



International students and New Zealand's future
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July 2009



asia:nz
FOUNDATION

From Colombo...

- 1951 – six students arrive in New Zealand to study as dental nurses
- By March 1957 – 206 CP students and trainees mainly from Southeast Asia



Dental nurses from Ceylon [Sri Lanka]

Prime Minister Sidney Holland (second from left) greets the first contingent of Ceylonese dental nurses to come to New Zealand under the Colombo Plan, 1951



Colombo Plan students in NZ

Frances Swindell of the Department of External Affairs talks with Thai students on Colombo Plan scholarships in the late 1960s. They were learning about the cutlery they might find on New Zealand tables when they dined. All six Thais attended the English Language Institute at Victoria University of Wellington, before going on to other universities and schools.



The 100th Colombo Plan student

Prime Minister Keith Holyoake greets the 100th Colombo Plan student, from Thailand.

The official view, 1956

- *“The students from other countries come here, live for a while, and learn our customs and get to know our way of life. We know that when they go back to their own countries in South East Asia, they carry with them knowledge of New Zealand, and in that way they are able to let their own folk know what our feelings are towards the people in South East Asia.”*

T. R. McDonald, NZ's Minister of External Affairs, 1956

One night in Bangkok

- A table. Ten influential Thais, including an Advisor to the King of Thailand.
- All of them graduates of a NZ university.
- This scene can be repeated anywhere in Southeast Asia.



Professor Mazlan Othman

Mazlan Othman studied physics at the University of Otago in the 1970s. She came on a Colombo Plan scholarship and was the first woman to gain a PhD in physics from the university. She went on to become director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (1999–2002) in Vienna

Asia:NZ's Honorary Advisors

Victor Fung (HK) – Harvard/MIT

Prof. Hang Sung-Joo (Korea) – Berkeley

Roberto Romulo (Philippines) –
Georgetown

Tran Ba Tuoc (Viet Nam)
– **Canterbury & Victoria University of
Wellington**

Mme Li Xiaolin (China) – UCLA

Firduas Siddik (Indonesia) – Oxford

Tan Sri Dr Sulaiman bin Haji Daud
(Malaysia) University Chancellor, The
International Medical University (IMU)
– **Otago**



Some data

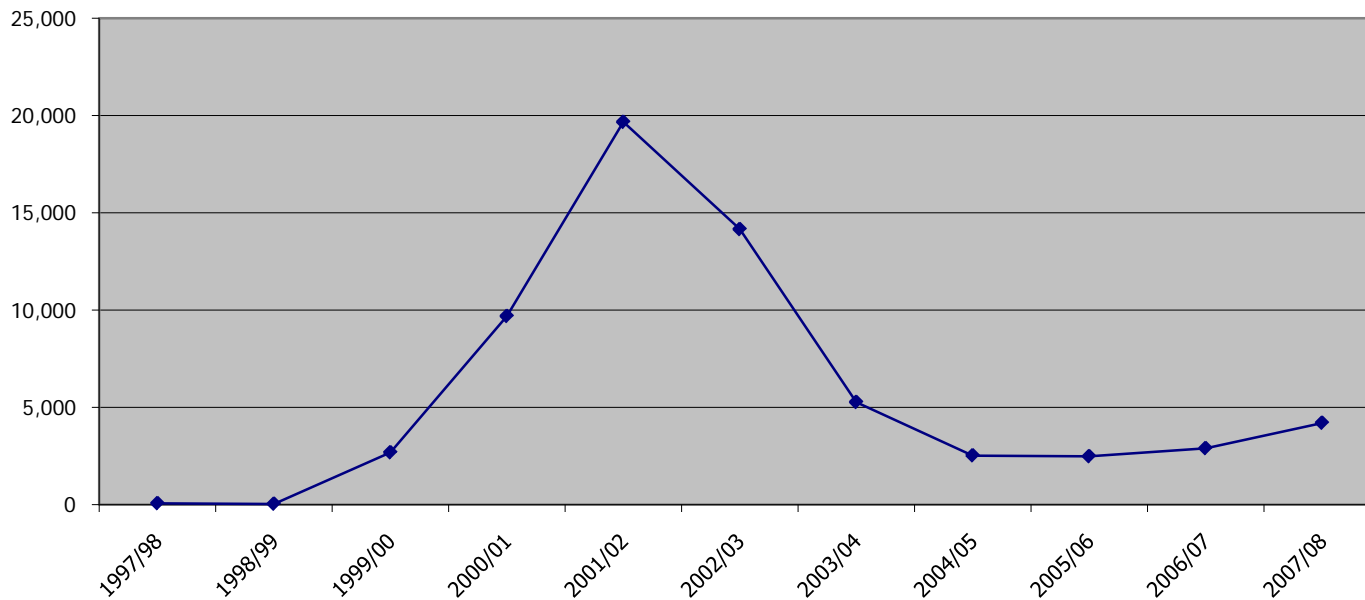
- 80% of Asian students who study here will not stay in NZ. (Dept of Labour)
- Many have a desire to be engaged in the global economy
- New ways of thinking about migration: circular not linear
- Export education NZ's 5th largest export industry at \$2.3b (after Dairy, Tourism, Meat, Mineral Fuels) (June 2008)

