

Skills for Inclusive Sustainable Growth in Developing Asia Pacific:  
An International Forum 11–12 December, ADB, Manila

# Skills Development for Migration: Challenges and Opportunities in Bangladesh

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# Bangladesh at a Glance

- Bangladesh is ranked **93<sup>rd</sup>** in the world in terms of its area. But ranked **8<sup>th</sup>** in the world in terms of population!
- We are a nation of more **than 150 million** people!
- About **1000 people** live per square kilometer.

# Bangladesh at a Glance

- In 2011 GDP was **US \$ 110 billion**.
- Over the last few years GDP is growing at a rate of around **6%**.
- Unemployment rate is around **5%**. Huge number of people is under-employed.
- Informal sector represents about **80%** of total employed.
- Agriculture accounts for **19%** of the GDP but **50%** of labour force.
- Industries generate **29%** of GDP but employ **14%** of the labour force.
- Service sector has a contribution of **52%** in the GDP and has **36%** of labour force.

# Migration

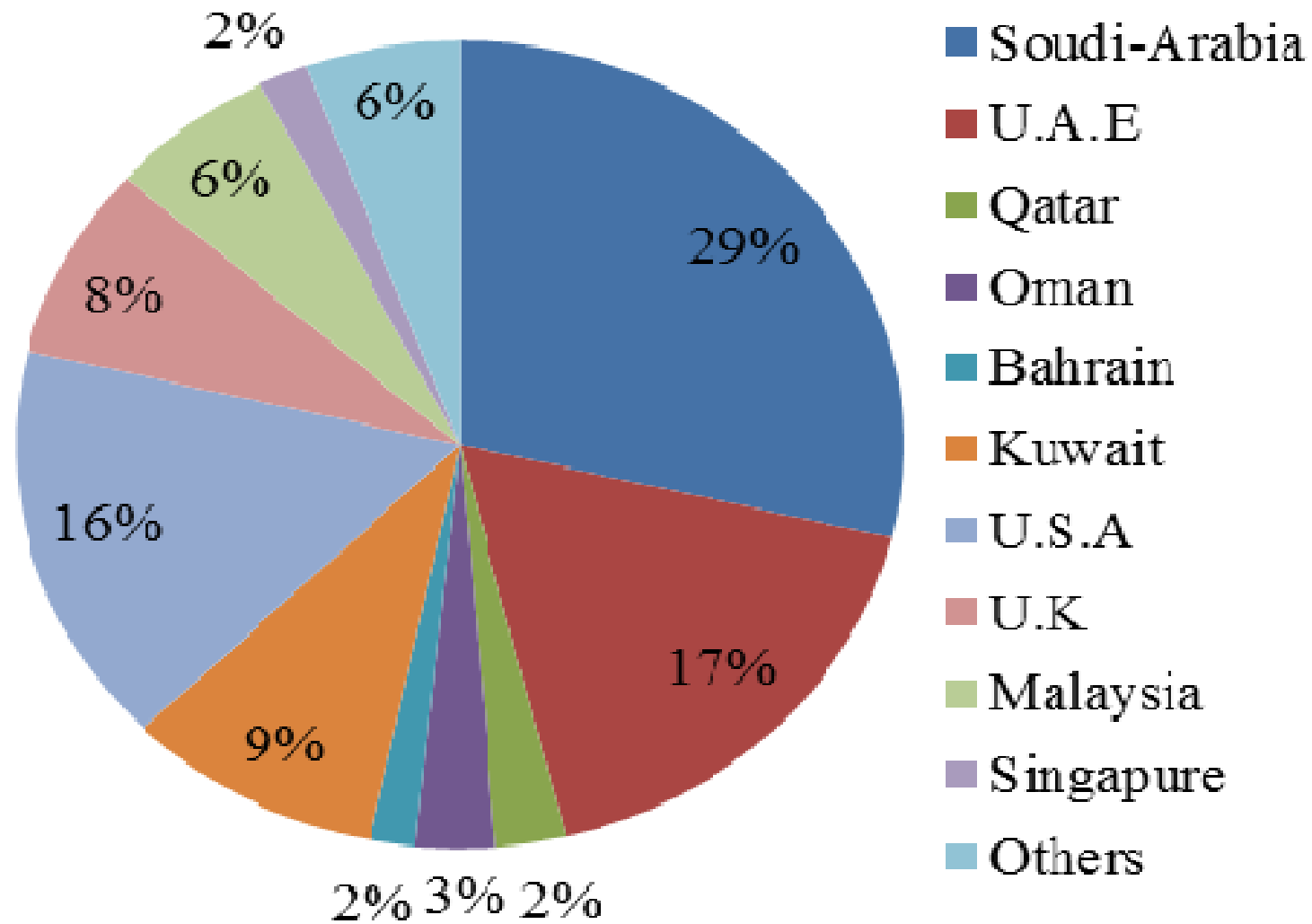
- Bangladesh is one of the biggest labour exporting countries.
- About **8 million Bangladeshi** work in 143 countries in the world.
- **568,062 people** migrated in 2011. Women were 5.4% of them.
- Most of the migrants are semi-skilled or less skilled.
- The average annual remittance by a typical migrant is **about US\$ 816 per annum.**

