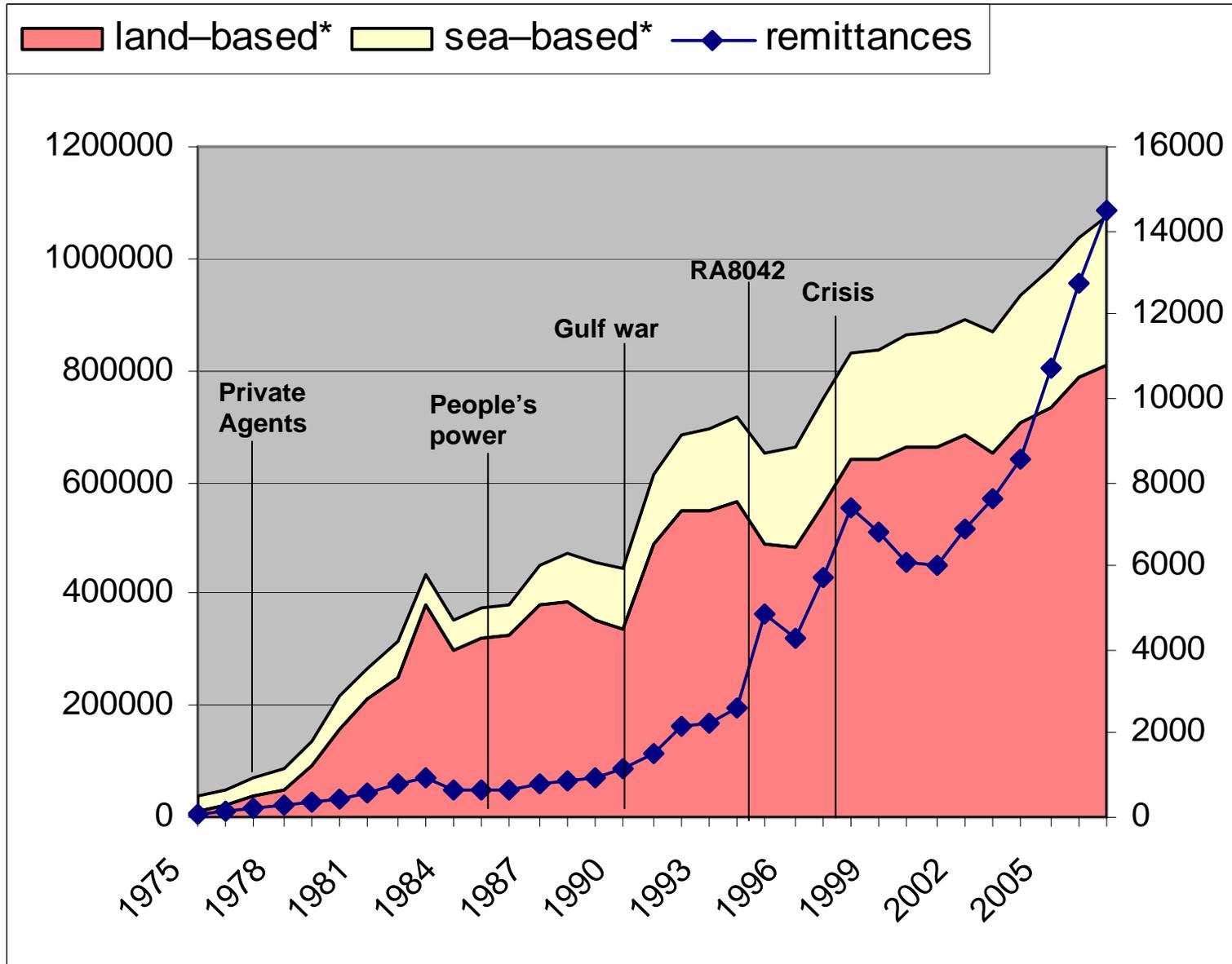

MIGRATION FROM THE
PHILIPPINES:
BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND
PROTECTION

