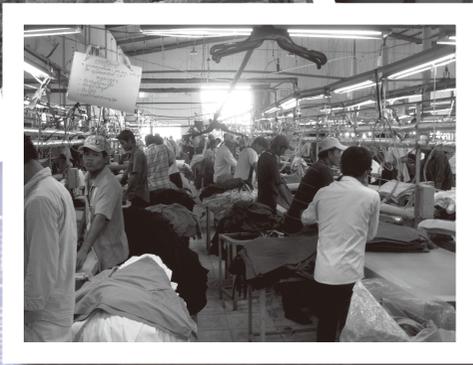


MIGRATION IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

Annotated Bibliography

[Fourth edition]



Mekong Migration Network • Asian Migrant Centre

With the support of the Rockefeller Foundation & OXFAM-Hong Kong

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**MIGRATION IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
(Fourth edition)**

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**Mekong Migration Network (MMN) and
Asian Migrant Centre (AMC)**

Flat 6, 13/F, Block A

Fuk Keung Industrial Building

66-68 Tong Mi Road, Prince Edward

Kowloon, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2312-0031 ■ Fax: (852) 2992-0111

Email: info@mekongmigration.org

Web: www.mekongmigration.org

www.asian-migrants.org

Cover design and graphics:

Boyet Rivera III

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A1, 20/F., Fortune Factory Building

40 Lee Chung Street, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2889-6110 ■ Fax: (852) 2889-6770

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Preface

This bibliography is a companion publication of the soon-to-be published resource book on migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). The bibliography serves as a guide to the information currently available on the issue and also to highlight some of the research trends and gaps that currently exist. The resource book on the other hand aims to provide comprehensive information concerning migration in the sub-region based on both primary and secondary sources and aims to serve as a reference for NGOs, governments, IGOs and advocates in formulating their programs and responses. Both this bibliography and the upcoming resource book are the fourth editions in their respective series.

In September 2001, the Asian Migrant Centre together with more than 20 regional and national research partners covering the six countries of the GMS initiated a collaborative action research project on “Migration in the Mekong.” The first phase of the project concentrated on joint research to map out the issues, needs and strategies on cross-border migration in the GMS. The primary need at the time was to take stock of the available information, to study the distribution of migrants and the gaps in our knowledge of the situation and to identify the strategic areas of intervention for the next phase of the project. The first resource book entitled *Migration Needs, Issues and Responses in the Greater Mekong Subregion* and the first bibliography entitled *Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion: Annotated Bibliography*, were the outcomes of this phase of the project.

In October 2003, the project partners of the first phase as well as other interested organisations from the region met in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. All of the participants felt that it would be desirable to form a network through which they could exchange information and conduct joint actions, as it is difficult to assess the issues or effectively advocate for the protection of migrants without cross-border collaboration. It was in this context that the Mekong Migration Network (MMN) was launched. In order to collectively promote migrants’ rights in the subregion, the MMN identified four areas of joint action. These are research and information monitoring, advocacy, capacity building, and networking. The MMN agreed to regularly publish an annotated bibliography and a resource book in the hope of deepening the understanding and analysis of migration

issues in the subregion. We feel that an action oriented network like the MMN, whose member organisations work on comprehensive areas of migration —e.g. research, organising, advocacy, providing emergency relief and health support to migrants —is best suited to do this task.

The MMN research in 2004-2005 focused on the quality of life of migrants while it continued to update the general overview and policy developments concerning migration in the subregion. The second issue of the resource book entitled *Resource Book: Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion* and the bibliography entitled *Annotated Bibliography: Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion*, were then published.

The MMN collaborative research in 2006-2007 focused on the issues of arrest, detention and deportation of migrants in the GMS while continuing to provide updated information on migration policies and issues. In June 2008, the third issue of the resource book entitled *Resource Book: Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion-Indepth Study: Arrest, Detention and Deportation* was published, following the bibliography entitled *Annotated Bibliography: Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion* published in December 2007.

The present bibliography is an updated version of these previous titles. It includes most of the references listed in the previous editions, along with new materials. A few of the web-based materials included in the previous books have been taken out as their URLs are no longer accessible. Some relevant entries which were only listed in the first two editions have been annotated here, whereas a few entries which were found to be insubstantial have been taken out from the list.

The references covered in this book include books, monographs, conference proceedings, project summaries, audio materials and web-based materials, which were published before the end of 2008. A few books published in 2009 which are already in our hands are also included, but those published in 2009 and did not reach us before the publication of this edition will be included in our next book. The annotation should help readers gain a grasp of the kind of information and analysis that these materials cover, however they do not summarise the material in its entirety, and thus readers are encouraged to refer to the original materials should they wish to gain a full understanding of their content.

This book has five sections:

- Section 1 provides an overview of migration in the GMS, and general observation on the resource materials contained in this book, as well as book reviews of MMN recommended books;

- Section 2 lists materials published by MMN and MMN members
- Section 3 contains the annotated bibliography of publications most relevant to migration in the GMS;
- Section 4 provides a list of other relevant references, without annotations;
- Section 5 contains a list of websites touching on, but not necessarily exclusively covering, migration in the GMS; and
- Appendix Directory of Mekong Migration Network (MMN) Member Organisations provides a list of updated contact details for our members.

The “MMN Recommended Books” reviewed in Section 1 is a new addition to the series in which we have selected materials which we found informative and useful to the understanding of human rights issues that affect migrants in the subregion. There are eight materials introduced under this section and we have included a book review for each of our entries.

In this book, the terms originally used by the author or publisher are used in the listing as well as annotation. The usage of such terms does not imply the endorsement of the term nor represent any particular position taken by the MMN.

As mentioned earlier, preparation for this book has helped the MMN consciously monitor information available on migration issues, which we believe is helpful in making our own research more grounded and better able to strategise and formulate the best responses to be taken by action groups. We also hope that this book will help readers, especially migrant advocates, policy-makers, researchers, in conducting their own studies on migration in the GMS.

Though we have done our best to search for the relevant references, the list is not exhaustive due to resource and time restraints and due to the fact that distribution of some of the materials is limited and thus it is hard to come across. We have searched for materials in English as well as local languages, but the majority of references included in this book are in English. We will be grateful if other useful references that are not included in this book are brought to our attention, so that we may include them in future editions. Organisations working on migration issues in the GMS, who are interested in working with the MMN or joining the MMN are also most welcome to contact us.