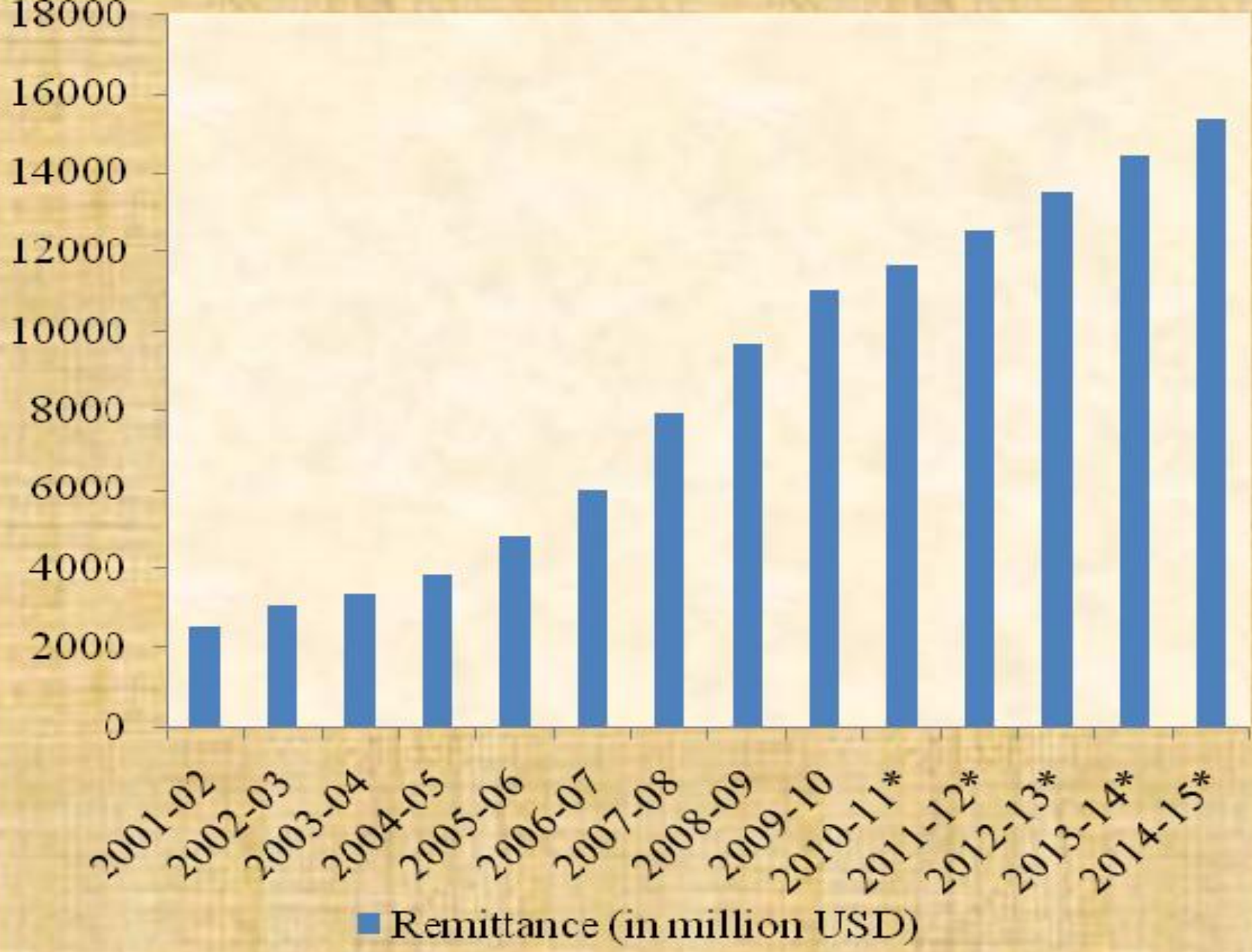
# Migration and Remittance

- Bangladesh received remittance worth \$ 12.8 billion in last financial year, which is
  - **half the total export**
  - 12 times higher than the FDI and
  - **six times higher than the ODA.**
  - 11 percent of GDP last year.
- Bangladesh received about **44 percent** of total remittances received by all LDCs in last year. The share was 31 percent in 2000.
- Remittance significantly contributed to the economy during the time when exports were affected due to financial crisis in the Eurozone and the US.

