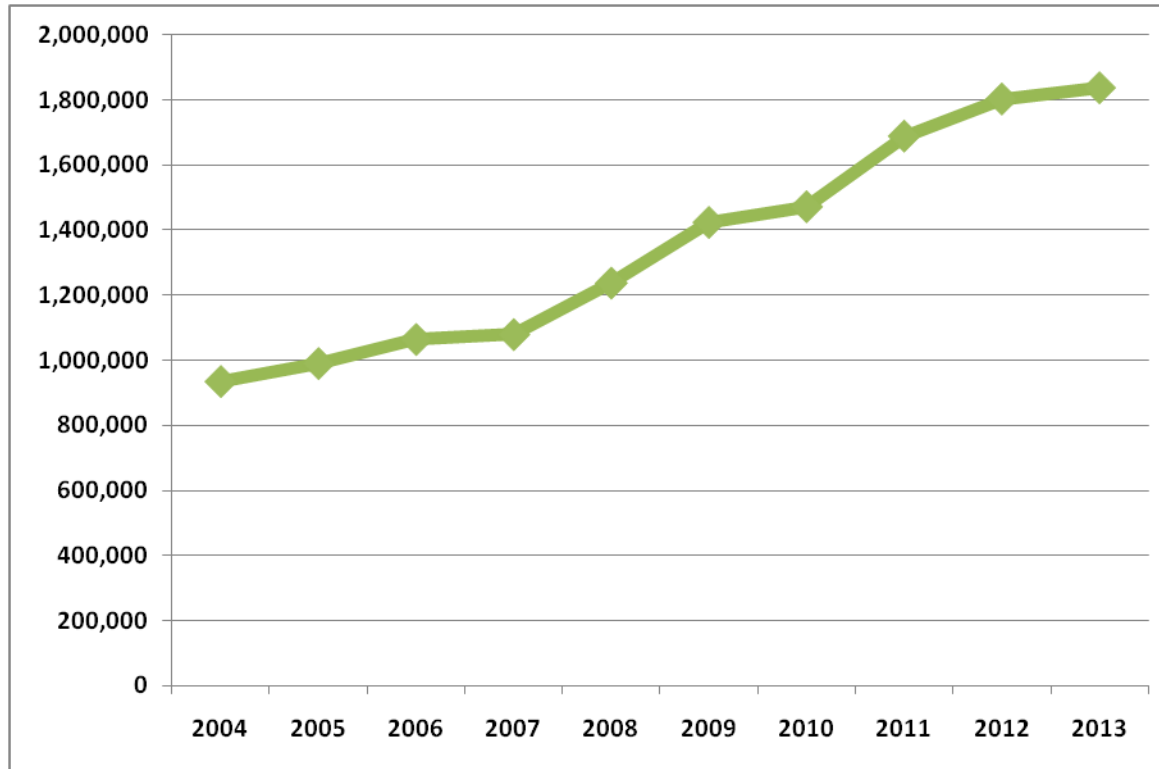


Walk the Talk

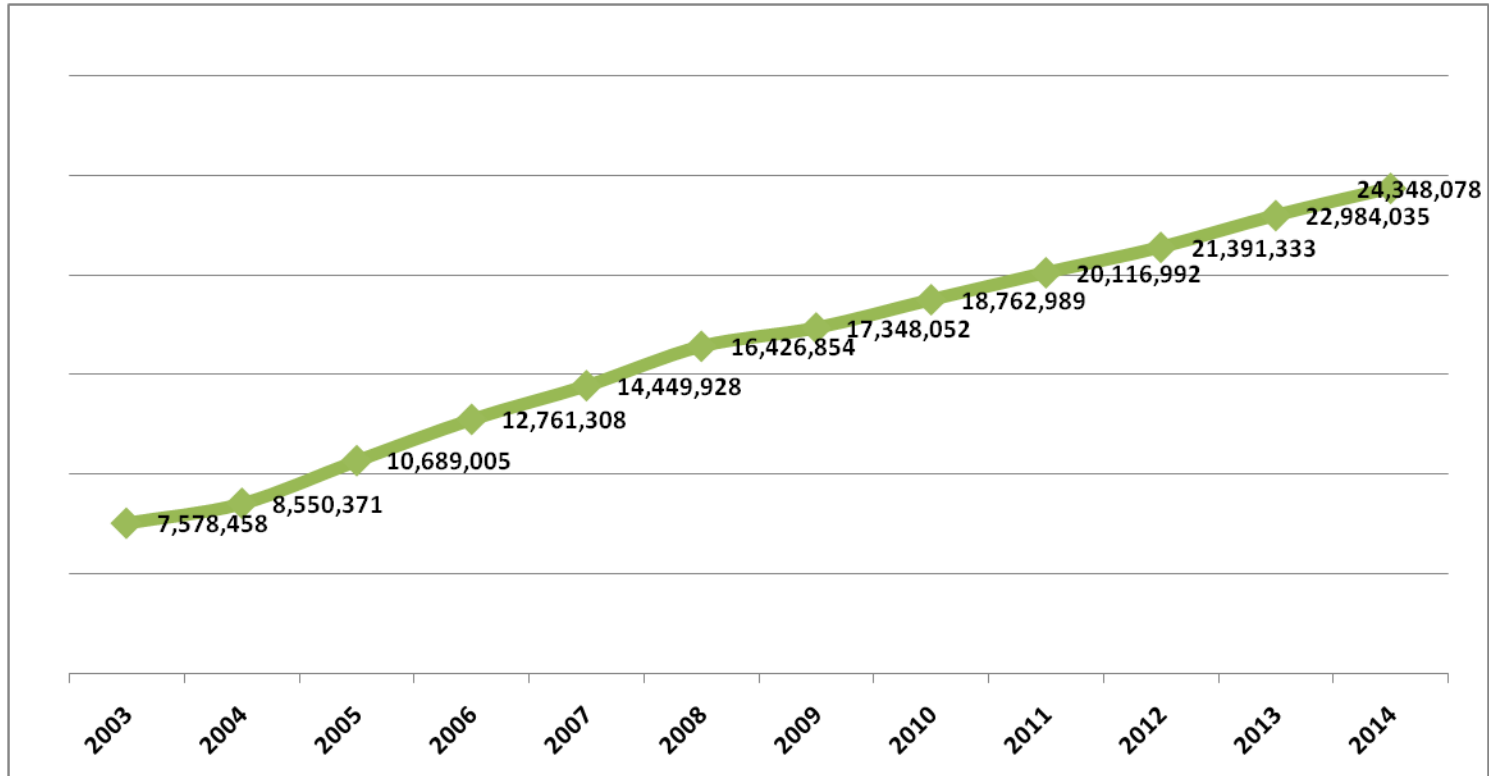
**Overseas Employment from the Philippines,
CSOs, and Migrant Workers**

