



News from IPSR Director

Sureeporn Punpuing

Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR)
Mahidol University

Since 2008, Myanmar and Thailand government have agreed on a plan to develop the Dawei Special Economic Zone project (SEZ), located in Dawei, the capital city of Tanintharyi Division in the coastal region of Southern Myanmar. It is about 350 kilometers west of Bangkok (via Kanchanaburi province). The Dawei SEZ includes the development of Dawei's deep-seaport, an industrial estate, and a gas pipeline to Thailand's Kanchanaburi province as well as highway and rail links to Thailand. The Dawei deep-sea port and industrial estate will cover an area of 205 square kilometers, which is 10 times larger than the Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate in Rayong province, Thailand.

If the project is implemented as planned in the next 10 years, villagers from 21 communities will lose most of their property. The total economic zone constitutes about 250 square meters (97 square miles) in which over 30,000 people, or 5,500 families, will be directly affected. Although local people were employed during the project construction as a casual labour for specific tasks (e.g. clearing land for project facilities or the road link), many

landless peasants will undergo changes with increasing investment in Dawei SEZ.

Furthermore, this tremendous development will cause a large flow of migrant workers within Myanmar, and cross-border migration between Myanmar and Thailand. Migration can lead to population, social, economic, and environmental changes in destination areas, especially border town areas, such as Ban Phu Nam Ron in Kanchanaburi, located within 20 kilometer radius of Mahidol University's Saiyok campus.

The Mahidol Migration Center (MMC) has developed a proposal, in line with the economic development of the Dawei SEZ, to identify the best model for border town development, one that takes into account the social, cultural, and environmental well-being for all. The proposed research under this umbrella project includes investigations of relationship between migration and health and well-being of migrants, maternal and child health care, social integration, environmental management, disease surveillance, and the health system. The proposed project will be implemented in collaboration with the Kanchanaburi Provincial Office to sustainable development.



Verification from the Mahidol Migration Center (MMC) Director: Integrating Migrants for Better HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs in Thailand and Beyond *Aphichat Chamrathirong, MMC Director*

Integrating cross border migrants from Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia into Thai society is one of the key success factors of an HIV/AIDS prevention program carried out in Thailand. By helping migrants blend in among Thais in communities, the implementation of the public health program worked more smoothly, and with positive results. Such an observation, based on data obtained in the study described here, may also prove to be useful to nongovernmental and governmental organisations working in other areas. Helping new or long-term migrants to help themselves in daily settings as much as they can and as early as possible was another important step in the HIV/AIDS prevention program, which may have implications for similar programs. This type of social integration also may help with societal harmony in the long run.

These observations are supported in our study drawn from the data of the Phase 2 Baseline Survey of the Project on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Migrant Workers in Thailand (PHAMIT). The analysis was conducted by the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) of Mahidol University and University of Michigan, in partnership with the Raks Thai Foundation (Care International, Thailand) who collaborated with seven NGOs under the PHAMIT alliance and the Ministry of Public Health. The Global Fund provided financial support to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 2010.

This survey targeted more than 3,000 migrant laborers who worked in Thailand, and whose country of origin was Myanmar, Cambodia, or Laos. The survey was conducted in the 11 Thai provinces with the largest numbers of migrant workers. A snowball sampling technique was used because of the unregistered status of many workers. Data were collected through personal interviews with questionnaire prepared in four languages: Thai, English, Burmese, and Cambodian. Trained and experienced interviewers who were fluent in the Thai language and could speak, read, and write the language of the migrant laborers in their area conducted the interviews.



Regression analysis was used in the study, and the results showed that social integration, participation in an AIDS prevention program, self-efficacy, and demographic and relationship factors successfully raised the AIDS knowledge and condom use with regular and non-regular partners among migrants. The conclusion regarding social integration of migrants is that it could strengthen HIV prevention efforts. The following table shows the results of the analysis of the determinants of condom use with non-regular partners among male migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia. Migrants who had AIDS knowledge and had a chance to participate in AIDS meetings, which were mostly under the PHAMIT program, increased their chance of condom use with non-regular partners more than three times. Further, migrants who were more integrated into Thai society were 26% more successful in the condom promotion program.

Table 1: Logistic regression analysis of factors related to always using a condom with non-regular partners for male migrant workers.

Factors	Full model		
	Adjusted odds ratio.	95% C.I.	p
<i>1. Integration knowledge factors</i>			
Social integration	1.26	(1.02,1.57)	0.03
AIDS Knowledge	1.33	(0.88,2.00)	0.17
Participate in AIDS Meeting	3.10	(0.52,19.47)	0.21
<i>2. Health Belief Model factors</i>			
AIDS Susceptibility	0.10	(0.01,0.76)	0.03
Barrier: Reduce pleasure	0.52	(0.10,2.61)	0.42
Self Efficacy: Convince partner	0.49	(0.05,4.54)	0.53
<i>Modifying factors</i>			
Age	1.04	(0.92,1.17)	0.52
<i>Education</i>			
Less Primary	0.01	(0.00,0.09)	0.00
Primary	0.13	(0.03,0.59)	0.01
More Primary (reference)	-	-	-
Constant	0.13		
F	3.44		
N	90		

Source: Kathleen Ford, Aphichat Chamratrithirong, Kanya Apipornchaisakul, Promboon Panichapak & Thongphit Pinyosinwat, (2013). Social integration, AIDS knowledge and factors related to HIV prevention among migrant workers in Thailand. ***AIDS and Behavior***. DOI 10.1007/s10461-013-0410-7

Social integration in this case was measured, firstly, by duration of residence in the community or number of years that the migrant had spent in Thailand. Secondly, the study measured migrants' ability to speak the Thai language to communicate with local Thai and assessed as good, fair, poor, or not at all. Thirdly, integration includes migrants' acquisition of a Thai nickname, an indicator of close interaction with the Thai community. Lastly, integration of migrants was measured by the number of community activities or social events they participated in with Thai people and with other migrants.

Social integration is the MMC key word for our society, especially in the future of the ASEAN economic and cultural

community to begin in 2015. Unlike many countries in Asia, especially those in the Middle East where contract workers sometimes compose more than 50% of the country's population, migrant workers in Thailand are not living totally separately from the host population. In most occasions, they work side by side with us. When migrants speak Thai, or some of them have Thai names and mix gradually with Thai people in the community, the marginalization process tends to be prevented, increasing friendship and trust emerges, and health projects as well as other social policies and programs for mutual benefits become smoother. Political incidences are also contained at their minimum.

