

Co-creating Inclusive and Sustainable Migration Governance

Lessons from Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration
across East and Southeast Asia

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Session 2: Lessons from Cross-Regional Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration



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THE RESEARCH PROJECT

"Omitted from the Safety Net"

BEBESEA Participatory Action Research on migrant social protection

What social protection programmes currently exist for migrant workers?

What hinders workers from accessing them?

How can those obstacles be addressed?

Four destinations: Taiwan • Japan • Malaysia • Hong Kong — Origin countries: Indonesia • Nepal • India • Philippines

Why Participatory Action Research

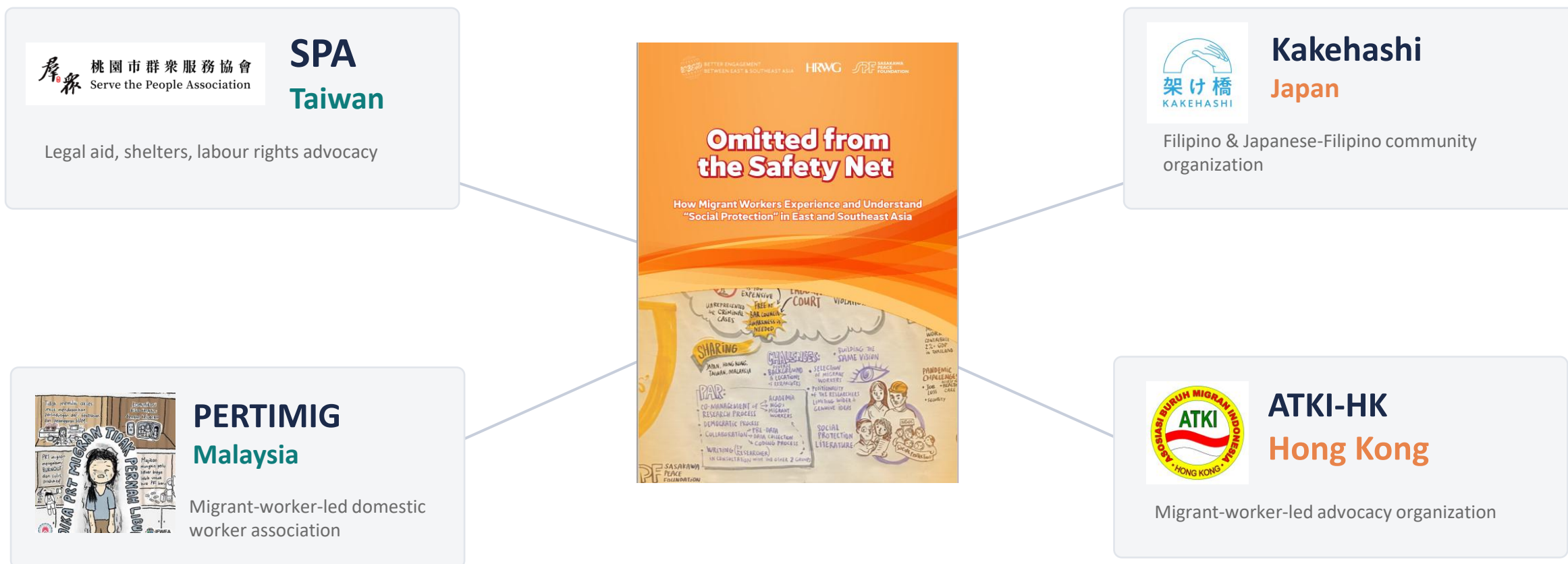
- Standard approach analyzes social protection “from above” — government and private-sector institutions as the only actors that matter
- PAR inverts that: migrant workers and community organizations become co-researchers, shaping the research itself — not just supplying data

The same question this symposium is asking: what changes when affected communities define the agenda, instead of reacting to it?

THE RESEARCH

Four Community Organizations as Co-Researchers

Equal partners in producing knowledge — not outreach channels, but co-authors of the research itself.



"Omitted from the Safety Net" — BEBESEA, HRWG, SFP Participatory Action Research on migrant social protection · Taiwan · Japan · Malaysia · Hong Kong

Protection on paper. Barriers in practice.

JAPAN

Arcy — Specified Skilled Worker / Horse Groomer

- Workplace accident –Lost sight in one eye – 3 eye surgeries
- Legally entitled to compensation (Worker's Employment Compensation)

Did not understand the claims process due to lack of information and language barrier



TAIWAN

Occupational Illness Case

- 7 Factory workers with occupational illnesses- skin and respiratory illnesses
- Legally entitled to protection
- Employer resistance to facilitating access
- Relied on SPA support to pursue remedies

Different countries. Different systems. Same barrier: Access.

REGIONAL COMPARISON: ACCESS GAPS

Four countries, four different access challenges

Country	Current Context	Main Access Challenge
Japan	Strong legal coverage; migration reforms underway (TITP → Employment for Skill Development); portability agreements with select countries	<i>Information and language barriers</i>
Taiwan	Expanded protection for some long-term migrants	<i>Eligibility and structural barriers</i>
Malaysia	Coverage institutionalized through PERKESO	<i>Awareness and implementation</i>
Hong Kong	Protection tied to the employment relationship	<i>Structural exclusion</i>

Closing the legal gap does not automatically close the access gap.

