Summer School on Migration Studies
Jindrich Hradec-Faculty of Management
of the University of Economics

MIGRATION ISSUE
IN MONGOLIA

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MIGRATION ISSUE IN MONGOLIA

OUTLINES

• Statistical snapshot …

• Internal Migration issue

• International Labor Migration issue

• Final Remarks: Country-Specific Issues
## Demography 2008

- Land square (km): 1,566,500
- Total population (\(^000\) persons): 2,683.5
- Population density (per square km): 1.7
- Annual population growth rate (percent): 1.4
- Urban population (% as of total population): 61.8
- Urban population annual growth (%): 3.6
- Population 65 years age and over (%): 4.2
- Dependency ratio (%): 48.6
- Life expectancy at birth (years): 65.9
- Infant mortality rate (per 1\(^000\) live births): 19.1
Figure 1. Inter-censal annual population growth rates and number of populations, Mongolia, 1918-2005
Figure 2. Declines in Mortality and Fertility, 1970-2025

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TFR</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e_0)</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>68.4</td>
<td>69.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Per 1000 population
A large expansion of the working age population ...
Figure 3. GDP Growth Rates, 1989-2006


GDP Growth Rates:
-10.7% 8.0%
GDP growth varies from sector to sector, analysis of structural changes within sectors shows that in the past few years mining has lead the growth. Increase in actual physical amount of gold and copper extracted as well as their price gains and new types of minerals mined are main factors of a 31.0 percent expansion of the weight of this sector in the overall GDP. Livestock sector is the key sector of the national economy as well.
### Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National average</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>35.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td></td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khangai</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>46.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulaanbaatar</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although economy has been showing positive signs, the poverty and unemployment have not been declining....
Mongolia’s Global rankings in HDI and all components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
<td>0.700</td>
<td>114 out of 177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>116 out of 177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy (% ages 15 and over)</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>25 out of 139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross school enrolment ratio</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>66 out of 172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita (PPPUS$)</td>
<td>2107</td>
<td>134 out of 174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Global Human Development Report 2007
Mongolia is dominated by one city, Ulaanbaatar

The percentage of the urban population in the total population of the country

The percentage of the population of Ulaanbaatar in the total population of the country
Internal Migration issue

Mongolia is dominated by one city, Ulaanbaatar
The absolute number of persons gained from migration increased very rapidly last few years. The data for Ulaanbaatar confirm that natural increase has been the main determinant of the city’s growth till 1995; conversely, in-migration is making a diminishing contribution. This trend has totally reversed since late 1990s. Net migration amounted almost 90 percent of the city’s total population growth.
Causes for Internal Migration

- Seeking employment
- Close access to markets
- Improve living condition
- Study
- Stay closer to relatives
- Natural environment
**Internal Migration issue**

**Consequences of Internal Migration**

**Negative at origin (individual)**
- size of population, population age structure
- decline of market capacity livelihoods.
- lose human resources support”
- people’s mind
- culture

**Positive at origin**
- migrants find jobs
- improve their
- “money”, “goods”, “moral
- better social services

**Negative at destination**
- over population
- burden on the city
- growing unemployment
- air pollution due to smoke
- growing demand for housing and land,
- high prices. and

**Positive at destination**
- Human resources
- Market capacity
Main factors affecting emigration

- Unemployment
- Low salary/wages
Age-sex structure of labor migrants

Mongolian migrant workers in South Korea
Mongolian migrant workers in the USA
Mongolian migrant workers in Czech Republic

### International Migration issue

The main motives and reasons for going abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Korea</th>
<th>Czech Republic</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The key motives for working abroad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economical</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal/Family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The main reasons for working abroad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeking job</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work on contract</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work on contract</td>
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<td>Seeking job</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeking job</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Training</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompany/Join family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### International Migration issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Czech</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couldn’t find job</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know language</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couldn’t find house/flat</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health problems</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation problems</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional hardships</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homesickness</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of information</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know rules for foreigners</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference in life style</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t have health insurance</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difficulties</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number</strong></td>
<td>393</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“All Mongolians in the factory that I work for can not speak Czech, so we use signs to communicate with our supervisor. Sometimes they violate our work contract and sometimes our salaries are counted wrong and yet we can not do anything about these problems (CzFGD-1).”
Mechanisms, intermediaries and networks that help people to move:

“Who are labour intermediaries in Mongolia?”

