

# INTERNATIONAL AND INTERNAL MIGRATION IN INDONESIA<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

The high rate of population growth in Indonesia during the decades 1970s and 1980s has serious socio-economics implications. There are two major implications which directly caused by the high population growth : Job need for labor force and need for social services. If the needs can not be served then people try to find from other area. This will cause the migration process both for internal or international migration..

So far, the development process in Indonesia failed to serve the high need of the citizen in terms of job and social services (especially health and education services). The difference of development process between provinces has caused certain province become a target of internal migrant.

This short paper tried to describe and discuss the internal and International migration in Indonesia.

## Internal Migration

In this section the discussion mainly related to recent migration in 1995. Recent migrant defines as citizen whose present residence (at the of the survey) difference with the place of residence 5 year ago. Table 1 below presented number of in migrant, out migrant and net migrant which is the result of Indonesia 1995 intercensal Population Survey.

The data shows that 5 of 8 province in Sumatra has a negative net migrant which indicates the number of in migrant is less than out migrant. This negative trend could related to particular reasons such as : security, migration habit of the community and the location advantage (close to Java Island). Security reason could be applied in the case of Aceh, this become more serious recently. People in North and West Sumatra well known as community which tend to live their region. Geographically Close to Java (center of Development) help people in South Sumatra and Lampung easier to migrate to Java .

Meanwhile Riau, Jambi and Bengkulu provinces have a positive net migrant. Riau that has special area of Batam tend to attract migrant from other provinces in Sumatra and even from Java. For Jambi and Bengkulu, these two provinces relatively new (usually also follow with a lot of job opportunity) and very easy to reach from other province especially from South Sumatra, Lampung and West Sumatra.

In Java provinces the negative net migrant found for Jakarta and Central Java. The high cost of living in Metropolitan Jakarta push people to live in the surrounding areas of Jakarta. The negative net migrant in Central Java most probably related to urban-rural

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migration from this province where Jakarta and West Java usually become the destination of such migrant. Since the cost of living in Jakarta very costly these migrant tend to lives in West Java. These phenomena explain the high number of positive net migrant in West Java.

In general Java Island tend to be a destination of migrant. The gap of social facilities (education and health)—both in terms of number and quality-- , and job opportunity between Java and outer Java seems to be a reasonable explanation of this trends. In 1999 more than half (56 percent) of hospital and 46 percent of primary health services located in Java. The gap in education facilities reflected in the number of universities in Java as compared to outer Java. In 1999/2000, more than 57 percent out of 1557 government and private university located in Java. (CBS, 2001).

Table 1.  
Number of Recent Migrant In Indonesia by Province, 1995

Province	In	Out	Net	Province	In	out	net
Aceh	28.498	48.478	(19.980)	W. Nusa T	45.914	34.916	10.998
N. Sumatra	103.258	198.873	(95.615)	E. Nusa T	32.741	43.248	(10.507)
W. Sumatra	138.531	144.607	(6.076)	Timor	21.415	12.554	8.861
Riau	147.518	126.372	21.146				
Jambi	57.057	52.695	4.362	W. Kalimantan	44.752	34.030	10.722
S. Sumatra	128.011	185.213	(57.202)	C. Kalimantan	36.477	43.071	(6.594)
Bengkulu	65.933	35.739	30.194	S. Kalimantan	69.244	56.360	12.884
Lampung	114.206	165.921	(51.715)	E. Kalimantan	138.627	76.009	62.618
				N. Sulawesi	21.852	48.142	(26.290)
Jakarta	594.542	823.045	(228.503)	C. Sulawesi	70.833	28.017	42.816
W. Java	1.117.615	448.779	668.836	S. Sulawesi	137.341	149.148	(11.807)
C. Java	351.942	732.415	(380.473)	SE. Sulawesi	56.937	38.806	18.131
Yogya	165.324	111.019	54.305				
E. Java	438.446	410.609	27.837	Maluku	22.968	45.936	(22.968)
Bali	58.177	45.298	12.879	Irian	53.298	26.496	26.802

Source : Calculated from CBS (1996).

