

Workshop
“Cooperation for peace and prosperity in Cambodia”
Phnom Penh
August 16-18, 2007

The Role of Global Diaspora Groups in Development and Capacity Building

Heidi Dahles
VU University Amsterdam
Netherlands

vrije universiteit amsterdam



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Aim: outline opportunities and challenges that returning migrants (or: diaspora) offer to home-countries

Approach: comparative analysis of ‘capital’ input as a consequence of such return movements

The concept of capital will be broadened beyond its purely monetary significance and defined in terms of economic, social, cultural, political and human capital.

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Definition of concepts:

Migration is defined in terms of voluntary mobility.

The concept of **diaspora** refers to involuntary migration; it is the product of conflict and subsequent forced migration.

Diaspora implies:

- dislocation and relocation to other territories than one’s homeland,
- ongoing yearning for this homeland,
- the maintenance of emotional ties,
- the wish to return one day

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Diaspora contribution – conventional approach:

- Remittances
- Philanthropic Donations

“How to increase remittance flows and direct them towards ‘developmental’ uses”

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Cons of Remittances

A development perspective:

1. Consumptive, not productive
2. Personalistic, not community-based
3. Unreliable
4. Uncontrollable
5. Increasing dependence
6. Not development-directed

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Table 1: Top 10 countries with highest total remittances received (2001)

Country	Total remittances	GDP	Population	Remittances as % GDP	Total per capita
Mexico	9,920.0	618,000.0	102	1.6	97.00
France	9,220.0	1,310,000.0	60	0.7	164.55
India	9,160.0	457,000.0	1,003	2.0	9.14
Philippines	6,366.0	71,500.0	81	8.9	78.24
Spain	4,692.0	582,000.0	40	0.8	117.00
Germany	3,800.0	1,846,000.0	82	0.2	46.80
Portugal	3,573.0	110,000.0	10	3.3	354.85
Belgium	3,493.0	229,000.0	10	1.5	340.49
Egypt	2,911.0	98,000.0	72	3.0	40.49
Turkey	2,786.0	148,000.0	66	1.9	41.90

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Table 2: Top 10 countries with highest total remittances received as percentage of GDP (2001)

Country	Total remittances	GDP	Population	Remittances as % GDP	Total per capita
Lesotho	209.0	797.0	1.8	26.21	12.80
Vanuatu	53.3	212.8	0.2	25.02	76.14
Jordan	2,011.0	8,829.0	5.2	22.83	90.23
Bosnia	860.0	4,769.0	3.9	18.02	19.29
Albania	699.0	4,113.7	3.5	17.11	99.12
Nicaragua	335.7	2,067.8	4.9	16.2	68.25
Yemen	1,436.9	9,177.2	17.5	15.2	82.21
Moldova	223.1	1,479.4	4.4	14.0	50.34
El Salvador	1,925.0	13,738.9	6.2	13.6	308.64
Jamaica	1,058.7	7,784.4	2.6	9.33	97.17

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Theory of Practice (Pierre Bourdieu)

Input of diverse forms of capital by diaspora:

1. Economic capital (wealth in a narrow sense)
2. Cultural capital (certified knowledge and expertise)
3. Social capital (relations, trust, credentials)
4. Human capital (potential for creativity of human resources)
5. Political capital (power, means of orientation)

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Diaspora as capital providers: India

Economic capital: remittances*, direct investment, portfolio investment, and humanitarian or other philanthropic assistance;

Cultural capital: attractive employment conditions in private and educational sector;

Social capital: build-up of links between US and Indian high-tech firms.

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Diaspora as capital providers: Mexico

“Padrino programme” [padrino = ‘godfather’]

A fine example of **social capital** build-up

- Through diaspora linkages
- In particular geared towards successful Mexican-American businesspeople
- Method: personal involvement in local communities
- => grass-roots model

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Diaspora as capital providers: Taiwan

Human and social capital recruitment:

- Making use of highly skilled returnees through networking and return migration
- Building brain trust
- Under government sponsorship
- ‘Courting’ diaspora

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Diaspora as capital providers: China

- Entrepreneurial and business capital investments (knowledge, technology, experience)
- Diaspora attracted to the country by offering attractive business conditions
- Business model of cooperation
- Not community-focused

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Obstacles and restrictions of diasporic capital investments:

- Private people or organizations who do not intend to develop their home-country
- Consumption focused
- Lack of fit with NGOs
- Involvement in ongoing conflicts in home-country

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Major actors:

- 1. Donor governments (host-countries)**
- 2. NGOs**
- 3. Public-private partnerships**
- 4. Diaspora members and diaspora organizations**
- 5. Local communities in home country**
- 6. Recipient governments**