Forum on Social Protection through Migrant Communities' Lens

August 2023 · Kuala Lumpur · with the Malaysian Bar Council

- **40 participants**: heads of PERKESO's Foreign Workers Division and International Relations Department, plus ILO, IOM, CSOs, diplomatic embassies, legal professionals, and journalists
- Created **space for dialogue on sensitive issues**, including the legal realities faced by undocumented migrants



"The PAR findings served as a powerful mechanism for direct policy advocacy."

"Locally determined and controlled action is a planned consequence of inquiry." — Patricia Maguire (1987), Doing Participatory Research: A Feminist Approach

WE PUBLISHED (2019–2024)

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policy papers

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research reports

FROM TESTIMONY TO PRACTICE

Access → Capacity & Learning → Co-development

ACCESS

Question: Can people reach the system?

- Information
- Awareness
- Language
- Coordination

CAPACITY & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Question: Can people act on information?

- Skills
- Participation
- Peer learning
- Cross-country exchange

OUTCOMES

- ✓ Best Practices
- ✓ Remaining Gaps
- ✓ Collective Learning

CO-DEVELOPMENT & CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Question: Can people shape the solution?

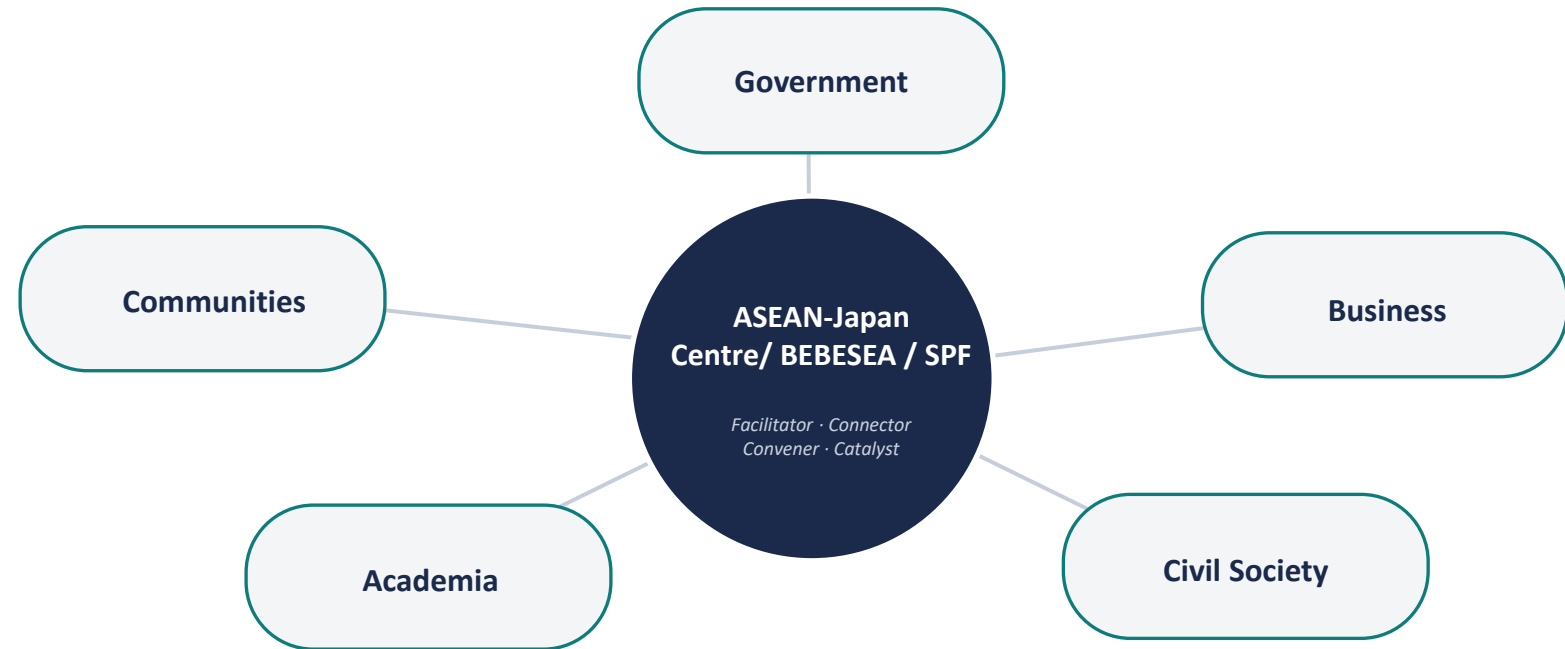
- Japan–Philippines portability mechanism
- Shared challenges
- Shared ownership
- Shared solutions



Made with.
Not made for.

OUR ROLE: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION

Creating safe spaces for dialogue, trust-building, and cross-border cooperation.



Session 4: Strategies for GHG Emission Reduction – Insights from Public Sector Initiatives featured speakers from across the ASEAN-Japan partnership. The session included presentations by Dr. Pham Quang Minh (ASEAN Secretariat), Dr. Ritsuko Yoneda (MAFF Japan), Dr. Yasuro Funaki (JIRCAS), Dr. Kazuki Saito of IRRI and Dr. Tetsuo Nakaya of NARO and moderated by Secretary General Dr. Kunihiko Hirabayashi of AJC.

Governance only becomes inclusive when the people it's meant to serve have a real channel into shaping it — not just receiving it.

Whether the framework is a labour protection system, a social protection mechanism, migration governance, or a regional economic partnership — the principle remains the same.

From migrant social protection to regional cooperation, participation is the pathway to inclusion.

Thank you

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