

Social change and migration a case from Palawan

Koki Seki

The migration of the Visayan fisherfolk into coastal Palawan is one of the substantive population flows in contemporary Philippines. Through the migrants' narratives, the study presents the deteriorating social relationships and experiences that resulted in the exodus and the founding of new ways of life. The data of this study suggests that the creation of the new fishing villages in Palawan is one facet of capitalist development in the rural Philippines.

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When touring Puerto Princesa, the capital city of Palawan, one easily notices the shanty huts thickly concentrated along the shore. These shanties mostly belong to migrant fisherfolk from the Visayas. After World War II up to present, a large number of immigrants came to Palawan. Among them are the Visayan fisherfolk who have greatly contributed to the province's present status as one of the main suppliers of marine products in the Philippines. One will find that most of the fishing villages along coastal Palawan are composed of those migrants. It is no exaggeration to say that the fisherfolk's migration flow from the Visayas and some other regions into coastal Palawan is one of the substantive population movements in contemporary Philippine society.¹

Despite its conspicuity, this maritime migration of Visayan people has hitherto rarely attracted academic interest. Questions such as what actually happened in their place of origin, their process of settling in new places, and the effect of their in-migration on the local community remain to be studied. It would be too simplistic a way of thinking if we were to reduce the cause of the phenomena