**IPD Task Force
on International Migration
Mexico City, Jan. 15-16 2009**

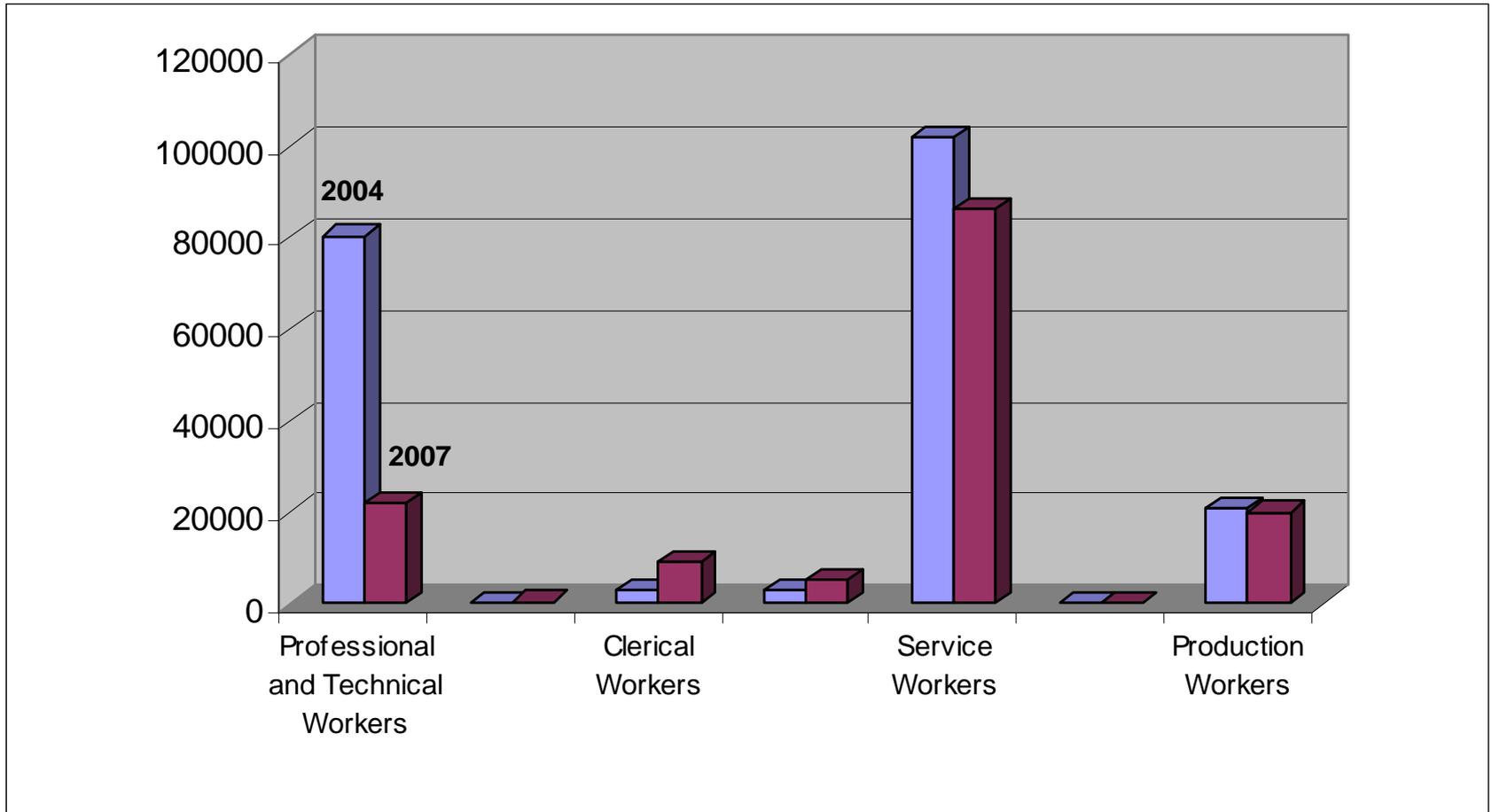
Labor migration from the Philippines: 40 years of growth