Acknowledgment

We would like to sincerely thank the following people, organisations and research partners for helping us put together this list of resources relevant to migration in the GMS.

Country Research Teams (CRT): Most of the CRTs are members of the Mekong Migration Network (MMN) while some organisations who participated are not members but agreed with the objectives of the research. The MMN collaborative research including this annotated bibliography is a product of their collective efforts. Each CRT undertook research for resource materials relevant to migration in the GMS, annotated selected materials and translated the annotations into English where necessary.

Cambodia CRT

- Ly Vichuta, Mom Sokchar, Chhorn Reasey and Prak Socheat, Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW); Mom Sokchar acted as the team leader (Koh Kong province) while Ly Vichuta acted as a coordinator for the Cambodia CRT
- Meas Sanet, CARAM Cambodia
- Chhorn Ann, Som Sen, Chou Tean Hak, Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD); Chhorn Ann acted as the team leader (Svay Rieng province) for the Cambodia CRT
- Thach Chhourn Yat, Khmer Kampuchea Krom Human Rights Association (KKKHRA)

China CRT

- Han Jialing, Cui Xiaoying, Tao Xinghui, Migrants Workers' Education and Action Research Center; Han Jialing acted as the coordinator for the Yunnan-Vietnam/Laos Migration Research Team
- Zhang Jie and Wu Yunmei, Group of Migration, Resource, Gender and Development; Zhang Jie acted as the coordinator for the Yunnan-Burma Migration Research Team
- Chen Guilian, Ruili Women and Children Development Centre
- Li Chunrui, Women Migrant Education Research Professional Association
- Sun Po, Yunnan Health and Development Research Association
- Zhao Peilan, Association for Women's Capacity Building and Community Development in Yunnan

- Duan Yanna, Sociology Institute, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences

Laos PDR CRT

- Kabmanivanh Phouxay, Phouth Simmalavong, Dexanourath Seneduangdeth, Kenchanh Sinsamphanh, Bounthavy Sosamphanh, Phombouth Sadachith and Boualamthong Onetavong, National University of Laos (NUOL); Kabmanivanh Phouxay acted as the coordinator for the Laos CRT and Dexanourath Seneduangdeth acted as the co-coordinator for the Laos CRT
- Vilaythone Sounthonxaymongkhoun, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
- Bounkham Sihalath, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MOLSW)
- Ninpaseuth Sayaphonsy, Lao Women Union

Thailand CRT

- Adisorn Kerdmongkol, Bussayarut Kanchanadith and Suchada Saiyud, Peace Way Foundation; Adisorn Kerdmongkol acted as the coordinator for the Thailand CRT
- Bandith Panviset, Friends of Women Foundation
- Myint Wai, Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (TACDB)
- Sunthorn Mingnan, Pattanarak Foundation
- Satien Than Phrom, Foundation for AIDS Rights
- Praditha Pariyakaewfar, and Sathita Nor Pho, MAP Foundation
- Wanna Butsein, Raks Thai Foundation
- Ratchaneekorn U-para and Sachumi Mayoe, EMPOWER Foundation
- Chidchanok Samantrakool, Thai Labour Solidarity Committees

Vietnam CRT

- Huynh thi Ngoc Tuyet and Nguyen thi Minh Chau, Center for Research and Consultancy for Development (CRCD), Southern Institute of Social Sciences; Huynh thi Ngoc Tuyet acted as the coordinator for the Vietnam CRT
- Le Thi My Huong, Sunflower Vocational Training Centre
- Le Thanh Sang, Center for Social and Human Research, Southern Institute of Sustainable Development (SISD)
- Vo Kim Phuong, Moc Bai Border Gate Economic Zone Management Unit

Friends in Burma have also contributed to the MMN joint research.

The following people helped us finalise this book for publication:

- Noriko Morita, for coordinating the project on annotated bibliography, for her comprehensive research for relevant references, encoding them into a database and annotating the selected materials;
- Liz Hilton, for writing a book review and providing a valuable advice regarding the production;
- Imogen Howells, for collecting relevant references, annotating the selected materials, writing book reviews and overall editing & proof reading;
- Laddawan Tamafu, for helping edit annotation for publications in Thai;
- Soe Lin Aung, for writing book reviews;
- Abigail Cheung, Helen Pho, and Kyle A. Le Croy, for collecting relevant references and annotating the selected materials;
- Pierre Martin, for helping encode;
- Che Singh for editing & proof reading;
- Boyet Rivera, for cover and layout; and
- Reiko Harima for editing and also for coordinating the MMN joint research.

Many other MMN members whose names may not be all listed here have helped the production by collecting or annotating relevant publications and/or providing their inputs to the overall project design.

Finally, we would like to thank the Rockefeller Foundation and the OXFAM-Hong Kong. Without their continued support this book and the Mekong project would not be possible.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to all those not named who contributed their time, expertise and effort to make this project a success.

Mekong Migration Network
Asian Migrant Centre
 September 2009

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	Auto Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMC	Asian Migrant Centre
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COMMIT	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GMS	Greater Mekong Subregion
GO	Government Organisation or Agency
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDP	Internal Displaced Persons
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organisation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
IPSR	Institute for Population and Social Research (Mahidol University)
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MAP	Migrant Assistance Programme
MMN	Mekong Migration Network
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSH (OHS) ..	Occupational Health and Safety
PAR	Participatory Action Research
PRC	People's Republic of China
SEAHIV	South East Asia HIV and Development Program
SPDC	State Peace and Development Council (Burma)
STD/I	Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Infection

UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP ...	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIAP	UN Interagency Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women
UNICEF	United Nation’s Children’s Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation

Section 1: Migration and Literature Overview

Migration Overview

Background

The GMS is home to more than 260 million people, including an estimated 3-5 million migrants. Thailand is the major receiving country for migrants in the region, hosting between 2-4 million migrants, while Cambodia and the Yunnan Province of China also play host to large migrant populations. Accurate data concerning the number of migrants in the GMS is hard to attain. This is due to the fact that many migrants are long term residents in their host countries (as illustrated in the case of Vietnamese migrants in Cambodia), and most migration in the region is spontaneous and through irregular channels. Furthermore, many people in the GMS continue to be undocumented in their home countries. It is important to note that the many ethnic groups residing along the borders of the GMS countries often have kinship ties with people on the other side of the border who belong to the same ethnic nationality, therefore movement across international borders has long been a feature of their daily lives.

