Magellan, Potato Farmers, and Software Engineers





Illustration: Henry Doyle, 1868/Project Gutenberg



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EXPLORATION **SURVIVAL** **OPPORTUNITY — AND DISRUPTION**

The drivers change. The need to manage cross-border mobility well does not.

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People mobility is economic infrastructure

It connects labor markets, skills systems, health services, finance and households.



Jobs & productivity

Fill shortages
Transfer knowledge
Support enterprise

Household resilience

Remittances
Savings and education
Investment and resilience

Regional integration

Networks and trust
Shared services
Skills circulation

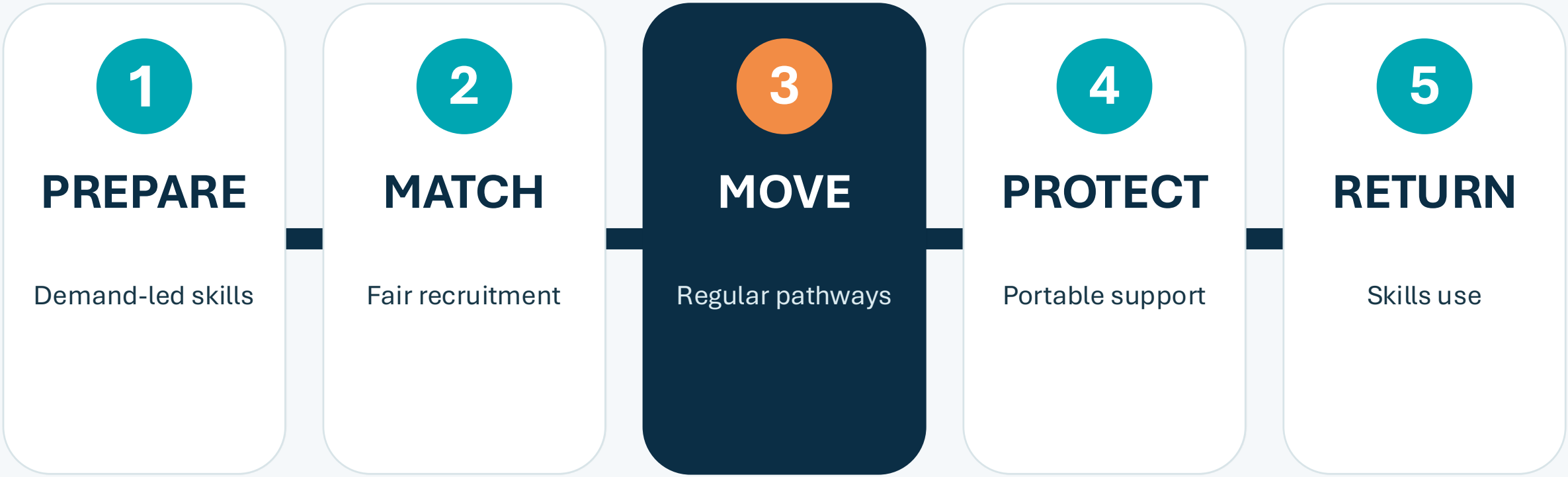
Risks to manage

Recruitment costs
Protection gaps
Unequal access

Good policy links economic gains with protection and service continuity

Think of mobility as one connected journey

Regional cooperation connects the handoffs and expands access to education services.



Joint curricula • digital training • recognition • safeguards • interoperable data

The silver economy is also a mobility agenda

Ageing creates demand for workers, skills and services across borders



CARE DEMAND

Nurses, care workers, therapists and community services.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Age-tech, housing, finance, transport and new enterprises.

REGIONAL MOBILITY

Ethical recruitment, recognized credentials and portable protection.

Care is social infrastructure—and a source of growth, jobs and cooperation.

ADB examples: the building blocks already exist

Skills, regional education, health security and mobility are already present in operations.

TAJIKISTAN

Skills and Employability

Training, certification, migration services and employment pathways.

CAREC

Regional Public Health Education

Joint curricula and foundations for recognition of qualifications.

UZBEKISTAN–TAJIKISTAN

Border Health & Security

Assessment, data exchange, referral and health-worker certification.

PACIFIC

Pacific Approach

Skills partnerships, portable qualifications and remittance costs.

A practical ADB agenda: connect, pilot, scale

Combine regional functions, national delivery and institutional capacity.

CONNECT

Map operations around selected corridors or occupations.

PILOT

Test recognition, ethical recruitment, border health, portability or remittances.

SCALE

Build institutional capacity and embed what works in country operations.

REGIONAL VALUE

Skills recognition

Cross-border health referral

Portable social insurance & health access

Lower-cost remittances

Capacity: qualification authorities • employment services • regulators • border health • social protection

From easier movement to better mobility

Safer, fairer and more productive—for people, households and economies.

ADB can connect skills, regional education, health security, social protection, remittance systems and the silver economy

1. **Which cross-border system most urgently needs fixing?**
2. **Where would greater regional alignment make the biggest difference?**
3. **What can move now from dialogue to a pilot we can finance?**

Regional cooperation works when mobility works for people