Chapter 3
Economic Models of Migration of Skilled Labor and Preliminary Empirical Evidence

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ABSTRACT
This chapter introduces the major trends that have affected the perception of the migrations of skilled labor. Different models are introduced to capture the impacts of the decisions of skilled emigrants. The last and the more up to date models are the ones related to the new economics of skilled labor migration and its likely positive spillovers into education and research. Attempts to compare the best known models are also pursued in this chapter with preliminary empirical assessments based on some available data. The results attained confirm the promising role of these models of the new economics of skilled labor migration.

INTRODUCTION
This chapter looks at the determinants and impacts of the migration of skilled labor from developing (South) to developed economies (North). In the absence of cross-section data about individual and group choices, only aggregate secondary data can be used to understand and assess the overall determinants and impacts of the migration of skilled labor. The available publications related to the migration of skilled labor with its relationship to economic and social development show the diversity and richness of the material developed so far. The accumulated knowledge focuses on the perception and loss of qualification at the source of emigration with emphasis on the potential gains transferred to des-
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The content of the present chapter is a synthetic contribution to the new economics of skilled labor migration. It looks at the similarities and differences that exist among the three major models of Beine & al. (2004), Stark, Casarico, Devillanova, & Uebelmesser (2005) and Nguyen Duc Thanh (2004).

This chapter starts with a comprehensive literature review about the determinants and the impacts of the migration of skilled labor. This is followed by a description of the models used methods and the data mobilized to assess both the determinants and the impacts.

I. LITERATURE REVIEW ON MIGRATION OF SKILLED LABOR

Different approaches to migration have been identified and different assessments have been developed. These approaches are mainly based on the relationship between developing and developed countries with the possibilities of enhancing the likely benefits that can be obtained from this migration. In relation to that, some authors have considered the brain drain to be negative to developing economies while others have been more in favor of negotiated solutions as gains are observed to occur to source countries. This latter literature is now progressively shaping international and national policies.

1. Determinants of Skilled Workers’ Migration

The rate of skilled workers’ migration (brain drain) continues to increase so it was necessary to know the causes of this migration. They are identified by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as driving forces from both the side of developed and developing economies. Technological revolution played an important role in increasing the rate of migrants to countries where information and communication technolo-