Overseas employment is one the 'facts of life' in the Philippines



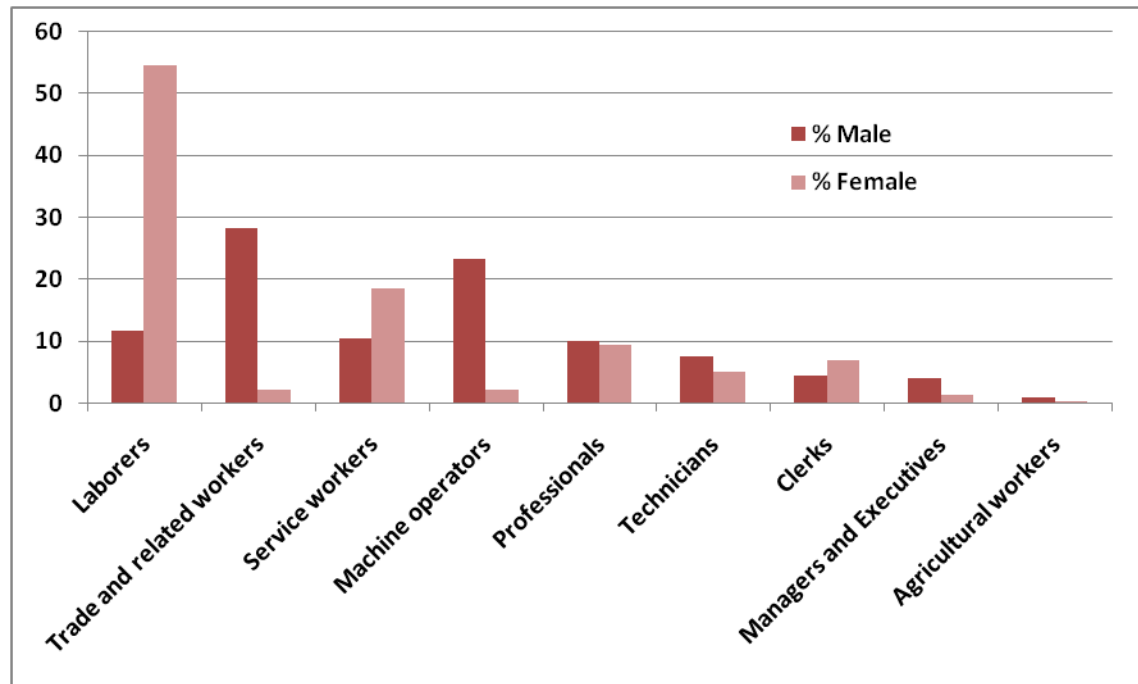
Annual Deployments of Filipino Migrant Workers (2004-2013)
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)

Labour mobility is highly regarded by many Filipinos as a key option to escape poverty and be able to meet basic needs



**Annual Remittances of Filipino Migrant Workers (2003 - 2014) in 000US\$
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)**

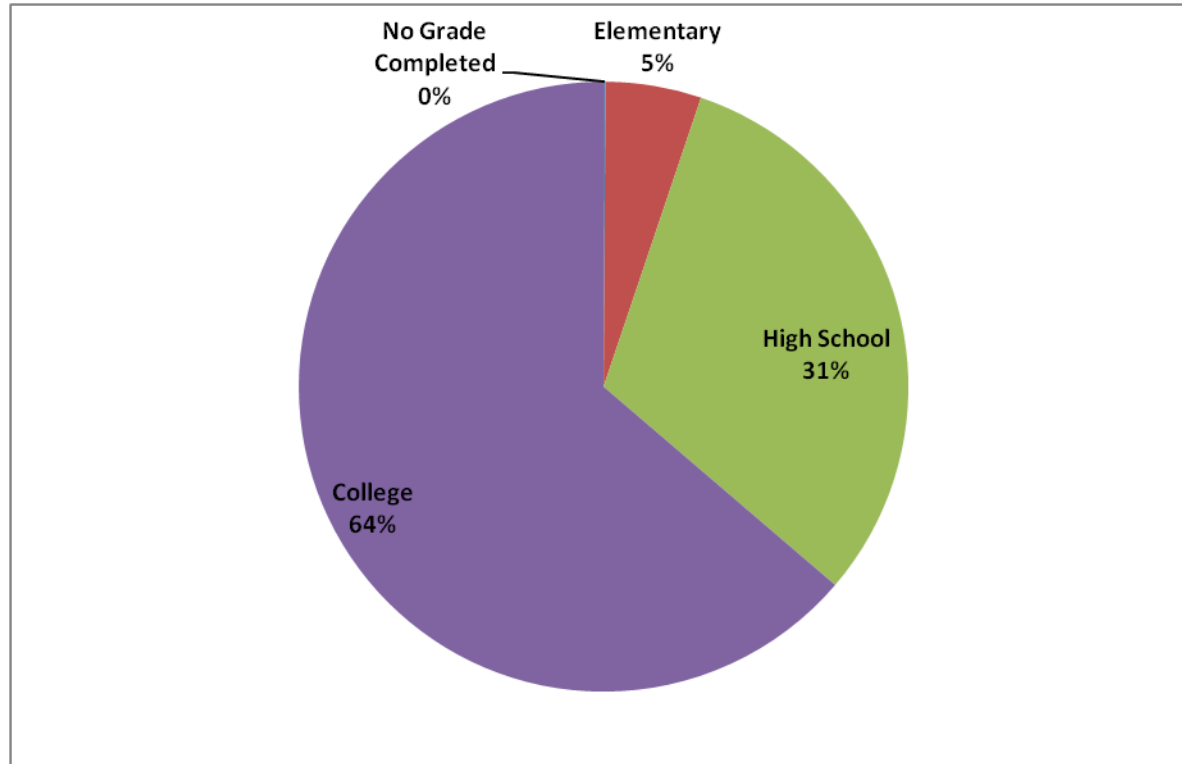
Filipino migrant workers can be found in almost any part of the world today



