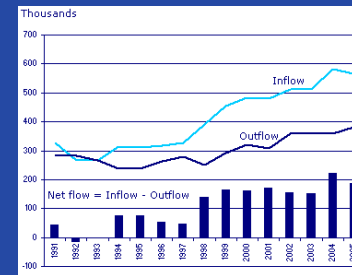
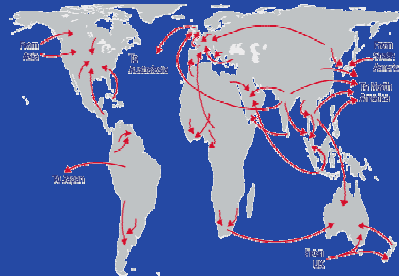


# International Migration Statistics: concepts, definitions and sources



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Regional workshop on *Strengthening the collection and use of international migration data in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 31 January-3 February 2017, Bangkok

# Some concepts related to international migration

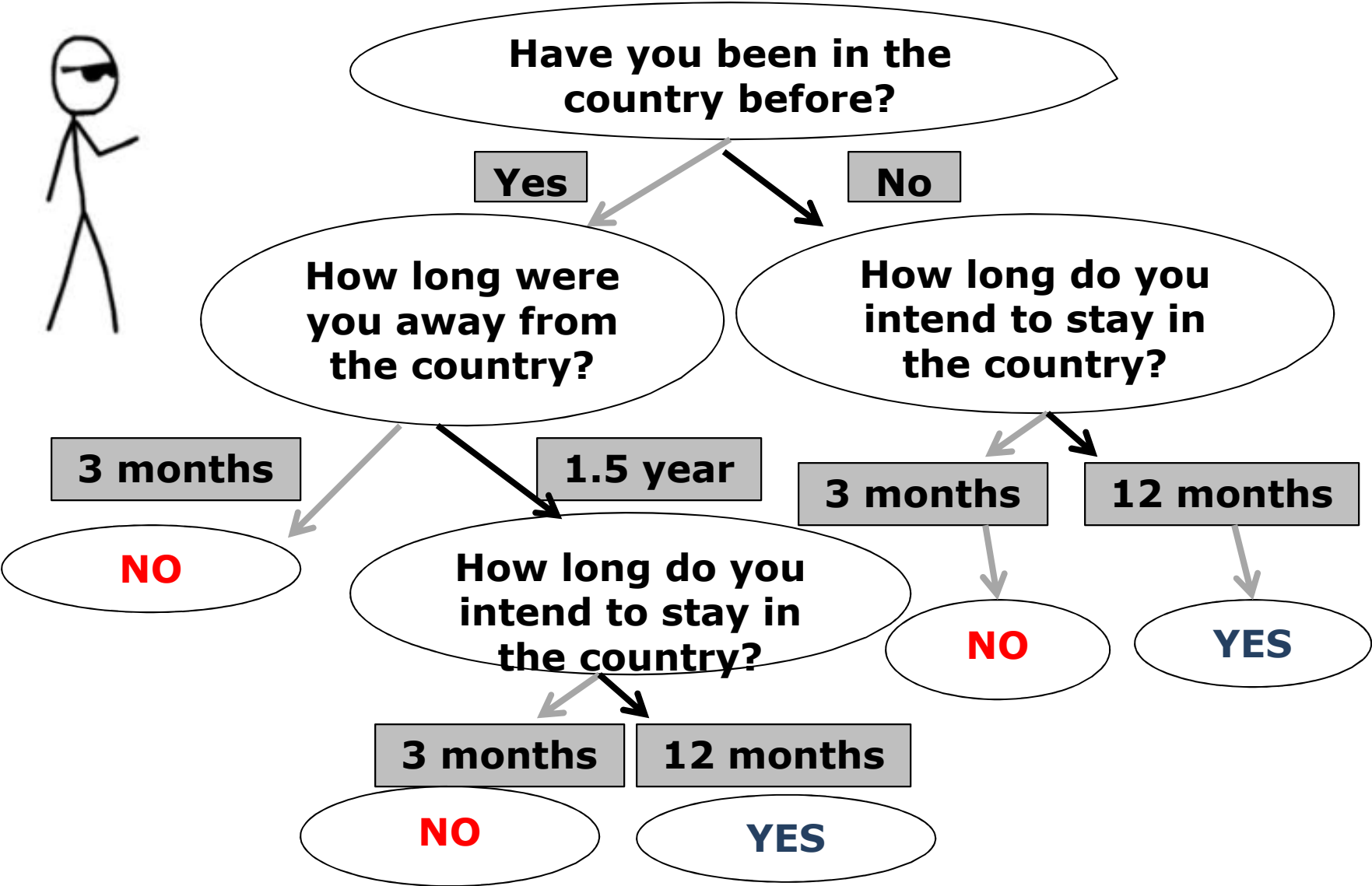
## ■ An **immigrant** of a country:

- entering the country by crossing the border
- not a usual resident of the country when entering
- staying or intending to stay in the country for at least one year.