# Country-wise remittance

**2010-11**





# Why skill the migrants ?

- Skilling the migrant workers would achieve the following goals:
  - ensure the migrants more decent jobs
  - increase the wage that the migrant can demand in international labor markets
  - cause resultant increase in remittance per migrant,
  - protect the migrant workers from unemployment risk during a crisis and
  - after returning to the country can contribute to the economic development of Bangladesh.



# Situation of TVET

- TVET is still the weakest link in the education system
- Problem with perception of TVET
- Low Investment
  - about 2% of GDP is allocated for education
  - TVET gets around 7% of education budget
- Little industry interest in collaborating with government for TVET development.

# Situation of TVET

- Public TVET institutes
  - under-staffed but run double-shifts
  - courses are theory biased
  - curriculum does not respond to industry needs.
  - centralized structures and rigid procedures
- Good number of private TVET institutes but quality of teaching and learning is low.
- Employability of TVET graduates is very low.

# Situation of TVET

- Some private providers run good quality courses.
- NGOs run small skills development courses primarily meant for self employment.

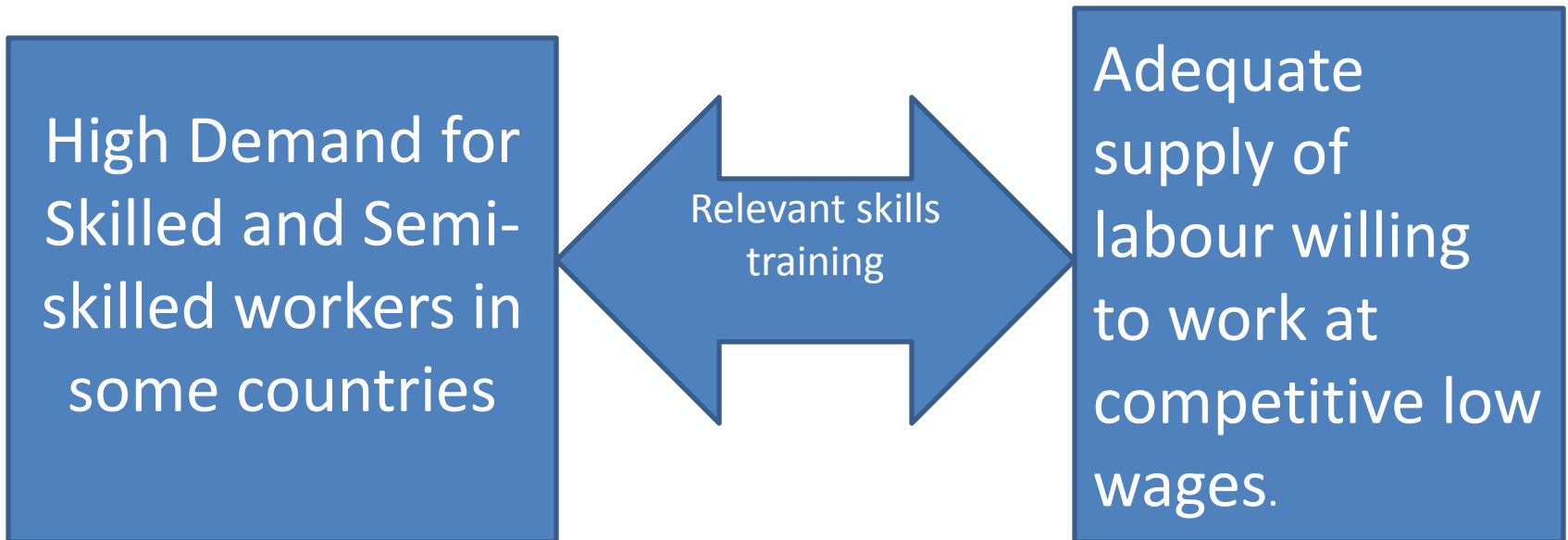
# Skills Training for Migration

- No clear idea about specific demand of skills abroad.
- Formal TVET system is not capable of running training courses for the migrants.
- Formal systems lacks the flexibility to tailor make course curricula to suit to the expectations of skill levels and labor productivity abroad.
- Sometimes the technical capacity to provide specific skills are limited.