2008 figures – international students in NZ

- 21,136 university
- 15,207 schools
- 16,121 vocational
- 35,853, ELS

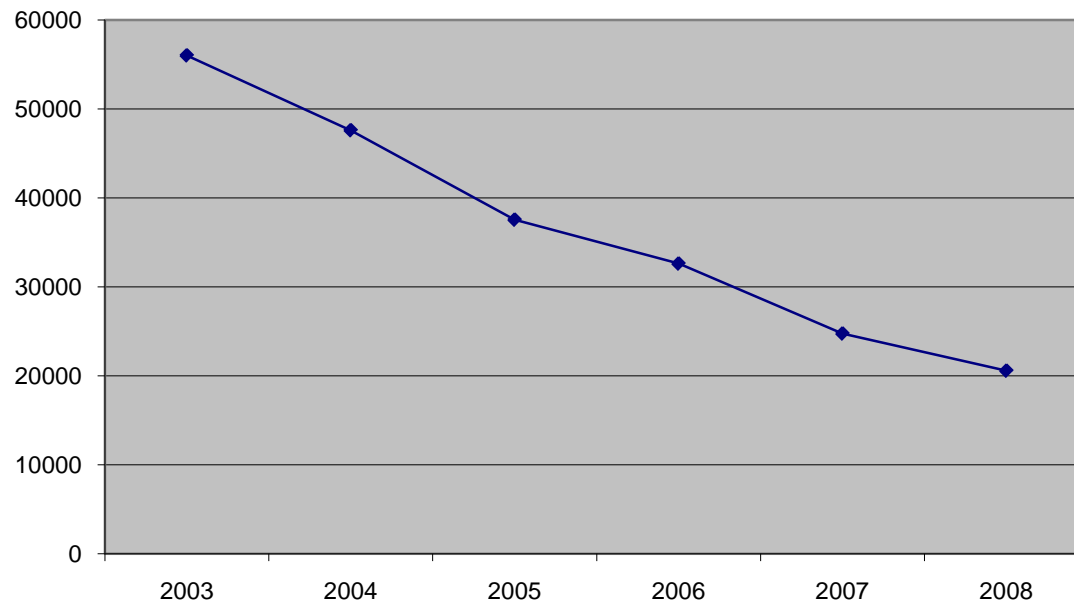
Declines: China 97/98-07/08