How does parental absence affect the children of migrants? The CLAIM studies

Kerry Richter

Thailand has a long-standing pattern of rural to urban migration. The seasonal nature of rice farming means that household members can migrate to other areas on a short-term basis in the off-season. Usually, family members in the labor force age groups migrate while younger and older members are left behind. Thus parents leave young children in the care of grandparents to earn additional income for the family. Indeed, grandmothers often were the primary caregivers of young children in the traditional Thai family, as parents worked long hours in the rice fields or the market.



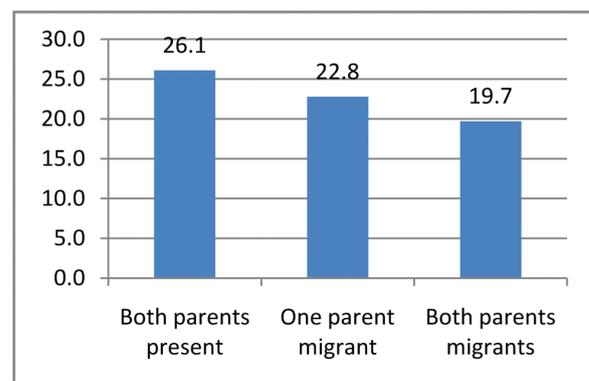
As urban jobs provide more viable sources of support, parents often migrate away from their children on a longer-term basis. International migration can lead to even longer periods of separation. In both cases, parents balance the financial needs of their children against the benefits of being co-resident for care and support. If alternative care is available from grandparents or other family members, this choice can be seen as having greater benefits for the children. In other cases, debt or a dearth of opportunity in the rural hometown makes this separation necessary for the family's survival, regardless of the impact on the children.

Living separately from young children is not a new phenomenon for Thai parents; a 1992 study found that from 8 to 10% of children under age 5 of Bangkok mothers were living separately from her (Richter, 1994). But this living arrangement has become more and more common as Thailand continues to industrialize. By 2005, a national survey found that 19.6% of children under age 5 were living with neither parent (although both were alive); for those age 5-9, the percentage was 21.3% (Thailand National Statistical Office, 2006).

However common, and however often individual parents have made the decision to migrate away from their children, little is known about how this separation affects children. In 2011, an IPSR team received funding from UNICEF Thailand to investigate that question. The CLAIM study (Children Living Apart from parents due to Internal Migration) surveyed children and their caretakers in two high-migration provinces, one in the Northeast and one in the North (Jampaklay, Vapattnawong, Tangchonlatip, Richter, Ponpai, & Hayeeteh, 2012). The study compared children aged 8-15 in three categories: both parents present, one parent migrant, or both parents migrant. All the children's parents had intact marriages (those with divorced/separated parents were not eligible for the study). The study was also limited to children of parents who migrated within Thailand.

The study found some positive outcomes for the children and their parents. Migrant households were found to be wealthier than non-migrant households. Households with one migrant parent were the wealthiest; the migrant parent was nearly always the father, and these households had the highest level of remittances. The study found that the migrant households were in close contact with the absent parents; nearly half of migrant parents were in telephone contact every day with another one-third calling several times a week. About three-quarters of migrant parents visited the children in the past six months.

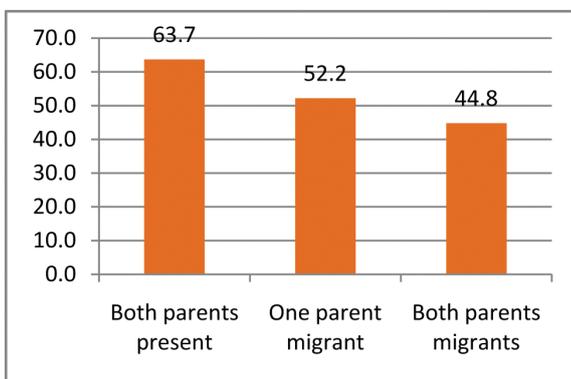
Figure 1: Percentage of children reporting that their grades are better than their classmates by parental migrant status



The study measured aspects of children's well-being both through interviewing the children's caretakers and the children

themselves. Children of migrant parents reported they did less well in school than their counterparts who lived with both parents (Figure 1). However, there was no significant difference in children's psychological well-being by parental migrant status, as measured by caretakers' responses to the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). There were also no differences found in children's health status between those with parents present or parents absent. However, caretakers were less likely to say that children of migrant parents were happier than other children (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Percentage of caretakers reporting that the child is happier than other children by parental migrant status



Recently the CLAIM team has received funding to investigate the effects of parental migration on child development for very young children. CLAIM2 will be a longitudinal study that interviews families of children aged 0-3 and revisits them two years later, when the children are aged 2-5. As with the first CLAIM study, households with migrant and non-migrant children will be compared. Measures of child development will include the Denver II Developmental Screening Test, which measures aspects of cognitive ability, language skills, motor skills, and others. CLAIM2 also adds a qualitative component that will include in-depth interviews of migrant parents.

Both studies provide needed information for policy. CLAIM recommended support programs for families left behind to mitigate the social impacts of parental migration. It also recommended that families be provided with more information about the consequences of living separately from parents, so that they could make a more informed decision about whether financial benefits would outweigh potential risks for children.



References

- Jampaklay, A., Vapattnawong, P., Tangchonlatip, K., Richter, K., Ponpai, N., & Hayeeteh, C. (2012). *Children living apart from parents due to internal migration (CLAIM): Final report*. Nakornpathom: Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University. Retrieved 11 June 2013 from <http://www.ipsr.mahidol.ac.th/ipsr/Research/CLAIM/CLAIM-Report.htm>
- Richter, K. (1994). Living Separately as a child-care strategy: Implications for women's work and family in urban Thailand. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 58(2), 327-339. doi: 10.2307/353499.
- Thailand National Statistical Office. (2006). *Thailand multiple indicator cluster survey December 2005 - February 2006: Final report*. Bangkok: National Statistical Office.