Until the latter half of the twentieth century, many of the countries in the GMS were embroiled in internal strife, repressive regimes, cross-border conflicts, recurring political instability and all their associated economic difficulties. Between the 1960s and 1980s, most migrants from the GMS were refugees fleeing wars and repressive regimes. Around 250,000 Vietnamese people fled during the Vietnam-U.S. War, and hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese fled the country as “Boat People” after the war. A large number of Vietnamese people also went to Cambodia during and after the conflict with Vietnam. In Thailand, large numbers of Laotian refugees and migrants began arriving as early as 1975. The number of Burmese refugees has increased since 1984 and further accelerated after September 1988 when the democratic uprising was quashed by the military regime.

In the 1990s, population movements were characterised by a mix of refugees and economic migrants. Thailand’s economy saw rapid growth, particularly between 1990 and 1995. This strong growth resulted

in a greater demand for labour, thereby attracting large numbers of workers from rural areas across Thailand, as well as from neighbouring countries. Undocumented migrant workers have therefore become a significant feature of the Thai economy and society. Since 1992, the Thai Cabinet has issued a series of decisions enabling the registration of migrant workers who entered Thailand undocumented for the purpose of employment. This registration process has not been formalised into a regular programme and the timing, quotas of migrants, job sectors and provinces in which migrants can register as well as the associated costs of registration shift from year to year, making the process unpredictable for migrants and employers alike. The registration exercise in July 2004 was by far the most open and successful scheme to date, during which a total of 1,284,920 (921,492 from Burma, 179,887 from Lao PDR and 183,541 from Cambodia) registered for a temporary residence identification card (Tor Ror 38/1). Of these migrants, 849,552 also received work permits. In subsequent registration schemes, the number of migrants registering has been in steady decline. Throughout 2008, a total of 501,570 migrants were registered under Cabinet Resolution, 18th December 2007¹. Under this resolution migrant registration falls into one of the following four categories:

- 1) Regular Registration (July 2008): 310,149 migrants registered under this scheme and were granted temporary migrant worker cards valid until 30th of June 2009.
- 2) Interim Registration (March 2008): a total of 97,919 migrants obtained work permits valid from March 2008 to February 2009.
- 3) Special Registration (Southern Provinces): 4,715 migrants obtained work permits valid until March 2009, valid only in the Thai provinces of Satun, Songkhla, Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat.
- 4) Concession for holders of expired ID (Tor Ror.38/1): 88,787 migrants who previously registered for Tor Ror.38/1 in 2004 and have re-registered under this concession policy obtained new work permits valid from February 2008 to January 2009.

In addition, there are approximately 84,980 Cambodian and Laotian migrants who received legal status through the MOU processes. However, the majority of migrants remain undocumented and have no valid immigration status. According to IOM estimates, the share

of registered migrants was only 28 % of the total number of migrants in 2008. A further 1.2 million migrants remain unregistered². This is thought to be a relatively conservative estimate, since NGOs believe that there is approximately 2-4 million migrants resident in Thailand.

The Thai Government announced that they would conduct the final round of registration between the 1st and 31st of July 2009, in which the work permits granted would be valid until February 2010. After this window, migrants can apply for a renewal only if their nationalities are verified by their countries of origin. The new inflow of migrants is aimed to be strictly regulated under the terms of the applicable MOU.

In February 2008, the Working of Aliens Act B.E. 2551 came into force and formalised a number of practices gradually introduced through the Cabinet decisions issued over the last two decades as well as generalising some of the principles contained in the MOUs with Lao PDR, Cambodia and Burma. The implementation of the Act anticipates detailed sub-decrees, but key shifts in policy directed at migration management may be grouped together as follows: 1) defining a list of shortage occupations open to migrant workers; 2) creating a deportation fund; 3) collecting levies from the employers of migrants; 4) setting up committees to review the employment of migrants and to consider their appeals; and 5) increasing government powers of inspection and arrest. One of these controversial provisions allows the authorities to enter migrant workplaces without a court warrant.

The Yunnan province of China shares borders with Burma, Lao PDR and Vietnam. The province has a long history of outward and inward migration. Though it was traditionally a sending area of migrants, the direction of migration has become more of a two-way process following the growth of China's market economy and the normalisation of diplomatic relations with Burma, Lao PDR and Vietnam in the 1980s and 1990s, which included the opening of its borders for trade and communication.

Cambodia is home to an estimated 150,000 - 1.1 million migrants primarily from Vietnam. Many of the Vietnamese are long term residents who arrived in Cambodia during the 1970s and 1980s. There is a lack of reliable data concerning these migrants in Cambodia. There also appears to be a lack of government policy in relation to the migrants in the country, while anti trafficking responses are far more visible responses by the Cambodian authorities. In 2005, Cambodia

and Vietnam signed an agreement on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Women and Children and Assisting Victims of Trafficking. In May 2008, the Cambodian Anti-trafficking Act came into force.

Lao PDR, while being predominantly a sending country of migrants to Thailand, it is also home to a small number of immigrants from neighbouring countries such as Vietnam and China. The number of migrants in the country, particularly those from China, is reportedly increasing fast due to the number of development projects taking place in Lao PDR.

The Bilateral MOUs on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers

In the past, most of Thailand's migration policies were formulated unilaterally, and the presence of migrant workers in Thailand was often not officially acknowledged by the governments of migrants' home countries. However, the political climate concerning labour migration has changed since early 2000s and inter-governmental cooperation concerning this issue has increased. Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers with Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Burma, in October 2002, May 2003, and June 2003, respectively.

