

Social Security Coverage of Overseas Filipinos: *The Philippine SSS Experience*

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Outline

 Issues on Social Security of Migrant Workers

 SSS: Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

- Bilateral Social Security Agreements
- Social Security Programs & Foreign Operations

 Next Steps



Issues on Social Security of Migrant Workers

- **Exclusion from coverage**
 - Foreign workers not covered under social security scheme of host country
 - No access to basic safety net while working abroad
- **Residency requirement for benefits**
 - Usually for a period of 15-20 years
 - Foreign workers unable to qualify due to temporary & intermittent employment, or may be qualified but entitled to lower benefit amount
- **Maintenance of social security rights**



✧ Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

A. Bilateral Agreements

➤ Countries that signed agreements with the Philippines for mutual cooperation in the field of social security

- Austria (1982)
- U.K. & Northern Ireland (1989)
- Spain (1989)
- France (1989)
- Canada (1997)
- Quebec (1998)
- Netherlands (2001)
- Switzerland (2004)
- Belgium (2005)
- Korea (for concurrence)
- Greece & Israel (under negotiation)

*Provisions compliant with
ILO standards under 1982
Convention No. 157 on
Maintenance of Social
Security Rights*



✧ Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

A. Bilateral Agreements

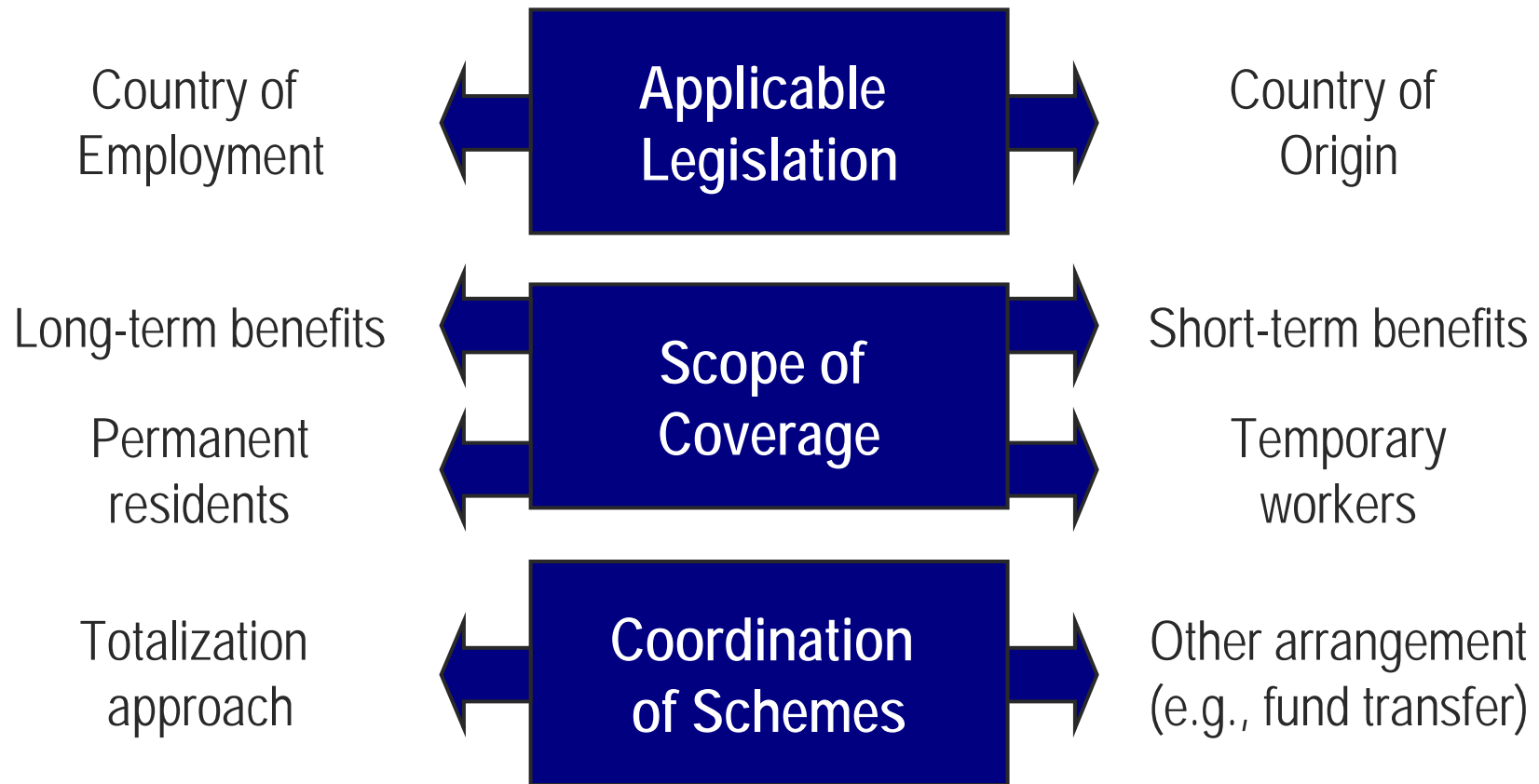
SALIENT FEATURES

- **Equality of treatment**
 - Entitlement to benefits under same conditions as nationals
- **Export of benefits**
 - Payment of benefits to the worker's country of residence
- **Totalization of coverage periods**
 - Combining periods of membership to determine benefit eligibility & manner of benefit calculation (pro-rata sharing)
- **Mutual administrative assistance**
 - Coordination between liaison offices to extend assistance to covered workers & implement provisions of the agreement



✧ Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

A. Bilateral Agreements



Objective: MUTUAL CONSENT OF PARTIES



✦ Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

B. SSS Programs for OFWs

In 1995, SSS' membership was expanded to include overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), allowing collection of their social security contributions to ensure continuing coverage under the programs of the SSS.



✧ Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

B. SSS Programs for OFWs

Voluntary, defined-contribution scheme

Individual Account (Pension-Savings Plan)

Flexi-Fund Program, Nat'l Provident Fund for OFWs

(July 2001/May 2002)

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Voluntary, defined-benefit scheme

Basic Pension (Safety Net)

Regular Coverage Program for OFWs

(August 1995)