Stateless Persons and Policy Responses in ASEAN Countries

Sakkarin Niyomsilpa

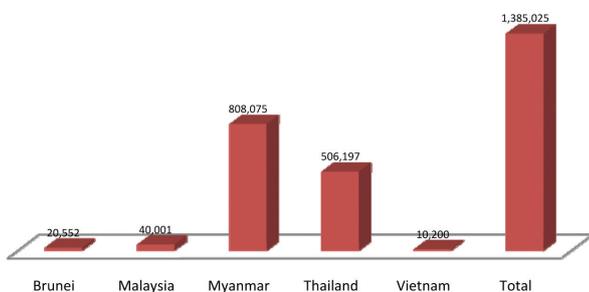
Stateless Persons in the ASEAN Region

The plight of stateless persons is a major concern of international communities as millions reside in all corners of the world. In 2011, UNHCR estimated that there were 12 million stateless persons globally although official figures put the number at 3.5 million people in 64 countries. In the same year, 27 countries managed to nationalize 119,000 stateless persons, mostly in the South Asian region (UNHCR, 2012). In East Asia, stateless persons are growing each year as UNICEF estimated that 17% of newborn babies were not registered, and as a result, they were not issued with personal identification. Some Asian countries have a low rate of birth registration due to geographical and cost factors. Indonesia, for example, only registered 55.1% of newborn babies in 2002, whereas Myanmar and Laos issued birth certificates at the rates of 64.9% and 71.5% in 2003 and 2006, respectively (UNHCR, 2010).

In Southeast Asia, stateless persons in five major host countries in ASEAN including Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam amounted to 1,385,025 people in 2001, with Thailand and Myanmar being ASEAN's top asylum countries at 808,075 and 506,197 persons, respectively. Other Southeast Asian countries may also be home to a significant number of stateless persons should a thorough survey be carried out. Scarce information on stateless persons in the region has hampered efforts aimed at providing social welfare and protection to these people.

post-war era led to discrimination and violation of rights of ethnic groups in many new nations. Problems with census taking also caused some people in remote areas to become stateless or persons without legal identity. For example, the Rohingya people, who have resided in Rakhine State for centuries, have been refused citizenship by Myanmar's government. Chinese descendants in Brunei and Indonesia also were unrecognized as citizens until the normalization of relations between the two countries with China. People living in border areas, such as hill tribe people in Thailand and Vietnam, could also become stateless as the authorities do not properly document some of them. With the emergence of nation states, migrants, who used to roam freely for centuries, have been considered as illegal immigrants by state authorities. Although some migrants are allowed to stay along the border in parts of Southeast Asia, many migrants and their children are denied citizenship rights and are deprived of legal identity status. The increasing flows of migrant workers such as those from the Philippines and Indonesia in Malaysia and Indochinese migrant workers in Thailand also led to the rising number of stateless children in Southeast Asia.

Stateless Persons in ASEAN Countries



Source: UNHCR Global Trends 2011

Causes of Stateless Status

There are many reasons that gave rise to the problem of stateless persons. The emergence of nation states during the



Source: http://www.uznews.net/news_single.php?lng=en&cid=3&nid=2802

Policy Responses and Progress in Asean Countries

At present, the international community has paid much attention to the issue of stateless persons, and various UN conventions have been passed. Key international laws include the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and related protocols. According to the UN recommendations, solutions to the problem of stateless persons should include four aspects, as follows: 1) the identification of vulnerable groups which might fall into

stateless status; 2) prevention of new groups from becoming stateless such as the issuance of birth certificates; 3) reducing the number of stateless persons; 4) the protection of basic rights of stateless persons.

Although ASEAN countries have not yet become signatories to both UN Conventions, all of them ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which indicates that all children are entitled to birth registration and citizenship. They are also signatories to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which gives rights of citizenship to children. Many ASEAN countries are also bound by relevant treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Therefore, ASEAN countries should be committed to the protection of basic rights of their populations, which also include citizenship rights. So far, ASEAN has set up regional mechanisms working to promote cooperation on social protection of vulnerable groups and stateless persons such as ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AIHCR) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). The ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers was also signed. Moreover, ASEAN members joined the Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People, Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime or the Bali Process that involves more than 30 countries and various international organizations.

Importantly, many ASEAN countries have made progress on social assistance and protection targeted at stateless persons along the UN guidelines. On the issue of identification, many countries have carried out census and surveys of vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities aimed at improving their access to social services. For example, Thailand and UNESCO engaged in a comprehensive survey of 65,000 hill tribe people in 192 villages. In Malaysia, an Outreach Program was initiated to build a database of more than 20,000 people of Indian ethnic groups who run the risk of becoming stateless persons (UNHCR, 2010). On prevention programs, many countries have amended citizenship laws and other regulations to prevent certain groups from becoming stateless persons. Indonesia, for example, amended the law that made Indonesian migrant workers stateless when they lived overseas longer than five years. Vietnam and Laos granted citizenship rights to all children whose parents could not be identified. To reduce the number of stateless persons,

some countries decided to grant citizenship rights to minority groups. Both Indonesia and the Philippines granted citizenship to hundreds of thousands of ethnic Chinese people living in their countries. On the issue of protection, efforts have been made to issue certificates of identity to migrant workers and stateless persons in some ASEAN countries. Brunei and the Philippines have issued ICI (International Certificate of Identity) to stateless persons living in their countries. Also, Thailand has conducted the registration of migrant workers and cooperated with Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar to work on the national verification process of those workers.

Conclusion

Southeast Asia is home to over a million stateless persons, spread across the region. Over the years, ASEAN countries have made good progress on regional and unilateral efforts aimed at enhancing social assistance and protection of stateless persons and other migrants. For example, some regional mechanisms and dialogue forums have been set up to increase cooperation efforts on human rights protection of migrants. However, much remains to be done to resolve the problem of stateless persons. ASEAN should endorse the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in order to ensure more effective protection of stateless persons and systematic reduction of the number of stateless persons. ASEAN members should also consider the possibility of shared responsibility and the gradual integration of certain groups of stateless persons.

References

- UNHCR. (2012). *UNHCR global trends 2011: A year of crises*. Geneva: UNHCR.
- UNHCR. (2011). *Good practices: Addressing statelessness in South East Asia*. Retrieved from <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4d6e0a792.pdf>
- UNHCR. (2010). *Good practices: Addressing statelessness in South East Asia. Report of the Regional Expert Roundtable on Good Practices for the Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and the Protection of Stateless Persons in South East Asia*. Bangkok, Thailand, 28-29 October. Retrieved from <http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?docid=4d6e0a792>



Migration to and from Thailand within the ASEAN Community

Kritaya Archavanitkul

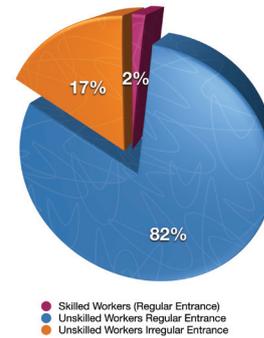
This short article aims to describe the labour flow to and from Thailand within ASEAN countries using the secondary data from the Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour. Overall, the number of regular migrant workers to and from Thailand within the ASEAN community is small, contrary to the number of irregular migrants from ASEAN to Thailand.