In order for these MOUs to be implemented, the country of origin first needed to verify the nationality of migrants already in Thailand in order to issue them with some form of identification or travel document. The Laotian authorities started the process of verifying the nationality of Laotian migrants in Thailand in 2005. Between January and October 2005, a total of 33,937 migrants in Thailand were interviewed by the Laotian authorities, and 33,908 of them had their nationality confirmed. As of February 2007, about 48,000 Laotian migrants had been interviewed and had obtained temporary passports³. The Lao Government has also issued a decree regarding the rules and regulations of sending Laotian workers abroad. However, these regulations have been slow to take effect and by December 2007, only 6,174 workers migrated to Thailand through this newly established formal migration channel.⁴

Similarly, Cambodia has two registration processes in operation. Cambodia started the process of interviewing migrants in Thailand in 2005 to verify their nationality. Between 14 November 2005 and 30

June 2006, the Cambodian multi-ministerial task force in Thailand verified the nationality and issued Certificates of Identify (CI) to 37,142 migrants, in addition to the 75 migrants interviewed between March and April 2005, 72 of whom had their nationality confirmed. By December 2008, a total of 48,076 Cambodian workers had their nationalities certified. Meanwhile, the process of sending migrants to Thailand under the formal migration channel progressed slowly and by December 2008, just 7,977 workers migrated to Thailand through this formal channel⁵.

As for Burma, no concrete cooperation has taken place since September 2005 concerning the methods of implementing the MOU. Recently, a number of recruitment agencies sending Burmese workers to Thailand have been opened in Burma, and also three cross-border check-points have been set up for conducting nationality verification. In July 2009, Labour Minister Paitoon Kaewthong said Burmese authorities will start authenticating the nationality of the Burmese workers from July 15 and that Burmese migrant workers can stop by for nationality certification in one of three areas - Victoria Point, Myawaddy or Tachilek in Burma.⁶

However many Burmese migrant communities in Thailand are concerned that they are likely to experience various forms of harassment by the SPDC, when they go to have their nationality verified. Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister Maung Myint has also stated that only about 400 Burmese migrant workers were expected to come forward for nationality verification⁷.

Agreements and Declarations Signed by the GMS Countries

Aside from the above mentioned MOUs on Employment Cooperation, GMS countries have signed a number of statements or MOUs, many of which focus on the cross-border issue of trafficking. GMS countries also signed the ASEAN declarations in relation to HIV, trafficking and migrant workers. On 31 May 2003, Thailand and Cambodia signed an MOU on Bilateral Cooperation to Eliminate Trafficking in Children and Women. At the 11th ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) meeting on 16-17 February 2004, Burma, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR and Vietnam met in Yangon, Burma, and signed the MOU for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Related to Population Movement, in which they agreed to further collaborate on the Joint Action Program that was extended from the initial stage which commenced in 2001.

The ASEAN heads of state signed the Declaration against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children in November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. In July 2005, Lao PDR and Thailand signed an MOU on Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. In October 2005, Cambodia and Vietnam also signed an agreement on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Women and Children and Assisting Victims of Trafficking. More recently in January 2007, ASEAN signed the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers during the 12th ASEAN Summit held in Cebu, the Philippines⁸. In July, ASEAN also signed a statement regarding the establishment of an ASEAN Committee to oversee the implementation of this declaration.

The anti trafficking initiatives of GMS countries has been visible for some time, along with a number of UN agencies working on anti trafficking programs in the subregion. The first meeting of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative on Trafficking (COMMIT) was held in Bangkok on 28-30 July 2004. Senior officials from Burma, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam discussed a new framework for fighting human trafficking in the region. The second COMMIT meeting was held on 27-28 October 2004 in Yangon, Burma, where the six countries signed an MOU on Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region and Sub-regional Action Plan in October 2004. COMMIT senior officials met again in Hanoi, Vietnam on 29-31 March 2005, where they adopted the Sub-regional Plan of Action and agreed to collaborate on the investigation and prosecution of traffickers and on support of repatriation and assistance for victims.

At a meeting on 14-15 December 2007 sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Public Security (MPS), senior officials from the GMS signed a joint declaration affirming their nations' intention to continue bilateral and multilateral consultations and collaborations between and among countries in the sub-region as well as with regional bodies such as ASEAN. Officials also passed the second-phase action plan, scheduled for 2008-2010.

Organisations Working on Migration Issues in GMS

In the GMS, there are currently a number of organisations working on

migration or trafficking related issues. Below are listed some of the main projects that are carried out at the Mekong sub-regional level.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has a project entitled Return and Reintegration of Trafficked and Other Vulnerable Women and Children Between Selected Countries in the Mekong Region. The IOM also initiated the establishment of the inter-agency Thematic Working Group on International Migration in Thailand whose main objectives are: 1) to generate a common knowledge base for policy recommendations on international migration among member organisations; 2) to provide input to the Thai Government's policy-making process on international migration; and 3) to identify gaps in knowledge concerning international migration in Thailand. Its second report entitled *International Migration in Thailand* was published in 2009⁹.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) has a Mekong Sub-Regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women under the ILO-implemented International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC). Phase I of the Mekong Sub-Regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women (TICW) started in 2000 with a three-year research, consultation, analysis, and intervention phase (2000-2003). Phase II (2003-2008), which was completed in October 2008, focused on children aged 10-14 and 15-17, who are considered at a high risk of being trafficked. Through this phase, research, capacity building, awareness-raising, and community-empowerment were carried out. Since 2005 the ILO has published the *Mekong Challenge* series, most of whose thematic focus is on migration policies and practices in Thailand, and/or issues of young migrant workers, and/or issues of trafficking.

The UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP) was established in 2000. The functions of UNIAP are to coordinate policy and responses to human trafficking with GMS governments at the central and local levels, NGOs, UN and international implementing agencies such as IOM, ILO, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office on drugs and Crime (UNODC), End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) and the Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project (ARTIP). The UNIAP has four objectives: 1) to support governments in the institutionalisation of effective multi-sectoral approaches to combat

human trafficking; 2) to maximise the UN's contribution to the overall anti-trafficking response; 3) to facilitate optimal allocation and targeting of anti-trafficking resources; and 4) to continue to play a catalytic role in the anti-trafficking response by identifying and supporting special projects to address new and emerging issues. These four objectives are to be realised by three main initiatives: COMMIT – Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking, for which UNIAP serves as the Secretariat; SIREN – Strategic Information Response Network; and Support to Underserved Victim Populations. UNIAP's work is currently in Phase III (2007-2011) during which the project aims to shift from policy formulation to implementation on the ground, by increasing UNIAP's technical services to counter-trafficking sectors, enhancing good practices of government and non-government agencies and monitoring.