## ■ An **emigrant** of a country:

- leaving the country by crossing the border
- being a usual resident of the country
- staying or intend to stay in another country or abroad for at least one year.

# Identifying immigrants at the border



# Who is an international migrant?

## Mr. Phan Chinda

- Born in Cambodia, age 27
- Came to Thailand for the first time to work, on 29 January 2016

## Mr. Phan Chinda

- Born in Cambodia, age 27
- Came to Thailand for the first time to work on 7 October 2016

# Who is an international migrant?

## ■ Ms. Maria Teresa

- Lived in the Philippines, Filipino citizen
- Went to USA in July 2012
- Came back to live in the Philippines since December 2015

# Who is an international migrant?

## Ms. Sallymata

- Lived in Lao, DPR
- Arrived at Suvarnabhumi airport on 1 March 2015, filling out an embarkation form with the following information:
  - Visa to work for 5 months
- Filed an extension of stay on 1 August 2015 for another 10 months

# Identifying migrants for what?

Population estimates & projections

Population in 2015

+ births in 2015

- deaths in 2015

+ net immigrants in 2015

= Population in 2016

# Identifying migrants for what?

How many foreigners are coming to the country each year?

- From which country? Age? Education level?
- They are coming for what reason(s)? (Study? Work?)
- Is the labour market ready for the immigrants?

How many citizens are emigrating each year?

How many emigrated citizens are moving back to the country each year? (Diaspora)



# Key inflows and outflows

	Usual residence of the country concerned	Citizenship status when crossing border	Categorization of flows
<b>Inflows of</b>	Non-residents	Citizens	<b>Immigrating citizens (Group A)</b>
		Foreigners	<b>Immigrating foreigners (Group B)</b>
	Residents	Citizens	Residents returning from visits abroad
		Foreigners	Residents returning from visits abroad
<b>Outflows of</b>	Non-residents	Citizens	Visitors departing after short-stay
		Foreigners	Visitors departing after short-stay
	Residents	Citizens	<b>Emigrating citizens (Group C)</b>
		Foreigners	Emigrating foreigners (Group D)

# Population stocks related to international migration

Stock of foreign-born

Stock of foreigners

Stock of returned migrants (citizens)

Stock of “second-generation immigrants”

Stock of emigrants

# Major sources of international migration statistics

## Main data sources:

- ❑ Population and housing censuses
- ❑ Household surveys
- ❑ Administrative sources
  - Registers: population register; register of foreigners
  - Issuance of residence permits; work permit

## Other data sources

- ❑ Border cards
- ❑ Border surveys

# Population and housing censuses (1)

“The total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of the country.”

A major source of international migration statistics

# Population and housing censuses (4)

## ■ Advantages:

- Universal → capturing the small proportion of migrants
- Only a small # of questions → more comparable data across countries
- Large number of Social-economic characteristics → characterising migrants (compared to adm sources)
- Small areas estimates

## ■ Limitations:

- Infrequent
- Not into causes/consequences
- Unreliable data on emigration (entire house migrated; rely on proxy respondent)

# Household sample surveys

- Household sample surveys
  - Specialised survey on international migration
  - Integrating migration questions in a multi-purpose survey (LFS, DHS, living standard measurement survey etc)

# Household sample surveys

## ■ Advantages:

- Wealth of information, causes and consequences (e.g., employment conditions of labour migrants)
- Able to add more questions to identify migrant groups that are of interest/flexible

## ■ Limitations:

- Sample size!
- Expensive (specialised survey)

# Administrative sources (1)

- Registers (population register, register of foreigners, register of asylum seekers)
  - Register/deregister rules might not be strictly followed
- Issuance of residence permits/work permits
- Register at consulates abroad



# Administrative sources (2)

Counting of people or records?

Coverage issue – rules for registration/de-registration not strictly followed

Set up for administrative rather than statistical purposes; legal provision for data exchange

But all information is valuable – piece information together

# Other data sources

- ❑ Border collection (arriving/departure cards)
  - Purpose/duration important
  - Processing records require a lot of work
- ❑ Border surveys
  - Sampling among passengers arriving/departin location and time
  - Asking questions to find “migrants” (duration residence, purpose)
  - Interviewers following a passenger and asking questions
  - Apply to Island countries (UK, for example)
  - Very expensive