Provinces that has many potential natural resources like East Kalimantan and Irian tend to attract migrant to come. Provinces that have rare natural resources or difficult environment condition tend to push migrant to leave, this may applied for Central Kalimantan and East Nusa Tenggara.

New issue related to internal migration in Indonesia (since 1999 become bigger) is the internally displaced persons (IDP), hundred thousand of IDPs come from conflicting areas especially Maluku, Aceh, Central Kalimantan, and Timor Leste. The existence of IDPs caused several problems since the tend to live in a very poor condition. In the long run this condition will caused further human resource problems since most of the infants and schooling age children having problems to access health and education services.

## International Migration

In this section the discussion mainly related to international labor migration both for in migrant and out migrant. The labor migrant the predominant type of international migrant in Indonesia. Table 2 presented the number and percentage of Indonesian workers by country/region of destination. The number of Indonesian workers increase from 120,6 thousands in 1995 to 380,2 thousands in 1998. In 1997 total number of Indonesian workers overseas reach more than 0,5 million migrants. The high increased of Indonesian worker in 1997 due to the legalization process of Indonesian Illegal workers by Malaysian Government.

Table 2 also shows that most of Indonesian migrant workers work in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and Singapore. More than 82 percent of Indonesian workers in 1998 work in these three countries. Malaysia and Singapore are close to Indonesia and this make the process of migration to these two countries relatively easy. Other factors may be the cultural aspects where as Indonesian, Malaysia and Singapore relatively the same.

Female constitutes the majority of Indonesian workers abroad. In 1998 the percentage of female workers is 81,8 percent. Hugo (in Nazara, 2000) estimated that in 1997 there were around 2,4 million Indonesia Female workers overseas with around 79 of which were in Malaysia working in plantation.

High intention of workers to work overseas reflected in source of expenses for the international migration process. If the migrants and their families have not enough money to cover the migration expenses the will borrow to others. Setiadi (1999) show that around 44 percent out of 365 return migrant in Lewotowok village (East Flores) got money from lender or other to cover the migration expenses.

Table 2  
The percentage of Indonesian Workers by country & Region of Destination  
1995-1998

Country	Year			
	1995	1996	1997	1998
Saudi Arabia	36,03	52,33	23,23	46,66
Malaysia	24,64	17,56	63,16	25
Singapore	17,39	13,2	6,35	11,06
Other Asian	17,75	15,69	6,98	16,16
America	2,89	0,8	0,14	0,65
Australia & NZ	0,29	0,06	0,02	0,06
European	0,96	0,35	0,11	0,32
African	0,05	0,01	0,01	0,09
Number of workers	120603	220162	502977	380173

Source : Nazara (2000)

Remittance sending by worker is regarded as one of another benefit of sending workers abroad. Table 3 presented the trend of total remittance sending by migrant workers. Total remittance increase from US\$ 585,4 millions in 1996 to 1,26 billions in 1997 than slightly decreased to 1,25 billion in 1998. The remittance sending by workers usually use to cover the expenditure need for the family left by the migrant such as renovation or build new house and education expenses for the migrant families.

The remittance benefited not only for the migrants and their families but also for the development of the place of origin of the migrants. The remittance sending by migrant workers sometimes reach a significant figure as compared to some district annual income.

Table 3  
Remittance by Major Region, 1996-1998 (in US\$ 000)

Region	1996		1997		1998	
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
Asia Pasifik	332.670	56,82	821.446	65,16	743.792	59,43
Middle East	227.817	38,91	411.339	32,63	486.326	38,85
America	18.446	3,15	19.480	1,55	13.830	1,10
Europe	6.218	1,06	8.059	0,64	6.937	0,55
Africa	278	0,05	413	0,03	759	0,06
Total	585.429	100,00	1.260.737	100,00	1.251.644	100,00

Source : Nazara (2000)

Problems related to labor migrant from Indonesia mostly the illegal migrant to Malaysia. The illegal migrant usually characterized by low of education and poor. These two characteristics leads to unable to pay the cost of migration that tend to be more expensive for the formal procedures. Study by Triantoro (1999) shows that more than 86 percent of return international migrant in Lombok used illegal procedure when they left Lombok. Another reason to be using the illegal route is that the illegal procedure tend to be faster than the legal one. The legal institutions have to provide a training for migrant before leaving Indonesia and it takes more time compared to illegal procedure.

