000 in 2011)</td>
<td>c. South Asians: Mainly from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>d. Other: minimal</td>
<td>d. Other: minimal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mainland migrants

Mainland is the main contributor to Hong Kong’s immigrant population due to rapid economic expansion of mainland in past 20 years, and increased traffic between HK and Shen Zhen after The Basic Law of 1997.

- Between July 1, 1997 and the end of 2011, 189,900 certificate of entitlement holders entered Hong Kong from the Mainland.
- In 2011, 43,400 Mainlanders joined their families in Hong Kong under a ‘One-way Permit Scheme’, which imposes a daily quota of 150.
“One Country, Two Systems” policy: migration is encouraged across the HK-mainland border

Travellers per day between Hong Kong and mainland China

Rail crossings (MTR):
* Lok Ma Chau: 258,000
* Lo Wu: 103,100

Land crossings (car/bus):
* Lok Ma Chau: 82,300
* Man Kam To: 500
* Sha Tau Kok: 8,600
* Shenzhen Bay: 72,600

**TOTAL: 536,300 passengers per day**

Mainland mothers giving birth in HK is a contentious social issue

THE MAINLAND BABY BOOM

- Parents are non-local
- Father is local, mother non-local
- Parents are local

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Parents are non-local</th>
<th>Father is local, mother non-local</th>
<th>Parents are local</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>7,190</td>
<td>40,409</td>
<td>48,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>7,256</td>
<td>39,703</td>
<td>46,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2,070</td>
<td>7,962</td>
<td>36,933</td>
<td>49,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4,102</td>
<td>8,896</td>
<td>36,798</td>
<td>57,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>9,272</td>
<td>9,879</td>
<td>37,945</td>
<td>57,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>16,044</td>
<td>9,438</td>
<td>40,144</td>
<td>65,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>18,816</td>
<td>7,989</td>
<td>44,070</td>
<td>70,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>25,269</td>
<td>7,228</td>
<td>46,325</td>
<td>88,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>29,766</td>
<td>6,213</td>
<td>46,116</td>
<td>82,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>32,653</td>
<td>6,169</td>
<td>49,762</td>
<td>88,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>35,736</td>
<td>6,110</td>
<td>53,572</td>
<td>95,418</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo: SCMP

Photo: Dale de la Rey/AFP

Safeguard Scarce PUBLIC RESOURCES ≠ DISCRIMINATION

No more HKID to Mainland Babies

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Total one-way permits vs. cross border births, 2000-2010

*NEP = non-eligible person (i.e., births to mainland women)
**= In HK, NEP births do not include those of NEP fathers & local mothers

Source: Hong Kong Bureau of Census and Statistics/Doctoral Thesis_HFong

N=38,882
Comparative impact of cross border migrant children to HK

HK total births: 88,000 per year 2010
**Foreign Domestic Workers (FDW)**

- FDW comprise highest proportion of ethnic minorities in HK, accounting for almost 2/3 of the city's non-Chinese population.
- In 2010 there were 284,901 foreign domestic helpers in HK--4% of the population.
- 48% were from the Philippines, 49.4% from Indonesia, and 1.3% from Thailand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Philippines</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Thailand</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>148,400</td>
<td>78,100</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>237,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>126,600</td>
<td>81,000</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>216,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>119,700</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>218,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>96,900</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>223,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>120,800</td>
<td>104,100</td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>232,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>123,500</td>
<td>114,400</td>
<td>4,100</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>245,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Hong Kong Labor Department*

Source: Census and Statistics Department. HKSAR Government/Secondary source: Managing Labour Migration: The Case of the Filipino and Indonesian Domestic Helper Market in Hong Kong
Foreign Domestic Workers (FDW)

* Indonesian domestic workers tend to be young (in their 20s), poorly educated and uninformed about their legal rights.

* Filipino domestic workers are typically older, better educated (many are college graduates), informed of their rights, and proficient in English. Overwhelming majority are women

* Since 31 May 2006, the minimum wage level of the FDWs is set at the level of HK$3,400 per month.