**Distribution of Overseas Filipino Workers by Major Occupation Group and Sex
(2008 and 2009)**

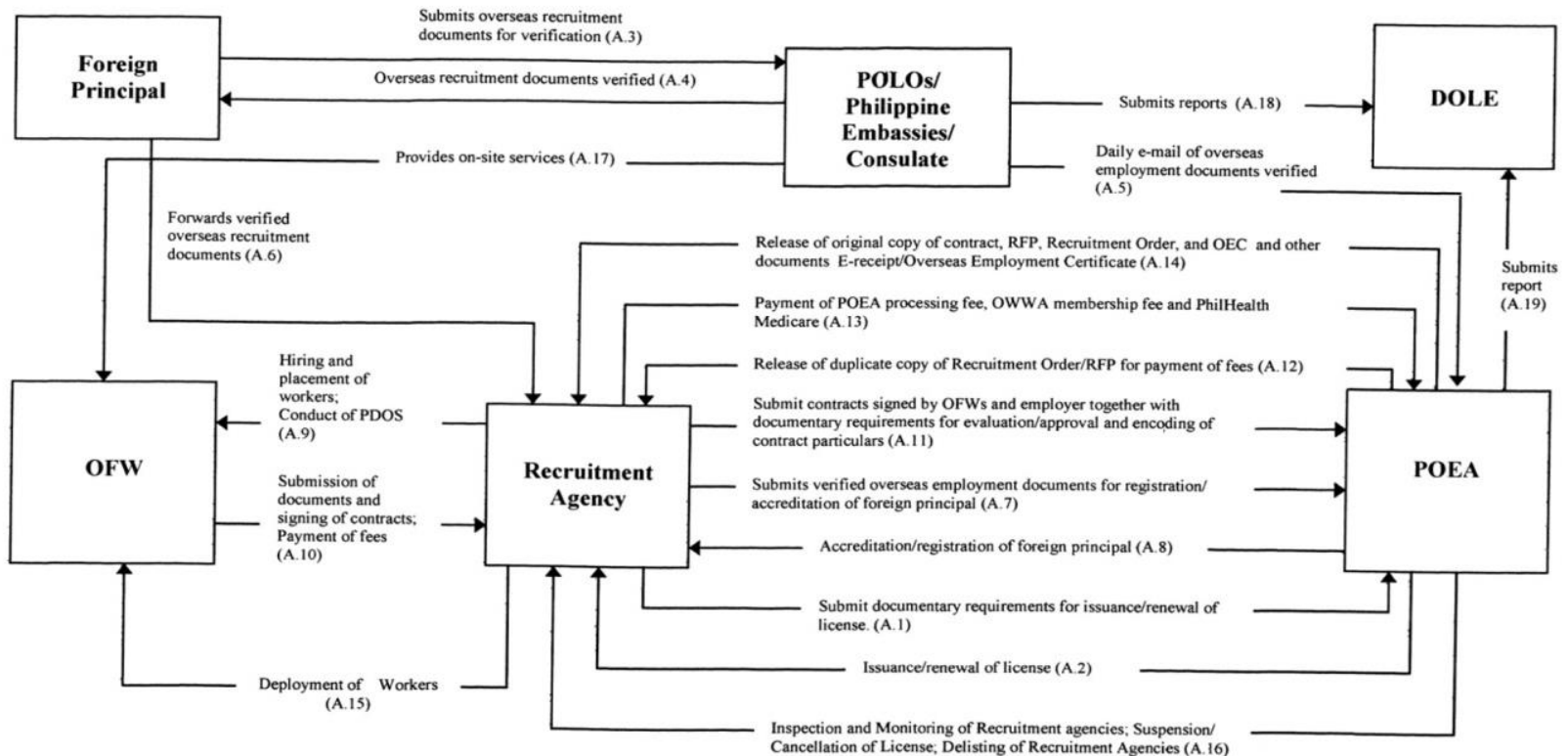
Survey of Overseas Filipinos (SOF) National Statistics Office

