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Shape your world



Ritsumeikan
Asia Pacific University

Launch Seminar

WDR2023: Migrants, Refugees, & Societies



Students at College of Nursing, University of the Philippines, taken by speaker on August 31, 2007.

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Key Messages of WDR2023: More Recipients' Angles

KEY MESSAGES

Migration is necessary for countries at all levels of income

When migrants' match is strong, the gains are large

- Destination countries should not let social and cultural controversies overshadow the economic gains from migration
- Most migrants benefit greatly from their move—and even more so when they have rights at destination
- Origin countries should actively manage migration for its development benefits

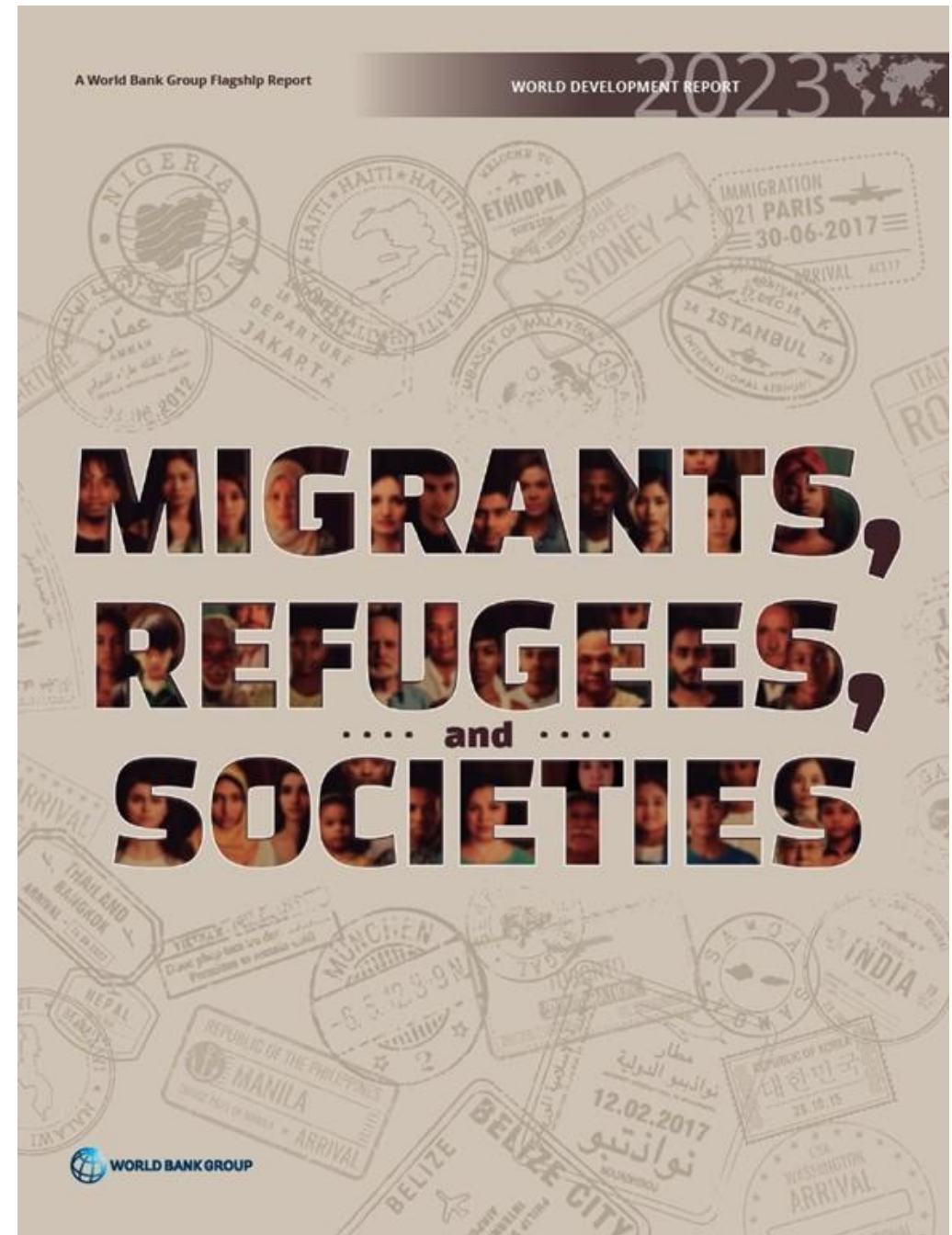
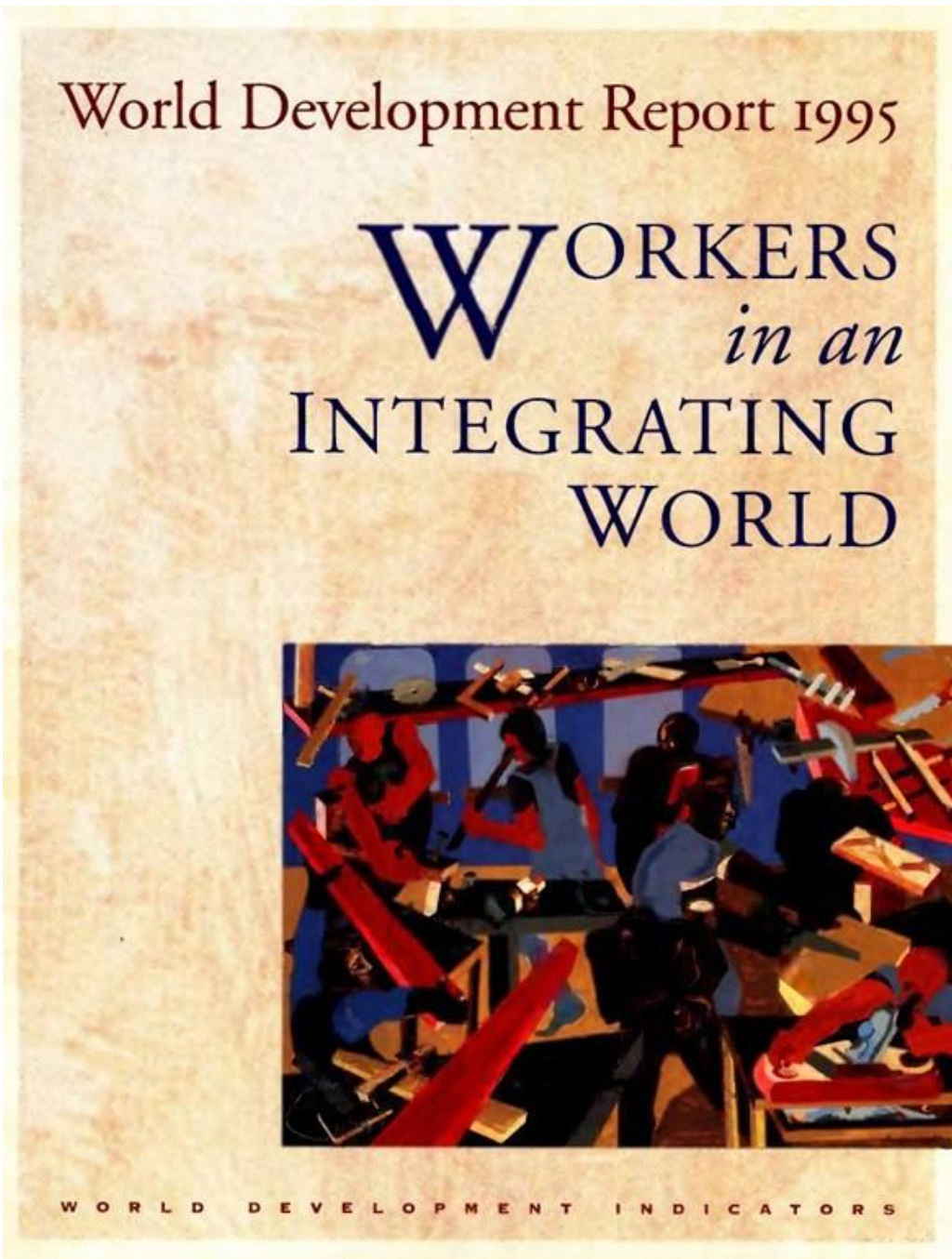
When migrants' match is weak, costs need to be shared—and reduced—multilaterally