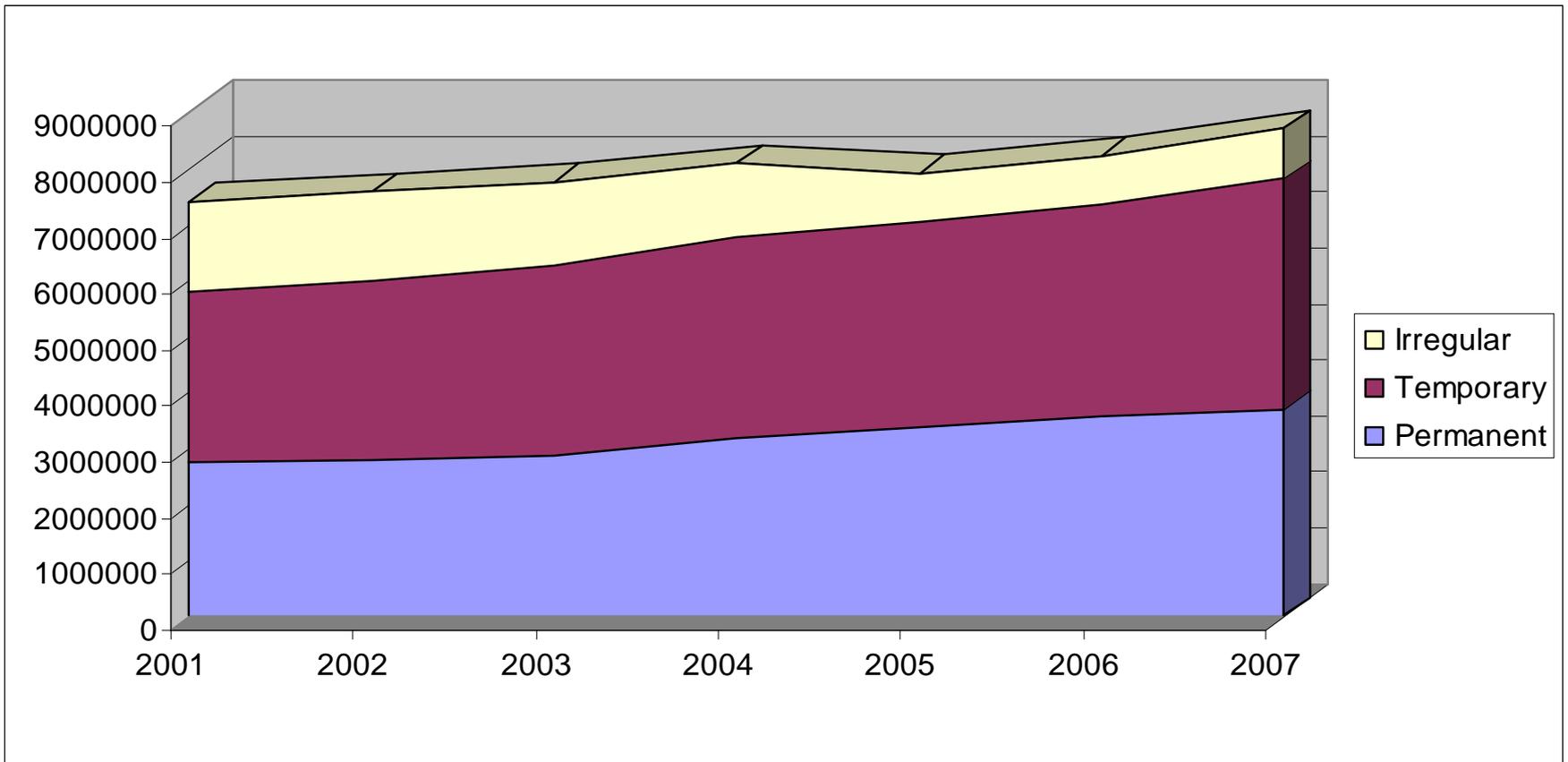
GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSIFICATION

	OFW Deployment			% Share to total	
	2007	2006	% Change	2007	2006
World Group					
ASIA	218,983	222,940	-1.8	20.3	21.0
MIDDLE EAST	487,878	462,545	5.5	45.3	43.5
EUROPE	45,613	59,313	-23.1	4.2	5.6
AMERICAS	28,019	21,976	27.5	2.6	2.1
TRUST TERRITORIES	6,674	6,481	3.0	0.6	0.6
AFRICA	13,126	9,450	38.9	1.2	0.9
OCEANIA	10,691	5,126	108.6	1.0	0.5
OTHERS	7	8	-12.5	0.0	0.0
<i>Workers with Special Exit Clearance</i>	79	231	-65.8	0.0	0.0
LANDBASED TOTAL 1/	811,070	788,070	2.9	75.3	74.2
SEABASED TOTAL	266,553	274,497	-2.9	24.7	25.8
GRAND TOTAL	1,077,623	1,062,567	1.4		