Immigration NZ Stats: First Time Foreign Fee Paying Visas, China



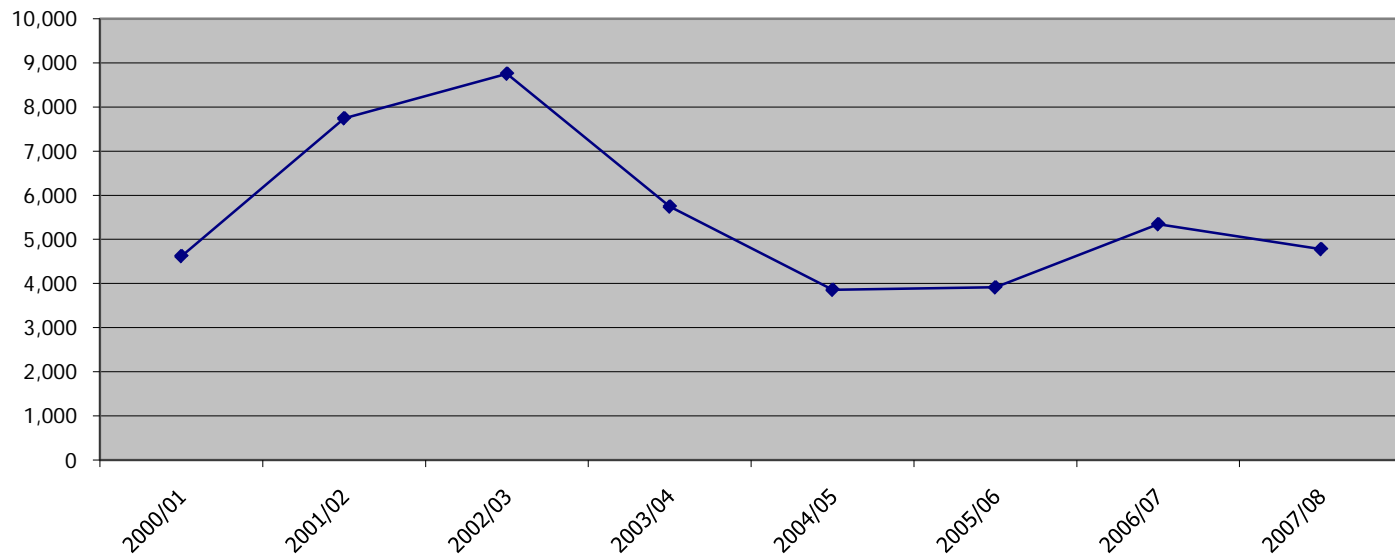
Declines: China 2003-2008

MOE Stats: International Students China