# Integrating multiple sources



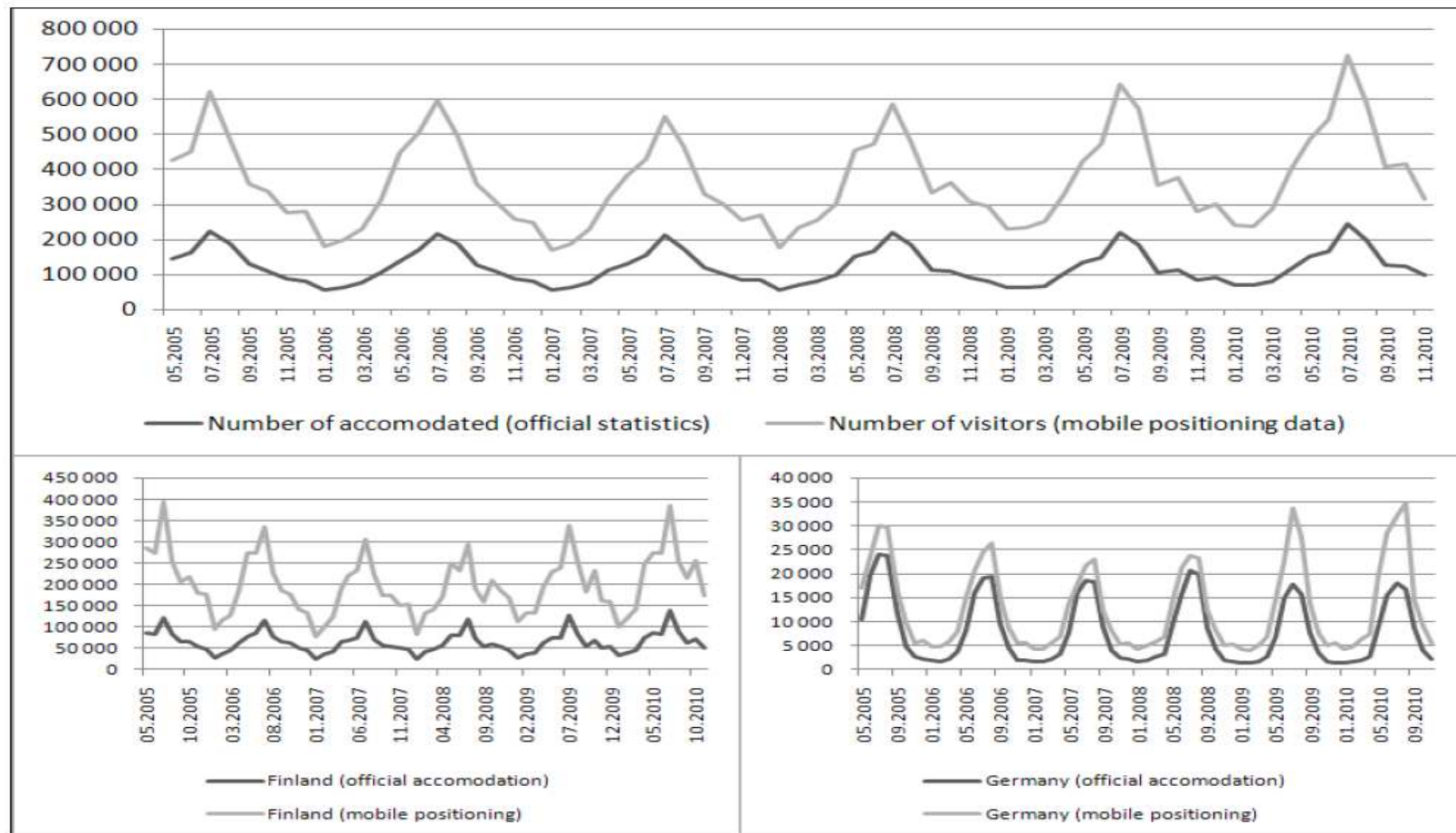
Harmonisation of concepts and definitions!!!

# Data revolution



"Your recent Amazon purchases, Tweet score and location history makes you 23.5% welcome here."

# The use of mobile phone data for tourism statistics



**Figure 3. Comparison of official and passive mobile positioning based inbound tourism statistics for all tourists, Finns and Germans.**

Source: Mobile Telephones and Mobile Positioning data as source for statistics: Estonian Experiences, Ahas et. Al. (2011)

## A few points about country experience/challenges

- Almost all collecting basic information on international migration through population censuses (e.g., country of birth, citizenship and Emigration!)
- Specialised migration surveys are being carried out
- Migration module is incorporated in many national multi-purpose surveys
- Administrative procedure is in place in almost all countries

# A few points about country experiences/challenges (2)

## ■ Challenges:

- Linkage between collection of information and statistics is missing
- Many publish the volume of arrivals/departures, not directly relevant for international migration
- Census/survey data: not a priority for compilation, takes a long time before data are made available; or data on migration are not analysed

# Workshop countries census and migration

Country	Census years	Information asked on census				Availability of stock data	
		Country of birth	Country of citizenship	Year/period of arrival	Emigration	Foreign-born	Foreigners
Bangladesh	2011	1			1		
India	2011	1				1	
Indonesia	2010		1				1
Nepal	2011	1	1		1	1	1
Pakistan	No census in 2010 round						
Philippines	2010		1		1		1
Sri Lanka	2012	1			1	1	
Thailand	2010	1	1			1	1

Source: United Nations Statistics Division