

# **Labour Migration Policies in Central Asia**

**Expert Group Meeting on Strengthening Capacities  
for Migration Management in Central Asia,**

**UN ESCAP**

**Bangkok, September 20-21, 2010**

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# Introduction

## Driving forces of labour migration in the sub-region

- Disparities in economic development
- Availability of work
- Historical legacy

1.4 million work permits issued in 2009 in Russia

80% issued to CIS visa free countries

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine – top 3 origin countries

Impact of financial crisis

**Kazakhstan has transited from a country of labour migration origin to a country of destination;**

# Introduction

- The countries of origin for labour migration in the CIS, states in Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), and the South Caucasus (Armenia and Azerbaijan) are relative newcomers to organized labour migration;
- Most of the labour migration takes place spontaneously or with the help of informal networks

# 1. Countries of Destination

**Kazakhstan:** the main destination country in Central Asia  
31,886 work permits issued in 2009, UNESCO/OSCE Survey – 38% working without authorization. Regularization in 2006 found 165,000 irregular workers.

## 1. Admission Policy

- Visa free regime with CIS countries for entry and personal visit up to three months
- Temporary labour migration policy – work permits issued to employer for period of up to one year based on labour market requirements
- Protection of jobs for nationals – quotas and labour market test. Four categories of foreign workers of which three are highly skilled or skilled.
- Fourth category – seasonal agricultural workers under BLAs

# Kazakhstan

## 2. Post admission policies

- Equal treatment with nationals in employment and working conditions with some important exceptions:
  - Employment contract for less than one year
  - No provision for pension and mandatory social insurance
  - Do not have the right to establish a trade union (but may join a registered trade union)
- Good practice: Recognizes the right of legal migrant worker to stay in the country for period of work permit in case of job loss
- Large number of irregular migrant workers – regulation challenge and issues around rights

# Kazakhstan

## 3. Administration of labour migration

Ministry of Labour: Policy development and labour market

Ministry of Internal Affairs: Internal control and removals

Regional administration: issuing of work permit

## 4. Bilateral and Regional Agreements and Consultations

# Kazakhstan

## 5. Good Practices

- Legislative review of rights of legal and irregular migrant worker in relation to international standards
- Drafting of a new law on migration currently underway
- Training of legal advisers in NGO resource centres on rights of migrant workers
- Study of employment of labour migrants in the informal economy
- Engagement of trade unions in the protection of migrant workers
- Development of a manual for activists on how to involve migrant workers and training
- Training of trainers and farmers seminars on occupational safety and health in farms employing migrant workers
- Employers organisation – information resource centre
- Bilateral and regional forums

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_7886](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7886)

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：



# Countries of Origin

, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

countries: Russia and Kazakhstan

0,000 labour migrants; most migrants from the  
t migrants are in the 20-40 age group and are about  
n  
orkers

s were 31% of GDP in 2008

ussia, 500,000 to 800,000 labour migrants

n migrants, young and from rural areas

ed registered intermediaries, Seasonal migration

n – 74% (ADB 2007)

s were 50% of GDP in 2008

ages