The UNIFEM East and South East Asia office implements projects under the following themes: 1) Governance and Transformational Leadership; 2) Economic Empowerment and Rights; and 3) Women's Human Rights and Eliminating Violence Against Women in the East and South East Asian countries including Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam and China.

The Mekong Institute (MI), an inter-governmental organisation working in the GMS aims to provide human resource development activities for government officials, members of private enterprises and civil society involved in the development of the GMS. The MI held their first Policy Dialogue on Transborder Migration in February 2006. The objectives of the first policy dialogue were to promote a better understanding among policy makers of the migration process within the GMS and raise awareness of the need to implement regional and bilateral policies on migration management and to propose solutions and follow up action. In November 2007, the MI organised its second policy dialogue entitled Transborder Migration Policy Implementation and Monitoring: Its Effectiveness and Current Policy Gaps in the GMS. Among the various recommendations arising out of the dialogue process was for GMS governments to promote ratification of the UN Convention of Protection of Migrant Workers and Their Families.

The Mekong Migration Network (MMN), officially launched in 2003 stemming out of a research network formed in 2001, continues to implement joint research, capacity building, advocacy and networking.

MMN member organisations include NGOs, migrant grassroots organisations, mass organisations and research institutes. The MMN aims to work towards the promotion of rights and welfare of cross-border migrants in the GMS. Since 2008, the MI and the Mekong Migration Network (MMN) have co-organised a series of activities. In May 2008, the MI and the MMN organised an expert meeting on Labour Migration Management during which the training curriculum for the GMS training on labour migration management was discussed. The actual training course took place in November 2008, with the participation of 23 government officials from ministries concerned with labour migration management from GMS governments, namely the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Women Affairs/Women's Union and Ministry of Justice. The next training is scheduled to take place in December 2009.

Footnotes

¹ Thai Ministry of Labour

Details are available at: www.mekongmigration.org

² Thai Ministry of Labour

Kritaya Archavantikul and Kulapa Vajanasara, *Employment of migrant workers under the Working of Aliens Act 2008 and the list of occupations allowed to foreigners*, published by IOM and Mahidol University, 2008.

³ Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR, cited in Inthasone Phetsiriseng, February 2007.

⁴ Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, 2008, cited in Sciortino and Punpuing, *International Migration in Thailand*, IOM, pp.60.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ "Major boost for officials tackling illegal labour," in *Bangkok Post*, July 12th 2009

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Full text of the Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. Last accessed online at: <<http://www.aseansec.org/19264.htm>>.

⁹ Rosalia Sciortino and Sureeporn Punpuing, *International Migration in Thailand*, published by IOM, 2009.

Literature Overview

This annotated bibliography has been compiled with the aim of focusing on the issue of labour migration in the Greater Migration Subregion (GMS). This subject matter often overlaps with the related issues of trafficking and refugees, both of which are matters of concern within the GMS. Material on the latter topics are included only where it provides discussion of the question of cross-border migration. There has been considerable research and literature published on labour migration world wide however, we keep this bibliography primarily focused on the GMS.

Even within this specific focus, the resource materials and organisations listed in this book are by no means exhaustive. All the MMN members were asked to inform the MMN Secretariat if they had published, or were aware of, any relevant publication to be included in the annotated bibliography. Country Research Teams (CRTs) specially formed in respective GMS countries for this project all searched for relevant materials both in English and in their local languages, by using a variety of online searches, library searches, and by directly contacting universities and organizations working on migration related issues. The MMN Secretariat reinforced this process by also searching online and through libraries and by contacting publishers. Publications that are not searchable or not published for a wide circulation however may have been missed out in these processes. We list a total 400 publications, including 233 with annotation and 167 without annotation. These vary in length from book length studies to educational cartoons for migrants. Forty-two web-sites are listed as electronic resources. Some of these are of general interest, but frequently carry news about labour migration in the GMS, such as the *Irrawaddy* or the *Online Burma Library*; others are more specific to labour migration like the *Asian Migration News* or the UNIAP website on trafficking in the GMS. An updated directory of MMN member organisations is included in the appendix – so that these organisations can be contacted directly when looking for further information on labour migration in their respective countries.

General Observations on the Available Materials

Issue focus- In the third edition of this series, the top three issues covered by the materials were labour migration, trafficking/sex work and HIV/AIDS. However, in the present edition, the proportion of publications on trafficking/sex work and HIV/AIDS has decreased. Publications concerning trafficking, have increased only very slightly. 7 new entries published during 2007 and 2008 are added (Section 3, #9, #16, #27, #37, #50, #59, #60). There were 83 annotated materials on trafficking in the third edition. Publications on this subject seem to have peaked in 2004. Until 2005, many publications demanded that governments in the region formulate and implement policy measures to combat trafficking. In the past few years, GMS countries have developed legislation for the protection of trafficking victims at the national as well as regional levels with the support of UN Inter Agency Project against Trafficking (UNIAP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other inter-governmental organisations (IGOs). Thus, the focus seems to have shifted to assessing those newly introduced policy measures, a clear example of this change is the latest research conducted by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) on the impact of the anti-trafficking measures on migrant women, including the GMS countries (Section 3, #60).

In the third edition, there were 32 annotated publications covering HIV/AIDS, while only 10 new entries are added in this edition. The decrease in the number of publications on HIV/AIDS does not necessarily mean that the situation has improved. During 2007 and 2008, IGOs have published three situation assessments (Section 3, #23, #35, #66) and the IOM has published an activity manual (Section 3, #28), reflecting their concern for this issue in the GMS. Also two situation assessments covering Thailand and China (Yunnan) have been published by universities and research institutes. Various NGOs have also published reports based on their grassroots activities, and have released proceedings of conferences on the issue. In their annual report on state of health of migrants, CARAM-Asia focused on mandatory HIV testing which is the cause of serious human rights violations (Section 3, #81). Whereas the number of publications on HIV/AIDS is not as noticeable as before, publications covering other public health issues have increased (Section 2, #23, #24 and Section 3, #14, #34, #48, #53, #55). It is noteworthy that health issues concerning migrants have begun to be discussed in a broader perspective including migrants'

overall well being, reproductive health and more specifically, the need for better occupational safety and health (OSH) conditions, better living conditions, better labour protection, and better facilitation of migrants' rights to access to health care.

