

PREFACE

This report is the final output of the project, “*International Labor Migration from South Asia*,” conducted by the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization. The report aims to trace new patterns and the changing nature of labor migration from South Asian countries and analyze the economic and social consequences of migration for countries of origin. It also highlights the role of remittances and examines their effect on development and poverty reduction. This report was co-written with six researchers while I was a visiting fellow of the South Asian Studies Programme (SASP), National University of Singapore (NUS), for the period from October, 2003 to March, 2004.

Taking this opportunity, first of all, I would like to thank SASP and NUS for having provided me with the opportunity to work in an academic environment. I would especially like to express my gratitude to Professor Peter Reeves, coordinator of the programme, for his hospitality and guidance. I am deeply indebted to him. Without his support, the report would not have been completed within the limited time period. My special thanks also go to Ms. Catherine Lee and Mdm. Nur Jannah Mohamed of the SASP office for all the help they extended to me during my stay. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the researchers who participated in this project and provided me with invaluable suggestions.

For those of you whose names I have failed to acknowledge here, I apologize in advance. Please be assured that I appreciate your input.

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