Source: Managing Labour Migration: The Case of the Filipino and Indonesian Domestic Helper Market in Hong Kong
## Occupation of ethnic minorities (2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Managers and Administrators</th>
<th>Professionals/Associate Professionals</th>
<th>Clerks/Service Workers and Shop Sales Workers</th>
<th>Operators and Assemblers</th>
<th>Craft and Related Workers</th>
<th>Plant and Machine Operators</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filipinos</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepalese</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Mixed</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** [http://www.bycensus2006.gov.hk/FileManager/EN/Content_962/06bc_em.pdf](http://www.bycensus2006.gov.hk/FileManager/EN/Content_962/06bc_em.pdf)

- Majority of Filipinos and Indonesians, Thai are in elementary occupations → domestic workers.
- Pakistani, Nepalese: elementary occupations AND clerks/service workers/sales
- Indian: better distributed, amongst managerial and professional sector
Median monthly income of working ethnic minorities (HKD)

**Lowest**
- Indonesian ($3,320 HKD)
- Filipino ($3,370)
- Thai ($4,000)
- Nepalese ($8,000)

**Highest**
- White ($45,000)
- Japanese ($30,000)
- Korean ($25,000)
- Indian ($15,000)

1 US dollar = 7.7508 HKD
Undocumented (Illegal) immigration

Number of arrested undocumented immigrants from 2006 to May 2009 (HK Legco)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009 (Jan to May)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mainland</td>
<td>3 173 (3 151)</td>
<td>3 007 (3 175)</td>
<td>2 368 (2 460)</td>
<td>794 (853)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>598 (483)</td>
<td>631 (614)</td>
<td>653 (694)</td>
<td>212 (182)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others¹</td>
<td>273 (186)</td>
<td>1 419 (339)</td>
<td>964 (242)</td>
<td>480 (42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4 044 (3 820)</td>
<td>5 057 (4 128)</td>
<td>3 985 (3 396)</td>
<td>1 486 (1 077)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Mainly from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India

In 2010:

- Undocumented immigrants mostly from Mainland with 2,479 arrests (HK Immigration Department)
- 1,588 women in sex work arrested and deported for illegal immigration (UNHCR Report 2010)
- Government reports reasons: unlawful employment, to meet families/relatives, to give birth (few; 6 in 2011)

Policy on illegal immigration:

- Immigration Ordinance (November 2009)--people subjected to removal/deportation orders not allowed to take up any employment or establish a business in the city
- Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of $50,000 and up to 2-3 years imprisonment. Fake/forged identity: penalty up to $100,000 and 10 years of prison

Note: Paucity of public information on illegal immigration; mainland statistics more readily available.
Undocumented (Illegal) workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forged travel documents detected</td>
<td>1,299</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainland illegal immigrants apprehended and repatriated</td>
<td>2,479</td>
<td>1,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal workers prosecuted</td>
<td>^3,415</td>
<td>#2,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers of illegal workers prosecuted</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of prosecution instituted</td>
<td>8,340</td>
<td>7,084</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^ including 1,741 prosecuted for illegal employment and 1,674 prosecuted for involving in sex work
# including 1,358 prosecuted for illegal employment and 1,019 prosecuted for involving in sex work


- There are also many undocumented workers in construction work who come to HK using visitor visas; but they may not be prosecuted as often.
- In addition, some reports estimate there are 10,000 undocumented immigrants in total: 2,400 (~25%) from Pakistan, some asylum seekers [1]

Existing information suggests main undocumented migrant groups: 1) mainlanders (i.e., construction workers); 2) sex workers (many from mainland); 3) Pakistani/Vietnamese

Where else do undocumented migrants work?