FEMALE MIGRATION



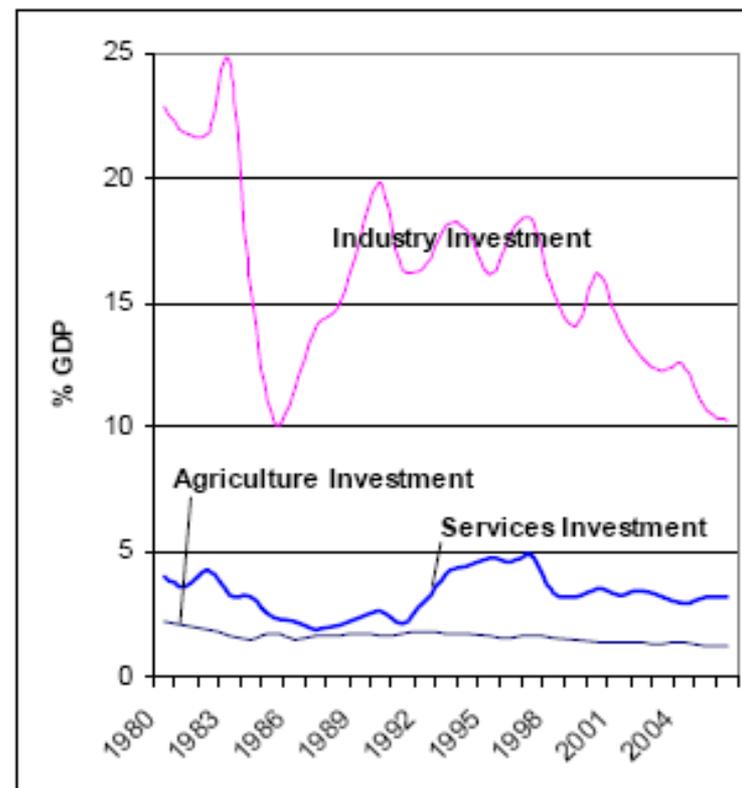
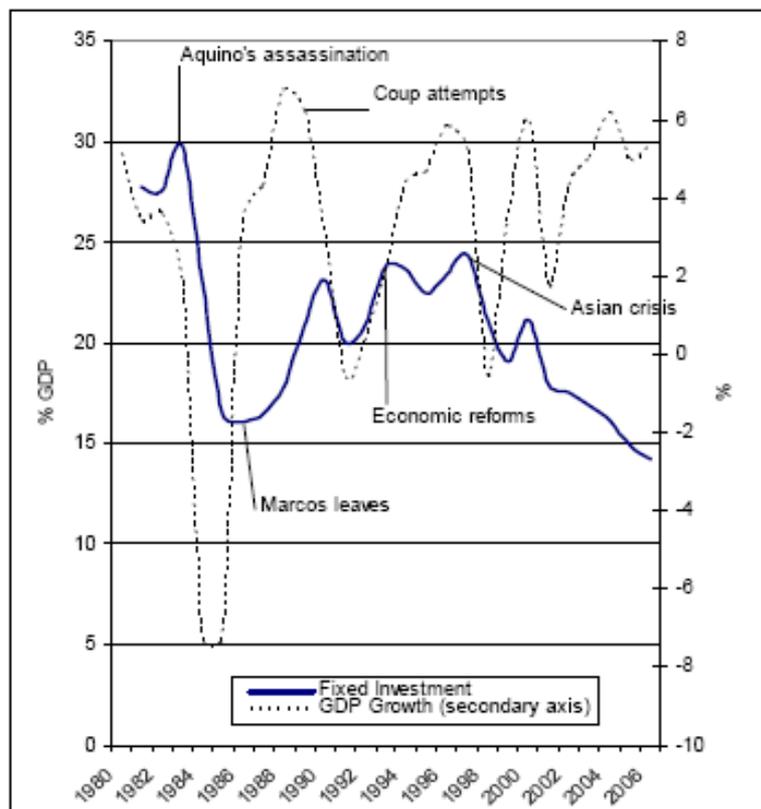
STOCK OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



DISAPPOINTING DEVELOPMENT

- Population doubled between 1975 (42 million) and 2005 (84 million)
 - GDP per capita annual growth between 1975 and 2005 was only 0.4%; between 1990 and 2005 it was 1.6%
 - Employment by sector did not change dramatically and is still very high in agriculture (34.7%) and very low in industry (14.8%)
 - In the Human Development Index the Philippines has declined in rank from 84 in 1991 to 90 in 2008
-

DECLINING FIXED INVESTMENT



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board, 2007.

IMPACT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Migration “culture”: youngsters like to become OFWs
 - Spreading of schools for nurses (enrollment has increased by 28 percent in the last two years)
 - Spreading of schools for seafarers (about half of them are without employment)
 - Impact on family left behind mitigated by the extended family
 - Impact on culture is difficult to assess
 - Initiatives to reap the “diasporic dividend”
-

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS

- Institutional framework (POEA, OWWA, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs)
 - Protective legislation:
 - Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (Republic Act 8042)
 - Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (RA 9208)
 - Political rights of migrants:
 - Absentee Voting Act of 2003 (RA 9189)
 - Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003 (RA 9225)
 - The Philippine migration policy:
 - too regulatory (migration industry)
 - not sufficiently protective (civil society)
 - managing spontaneous outflow (government)
 - a policy of labor export (migration scholars)
 - Tension between deployment and protection is inherent in the temporary labor migration system
-

ISSUES OF THE LABOR MIGRATION SYSTEM

- It is inherently not-temporary
 - It requires unprotected labor conditions
 - Lack of interest to effectively regulate labor recruitment
 - Lack of negotiation power by migrants
 - The system tends to generate irregular migration
-

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- First, there should be a level of protection granted to migrants which is not negotiable
 - Second, agreements among countries of origin
 - Providing migrants with agency
 - Strict labor migration has to be tempered by the possibility for integration
-

DILEMMAS FROM THE 1997-98 CRISIS

- To re-deploy or to re-integrate?
Renegotiate contracts
 - To deploy or to protect?
Deploy: costs will come later
 - To regulate what?
Leave to the market. But is the market better?
 - What reintegration for repatriated migrants?
Provide them the right information
-