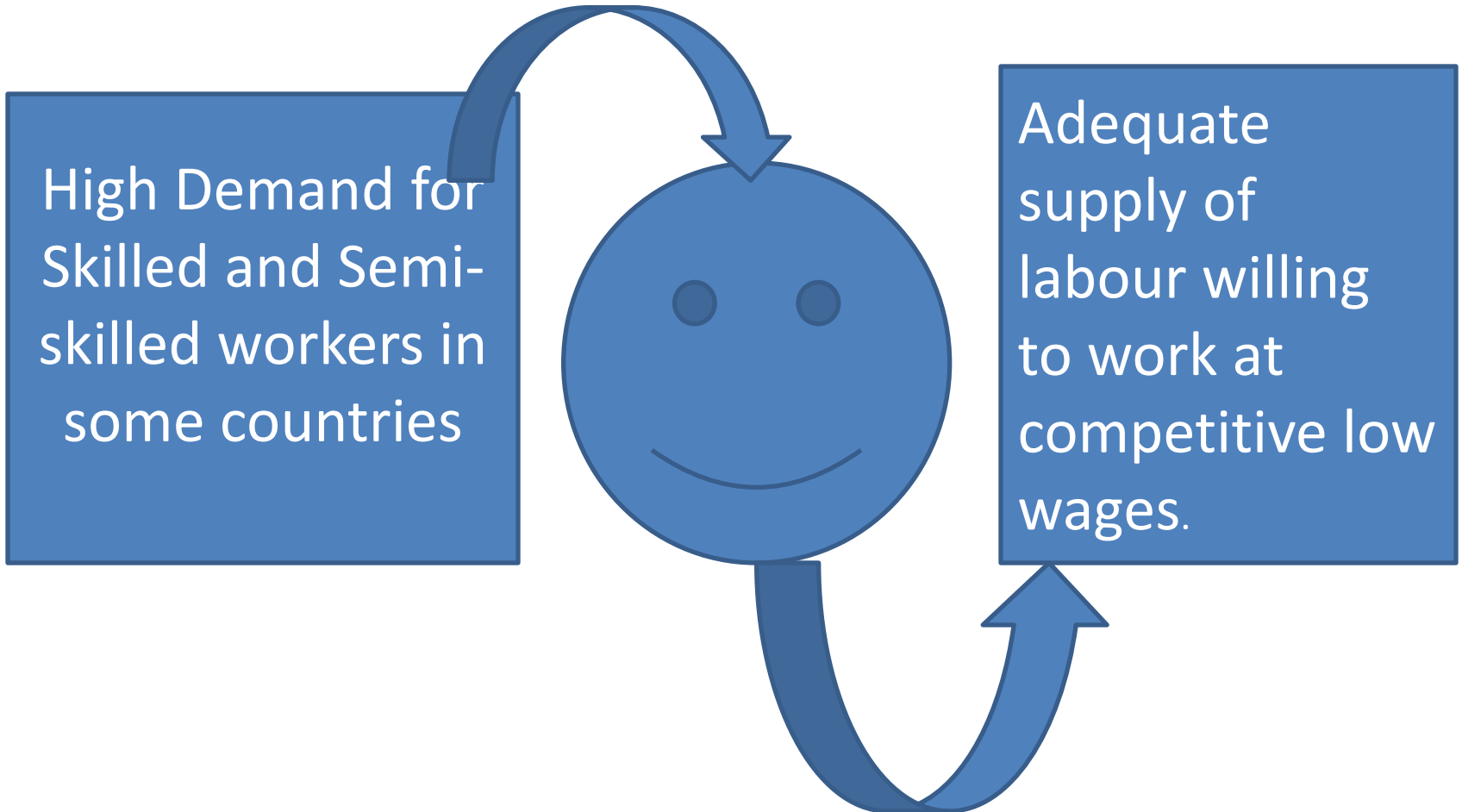
# Skills Training for Migration

- Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) provides some training to migrants workers when required by the government.
- Other TVET institutes are not meant for skilling migrant workers.
- Some NGOs give training to some potential migrants at a limited scale.
- Lot of small private sector initiatives for language training for the migrants