Labour migration management has been studied from various perspectives. A number of publications assess not only the content, but also the procedures established after the signing of, the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers between Thailand and Cambodia and Lao PDR. (Section 3, #15, #25, #64, #83, #84). While the MOUs were signed in 2002 and 2003, it is pointed out in many related publications that the high cost of the newly established formal channels remain barriers to regularising migration in the subregion. Also many of these publications point out that labour migration is likely to last and probably further increase over the next 10-20 years. Therefore, there is need for GMS governments to adopt long term strategies on migration management issues (Section 3, #15).

The ILO and IOM have published several situation analysis reports (Section 3, #26, #46 and Section 4, #13) as well as policy formulation studies for subregional labour migration management in the GMS, ASEAN and Asia (Section 3, #42, #47). Most of them are addressed from a management-oriented perspective, since their primary concern has long been the prevention of irregular migration. However, it is worth noting that responses introduced in these publications indicate a shift in focus by the IGOs to encouraging and facilitating regular migration channels. The publishers also urge relevant governments to strengthen labour protection for migrants.

Discussion on the economic contribution of migrants and the remittances they send home are often framed in the context of migration and development. A case study of Thailand on this topic is included in this edition of the bibliography (Section 3, #61). This study thoroughly examines the situation of migrants and provides a valuable base in acknowledging the economic contribution of migrants in the host country. Migrants' contribution to the economy of the host country is based on the actual wages migrant workers receive, which are much lower than those of local workers or the domestic minimum wage, thus it would have been interesting if there were comparative calculations as to how much migrant workers would contribute to the Thai economy if their wages were equal to that of local workers. In the recommendation,

the author suggests that migrants leave to remain in the host country should be extended, so that the productivity of migrant workers is increased. The current registration policy only provides uncertainty to employers and migrant workers alike. A call for an extended leave to remain from the productivity perspective provides added weight to calls from migrants' rights advocates who also call for longer periods of stay from the perspectives of migrants' welfare. In terms of the impact of migration on the labour market of host countries, this bibliography features a case study of Thailand commissioned by the World Bank. (Section 3, #67). In this study, the relationship between immigration and the wage patterns are systematically explored using various statistical formulas.

Studies by IGOs generally aim at emphasising the desire to maximise migrant remittances as a contributor to the economic development of sending countries (Section 3, #13, #36 and Section 4, #3). This approach was opposed by civil society groups at the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Manila, October 2008, because migrants' earnings amount to private capital that should not be regulated or factored in to the public purse of sending countries. To do so would limit the money flowing into the dependent family members of migrants and their home communities. Vicary's study on Burma, shows that remittances from migrants meet no more than the basic survival needs of the recipients, due to the mismanagement of economic development in the sending country (Section 3, #32).

Issues concerning child migrants and children of migrants are of significance in the region, but there seem to be very few publications available on this issue. Many schools for such children are run by NGOs in Thailand, and one of these NGOs, Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (TACDB) released research based on their grassroots activities over a number of years (Section 2, #36). Save the Children UK has published a book on situation analysis, which emphasised the importance of empowering children and encouraging their active involvement in decision making for improving their current situation (Section 3, #9). This is not limited to small children, but also addresses the difficulties faced by adolescent migrants (Section 3, #53).

On the materials that focuses on migrant women, gender-specific recommendations are drawn (Section 3, #62, #90), whereas only a limited number of studies provide gender disaggregated statistics which pays due attention to the role of women in migration. There are two

interesting case studies, one illustrates the migration pattern from a women's perspective and examines the impact on their families (Section 3, #78). The other studies the impact of trade regulation along the borders on women fish traders (Section 3, #21).

In addition to issue-specific focus studies, there seems to be an increase in the number of guide manuals prepared as information kits for migrants. Useful information for migrants used to be traditionally distributed in newsletter formats, but manuals, comics/cartoons, and videos are now the trend. Those manuals are published by NGOs (Section 2, #14, #18, #19 and Section 3, #5) as well as IGOs (Section 3, #28, #85). In addition to being educational materials for migrants, manual formats are now used targeting policy makers (Section 3, #65, #137).

Country focus: As per previous editions of this publication, the bulk of annotated materials published during 2007 and 2008, focused on Thailand which comprised 44 out of the 91 materials (48.3%). This reflects Thailand's position as the main receiving country in the GMS. Given that the largest proportion of migrants in Thailand are from Burma/Myanmar, 38 (41.7%) materials have therefore tended to focus on these migrants. However, the proportion of studies undertaken on migrants from other countries has also increased; China into and from the GMS (13), Lao PDR (10), Vietnam (8) and Cambodia (8), respectively. On the other hand, there are a number of materials discussing migration at the subregional framework level. These type of materials comprise 8 in 2007 and 10 in 2008. This increase reflects the wider recognition of the importance of bilateral or multilateral cooperation in effective migration governance.

Author/ source: In 2008, by far the largest source of publications was IGOs, in total 15; ILO (8), IOM (4), World Bank (2) and UN (1). The increase of ILO and IOM materials shows their program focus for the GMS. The ILO's materials vary in their themes from situational analysis, migration governance to economic development, while the World Bank focuses primarily on remittances. In 2007, 8 of the annotated materials were from IGOs; ILO (3), IOM (1), World Bank (1), UNIFEM (1), WHO(1), ILO and UNIFEM (1). The ILO's focus remains unchanged, and as of July 2009, they had already released 4 publications. The materials published from universities and research

institutes has outnumbered those from IGOs and NGOs over the past years, but this is proportionately getting smaller as in this bibliography, 11 in 2007 and only 8 in 2008 are listed. On the other hand, the number of NGO publications has increased from 9 in 2007 to 12 in 2008. These include good quality documentation of their valuable grassroots work together with progressive recommendations.

Language: We have searched for materials in the GMS local languages as well as in English, but the majority of references included in this book are in English. Four materials in Chinese and 10 in Thai are included. In addition, many references published by the ILO have been translated into GMS languages.