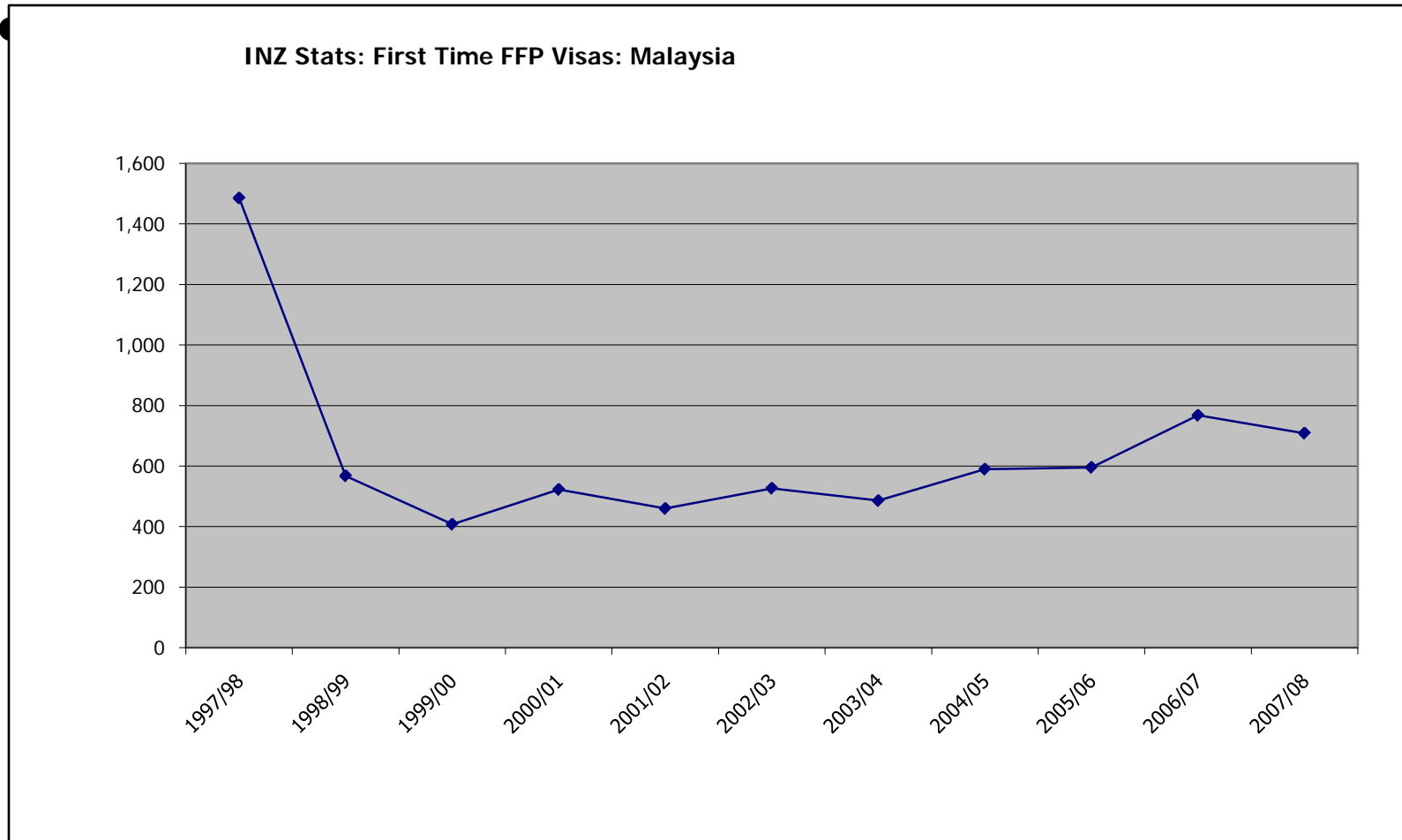


Declines: South Korea 00/01-07/08

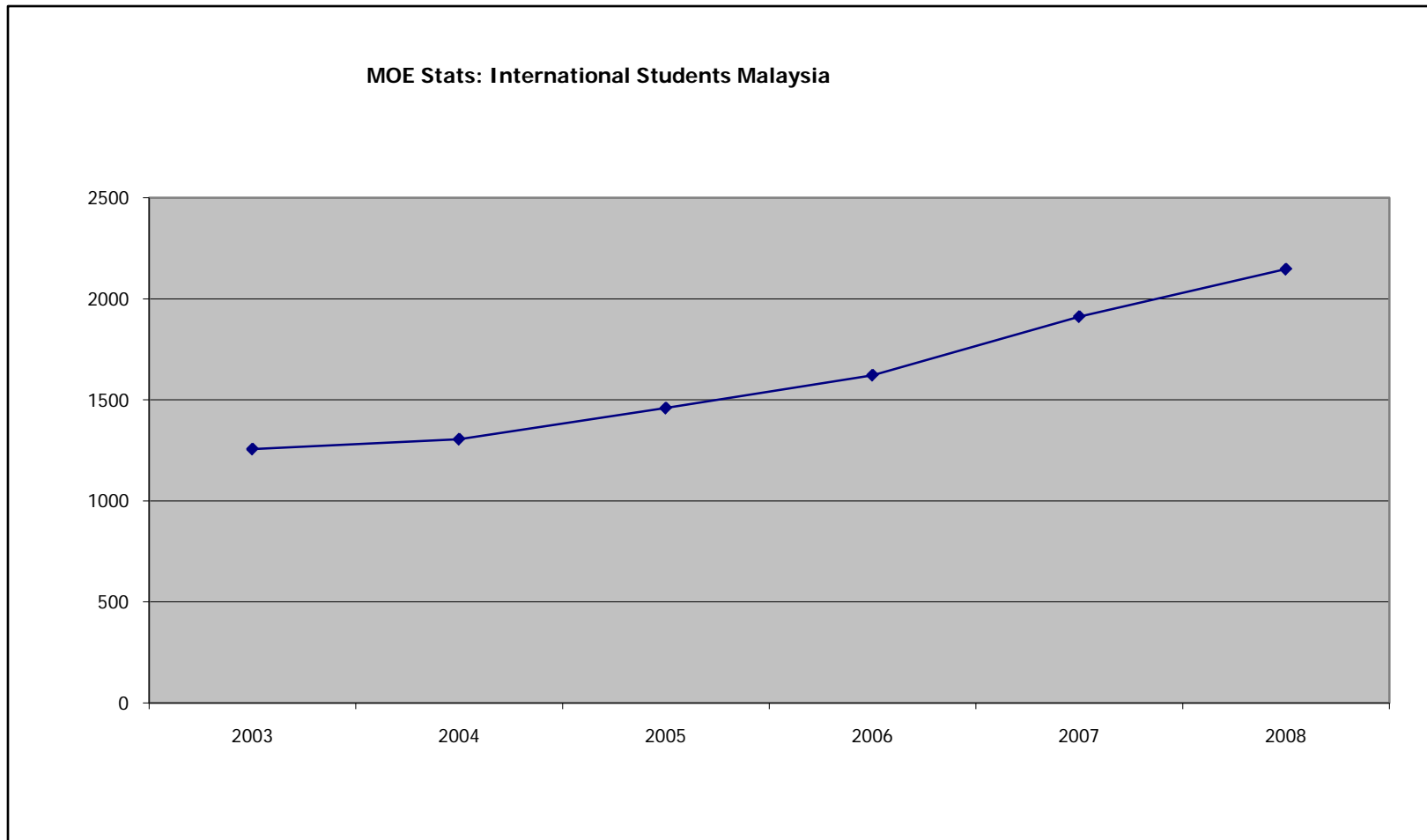
INZ Stats: First Time FFP Visas: South Korea



