Booming international arrivals in PNG’s booming economy

PNG Update, 18 – 19 June 2015
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Structure of presentation

- Introduction;
- Overview of available data and its limitations;
- Overview of visitor arrivals in PNG;
- Arrivals by source country;
- Arrivals for employment purposes and work permits issued to foreign workers;
- Occupations of foreign workers;
- Summary and discussion.
Introduction

CONTEXT

- PNG’s booming extractives and construction industries have increased labour demand that cannot be met locally;
- Strong link between growing economy and increasing number of arrivals (especially for employment and short-term business).

AIMS

- Summarising data on international arrivals in PNG with a particular focus on arrivals for employment and business;
- Comparing arrivals data with work permit data;
- Showing recent trends in regards to source countries and occupations in which foreign workers are employed.
Overview of available data

- Analysis of Arrival (and Departure) Card data (2000 to 2013), released by NSO;
- Analysis of Issued Work Permits per year (several years between 2000 and 2014), by DLIR.
Arrival cards
Shortcomings of Arrival Card data

- Some missing data;
- Data entry errors;
- Shortcomings related to the data collected in the cards;
- Inconsistency in filling out the cards;
- Possibly incomplete data collection.
Total number of arrivals in PNG (returning residents and visitors), 1996 to 2013
Visitor arrival numbers by continent, 1999 to 2013

- Asia: 53,000 visitors (32%)
- Australia: 81,000 visitors (48%)

31.6%
Number of visitor arrivals from Asian countries, 2013

- Philippines: 22,153
- India subcontinent: 4,190
- Korea: 1,697
- Other Asia: 6,777
- China and Hong Kong: 8,281
- Japan: 3,225
- Malaysia: 5,111
- Singapore: 1,758
Reasons for visitors arriving in PNG, 1996 to 2013 (absolute numbers)
Number of Australian and Filipino arrivals by reason of visit, 2013

Australia:
- Employment: 24,582
- Business: 29,919
- Other: 24,424

Philippines:
- Employment: 18,815
- Business: 1,786
- Other: 1,506
Length of stay of visitors from Australia and Philippines, 2012

Australia:
- 1-7 days: 32.44%
- 8-28 days: 51.14%
- 29 days - 3 months: 14.18%
- Over 3 months: 2.23%

Philippines:
- 1-7 days: 10.84%
- 8-28 days: 40.31%
- 29 days - 3 months: 19.88%
- Over 3 months: 28.96%
Comparison of the number of visitor arrivals for employment and work permits issued
Number of work permits issued for PNG, 2000 to 2014
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<td>Total</td>
<td>5,313</td>
<td>5,881</td>
<td>14,901</td>
<td>20,242</td>
<td>25,047</td>
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Number of active work permits by country of origin, May 2015

- Philippines
- China, Peoples Republic of
- Australia
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- United States of America
- India
- United Kingdom
- New Zealand
- Bangladesh
- Burma (Myanmar)
- Fiji
- Sri Lanka
- Canada
- Korea, Republic of
- Other
Industry of work permit holders, May 2015
Occupational categories of visitors arriving for employment

- Professional, Technical
- Administration, Executive, Managerial
- Clerical
- Sales
- Agriculture, Farmers, Fishermen
- Miners, Quarry Workers
- Transport and Communication Workers
- Tradesmen, Mechanics, Boilermen, etc
- Service Workers
- Armed Services
Occupational categories of visitors arriving for business

- Professional, Technical
- Administration, Executive, Managerial
- Clerical
- Sales
- Agriculture, Farmers, Fishermen
- Miners, Quarry Workers
- Transport and Communication Workers
- Tradesmen, Mechanics, Boilermen, etc
- Service Workers
- Armed Services
% increase of major occupational categories among visitors, 2000 to 2012
Occupations of work permit holders, May 2015

- Total
- Other
- Professional Builder
- Volunteer Service Worker
- Building and Construction Manager
- Production Manager
- Skilled Fisheries Worker
- Supply and Distribution Manager
- Skilled Forestry Worker
- General Manager
- Chief Executive or Managing Director
- Corporate Services Manager
- Retail Manager (General)
- Sales and Marketing Manager
- Operations Manager
- Specialist Heavy Machinery Mechanic or Technician
- Technicians and Trade Coordinators and Supervisors
Summary and discussion

- Employment and business are major reasons for visiting PNG;
- Some striking differences between work permit and arrivals data;
- Importance to look at different data sets;
- Australians continue to dominate overall arrivals in PNG but not the stock of foreign work permit holders.