Targeted workplaces by HK Government include:
- construction sites
- used electrical appliances
- recycling plants
- auto spare parts recycling plants
- warehouses
- electronic spare parts recycling depots
- restaurants
- foreign exchange shops

Source: http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201207/31/P201207310369.htm
Migrant sex workers/human trafficking

* There is no reliable data on number of migrant sex workers in HK (Wong et al., 2008)
* In 2010, 1,588 women in sex work arrested and deported for illegal immigration (UNHCR Report 2010)
* HK is primarily a transit territory for undocumented immigrants, some of whom become trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor in their destination country.
* May come legally (i.e., as FDW) or smuggled in, staying without document within the country (by will or coercion)
* Source countries: mainland China, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, Cambodia, and elsewhere in SE Asia.
* Trafficking victims: 3 victims in 2009, 11 victims in 2010, 12 in reporting period 2012 (UNHCR).

Source: UNHCR http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,,HKG,4fe30cc3c,0.html
Presentation Outline

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5) Next steps
II. Migrant health

Eligibility of immigrants to health care services

* In Hong Kong, public health care services are available to all regardless of immigration status.
* Depending on the residence status, categorized as (1) Eligible Person or (2) Non-eligible Person. Eligible persons → subsidized public rates.
* One Way Permit holders and other non-permanent residents, who hold HK Identity Card, are considered Eligible Persons.
* FDWs are eligible for the heavily subsidized public health care services

Non-permanent residents receive the same range and quality of services as permanent residents.

Eligibility of undocumented immigrants for health care services

For undocumented immigrants, public health care services are provided only when there is an urgent need, and patients are to be reported to the police.
What the literature says:
Chinese migrant adults

Research on new immigrants from mainland focuses on:
* social and economic integration difficulties and service needs
* psychological well-being
* employment situation

Key ideas:
Depressive symptom is the most prominent factor in reducing immigrants’ level of Quality of Life (QOL)

Perceived social support and optimism are the two important factors that enhance the QOL for immigrants.

Preventive measures must be developed, and professional counseling and psychological support services must be provided to new immigrants in Hong Kong

Literature review of health of Chinese migrant children in Hong Kong

15 studies → 6 studies, psychosocial well-being + 5 studies, health status + 1 article, health utilization & access

- **Migrant youth have special health needs**
  - 1 in 2 needed had medical needs upon entry, n=457 (Chow & Tse, 2000)
  - Preschoolers: more dental caries, n=658 (Chu et al., 1999)*
  - 2-5 year olds: lower immunization rates, n=3345 (Tse & Mok, 2004)*
  - Lack of familiarity with available services, n=27 (Tang et al. 2005)

- **Psychosocial data is mixed, focused on adolescents**
  - Parenting is more stressful (Leung et al., 2007)
  - Adolescents: perceive lower health status (Kwan & Ip, 2008)
  - Resilience is a success factor for migrant children (Wong, 2008)
  - Qualitative research focuses on success rather than failures

- **Few focus on different groups of migrant children and compare 2 or more groups (necessary to understand disparities); little to no policy solutions explored**

Despite universal coverage, health inequities are likely for Chinese migrant children in Hong Kong, but we really don’t have clear cut evidence.

Cross border migrant children: CUHK research

Study of HK immunization database
1. Nearly half of children immunized in HK MCHC’s are migrant children
2. Migrant children—visiting children especially—are more likely to receive immunizations later than local children
3. They are significantly less likely to be up-to-date with immunizations at 3 months & 12 months
4. Information gaps in HK database

Study with caregivers of migrant children immunized at maternal and child health centres (MCHC)
1. Large numbers of migrant children are being immunized at HK MCHC’s close to Mainland border
2. Families of migrant children are relatively affluent and well-educated
3. Families of migrant children were highly motivated towards using HK public services
4. There are information barriers for caregivers of children with mainland mothers

Source: Fong H. Thesis: Policy implications of migration for the immunization of Chinese children in Hong Kong [please contact for permission to use this data]
What the literature says: foreign domestic workers

Health Knowledge

* Knowledge regarding HIV/AIDS and its route of transmission is inadequate amongst the migrant women workers in Hong Kong [2]
* Needs of women migrant workers are not met by the current HIV prevention and care activities in Hong Kong
* 70% of the respondents reported feeling discriminated in HK
* 42% felt discriminated against in Hong Kong hospitals.