As of December 2012, there were only 16,643 migrants from ASEAN working in Thailand (see Figures 1-3). The highest number was from Philippines (9,209), followed by Malaysia (2,329), Singapore (1,719), and Myanmar (1,512).

According to the 2008 Employment of Aliens Act, foreigners are not allowed to be employed in unskilled jobs except migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). This is why the total number of unskilled migrant workers from these three countries was nearly one million (see Figure 1). At present, unskilled migrants can be divided into the following four sub-groups (Archavanitkul, 2012):

(a) **Registered migrants:** This group refers to irregular migrants who have registered for temporary stay registration (Tor Ror 38/1) and received 13-digit ID numbers from the Ministry of Interior beginning with 00. These workers have to pass a health check and apply for a work permit with the

Figure 2 Percentage of Workers from ASEAN Community to Thailand by Entry Status (as of December 2012)



Ministry of Labour. By the end of 2012, the total number of migrants in this category was 167,881.

(b) **Nationality Verification (NV) migrants:** Since 2004, the government has set up a procedure for formalising irregular migration flows from Myanmar, Cambodia, and the Lao PDR. Migrants who originally had 'illegally' entered into Thailand, but were registered as irregular migrant workers, were given the opportunity to receive regular status upon completion of the NV Process. From 2004 to 2012, there were 1,508,434 migrants who completed the NV process, and about half of this number (733,603) is still working in Thailand.

(c) **Imported Migrants:** The memorandum of understanding between Thailand and the governments of its three neighbouring countries signed in 2002 and 2003 also established a framework for unskilled migrant workers who enter and work in Thailand 'legally'. Migrant workers under this

Figure 1: Number of Migrant Workers from ASEAN Countries (as of December 2012)

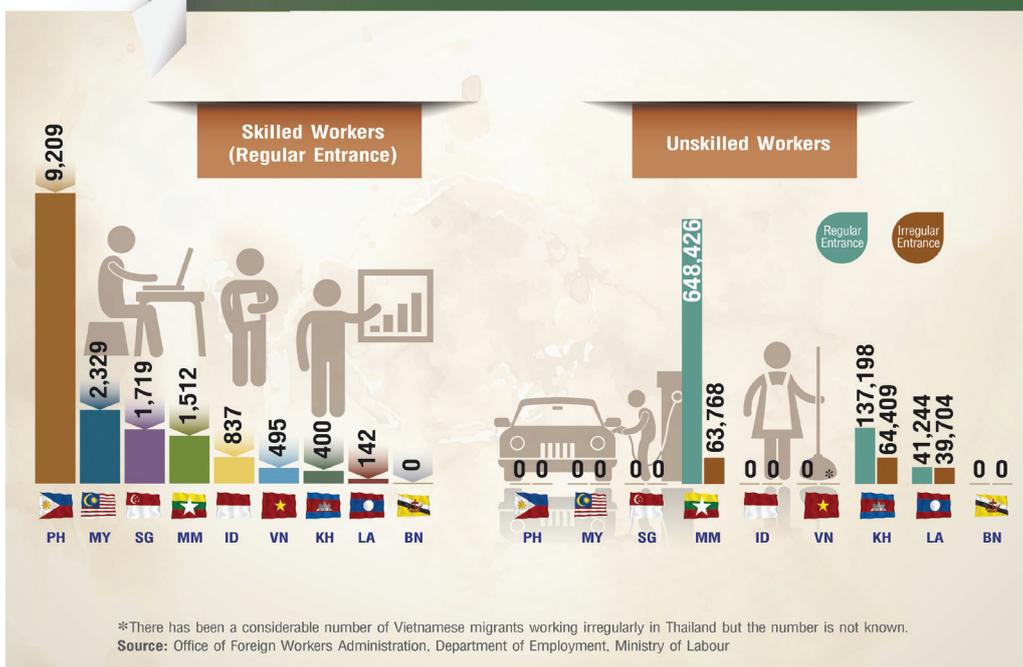
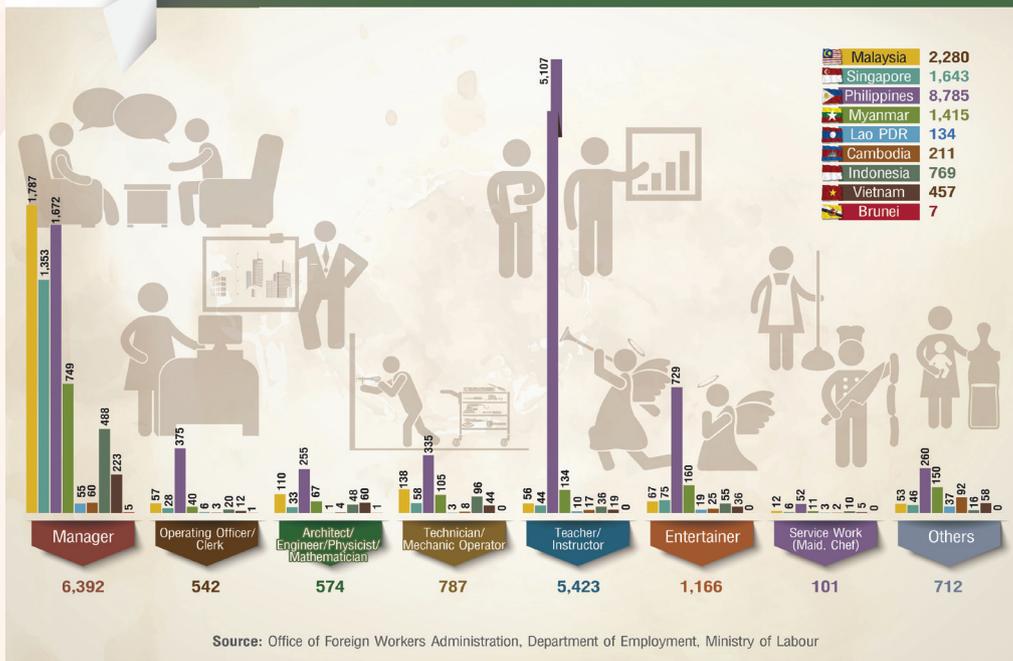


Figure 3: Number of Regular Migrant Workers from ASEAN Countries by Occupation (as of August 2012)


scheme are entitled to the same welfare, health care, rights, and other benefits provided to Thai workers and migrants who pass the NV. As of December 2012, there were 93,265 imported migrant workers, consisting of 63,405 workers from Cambodia, 18,241 from Myanmar, and 11,619 from the Lao PDR.