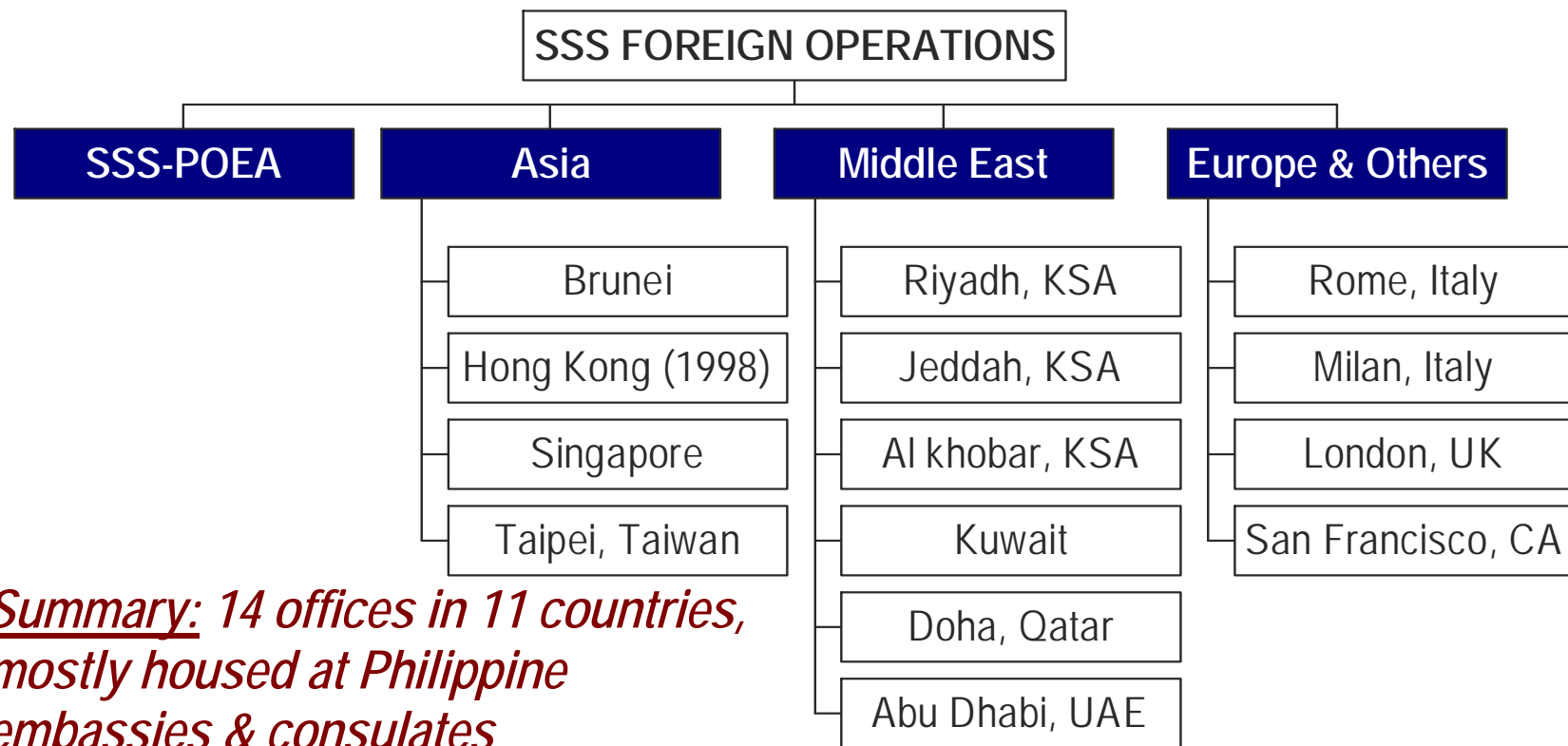
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✧ Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

B. SSS Programs for OFWs

FOREIGN BRANCH NETWORK



Summary: 14 offices in 11 countries, mostly housed at Philippine embassies & consulates



✧ Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

B. SSS Programs for OFWs

CORE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN OPERATIONS

- **Program marketing: “Where-they-are” strategy**
 - SSS-POEA Branch in the Philippines
 - Registration prior to deployment of OFWs
 - Foreign offices
 - Coverage drives
 - Participation in special events, tri-media campaigns & embassy-sponsored outreach programs
 - All government agencies
 - Country-team approach in the promotion of welfare programs for OFWs abroad



✧ Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

B. SSS Programs for OFWs

CORE ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN OPERATIONS

➤ Collections

- Abroad: Payments thru accredited banks & agents
- Local: SSS branch tellering facilities & payment centers
- Others: Auto debit arrangement & payment thru Internet