Health Access

* More culturally acceptable and affordable mass screening programs should be provided
* Services need to be acknowledging the limited free time these women have to attend healthcare and should ideally be open on Sundays.
* Health information need to be made available in both written and oral Tagalog, the national language of the Philippines. [1]

Other issues for FDW: human rights

* A survey of Filipino domestic helpers undertaken by the Asian Migrant center (2001) has documented cases of abuse to include underpayment (27%), lack of time off (22%), verbal abuse (19%), physical abuse (25%) and sexual abuse (4%), suggesting an at risk vulnerable population sub-group.

“For eight months, I never received any salary at all. After that, I began receiving only HKD 2,000 per month. At the training camp the Employment Agency asked me to state that my salary was properly paid according to the required government standard.” (Interview with Sumiyatun, migrant worker from Adipala, Cilacap)

“I asked my employer, why do I have to sign a receipt for HKD3,270 when you only give me HKD1,800? My employer said, it’s because you are new to Hong Kong and can’t speak Cantonese well.” (Interview with Indonesian migrant worker in HK From Malang, East Java)

Source: Asian Migrant Centre. Underpayment: Research on Indonesian Domestic Workers in HK
Human rights abuse claims

• Mission for Migrant workers, which served a total of 1,245 migrant workers, had 614 ongoing cases in 2010, increase from 2009, when it had 547. Of those 614 cases:
• 7% report physical assault, physical abuse, sexual assault, or sexual abuse.
• 7% face ill-treatment from their employer: constant yelling, shouting, and criticism by the employer to the worker.
• 16% report not receiving enough food to eat.
• 23% do not have a private room. This means they sleep in the living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room, bathroom, or share a room with someone else.
• 28% are required to work on their rest days.
• 72% sleep less than 8 hours each night.
• 7% are required to work at another place besides the location listed in their contract (which is illegal). They are told, for example, if they do not work at the employer’s family’s house or in their shop, their contract will be terminated.
What the literature says: female migrant sex workers (FMSW)

* FMSWs residing in Hong Kong extremely vulnerable to abuse and ill-health [1]
* Stigma in Hong Kong against migrants and sex workers contributes to poor health directly, through the impact on psychological and emotional well-being
* Illegal status prevents them from seeking health such as actively seeking health care for STIs, or seeking protection from crimes committed against them
* As non-residents of Hong Kong, they are charged a high fee when accessing health services, meaning many do not seek medical assistance when treatment is needed
* Other issues: illiteracy, poor knowledge of HIV/STD’s

1) Migration in Hong Kong
2) Health and migration
3) Major policy challenges
4) Key economic and social considerations
5) Next steps
III. Major Policy Challenges:
Challenges of Basic Law on health system

Soaring migrant numbers sign of social ills

South China Morning Post
scmp.com

Thursday, 28 April 2011

The mainland’s migrant population rose 81 per cent in the past decade, prompting some analysts to point to an underlying social problem - the rising number of migrant children and the lack of basic care for the even larger population of youngsters left behind.

Hong Kong now shut to mainland mums-to-be

Bookings already made finish full quota for year
Births to non-eligible (NEP) mothers vs. Local mothers in HK, 2000-2010

• Cross border migrants play significant role in the future of HK health services
• Prioritize long-term policies planning for the health provisions of HK children living in mainland: Expand resources, mainland mothers in planning, develop long-term financial goals, integrate health policy with other policies
• Ensure outreach to vulnerable populations

Foreign domestic workers challenge for rights

* According to Basic Law Article 24(2), foreigners residing in HK for 7 years are eligible to apply for permanent residence; Immigration Ordinance amended in 1997 strictly excludes foreign domestic helpers.