- Refugee situations should be managed as medium-term development challenges, and not just as humanitarian emergencies
- Distressed migration needs to be reduced, while respecting people's dignity

Making migration work better requires making migration policy differently

- Stronger international cooperation is essential: bilateral to enhance migrants' match, multilateral to respond to movements driven by fear
- Financial instruments to align diverging interests
- To make change happen, underrepresented voices must be heard, including developing countries'

Two WDRs: 1995 and 2023



- Main messages in [WDR 1995](#) were:
 - A more market-driven and integrated world for workers.
 - Global integration holds out the prospect of tremendous future gains for the world's work force
 - Sound domestic and international policies are indispensable to avoid and correct market failures, to invest in people, to react downward shocks, and to defend the rights of the most vulnerable workers.
- Its focus mainly lied in [policies in developing countries](#) which are more likely to be labor sending countries.

- 1995: There were some **migrants' sending countries** ahead in migration promotion and protection policies while some countries were yet to exercise them (Amjad ed. 1989; Gunatilleke ed. 1986; UNESCAP 1987).
 - Pioneering Countries: Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, etc.
 - Catching-up Countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, etc.
- 2023: There are some **migrants' receiving countries** ahead in mobilization and synergy-producing policies while some countries are yet to exercise them.
 - Pioneering Countries: Australia, Canada, Germany, etc.
 - Catching-up Countries: **Japan** and some East Asian countries

- Aging and a decline in birth rate in Japan.
- Japan should accommodate diversity more to be globally dynamic.
 - In the 21st century, people still face completely new affairs such as COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion to Ukraine.
 - **A male-senior people centric political-economic-social structure does not suit dynamic changes.**
 - ✓ I am also among male-senior people.
 - The city I live, Beppu, Oita Prefecture, Japan, is full of tourists, international students, and people with non-Japan nationality.
 - ✓ Even Beppu has challenges to accommodate people with non-Japan nationality better.

References

- Amjad, Rashid, ed. (1989), *To the Gulf and Back: Studies on the Economic Impact of Asian Labour Migration*, New Delhi: International Labour Organisation, Asian Employment Programme (ILO-ARTEP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Gunatilleke, Godfrey ed. (1986), *Migration of Asian Workers to the Arab World*, Tokyo: United Nations University.
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) (1987), *International Labour Migration and Remittances between the Developing ESCAP Countries and the Middle East: Trends, Issues and Policies*, Development Papers No. 6, Bangkok: UNESCAP.