‘People Flow’ revisited

from defensive migration control
to
constructive people flow management
by
Theo Veenkamp
changing patterns of migration

• 1. larger in scale and scope, more complex in nature
• 2. gradual shift to temporary and circular migration
• 3. many irregular migrants do find their place
• 4. rapidly increasing diversity
• 5. growing transnationalism
• 6. fading distinction voluntary and forced migrants
unchanged reflexes of control

• But control is becoming a dangerous illusion.

• Therefore a new approach is necessary.
How to develop a new approach?

• 1. Choose constructive policy departure points
• 2. Use design principles for implementation strategies that are both innovative and realistic
constructive policy departure points

• 1. capitalize on the resourcefulness of migrants
• 2. migration should bring real benefits to all sides concerned
• 3. make the most of diversity
design principles for innovative and workable implementation/1

• 1. go back to the essence of migration
• 2. understand and accept motives and mixed feelings of all sides concerned
• 3. connect with most recent thinking on ‘control’ in the public sector
• 4. frame new paradigms that reflect the changing reality and open up the mind
Design principles for innovative and workable implementation/2

• 5. identify the most suitable ‘levers’ for exerting real influence
• 6. design a better mix of what gov’ts must do and others can do better
• 7. make the best possible use of modern technology
the new paradigm

• constructive people flow management=
• not controlling of or moving with the flow
• but channeling and redirecting flows intelligently by:
• understanding behaviour patterns of migrants and their counterparts and
• connecting with their underlying motives in constructive and inventive ways
illustration number one

- **problem**: governments are caught in trap of rising expectations and diminishing results

- **way out**: partial privatization of the gatekeepers function
illustration number two

- **problem**: distinction between voluntary and forced migration is fading

- **way out**: seduce potential migrants into ‘functional self-registration’ by offering choice between three redesigned tracks that connect clearly with their motives
the ultimate question

Which complications,
in the end,
do we prefer?