IS HIMALAYA THE GULF?

Rebecca Nolan, Master in Design Studies, Urbanism, Landscape, and Ecology, 2017
Justin Henceroth, Master in Design Studies, Risk and Resilience, 2017

ADV-9126   Urban Theory Lab: ‘Operational Landscapes’ of Planetary Urbanization
Professor Neil Brenner
MIGRANT LABOR DEATHS IN DOHA, QATAR 2012 to 2013

Other Nationalities     Nepali

Impacts of Remittances

Urbanization

Migrant Laborer's Journey

Legend

Proportion of Migrants to Total Population

0%         12%

Increase in HDI from 2001 to 2011

0%         50%

- Recruited by agents working with gulf companies
- Promised salary of $225 to $275 per month
- Agent fees up to $1,100 [Gov't caps fee at $700, but cap not enforced]
- No employment contract
- Bus Ride $10
- Attend migrant labor orientation $185
- Visa processing fee $60
- Plane ticket $300
- Employment contract delivered at airport
- Actual Salary $165 to $200 per month
- Passports held or confiscated
- Workers bound to jobs by sponsorship system
- Exit fee for leaving early $275
- 1 to 2 migrant worker deaths per day
Malaysia: 225,000
India: 875,000
Saudia Arabia: 225,000
United Arab Emirates: 300,000
Qatar: 400,000
Kuwait: 62,000
Bahrain: 20,000

Gulf Remittances: $2.8 Billion USD
Other Remittances: $3.3 Billion USD

LEGEND
Cell Phone Coverage
Transportation
Primary Road
Secondary Road
Bus Station
Airport
Energy
Solar Density
Microhydro Plants
Hydropower Plant
MIGRANT LABOR DEATHS IN DOHA, QATAR 2012 to 2013

Other Nationalities: Nepali

Impacts of Remittances: Urbanization, Migrant Laborer's Journey

LEGEND

Proportion of Migrants to Total Population

0% 12%

Increase in HDI from 2001 to 2011

50% 0%

VILLAGE
- Recruited by agents working with Gulf companies
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Remittances urbanization is reliant on migrant labor flows that are violent, exploitative, and characterized by low levels of investment by the national government in infrastructure.
Migrant Labor Deaths in Doha, Qatar 2012 to 2013

Other Nationalities
- Nepali

Impacts of Remittances
- Urbanization
- Migrant Laborer's Journey

Legend
- Proportion of Migrants to Total Population
  - 0%
  - 50%
  - 12%
- Increase in HDI from 2001 to 2011
  - 0%
  - 50%
  - 100%

Village
- Recruited by agents working with Gulf companies
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Other Nationalities
Nepali

Impacts of Remittances
Urbanization

VILLAGE
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KATHMANDU
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PLANE
DOHA
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LEGEND
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50%

Increase in HDI from 2001 to 2011
0%             50%

Infrastructure
- Power Line
- Factory
Percentage of Population Currently Abroad

Percentage of Nepali Households which have ever had a Member in Migrant Labor

End of Monarchy and Opening of Nepali Economy

Qatar Awarded 2022 World Cup

Timeline

Number of Migrants (thousands)

Portion of GDP

- Agricultural Sector
- Industrial Sector
- Services Sector
- Remittances
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Malaysia
- United Arab Emirates
- Kuwait
Migrant Laborer’s Journey

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BUS

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PLANE

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Migrant Laborer’s Journey

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Migrant Laborer’s Journey

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Doha, Qatar

- Industrial Camp
- "Labor City"
- "Family Residential Areas"
- World Cup Stadium
- Construction Sites
- Exchange Houses outside the family zone
- Exchange Houses inside the family zone
- Industrial Camp
Migrant workers suffer 'appalling treatment' in Qatar World Cup stadiums, says Amnesty

Amnesty report accuses Fifa and Qatari authorities of ongoing indifference to systemic abuse

Qatar refuses to let Nepalese workers return to attend funerals after quake

Qatar Is Treating Its World Cup Workers Like Slaves: Nepal Earthquake Edition

— By Edwin Rios | Tue May 26, 2015 5:39 PM EDT

FIFA President Sepp Blatter  Alessandro Della Bella/AP
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Run-of River or "streaming" hydropower is an alternative to storage hydropower and can be used in Nepal's mountain villages and small cities. It operates by diverting a portion of a stream or river with a large elevation change and using the kinetic energy of the flowing water to turn turbines and thus generate electricity. This type of hydropower uses a smaller footprint and does not involve dams or heavy construction. Many of Nepal's villages are already using a form of micro-hydro to generate electricity for their communities and could export their excess supply to the Terai region and Ganges Plain.
New Relational Geographies

India

China
IS HIMALAYA THE GULF?

(i) Remittances from migrant labor in the Gulf are driving new patterns of urbanization throughout the Himalaya.

(ii) Migrant labor flows are violent, exploitative, and characterized by limited investment in infrastructure and the economy.

(iii) An alternative process of urbanization founded on decentralized, locally-governed renewable energy systems.