* In 2010, three cases were filed by foreign domestic workers against the HKSAR Government on permanent residency and right of abode for foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong (HKU)

* This was eventually unsuccessful, but garnered much press and attention

Maids Test Residency Rules in Hong Kong
By KEVIN CLEW
Published: August 21, 2011

HONG KONG — On any given Sunday, public spaces here are filled with young women from across Southeast Asia whose presence has become a signature of Hong Kong: foreign-born maids enjoying their one weekly day off.

Ten of thousands of domestic workers fan across places like Victoria Park on Hong Kong Island, huddling together eating, singing, dancing, reading or playing cards. Sunday offers an escape from long days of housekeeping and child care, which often start at dawn and stretch well into the evening.

Some are young and newly arrived, but many have lived here for years, some even decades. Those long-term domestic workers are the
Lack of research on undocumented immigrants

* Annual expenditure on humanitarian assistance to torture claimants was HK$159 million in 2011-2012 compared with HK$151 million in 2010-2011 and HK$124 million previously.

* Many never appear in official records or public assistance networks.

Lost in asylum land

Eddie Luk

Friday, May 18, 2012

Nurtaza Hassan Pirzada recalls with a mix of emotions his run for Hong Kong from his home in the Pakistani city of Lahore. A Christian, he claims he faced torture back there, so he set off on a wrenching journey to seek asylum.

Now 40, he’s been in Hong Kong for five years, one of nearly 6,000 people claiming to face torture or death in their homelands. It seems most of them are still - we can’t pin down the number of deportations - awaiting escape from the twilight world of asylum-seekers by gaining new status for a new start.

There is also a less tangible story, more complicated and emotionally charged. If we apply a historical perspective that focuses on when, why, how and by whom a cultural language of exclusion is exercised, we may concentrate on a different target population. Those who fit the derogatory image found in public opinion may not in fact be the newest arrivals. Despite years of residence in Hong Kong, some have never assimilated due to their rural background and lack of education, and continue to be singled out by employers and the public as “new immigrants” even if they are not. On the other hand, some who have come from the prosperous and urbanized parts of the Pearl River delta blend in almost immediately after picking up their Hong Kong identity cards and hardly need public assistance. Still others are only statistics in government estimates; they qualify for entry but have decided not to move. In addition, some arrive by illegal means and face problems of adjustment, but never appear in official records or public assistance networks.
Presentation Outline

1) Migration in Hong Kong
2) Health and migration
3) Select policy challenges
4) Key economic and social considerations
5) Next steps
How do we ensure that the system can cater to health needs of migrants?
IV. Key economic and social considerations

Our case study interviews will be done to highlight the issues of:

- “One country, Two systems”
- Costs to the system
- Labour shortage and need for migrants
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Human rights
- Access to health and social care for illegal migrants & temporal migrants
- Need for social networks
“One country, Two systems”

* Main context for migration in HK
* The long-term potential effects of the Basic Law on the HK health system require that the policy for the health migrants, children especially, should be a high priority
* HK health policy makers will need to work within political, legal, and ethical boundaries of the Basic Law to define resource allocations and expand services to meet the needs of migrant children with HK citizenship and newly arrived migrants.

Source: Fong H., Tam W., Griffiths, S. Use of cross border child health services by migrant children in southern China [in progress]
What are the costs to the system?