(d) **Unregistered migrants:** These are migrants who work without work permits, although they may have the Tor Ror 38/1 document. These workers often live in continuous fear of arrest, extortion, and deportation. It should be stressed here that there are a considerable number of irregular migrants from Vietnam, Southern China, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, and other countries, but the number of unregistered migrants is not known.

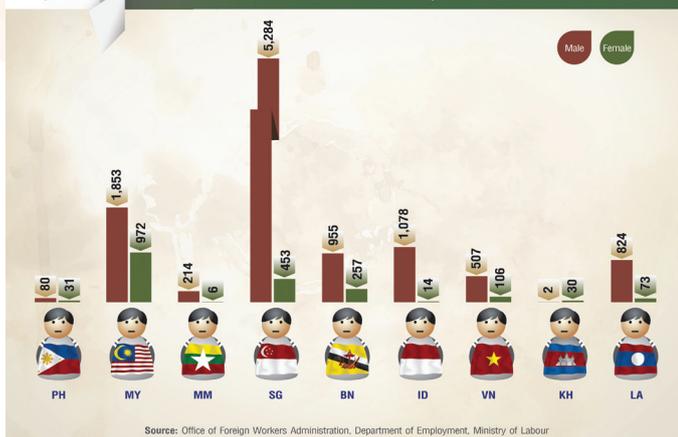
Regarding the occupations among skilled migrant workers from ASEAN currently working in Thailand (see Figure 3), the majority were engaged in administrative work as 'Manager' (6,392) and teaching (5,423). In particular, migrants from the

Philippines (5,107 or 62 percent) were employed in teaching work. The third highest group consisted of those employed in the entertainment sector (1,166). It is anticipated that when the free flow of migration for those working in eight skilled sectors, namely medical services, dental services, nursing services, engineering services, architectural services, surveyor services, accountancy services, hotel services, and tourism is launched in 2015, the number of workers from these sectors to Thailand will increase dramatically.

When the flow of Thai workers to ASEAN countries is considered (see Figure 4), although the number was small, two outstanding patterns are found. First, the flow was male dominated as the number of male workers was 5.6 times over female workers. Second, Singapore was the main destination for Thai workers as the number of Thai workers in Singapore was about half of the total number (5,284 out of 10,797).

Reference:

Archavanitkul, K. (2012). Classifications of migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR. *Population and Development Newsletter*, 3(1), 1-2. [in Thai]

Figure 4: Number of Thai Workers in ASEAN Countries by Gender (as of December 2012)


Muslim Immigrants in Bangkok *Aree Jampaklay and Kathy Ford*

Islam is the world's fastest growing religion, due to both high fertility and conversion. It is estimated that if the present rate of the increase of the Muslim population continues, by 2030, one out of three persons in the world will be a Muslim.¹ While accounting for the main part of the world population, Muslims are minorities in many countries, including Thailand. The official statistic for the Thai Muslim population is about 5%. When they are in an environment where Islam is not normative and institutionalized, an aspect of migration that Muslims have had to deal with is religious minority status and stigmatization (Kibria, 2008). This stigmatization may be amplified when the perceived international threat of militant Islam has a negative impact on the migrants (Kabir, 2007). Although ample research on Thai Muslims provides insights for public understanding (e.g. Jampaklay & Gray, 2007; Jampaklay et al, 2011), research on migrant Muslims in Thailand is limited. Little is known about their life, thoughts, plans, and adaptation to Thailand in general, and to the Thai Muslim community specifically. Knowledge and understanding of the Muslim migrant population are essential for an increasingly multicultural Thailand society.

In 2012, IPSR conducted a survey of 155 male Muslim immigrants in the Bangkok and other metropolitan areas. Funded by Waseda University in Japan, our aim was to obtain data on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Muslim immigrants. We were particularly interested in their adaptation to Thai society, including how they maintain their Muslim identity and observe Islamic practice. The majority of respondents in our survey were migrants from Southeast Asia and South Asia. Most were currently married and educated. The total length of stay in Thailand was about 5 years. Almost half could not give an exact answer regarding how long they would live in Thailand, reflecting uncertainty about settlement. One fifth reported they planned to stay in Thailand permanently. The main reasons for coming to Thailand were related to work. More than one third (36%) currently lived with a spouse, 19% lived with children, and 31% lived alone. About two fifths were self-employed. Fifty nine percent worked for a Muslim. Almost one third earned more than 30,000 baht per month, while 27% earned less than 10,000 baht a month.

About one third could understand and speak Thai 'well' or 'very well'. Although Muslim migrants showed relatively high satisfaction with their relations with other Muslims, regardless of nationality, they reported relatively low satisfaction regarding

relations with non-Muslims, also regardless of nationality. More than half were concerned about their families in home countries, the difficulty of Thai language, their future lives, and the economies in home countries. This concern might reflect the migrants' strong ties with family in their home countries as well as insecurity about life in Thailand.

Similar to findings from studies of Muslim migrants in other countries, the Muslim migrants in Thailand reported their faith has become stronger since migration and that the masjid holds an important place in their lives. Thus, it appears Muslim migrants have managed quite well in maintaining their Islamic way of life. Most of them also reported they had adapted to life in Thailand 'well' or 'fairly well'.



The Muslim migrants have developed new social networks with Muslims as well as Thais in Bangkok as findings show that most of them have both Thai and non-Thai friends, which is in line with past research (Kuo & Tsai, 1986). Migrants have received assistance from Muslim as well as Thai friends in finding jobs and housing. However, only 29% would turn to friends if they encountered a problem, and about one tenth had no one to turn to for solving their problems. The limited

¹Muslim population in the world. (2012). Retrieved January 17, 2012 from www.muslimpopulation.com

competence in the Thai language may be a barrier for inclusion of Thais into their social networks. To the extent there may be discrimination against Muslims in Bangkok, the effects seem to be mitigated due to the resources within the Muslim community.



Our Phase II of the research project, funded by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Michigan, examines Muslim minorities in Asia conducted in countries where Muslims are minorities, including Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines. It employs a qualitative

approach to better understand further issues of Muslim migrants, including gender roles in migrant families, experience with stigma and discrimination, experience in job markets, determinants of length of stay/permanent settlement, changes in fertility and family formation, changes in residence of multigenerational families, and reasons for less satisfaction with relationships with non Muslims compared to Muslims.