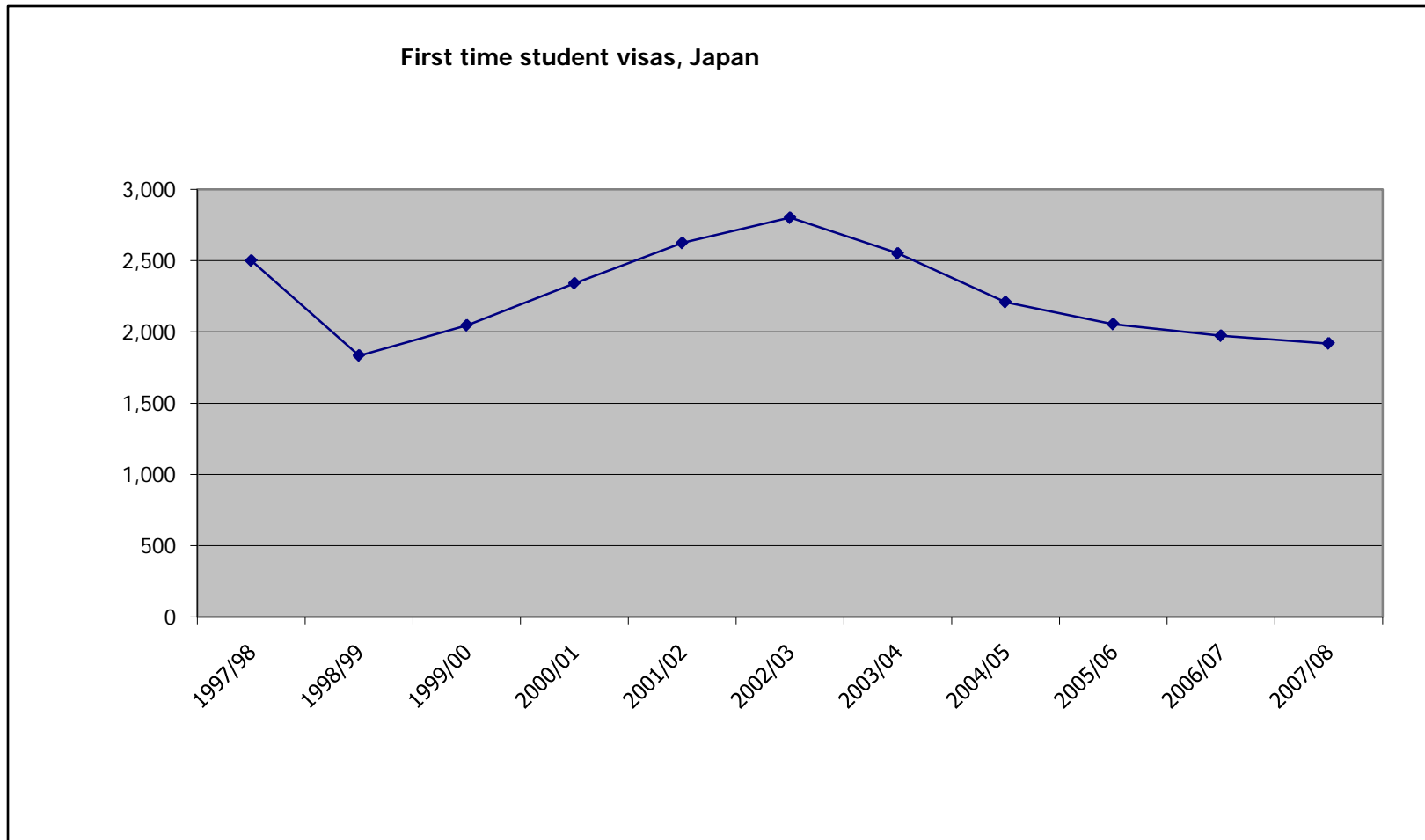
Declines: Malaysia 97/98-07/08