➤ Member services

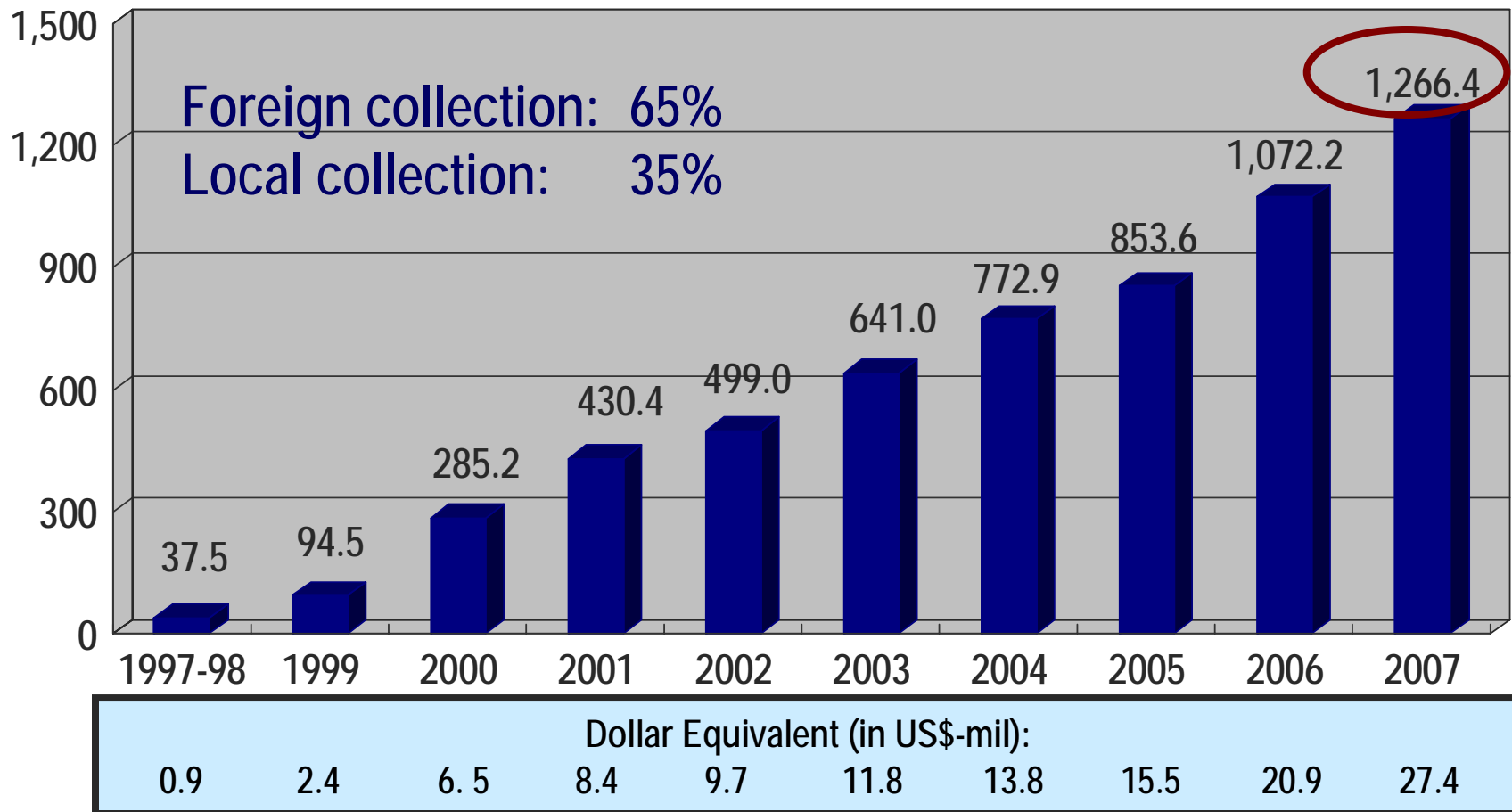
- Receipt of membership, benefit & loan applications
- Assistance on member inquiries & concerns



✧ Reaching Out to Overseas Filipinos

B. SSS Programs for OFWs

Fig. 1: Annual OFW Collection, in million pesos

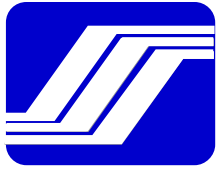


SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, PHILIPPINES

Next Steps

- **Change from voluntary to mandatory OFW coverage**
 - Amend provisions in SSS Charter
 - Require SSS membership for deployment processing
- **Expand collection network for OFW payments**
 - Use of web-based systems for online transactions
 - Setting up of self-service kiosks
 - Tapping of short messaging service (SMS) of mobile phones
- **Upgrade support systems & services**
 - Interactive features of inquiry systems thru the SSS website
- **Negotiate for “country of origin” rule in bilateral social security agreements**





End of Presentation