Filipino migrant workers are highly educated



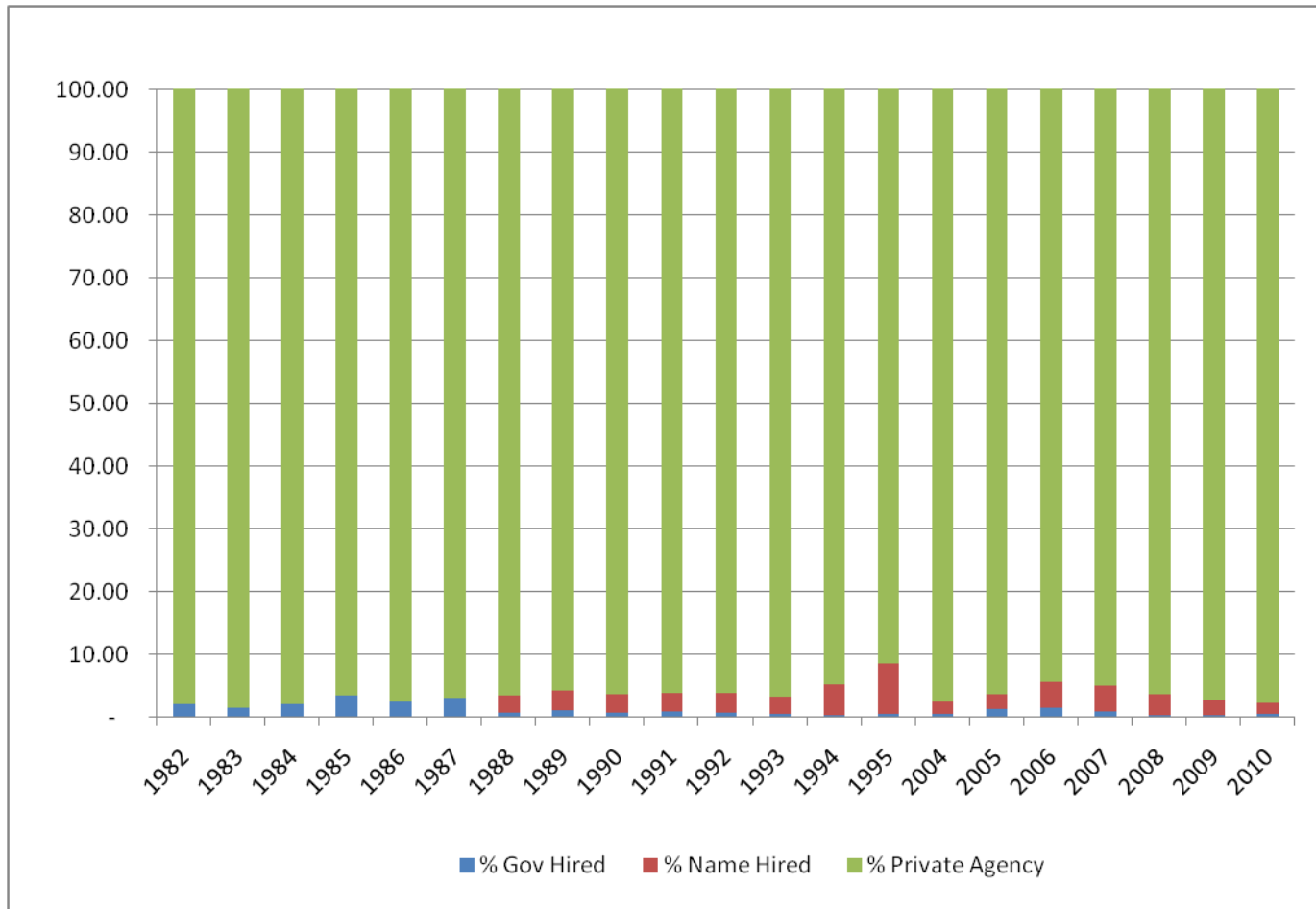
**Percentage Distribution of Filipino Migrants by Highest Education (2002)
National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB)**