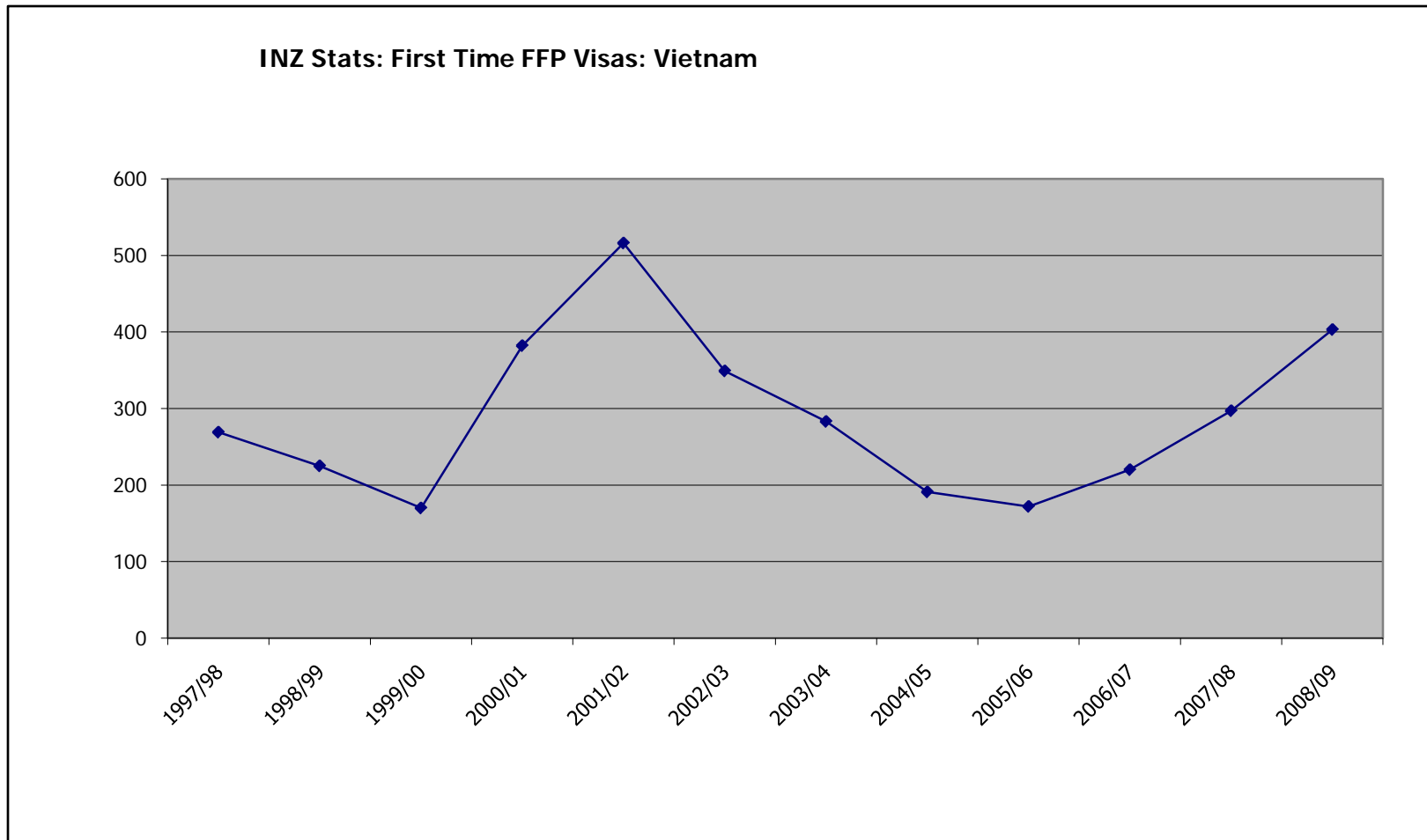
But an increase since 2003...