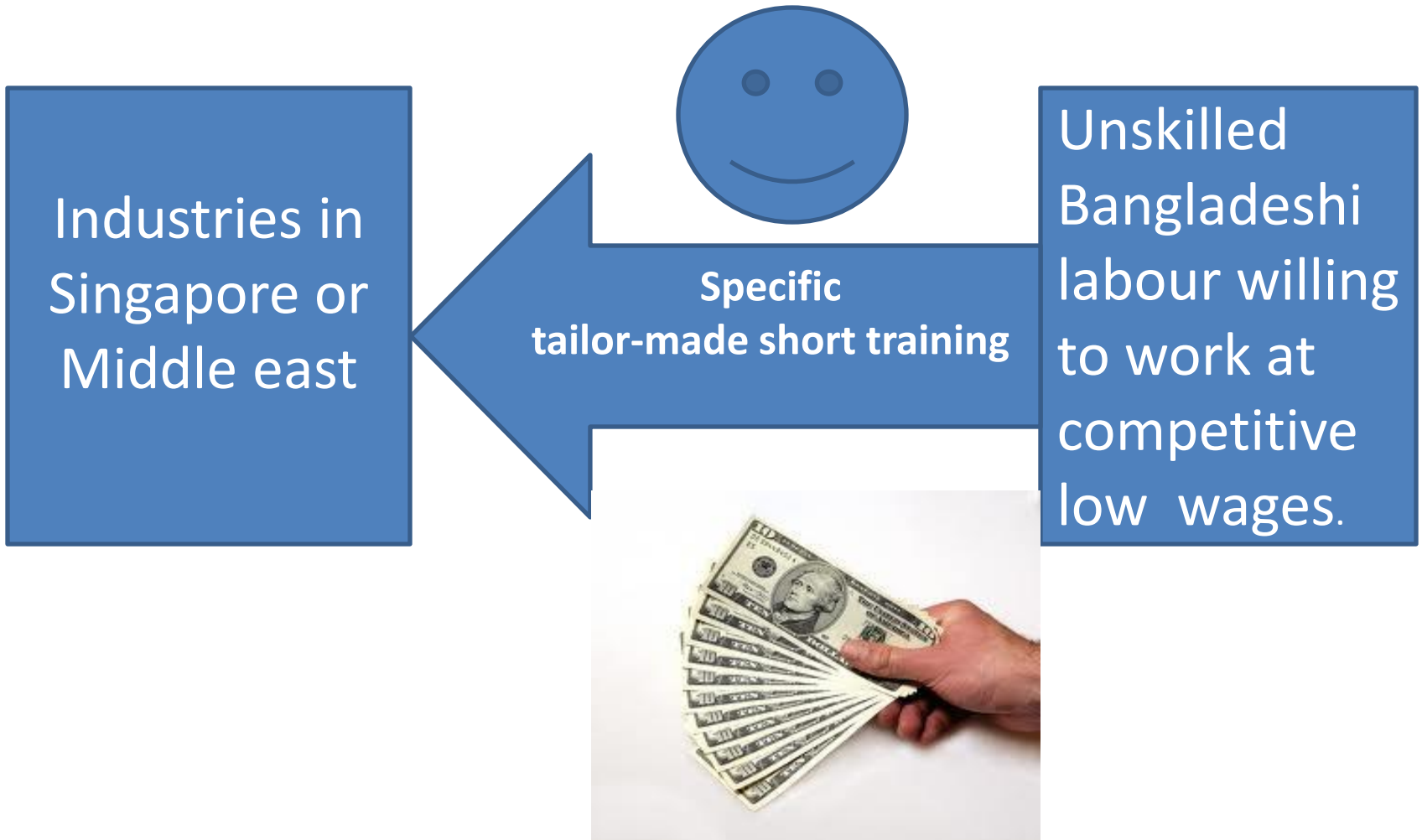
# The Missing Link



# The Match-maker: Mr. Agent



# The Match-maker: Mr. Agent





# The Migration Process

- Training content is specifically limited to enabling the worker to a particular job !
- Potential Migrant to pay for the training cost.
- Agent organizes the un-recognized training in informal settings.
- Assessment and certification by employers representatives.
- Those who pass the assessment get the job only after paying the agent heavily ( 6000-7000 USD for a job of 600 USD per month in Singapore!)

# The Silver Lining



- Increased emphasis on TVET.
- National Skills Development Policy.
- National Technical and Vocational Education Framework.
- Increased donor interest in Skills Development.

# The Silver Lining



- Piloting competency-based training and industry linkages.
- Introduction of market responsive short training courses in public institutes.
- Bi-lateral agreements/MOU with recipient countries.
- Establishing linkage between skill training and recruitment process of migrant workers.
- Plan to better regulate private agents and bring there 'skills training' under some quality and accountability framework.

Thank You