(Note that the full report of the Muslim survey (Phase I) is available on the IPSR website: www.ipsr.mahidol.ac.th)

References

Jampaklay, A., Chamrathirong, A., Ford, K., & Hayeete, C. (2011). *Women's migration and the unrest in the three southernmost provinces*. Bangkok: Thailand Research Fund.

Jampaklay, A., & Rosarin G. (2007). *A report on demographic, family, and socioeconomic changes among Muslims in three southernmost provinces* [English translation, published in Thai]. Bangkok: Thailand Research Fund.

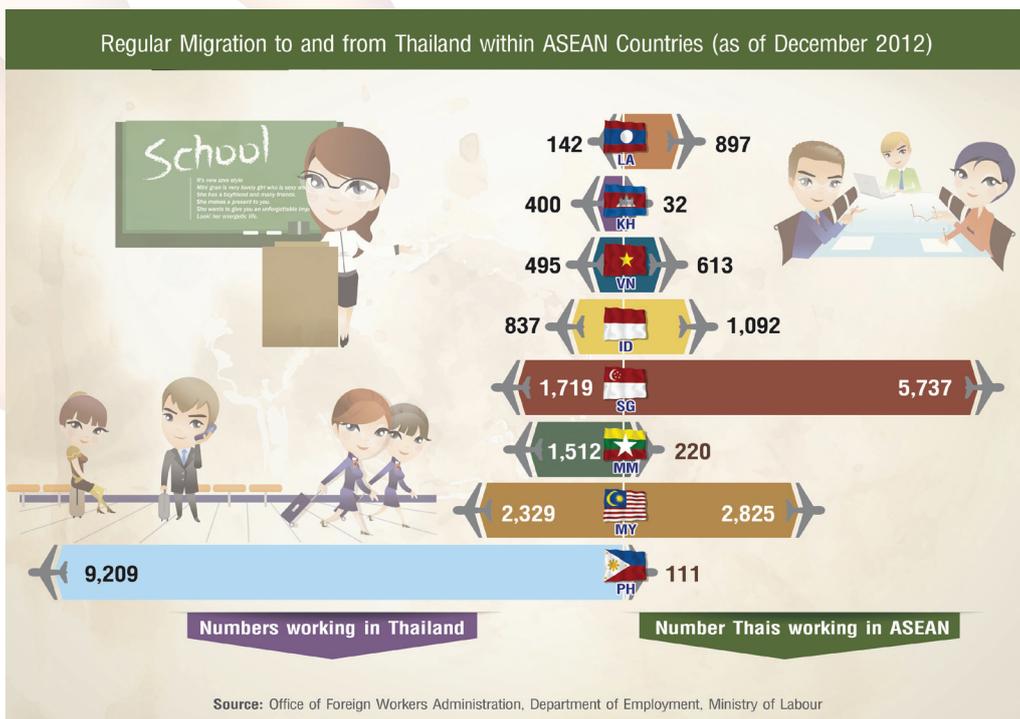
Kabir, N. (2007). Muslims in Australia: the double edge of terrorism. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 33(8), 1277-1297.

Kibria, N. (2008). Muslim encounters in the global economy. *Ethnicities*, 8(4), 518-535.

Kuo, W.H., & Tsai, Y.M. (1986). Social networking, hardiness, and immigrants' mental health. *Journal Health & Social Behavior*, 27(2), 133-149.



Interesting Figures:



The Collaborative Workshop on Creating Dialogue between Migrant Workers and Employers Saowapak Suksinchai

The Mahidol Migration Center (MMC) in collaboration with the Thai Frozen Food Association (TFFA) and Thai Food Processors Association (TFPA), with support from the Canadian Fund of Local Initiative (CFLI) and the Embassy of Canada, organized a successful and first of its kind Collaborative Workshop on “Dialogues between Migrant Workers and Employers” on March 1st-2nd, 2013 at the Ramada D’MA Bangkok Hotel, Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to deepen constructive dialogue in Thailand between migrant workers from Myanmar and their employers to increase mutual understanding, networking, and trust, and to develop joint means of advocacy. The workshop was held in the Thai language with simultaneous translation in the Myanmar language. Rapporteurs were Ms. Kulapa Vajanasara, Ms. Reena Tadee, and Ms. Kanchana Thianlai.

Professor Aphichat Chamrathirong, MMC Director, chaired the Opening Ceremony and underlined the importance of this MMC dialogue’s workshop, which was organized to bring a better understanding among migrant workers, employers, and important stakeholders to the table in order to develop long-term regulations. To develop the well-being of migrant workers, collaboration from all involved parties is required. Coordination and networks need to be strengthened for future sustainability. Further, long-term policies need to be developed in order to maintain a balance among economic growth, national security, and human rights.

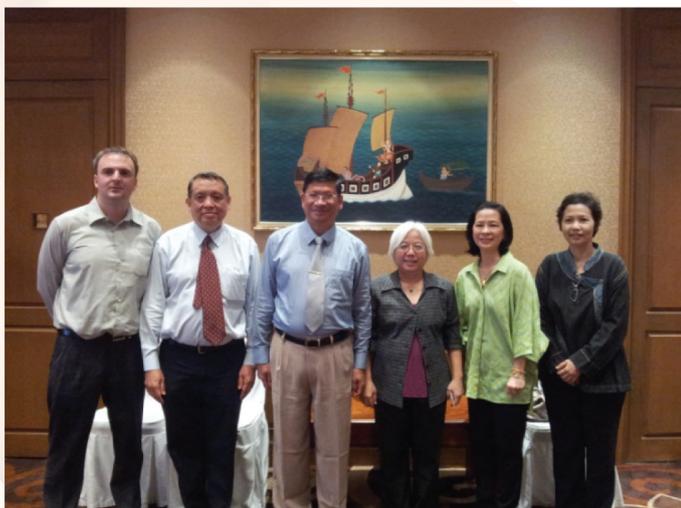
The workshop, honoured by the presence of H.E. U Myint Thein, Deputy Minister of Myanmar’s Ministry of Labour Employment and Social Security, was led by Dr. Kritaya Archavanitkul from IPSR and Mr. Andy Hall, the Migration Consultant from the International Management Group and a Research Associate of the MMC. The targeted participants were representatives of migrant workers and leaders, migrant worker’s community organization staff, employers, and employer associations. Migrant workers and leaders who participated in the workshop were based in the following seven provinces of Thailand: Bangkok, Chiangmai, Kanchanaburi, Pathumthani, Ranong, Samut Sakhon (Mahachai) and Tak (Maesod). From Myanmar, the Vice President and staff of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation as well as an expert on human resources from the Today Top Star Consultancy Group, a recruitment agency, participated. Important stakeholders from Thailand were the delegates from the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Immigration Bureau, Migrant Working Group, State Enterprise Workers Relations Confederation of Thailand, Thai Labour Solidarity Committee, Human Rights and Development Foundation, media, researchers from Mahidol and Khonkaen universities, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and International Labour Organization (ILO).