Since the 1970s international migration has become highly institutionalized in the country



State-Enabled and Market-Oriented Overseas Employment Program Commission on Audit (COA)

Overseas employment is market-driven



**Overseas Work Contracts Processed by Percentage of Recruitment Type
Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)**

Despite the institutional mechanism, illegal recruitment continues.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Pending cases, beginning	1,154	1,285	1,358	1,427	1,365
Cases received	470	402	252	221	135
Total cases handled	1,624	1,687	1,610	1,648	1,500
Number of cases acted upon / disposed	339	329	183	283	153
Disposition Rate	20.9	19.5	11.4	17.2	10.2
No. of persons arrested	25	98	74	12	2
No. of establishments closed	9	10	6	6	2
Cases pending at end	1,285	1,358	1,427	1,365	1,347

Status of Illegal Recruitment Cases (2007-2011)
Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES)

Problems also arise at the jobsite

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Worksite visits conducted	NA	NA	NA	776	178
Workers reached	NA	NA	NA	14,454	8,884
Prisons / Deportation Centres Visited	NA	864	622	1,316	887
Workers reached	1,714	3,896	2,368	5,525	4,216
Hospital visits conducted	NA	562	359	1,284	849
Workers reached	747	1,060	744	1,388	1,072
New cases handled	121,083	85,564	77,424	66,653	25,348
Cases carried over from previous month	14,371	9,563	11,237	20,622	13,122
Cases resolved	100,601	80,607	68,883	61,312	20,125
Workers served	NA	NA	NA	79,999	9,753

Status of On-site Welfare Cases (2007 - 2011)
Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES)

**Inadequacies remain.
CSOs play a vital role in addressing the
problems facing Filipino migrant workers.**

**DOLE
POEA
OWWA
DFA
OUMWA
CFO**

**1,260
Private recruitment agencies**

**60
Local migration CSOs**

**12,000
Filipino migration CSOs worldwide (mostly NGOs and HTAs)**

CSOs in the Philippines operate within an institutional frame.