- Companies and organizations with an official permit to export labour
- Persons who used to study and live in destination countries (or still live in destination countries)
- Religious and non-governmental organizations

The majority of the migrants residing in the Czech Republic come with the help of intermediaries. Their intermediaries help with making contracts with employers and with obtaining visas.

Official and unofficial agencies engaged in labour export abroad usually do not provide enough information about legal regulations and human rights to migrants. Although most individual intermediaries provide salary information, frequently that information turns out to be incorrect.
**International Migration issue – General Foreign Worker Selection/Invitation Procedure of South Korea**

1. **Definition of Employment Permit System for Foreigners**
2. Signing memorandum of understanding (MOU) on sending workforce (the Korean Government ↔ governments of sending countries)
3. Foreign workers who want to be employed (Government of sending country ↔ Korean Government)
4. Application for employment permission (Employer ↔ The Ministry of Labor (MOL))
5. Selecting the foreign workers and issuing employment permission (Employer ↔ MOL)
6. Signing labor contract (Employer ↔ Foreign Workers)
7. Issuing the visa issuance certificate (Employer ↔ The Ministry of Justice (MOJ))
8. Receiving foreign workers (Employer ↔ Foreign Workers)
### International Migration issue

**Amount of remittances**
*(during the last 12 months period)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Korea</th>
<th>Czech</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sending money and goods to Mongolia (US$)</td>
<td>10250.4</td>
<td>976.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving money and goods from Mongolia (US$)</td>
<td>389.3</td>
<td>127.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International Migration issue

Main advantages of living abroad:
• getting acquainted with the life of foreign countries,
• living and working independently from their parents,
• getting work experience,
• gaining new education and professional skills,
• saving money,
• raising their children under better conditions,
• providing financial support for their families, and
• making contributions to Mongolia’s development from a distance.

Main disadvantages:
• loss of time for education,
• late marriage and family formation,
• loss of professional skills,
• separation from their home country, homesickness, and mental stress.
An increasing trend in labor migration...

Final remarks: Country-specific issues

- Mongolia’s large territory, its landlocked position, the small size of domestic market, and often harsh weather conditions all pose particular challenges.
- Depth and severity of poverty has increased.
- The economy and the standard of living of the population heavily rely on its livestock base.
- Economy still remains heavily dependent upon overseas development assistance.
Country-specific issues ...

- Mongolia’s growth performance remains vulnerable to fluctuations in the world prices of oil, copper and gold
- There is serious concern on environmental degradation
- Corruption identified as top issue hindering the development of the country
Mongolia has a relatively young age structure compared to other countries in the world.

In next 20 years, age structure will be changed significantly.

Reasons for changes in age structure:
- Mortality decrease from 1950s
- Fertility decline from 1970s
- Increase in life expectancy at birth

Demographic window is opened now. But domestic labor market cannot absorb this labor surplus properly.

By 2020, the percent of population aged 60 and over will be doubled.
Country-specific issues ...

- Imbalances in the distribution of population across the country have increased
- Large-scale labor export has already started in Mongolia
- Outbound migration of talented and educated young people
- Labor migrants were working both with/without an employment contract, work permit, visa and with some difficulties
Country-specific issues …

- Illegal or unauthorized Mongolian migrants are economically at risk, there are limited possibilities for protecting their human rights, they have no choice to work, and thus they have to accept any work conditions.

- Due to their unauthorized status, including no work permit, no legal documents, and expired visas, many migrants do not have access to social security and other social services.

- Support mechanisms for migrants living abroad have not been established.
Country-specific issues...

There are an increasing trend of migration...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!