Filipino Migration to Hong Kong: Social & Economic Context

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Aklan Province

Economy of Aklan
- Agricultural economy
  - Palay (#1): rice production (inland)
  - Coconut: Ibahay, Balete, Banga, Makato
  - Livestock (pigs) & poultry
- Fishing/aquaculture (coastal areas)
  - Fishing: very seasonal, Sibuyan Sea
  - Aquaculture: fishponds
- Tourism: Boracay (Top Island Resort 2012 NBC)

Source: http://www.aklan.gov.ph/aklan02_eco.php

Filipino Transnational Migration:
Images & Stories from Aklan, Manila & Hong Kong
Photography Exhibit by James Sobredo
Manila: The First World in a Third World

“Metro Manila”:
Quezon City & Manila & Surrounding Areas

Clarification Questions?
Discussions

Manila’s Economic Growth

- **Construction (+14% growth 2012)**
  - Government Infrastructure Development
  - Real Estate boom: driven by OFW funding (80%)
- **Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)**
  - Philippine became #1 outsourcing center in the world in November 2011 (*New York Times*)
  - Makati, Ortegas, Quezon City, Cebu, Bacolod
Philippine Economy 2015

Philippine GDP (in Billions of U.S. dollars) 2001-2013
*Data Source: World Bank

Clarification Questions?

Discussions

Hong Kong: World Class Capitalist City
The “Wall Street” of Asia
And all your problems are gone: religious coping strategies among Philippine migrant workers in Hong Kong

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Seminar für Religionswissenschaft, Universität der Berlin, Verlag für Europäische Forschung, GmbH, Berlin, Germany
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This paper provides an ethnographic account of both hardships and religious coping strategies of Philippine migrant workers in Hong Kong. It will argue that contextual coping needs that arise from the migration process may lead to a reorientation towards more charismatic religious groups, which in turn seem to promote coping strategies specifically tailored towards the (relatively homogenous) experiences of these migrants. It will also argue that, while the “empowering” implications of religious coping rest ambiguous, it may assist the termination of exploitative patterns in migration by reducing their emotional cost.

Economic Factors & Context

- **HK**: higher incomes (GDP per capita) compared to the Philippines (graph: World Bank data) ($250/$500 US)
- **Hong Kong & maids** (Filipino/Indonesians)
- "highest number of maids per capita in Asia" (South China Morning Post 2012)
- Globalization of economy & labor migration
- 1974 Marcos “Manpower” program to now 10% of total Philippine population are OFWs (IMF)

Employment Crisis in Philippines

- **Prevailing economic stagnation & stratification**
  - National: 34.2% live below poverty line
  - RURAL: 47.4% live below poverty line
- **Large supply** of RNs
  - 100,000 under-employed RNs (cf. R. Parrenas)
- **Large number of unemployed RNs**
  - 10,000 graduates each year (2003)
  - Only 1,000 nursing jobs available (2003, Philippines)
- **HK = low UNEMPLOY & low UNDERemployment: 3.3% & 1.5% (2013)** (HK Census)
Clarification Questions?

Discussions

And all your problems are gone: religious coping strategies among Philippine migrant workers in Hong Kong

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Maraming Salamat

“Salinas Lettuce Field, Highway 101”
James Sobredo
Canon EOS A2E, Velvia, 1999