The international migration also bring some social consequences for the family of the migrants. The most popular one is remarriage of the spouse left in Indonesia. Long period of spouse lives overseas usually become a reason to remarriage. Wives or husbands whose spouse go abroad tend to have more burden especially when they have many children and at young age group.

Table 4 below presented number of foreign workers in Indonesia from 1996 to 1998. The Table reveals that there is a decreased trend of the foreign workers in Indonesia. In 1996 there were 48,6 thousands foreign workers in Indonesia, it decreased to 35,2 thousand in 1997 and again decreased to 33,3 thousands in 1998.

There are two basic reasons of incoming foreign workers in Indonesia. The first is the foreign direct investment effect that leads to the multinational companies bring with them

foreign workers. The second is the scarcity of educated and experience labor in Indonesia (Nazara, 2000). The second reason explain the majority of foreign workers in Indonesia comprise manager, professional and supervisor level.

Table 4  
Number of foreign Workers in Indonesia by types of Occupation

Occupation	1996		1997		1998	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Manager	12.663	26,02	8.451	24,00	9.497	28,52
Professional	11.163	22,94	12.326	35,00	7.206	21,64
Supervisors	8.281	17,02	4.929	14,00	3.728	11,20
Technician/operators	16.551	34,01	9.507	27,00	12.864	38,64
Total	48.658	100,00	35.213	100,00	33.295	100,00

Source : Nazara (2000)

### Future Trend of Labor Migrant

In future sending workers abroad seems to be an alternative for government to ease pressures in domestics labor product. From table 5 we can see the positive trend of number of workers which expected to deployed overseas. In 1999/2000 government planned to send about 400 thousands workers abroad. It increases to 750 thousands in 2003/2004. Totally during the periods of 1999/2000 to 2003/2004 it is expected to send 2,8 million workers.

Government of Indonesia still expected that Migrant Workers overseas will have contribution in generating the foreign exchange (through remittance), that is in line with the 1993 National State guidelines that acknowledges remittance from Indonesian working abroad as a means of generating foreign exchange (ananta, 1998). During 1998-2003 period it is expected that remittance will be around US\$ 13 Billion. During this period government tried to change the composition of skilled (formal) and unskilled (informal) worker. It is expected that at the end of the period the composition will be 70 percent skilled and 30 unskilled (Departemen Tenaga Kerja/Ministry of Manpower, 1998). The high number of unskilled worker from Indonesia so far leads to some problems such as : unable to negotiate, involved in the occupation with low paid (mostly become housemaid).

Table 5  
Targeted Number of Indonesian Worker Sent overseas,  
1999/2000 – 2003/2004

Tahun	Formal	Informal	Total
1999/2000	120.000	280.000	400.000
2000/2001	180.000	270.000	450.000
2001/2002	275.000	275.000	550.000
2002/2003	390.000	260.000	650.000
2003/2004	525.000	225.000	750.000
Total	1.490.000	1.310.000	2.800.000

Source :Departemen Tenaga Kerja R.I. (1998)

**Closing remark**

This paper has elaborate the internal and international migration aspects in Indonesia. The uneven of the development process in Indonesia has influence the Internal migration process significantly. In the future the implementation of decentralization (initiated since January 2001) will also influence the internal migration in Indonesia. It expected that the decentralization will help to narrowing the gap of development between province. This will turn the flow of internal migration from “Java” as main destination to new province that has high economics growth as a consequences of the freedom of region to decide the priority of the development.

Government should pay high attention to the high number of IDPs in some provinces. The existence of the IDPs will caused some social and economics implication both for the IDPs and local government where the IDPs live. Some priorities for IDPs should be related to education and health service. The government (especially local) should has clear program to reduce poverty since it has many implication. Poverty tend to promote migration for economics reasons.

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