



Asian Migration and the Global Asian Diasporas

Conference date: 6-7 September 2013

City University of Hong Kong

CALL FOR PAPERS

Asia, as both a migrant generating and migrant receiving region, offers rich experiences for migration and diaspora studies. Since the late 19th century there has been continuous movement of people across countries within the region as well as from Asia to other parts of the world due to colonial rule, warfare, political turmoil, the Cold War, and poverty in various places in Asia. Asian migration is not only large in scale, but also extremely diverse in experience. Large migrant groups to the West, such as the Chinese, Indians and Vietnamese have received much attention as settlers in other countries. Yet much recent research suggests they must also be understood as diasporic communities in continuous transnational movement. There are also many other smaller migrant populations, often minorities in their own countries, whose migration trajectories represent the interaction of very specific historical conditions as well as general global changes.

Against the background of earlier migration waves, this conference will focus on newer migrants, especially those who migrated in the second half of the last century. We would like to provide an overview of recent trends and waves of Asian migration, and the forms of diaspora these migrants have formed in Asia and around the world. Furthermore, while many Asians continue to move to the 'rich' West, attention is also needed to the trends of intra-regional migration within Asia, whether for education, work (both low-wage labor and highly skilled professionals), marriage, family reunion, or tourism (both short- and long-stay).

Besides migrating out, many Asian migrants are returning back to Asia, often to their home countries. New trends of return migration, retirement migration, and root-seeking migration have been taking place in Asia by those who moved away when they were young, or by their children and grandchildren. This is changing the very meaning of migration and the dynamics and pace through which diasporic communities develop, flow, and ebb.

The conference will examine the following issues:

- The variegated channels through which new migration has occurred;
- The relationship between old and new migrant groups of the same origin;
- Identity, settlement patterns, gender relations, livelihood strategies and family in new migration waves;
- How migrants as diasporic populations continue to express their cultural distinctiveness and linkage to homelands;
- What impacts migrants as diasporic populations have had on the economic and political development of their origin countries;
- How governments in both origin and destination countries have been shifting their attitudes and policies towards migrant groups.

By looking into these different aspects, the conference will address issues not only related to migration and diaspora studies, but also the shifting socio-political and economic landscapes in the region overall. With the much applauded growing economies in Asia since WWII, for example, a number of Asian countries have become desirable migration destinations whether for strictly economic or more life-style oriented reasons. It is against this background of the dynamics of development in Asia that this conference addresses the new and diverse migration trends within the region.

In addressing migration in Asia, this conference will include a wide range of topical concerns: political diaspora, regimes of remittances, transnational nationalism, shifting home country-migrant relations, migrant shortage, human trafficking and migrant rights, multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism, borderland migration, and gender and family patterns in transnational fields. Panelists should feel free to focus on such issues, but should also try to weave those issues into the conference's broader goals.

Panel and individual paper proposals are both welcome. Please send your abstract of not more than 250 words to: fschan@cityu.edu.hk

Deadline for abstract: *30 April, 2013*

Letter of acceptance will be sent to you by *20 May, 2013*

Deadline for full conference paper: *16 Aug, 2013*

This conference is co-organized by **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** and **Southeast Asia Research Centre (SEARC)**, City University of Hong Kong.