Small decline: Japan 97/98-07/08

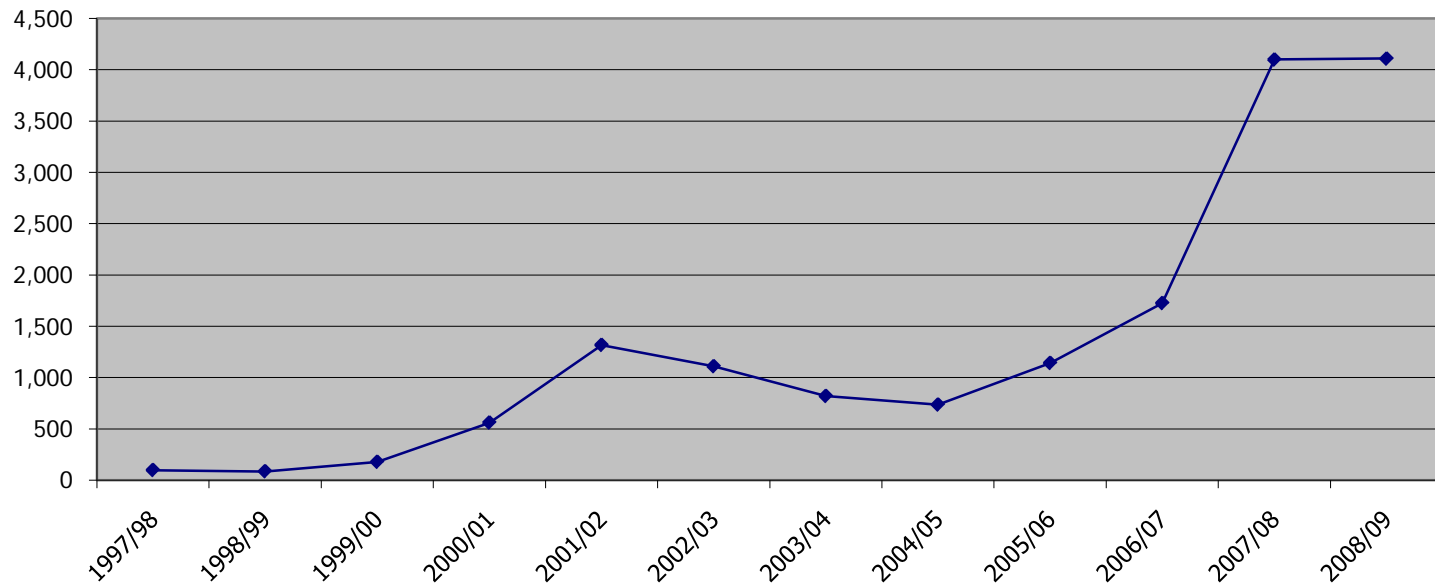


Increases: Viet Nam 97/98-08/09

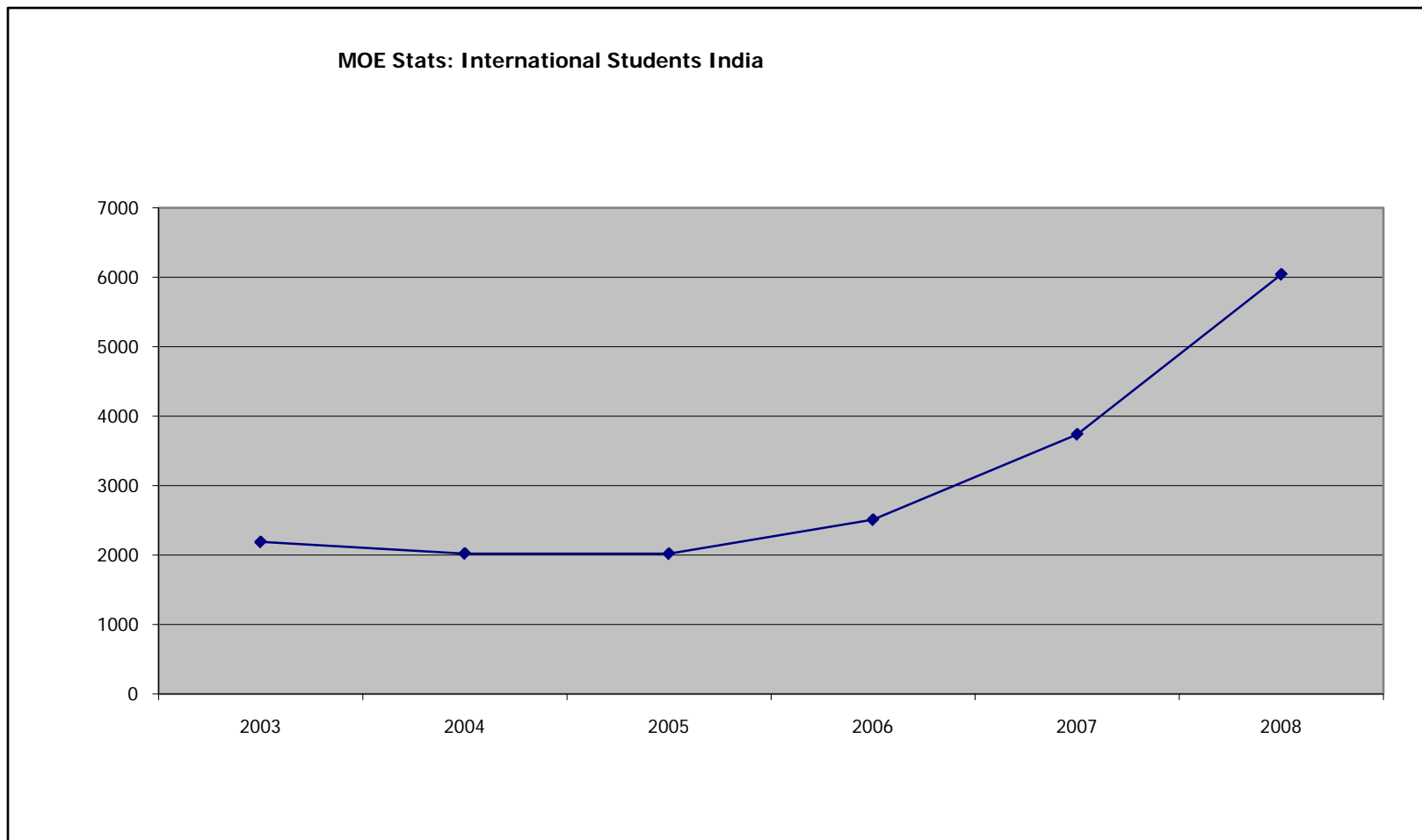


Increases: India 97/98-08/09

INZ Stats: First Time FFP Visas: India



Rapid increase of Indian students 2003-2008



Budget 2009

- More money to recruit international students... But what do we do with them at the end?
 - Out of sight, out of mind?
 - Copies of Alumni magazines and requests for donations?
 - Fostering and cultivating international networks?

Changing markets, but not changing needs

- The drop in student numbers from China was predictable
- The pastoral care of international students (or lack of) is the measure of our success
- New students from new markets mean new challenges, but the basic principles of worthwhile welfare and good pastoral care should remain.

Friends and Allies



NZ's future in Asia

- New Zealand educated; located in Asia
- The halcyon days of the Colombo Plan are behind us, but...
 - These students are still Ambassadors for NZ



Asia:NZ's Young Leaders

<http://www.asianz.org.nz/our-work/young-leaders>

Re-entry

- At re-entry, many of these Asian students regret that they did not engage more with New Zealanders and domestic students, although many admit that this was a demanding task.

Re-entry

- changed concepts of individuality and freedom
- changed nature and importance of relationships with peers and colleagues
- changed views of family
- changed values in areas of integrity, ethics, environment, materialism and relationships

Re-entry

- changed religious beliefs
- changed self image, and
- changed lifestyle beliefs.

Re-entry

- Where the graduate returns to a family-related business or enterprise the family has set in place for them, inevitably they go through greater adjustments in returning to family desired levels of filial piety.
- How do we equip students to return home – to re-enter their home country – after they finish their studies here in NZ?

Conclusions

- Working hard to build long-lasting and mutually trusting relationships must start early: when Asian students are living and studying in New Zealand

Conclusions

- We need to discuss “Asian students” as part of a broader conversation about what it means for New Zealand to engage with Asia.

Questions/comments

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