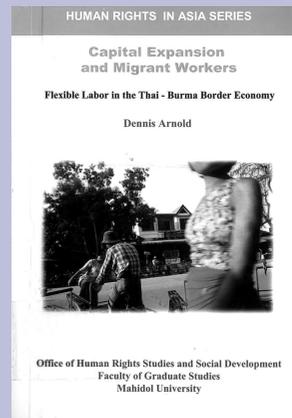
MMN Recommended Books

In this edition of the bibliography, we select “MMN Recommended Books” from among the annotated materials. The books selected are those we found particularly informative and which provide new perspectives or provide a fair analysis of migrant rights issues. While the annotation in Section 3 is aimed at providing a brief outline of the content of each material, the Recommended Books section is aimed at providing informed comment of the MMN editorial team, each of whom has been working on migration issues in the GMS for many years.

1. Capital Expansion and Migrant Workers: Flexible Labour in the Thai-Burma Border Economy

Arnold, Dennis. Thailand: Office of Human Rights Studies and Social Development (OHRSD)

Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mahidol University, Salaya Campus, 2007. pp.108.



This text, based on the author’s 2005 MA thesis of the same title, examines the implications of economic development as it has unfolded in and around Mae Sot, a Thai border

town well-known for the substandard labor practices of those companies doing business there. With an eye towards historicising the growth of capitalist industry in this border area, Arnold elaborates several trends that mark the “capitalisation” of Mae Sot’s economic landscape as early as the mid-1990s:

- The movement westward, largely into GMS countries, of mobile Taiwanese capital beginning in the late 1980s.
- The Thai Chatchai government’s intensive push, also in the late 1980s, to “turn battlefields into marketplaces”—that is, reimagining conflict areas as potentially profitable zones of economic growth.
- Economic policy shifts, first in Taiwan (1960s to early 1980s) and then in Thailand (mid- to late-1980s), from domestically focused ISI (import-substitution industrialisation) to a more liberalized EOI (export-oriented industrialisation) approach.
- A still-increasing population of migrant workers leaving sustained economic and political stagnation in Burma, and arriving in Thai-Burma border regions.

The confluence of these processes, Arnold argues, created a situation in which Taiwanese businesses, on the move in search of a flexible and subordinate labor supply, connected with shifting Thai economic policy in the Mae Sot district of Tak province, creating a major center of export-focused factory production in a rural area very much affected by protracted armed conflict on the Burmese side of the border. But what has this rapid economic growth meant for migrant worker communities? Documenting a steep decline of labor standards against the rise of border-area industrialisation, Arnold argues labor rights are “consistently sacrificed in order to attract and maintain investment, raising questions as to who are the primary beneficiaries of capitalist development.”

Among Arnold’s more challenging claims are his contentions that (1) Thai workers and migrant workers are not segregated by sector, and that (2), as a result, the idea that migrants work only in “3D” jobs—those that are dirty, dangerous, and degrading, and thus unwanted by Thai workers—is an oversimplified myth. Though this argument could be better supported in this text, the potential implications for labor solidarity in Thailand are significant: greater common ground between Thai and migrant workers, whether merely perceived or true in actuality,

can only be mutually beneficial. Recent work by the Thai Labor Solidarity Committee and the Action Network for Migrants, Arnold notes, is encouraging to this end.

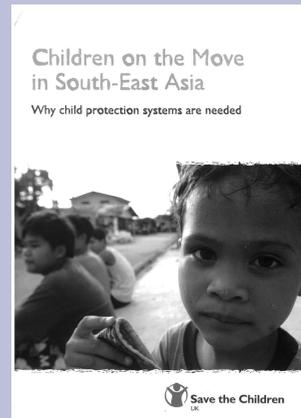
Arnold's thesis, part of a small but growing constituency of progressive academic work focused on Mae Sot, is commendable for the way it situates a wide conceptual framework—the historical search by mobile capital for subordinate labor—in a very urgent local setting: Mae Sot's deplorable labor rights abuses, and the increasingly successful work by activists to combat and prevent them, receive considerable attention here. The result is a work that combines broad applications with localised advocacy potential. Furthermore, the fact that some of the documentation is now dated does not undo its relevance. As a sobering investigation of the labor rights implications of Thailand's aggressive border-area economic development processes, the text remains highly germane to current GMS migration discussions, especially as cross-border economic development initiatives are only growing in size, scale, and significance.

2. Children on the Move in the South-East Asia-Why child protection systems are needed

Save the Children UK. London, 2008. pp. 32.

This report published by Save the Children UK summarises a children's migration review produced under the organisation's "Cross-Border Project." It looks at migration of children in the GMS region and is the result of an extensive literature review, bringing together the most up to date research available.

In an easy to read format, the report is broken down into six sections. The first introduces concepts of migration, children's migration and childhood. The second section looks at the GMS more specifically and discusses the demography of migration, noting that increasing numbers of children are migrating and that ageing populations in some countries can act as a pull factor to potential migrants from countries with younger populations. The third section analyses migration trends, push and pull factors, gender issues and child labour in each of the six GMS



countries.

The second half of the book, in chapters 4, 5 and 6 lay out changing perspectives on childhood and children's migration and integrate a child centred approach that is culturally sensitive for the understanding and protection of child migrants. Children are framed as active agents, with opinions and desires, and the report suggests that rescue of child migrant workers is not always what the children want. From this basis, the book concludes with a number of policy recommendations based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and international human rights instruments, but it is the shift in focus on children that is significant – children need to be protected, but they need to be involved in deciding what protection entails, prevention of exploitation is necessary, but again children's aspirations need to be taken into account. In conclusion, the report states that children, both migrant and non-migrant, have to be protected under the overarching child protection systems and that children must have a say and be able to influence decisions made within these systems.

The report is an excellent summary of children's migration trends and patterns in the GMS and changing perspectives on programs relating to child migrants. Useful as an introductory read for those with a general interest in children's migration it also serves as a good briefer on child centric approaches for migrant advocates and social workers when designing their programs responding to migrant children's needs.