Honoured guests, who co-chaired and gave the welcoming remarks at the workshop’s Opening Session, were Mr. Matthew Robertson, Second Secretary of the Canadian Embassy, Dr. Panisuan Chamnanvej, President of the Thai Frozen Food Association, and Dr. Chanintr Chalissarapong, Vice President of the Thai Food Processors Association. All distinguished guests shared the same opinion on the need for long-term regulations and the policies focused on the well-being of migrant workers. The preparation and alteration of the roles of governments, employers, and related stakeholders were the important issues that need to be taken into account when the ASEAN countries become the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in the near future.

Dr. Kritaya Archavanitkul, an Associate Professor and migration expert from IPSR, gave the keynote presentation entitled “Facts and Issues of Migrant Workers from Neighbouring Countries: A Review”. The presentation offered clear pictures of the migration situation and problems as well as statistics regarding legal and illegal migrant workers in Thailand who are from Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar.

Dr. Archavanitkul also discussed sensitive and responsive issues such as illegal/undocumented workers and migrants' cards as well as Thailand's policies and regulations to manage incoming migrant workers from neighbouring countries, problems with a lack of continuity in policy on the labour protections, and issues regarding cross border travel. In addition, discrimination against migrant workers, human rights violations, exploitation and human trafficking in migrant workers, recruitment agents, and corruption issues were included in the keynote presentation.



The second part of workshop focused on a panel discussion: "Observing Myanmar and Thailand Migration Policy and Practice". Panellists included the invited representatives from the four interrelated parties: Mr. Aung Kyaw from migrant leader groups, Dr. Wah Wah Sein, a representative of Myanmar recruitment agencies, Mr. Kyaw Zaw Lin from migrant worker civil societies, and Mr. Thanasak Kijroongrojana, representing the employer companies. The panel broadly discussed practical policies and long-term regulations that would be applied to all involved parties. Though there were some disagreements between different parties, the panellists had creative and positive discussions based on the benefit of workers, especially the improvement of existing policies on the basic rights of migrant workers, including knowledge about workplaces and the social security. The variety of panellists in terms of occupation, nationality, and affiliation organization enriched the discussion, as various perspectives on important issues were presented.

Debates of participants from two-group activities on "Assessing the Existing Situation and Challenges Regarding Myanmar Migrant Workers Migrating to Work in Thailand" and "Assessing Short, Medium and Long Term Migration

Related Recommendations for the Myanmar and Thai governments" reflected many issues that need improvement (e.g., registration and documentation, labour rights, wage rate and working conditions, roles of employers and government officers, scope and function of recruitment agencies, and entrance to the social security system.

The sessions went actively and successfully with contributions from participants on a range of issues, thus achieving the objectives set out for the workshop. The delegates also reflected positively on the workshop. Though it is not easy to develop policies in a short time because they require much effort from many stakeholders, especially the cooperation of involved organizations and the governments of Thailand and Myanmar, along with the collaboration and partnership of all stakeholders, this workshop represented a useful platform for change. This workshop also provided a forum for workers and employers to better understand each other. Issues raised from the various discussions deserve attention, especially from policymakers in both Thailand and Myanmar.



MMC News

- The next MMC Consultative Meeting is planned to organize on 2-3 December 2013. The meeting theme is "Border Studies: Threats and/or Opportunities?"
- IPSR, co-supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and the UNFPA, organized the 9th IPSR Annual Conference 2013 on "Population and Society in ASEAN: Challenges and Opportunities". The Conference is held in Thai with simultaneous English translation on the July 1st, 2013 at The Royal River Hotel in Bangkok.

MMC Publications 2012/2013

Published

Adhikari, Ramesh, Jampaklay, Aree, Chamrathirong, Aphichat, Richter, Kerry and Pattaravanich, Umaporn. (2012). The Impact of Parental Migration on the Health of Children Living Separately from Parents : A Case Study of Kanchanaburi Thailand. *Journal of Population and Social Studies*, 20(2) January, 20-37.

Boonchalaksi, Wathinee, Chamrathirong, Aphichat and Huguet, Jerrold W. (2012). Has Permanent Settlement of Temporary Migrant Workers in Thailand Begun?. *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 21(3), 387-404.

Chamchan, Chalernpol and Apipornchaisakul, Kanya. (2012). *A Situation Analysis on Health System Strengthening for Migrants in Thailand*. Nakornpathom: Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University. [in Thai]

Chamchan, Chalernpol and Soparat, Oratai. (2012). Long-stay of the Japanese in Chiangmai: Analysis of the determining factors in the pre- and post-period of the visit. *Japanese Studies Journal*, 29(1), 16-34. [in Thai]

Ford, Kathleen., Chamrathirong, Aphichat., Apipornchaisakul, Kanya., Panichapak, Promboon., & Pinyosinwat, Thongphit. (2013). Social integration, AIDS knowledge and factors related to HIV prevention among migrantworkers in Thailand. *AIDS and Behavior*. DOI 10.1007/s10461-013-0410-7

Ford, Kathleen and Chamrathirong, Aphichat. (2012). Cross border migrants: Duration of residence, mobility and susceptibility to HIV infection. *International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care*, 8(3), 127-133.

Ford, Nicholas. (2012). Some reflections of ethnic Identity of refugee migrants from Burma to Thailand. *Journal of Population and Social Studies*, 21(1) July, 39-46.

Hall, Andy and Napa-umporn, Bongkot. (2012). Denial of access to the Accident Compensation Fund: Reflection of social injustice towards migrant workers in Thailand. in Kulapa Vajanasara and Kritaya Archavanitkul (Editors). *Marginalised Populations and Social Justice in Thai Society* (pp.265-291). Nakornpathom: Population and Society Publishing. [in Thai]

Hall, Andy. (2012). Migrant workers and social protection in ASEAN : moving towards a regional standard?. *Journal of Population and Social Studies*, 21(1) July, 12-38.