- **Operating openly and legally especially since 1986**
- **The Constitution encourages the establishment of NGOs like community- or sector-based organizations in order to ‘promote the welfare of the nation’ (Section 23)**
- **Their main strength is in providing alternative mechanisms and strategies in responding to the social, economic, and political demands especially of the marginalized and ‘voiceless’**
- **60,000 ++ registered non-profit organizations nationwide**

The context for migration CSOs

- **Government cannot manage migration alone.**
- **The market has its flaws.**
- **The Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 establishes the importance of migrant CSOs**
- **CSOs are seen as ‘partners of the State in the protection of Filipino migrant workers and in the promotion of their welfare’**
- **The State is required to cooperate with CSOs ‘in a spirit of trust and mutual respect’**

Types of Migration CSOs

- **Type One – non-stock and non-profit NGOs reliant on foreign donors and social welfare organizations such as Catholic and other Christian-based groups that provide secretariat, research, and legal support as well as limited financial, shelter, and educational services to individual migrants and mass organizations**
- **Type Two – mass membership or people’s organizations (POs) that claim to represent particular migrant or migration-related groups or sector (e.g., seafarers, domestic workers, families left behind, etc.)**
- **Type Three – faith-based organizations or those directly belong within the ambit of religious, Christian, or Catholic organizations that provide much-needed spiritual counseling, shelter, and educational assistance particularly to vulnerable migrant groups such as trafficked women and children**
- **Type Four – network- and alliance-based organizations that also supplement the assistance provided by the previous three types of organizations by synergizing or coordinating their initiatives**

Not all CSOs are created equal

- **Ideological differences exist between migration CSOs**
- **Some migration CSOs would refer to themselves as ‘progressive’ and ‘genuinely pro-migrant’**
- **Others would have a different analysis of the problems of Philippine society and the root causes of out-migration (the nature of migration itself)**
- **Others would only support political groups within their ambit**
- **Migration CSOs also vary according to their capacities and reach**

Filipino Migrant CSOs in HK:

The Case of MFMW

- **A prime destination for Filipino migrant workers since the 1980s (140,000 estimated stock)**
- **Hong Kong is able to provide a conducive socio-political for CSOs**
- **Filipino migrants in Hong Kong are predominantly women working as domestic servants**
- **The Mission for Filipino Migrant Workers (MFMW) (est. 1981) later to be called the Mission for Migrant Workers, a faith-based organization**

The Work of MFMW

- **Provides pastoral care, legal assistance, and shelter to migrants in Hong Kong**
- **Instrumental in the establishment and institutionalization of other migrant grassroots movements in Hong Kong**
- **Established the Association of Concerned Filipinos – Hong Kong in 1985 that was the prime mover for an alliance of Filipino migrant organizations called United Filipinos in Hong Kong or UNIFIL-HK**
- **MFMW assisted in the creation of the Asian Migrant Coordinating Body (AMCB) in 1996 as an alliance to mobilize migrants of different nationalities in Hong Kong to protect and promote their own rights and interests**

The Role of Migration CSOs

- **Migration CSOs are able to provide much-needed social and legal protections especially to distressed and vulnerable migrants and migrant groups**
- **Migration CSOs are in a position to provide an alternative framework (e.g., attach importance to return and reintegration)**
- **Migration CSOs can provide a platform for the collective representation, mobilization, and empowerment of the migrants themselves (activism from below)**
- **Migration CSOs act as a bridge between the migrants, government, and the market**
- **Migration CSOs provide the link between specific migrant issues and concerns with the broad national issues and concerns**

Broad Issues and Concerns

- **They can scrutinize most of the time but rarely suggest**
- **Migrants need to speak for themselves rather than have activists speaking on their behalf**
- **They can supplement but may not be able to substitute**
- **They can oversimplify and politicize**
- **Advocacies not backed by appropriate research**
- **Tendency to be dependent on external funding**

Some Ways Forward?

- **Develop CSO capacities**
- **Sensitize LGUs to use M&D framework**
- **Allow for real CSO participation in policy making e.g., academe and migrants themselves**
- **Ensure the financial sustainability of CSOs especially mass migrant organizations**
- **Provide a platform for inter-CSO exchanges**

Thank you!

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