* Mainland mothers issue/Basic Law makes the situation quite complex
  * Cost to provide services vs. civil right
  * Is it really an additional cost?
  * Hypothetically it may not be migration cost

Remittance flows are the second-largest source, behind foreign direct investments (FDI), of external funding for developing countries. In 2001, workers’ remittance receipts of developing countries stood at $72.3 billion, much higher than total official flows and private non FDI flows and for the last decade have exceeded the total of global development aid.
Labour shortage and need for migrants

* Migration is essential and an integral part of the social and economic structure for HK
  * Unemployment is low in HK
  * Local HKers tend not to do the menial jobs
  * Construction industry is growing
* Inequity: There are billions in the bank vaults and the Gini index shows increasing wealth but increasing inequity
* Migrants do not share the wealth → Therefore, HK has a responsibility to provide
* In Hong Kong, domestic workers are caregivers for the young and the old.
Cultural Sensitivity

- Discrimination & mental and social well-being
- Eligible vs. Ineligible for subsidized public health services
  - Legal migrants get good access to services - especially if they are Chinese which is the majority
  - Domestic helpers need to pay more for health care but it is still not a huge amount
- More important is addressing health knowledge, attitudes, and practices for ethnic minorities
“The prime responsibility for ensuring the respect of the human rights of migrants lies with States. A State has the duty to protect all persons on its territory, nationals and nonnationals alike.” (International Organization of Migration)

Right to abode for domestic workers
(Video) “The Pulse”: Right of Abode for Domestic Helpers

* Other marginalized populations:
  * Sex workers
  * Other undocumented workers
  * Refugees
  * Children of marginalized adults

* How does HK address human rights for migrants in laws and policies?
* Role in promoting migrant human rights for China and other countries in the region?
Health access for undocumented migrants and temporal migrants

* Is it really the undocumented migrants who struggle most with health care in HK, though numbers are relatively small?
* Little is known about health access of such groups as Chinese construction workers and sex workers
* Although there is an infrastructure for those at the macro (e.g., policy or governmental) level, the challenges of healthcare access still remains at meso level (e.g., organizational structure or social networks)
* The issue of labour shortage can be well addressed by looking at the discrepancy between macro (two systems in one country) and meso (workforce markets and illegal or quasi-legal market economy) in HK.
Need for social networks

Role of NGO’s

Hong Kong SAR government has been tolerant of civil activism aimed at helping migrant workers, and tolerant even of contentious advocacy for their labour rights. Administrative and legal system.

British colonial period established labour laws that were inclusive of migrant workers and provided institutional channels for redressing their rights.

Migrants can bring labour dispute claims to court, where decisions are given by a judge. As a result of its relative political openness, since the 1980s Hong Kong SAR has been a site of vibrant and well-organized migrant worker activism, particularly by Filipino women, staging very visible demonstrations on a regular basis (Source: Constable 1997; Law 2003).
Existing NGO’s and service organization for migrants

NGOs play a fundamental role in supporting immigrants providing a range of services. Approximately 20-30 organizations for migrant workers in HK.

- **Asian Migrant Centre**: Research and policy organization
- **PathFinders**: Support for migrant pregnant women, mothers and children
- **Thai Regional Alliance in HK**:
- **Mission for Migrant Workers**:
- **New Home Association**:
- **St. John's Cathedral Hong Kong**:
- **Migrante International**:
- **United Filipinos in Hong Kong**:
- **Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants**:

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Next Steps

* **Supporting case studies**

  * Outreach has been made to NGO’s and services in churches/missions with strong ties to migrant community to recruit cases
  * Will be conducting case studies in December 2012/January 2013

* Next steps: discuss best methods to measure economic and social costs using these case studies
Fitting pieces together to develop migrant health in Hong Kong

- At the macro-level, we need to understand the diversities within the communities of migrants, the commonalities they can use through social positions, and the fluidity of cultures and identities as they are bound up with place and with wider socio-economic circumstances and processes.

- At the community-level, we need to understand networks—the ways in which migrants shape risk-facilitating or protection-enabling environments through engaging in “every day” practices in diverse sectors of their belonged community, such as market places, religious institutions, and service resources.

- At the micro-level, we need to understand the trajectory of migrant subjectivity—the ways in which perceptions of illness and subsequent responses to health seeking are transferred, persist or evolve temporarily and spatially with an individual or a group of individuals.

Source: H Yi. Between/Within Countries and Up/Down Streams: Transnational Health in Asia
THANK YOU