Huijsmans, Roy and Baker, Simon. (2012). Child Trafficking: 'Worst Form' of Child Labour, or Worst Approach to Young Migrants?. *Development and Change*, 43(4), 919-946.

Niyomsilpa, Sakkarin. (2012). Policy stances on protracted refugee situations in countries of first asylum in Southeast Asia: Towards a flexible approach. in Kulapa Vajanasara and Kritaya Archavanitkul (Editors). *Marginalised Populations and Social Justice in Thai Society* (pp.61-83). Nakornpathom: Population and Society Publishing. [in Thai]

Nyi, Nyi, Chamrathirong, Aphichat, and Guest, Philip. (2012). The role of family support and other factors in returning home: Migrants from Nang Rong district, Thailand. *Asian Population Studies*, 8(2), 231-247.

Richter, Kerry, Chamrathirong, Aphichat, Niyomsilpa, Sakkarin and Miller, Rebecca. (2012). Forward to the special Issue: Migrants, minorities and refugees: integration and well-being. *Journal of Population and Social Studies*, 21(1) July, 2-11.

Sunpuwan, Malee and Niyomsilpa, Sakkarin. (2012). Perception and Misperception : Thai public opinions on refugees and migrants from Myanmar. *Journal of Population and Social Studies*, 21(1) July, 47-58.

Sunpuwan, Malee. (2012). Education for All: Do migrant children in rubber plantation have an opportunity to be included?. in Kulapa Vajanasara and Kritaya Archavanitkul (Editors). *Marginalised Populations and Social Justice in Thai Society* (pp.293-318). Nakornpathom: Population and Society Publishing. [in Thai]

Thianlai, Kanchana and Sakulsri, Teeranong. (2012). Marginalised populations: Numbers and distribution aspects. in Kulapa Vajanasara and Kritaya Archavanitkul (Editors). *Marginalised Populations and Social Justice in Thai Society* (pp.37-59). Nakornpathom: Population and Society Publishing. [in Thai]

Current MMC Migration Research Projects (2012-2013)

Child Health and Migration Parents in Southeast Asia (CHAMPSEA)-Thailand Report. By Aree Jampaklay, Patama Vapanawong and Abdun Aziz Prasithima. (Welcome Trust)

Children Living apart from Parents due to Internal Migration (CLAIM). By Aree Jampaklay, et. al. (UNICEF)

Evaluating the prevention of HIV infection in a population at high risk: Prisoners and migrant workers in Thailand (The Global Fund Round 8: CHAMPION). By Apichat

Chamratrithrong, Sureepon Punpuing, Richter, Kerry Uraiwan Kanuengsukkasem, Dusita Puengsamran and Nippon Darawuttimaprakorn. (MoPH)

Health System Strengthening for Migrants in Thailand: Situation Analysis. By Chalernpol Chamchan. (WHO)

Increasing Media Understanding for Social Dialogue by Civil society on Migration (FOSI). By Andy Hall. (OSI)

Migrant Workers and People with Civic Status Problem: Facts and Figures. By Kritaya Archavanitkul and Kulapa Vajanasara. (Thai Health Promotion Foundation)

Social Survey on Domestic and International Muslim in Thailand (MIT). By Aree Jampaklay, Kathy Ford and Abdul-Aziz Prasith-Hima. (Waseda University, Japan)

The Impact of Internal Migration on Early Childhood Well-Being and Development A longitudinal and Mixed-Method Study. By Aree Jampaklay, Kanchana Tangchonlatip and Kerry Richter. (UNICEF)

The Survey of Thai Public Opinions on Myanmar Refugees and Displaced Persons. By Sakkarin Niyomsilpa, Malee Sunpuwan and Wipaporn Jaruruengpaisan. (WHO)



Message from the MMC Editor

For over 40 years, the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) has helped shape important debates affecting the Asian region. Since its creation in 1971, it has led national conversations on demographic and family transitions, cross border relations, health care policies, sexuality and reproductive health, and many other issues of concern to individuals and their governments. Today, we continue to provide leadership on issues related to social exclusion, expanding stateless and minority communities, inter-cultural communication, and the economic and social integration of migrants as these conversations have moved to the front of policy agendas.

As we look forward to the policy challenges of the next decade and beyond, it is clear that independent research has never mattered more to the development of sound public policy. As governments grapple ever more with complex issues, including ASEAN economic integration by 2015, the work of institutes like IPSR will play a critical role in ensuring government decisions are informed and evidence based.

IPSR strives to improve public policy decisions by generating analysis and sparking debate on current and emerging issues. To do so, we bring experts together for conferences, workshops, and other events. We commission and carry out independent policy research, and we provide a forum for debate through the Mahidol Migration Center's (MMC) annual newsletter. It has been an exciting and

eventful year for the MMC, and we are proud of the substantive body of work we have produced over the last 12 months. From the effects of parental absence on the children of migrants to statelessness and policy responses, from HIV prevention among labour migrants to Muslim minorities throughout Asia, our research has been an integral part of the most salient public and political debates. For these reasons, the MMC newsletter will now be published on a bi-annual basis. Look for our next edition in January 2014.

In the meantime, we invite you to visit www.ipsr.mahidol.ac.th to learn more about IPSR's mandate and research programs. You will find our most recent studies and our archived work going back to 1968 before IPSR was established as an independent institute. We also invite you to explore the MMC site, www.migrationcenter.mahidol.ac.th, to read our latest research projects or sift through previous issues of the newsletter.

As I head into my second year as MMC editor, I have a renewed appreciation for the unique role the institute plays in the region. IPSR is one of Asia's premier resources for evidence based, independent policy research, insights, and perspectives, and I am confident our work will continue to inform policy decisions for many years to come.

Rebecca Miller
MMC Editor

MMC Newsletter Editorial Team

Editor:
Rebecca Miller (rebecca.mil@mahidol.ac.th)

Co-Editor:
Kulapa Vajanasara (kulapa.vaj@mahidol.ac.th)

Design and Layout:
Aek Sawaddiju (sawaddiju@hotmail.com)

MMC Coordinators

Saowapak Suksinchai (saowapak.suk@mahidol.ac.th)
Niphon Darawuttimaprakorn (niphon.dar@mahidol.ac.th)
<http://www.migrationcenter.mahidol.ac.th>



Institute for Population and Social Research,
Mahidol University

Salaya, Phutthamonthon, Nakhon Pathom 73170, Thailand

Tel. +66(0)2-441-0201-4 Fax. +66(0)2-441-9333

<http://www.ipsr.mahidol.ac.th> Webmaster : prwww@mahidol.ac.th