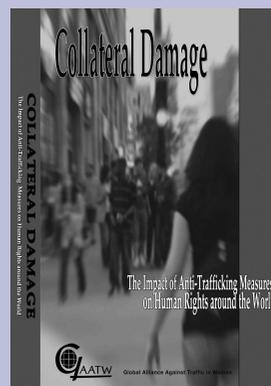
Related Materials

- Children's Migration: Diversities, Exploitation, Participation and Protection in the Greater Mekong Sub-region of South-East Asia, Save the Children UK
- Away from Home: Protecting and supporting children on the move
Reale, Daniela. Save the Children UK

3. COLLATERAL DAMAGE-The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures on Human Rights around the World

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW). Bangkok, 2007. pp.266.

<http://www.gaatw.org/>



In a world seemingly gone mad with anti-trafficking fever *Collateral Damage* is a cool voice of reason and sanity. While never shying away from reality that human trafficking is a hideous crime, the report proposes that many of the anti-trafficking laws and strategies have been ill conceived in design and application, generally doing more harm than good. In stark contrast to the plethora of trafficking reports with conflated numbers and emotive reporting, *Collateral Damage* smacks of reality.

The calm and confident reporting from experts in eight countries covering all five continents builds a clear picture of how things can go terribly wrong when action is taken without forethought and community consultation. Countries included in the report are Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The country reports progress through an exploration of migration and human trafficking in the local context, moving onto a detailed, yet concise explanation of the legal framework and strategic application. Experiences from people directly affected are used very effectively to illustrate how these laws and strategies are experienced in real life.

Thailand was certainly a critical inclusion, as it's generally reported as being a major hub for human traffickers. In addition as the chapter author, Jackie Pollock notes, "Thailand has by far the largest number of NGOs, with a range of programme diversity and the political freedom for tackling issues such as forced migration, migrant labour rights, citizenship, statelessness, and human trafficking." It would be also useful to add that it also hosts all of the 13 UN agencies concerned with anti-trafficking. If any country in GMS had the capability to address human trafficking effectively it should be Thailand. However the country report reveals a mishmash of policy and laws that are useless at best and deadly at worst.

Although nominally only about Thailand, Pollock manages to weave in a lot of important information about Thailand's Mekong neighbors, Burma, Cambodia and Lao PDR that allows the reader to better understand the complexities of the region. This gives weight to the report's suggestion that there can be no "one size fits all" approach to human trafficking.

The conclusions and recommendations, though sound, are not comprehensive and GAATW acknowledges this report is not the end, but rather another important step in a long journey away from "raid, rescue and deport" and towards human rights for all migrants.

To misquote Dr Jyoti Sanghera, who wrote a wonderful preface to the report, "This anthology demonstrates in a small but compelling way that the road to hell may indeed be paved with good conventions."

4. Do International Migration Policies in Thailand Achieve Their Objectives?

Huguet, Jerrold W. Bangkok: ILO, 2008.

pp.16.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub15.htm>

In his review of the Thai government's migration policies, Huguet argues that an overall inconsistency in objectives, due in part to ministries with different objectives not being coordinated in their work on migration issues, prevents the possibility of the government's migration policies being achieved—conflicting objectives cannot be satisfied. Though the paper's format and approach dictate analysis purely from a management perspective, and MMN is not necessarily in a position to decide whether decentralised migration management system produces more harm or good for migrants in Thailand, Huguet's identification and criticisms of Thai policy inconsistencies render it a potentially useful source for migrant rights advocacy work.

Huguet begins the paper by describing his method for assessing the efficacy of Thai migration policies. "In order that policies achieve their objectives," he writes, "at a minimum they would require: (1) a clear statement of objectives; (2) internal consistency; and (3) congruence with broader development objectives." Proceeding with a brief overview of migration trends in Thailand, and then a summary of regional, bilateral, and national migration policies, Huguet moves to evaluate relevant policies on the basis of whether or not they meet stated objectives.

For Huguet, therein lies the problem: inconsistent and at times dissonant objectives preclude a coherent policy approach. "Several ministries and agencies are directly involved in handling foreign workers," he writes. "As each has its own objectives, some degree of inconsistency has arisen." The Ministry of Interior, for example, took a much different approach to migrant registration than the Ministry of Labour did for subsequently issuing work permits. Registration was free and locally administered, but the work permits were expensive, routed through employers, and administered at the provincial level. A



further contrast between the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education suggests divisions in the provision of social services: the latter is far less accommodating to migrant worker communities. Even official language towards migrants, Huguet notes, reflects ambivalence: “The Ministry of Labour tends to refer to them as illegal migrants or workers (because of the way they entered the country) even when they have received work permits. Thus, the concept of regularisation is only partial.”

The paper suggests the ever-evolving migrant registration approach to be the high-water mark of policy ambiguity: despite great effort expended to regularise and formalise migration, the registration mechanisms are highly complicated, continually changing, and prohibitively costly. As a result, Huguet questions the value of referring to a Thailand policy on migration at all—several policies, with varying degrees of self-contradiction, are the disconsolate reality. Not being integrated into national development policy, migration policies also are not consistent with broader plans for economic growth.

As one of the more comprehensive assessments of migration policies in Thailand, Huguet has provided an analysis of great relevance for civil society groups working on migration issues. Part of its value, it should be said, is the fact that it evaluates relevant policies on their own terms, asking whether they achieve their stated objectives. That they do not, or that at best they do so in inconsistent ways, suggests problems that begin internally. Even by their own standards, Huguet suggests, these policies do not succeed. Yet it is also worth noting that part of these policies’ shortcomings is a crucial perspective missing from their formulation: do they improve migrants’ quality of life? What do they mean for migrants’ rights? Surely these, too, are legitimate criteria for assessing migration policies. Huguet’s paper thus offers a valuable, but far from exhaustive, critique of the Thai government’s approach to migration. As part of a larger package of critical policy engagement, it will prove a highly relevant contribution to regional migration discussions.

5. Gendering Border Spaces: Impact of Open Border Policy Between Cambodia-Thailand on Small-scale Women Fish Traders

Kusakabe, Kyoko, Prak Sereyvath, Ubolratana Suntornratana and Napaporn Sriputinibondh. *African and Asian Studies*, 2008, 7: pp.1-17

In this article, Kusakabe et al examine the recent history of Cambodia's changing border policies, investigating what those changes mean for women working as small-scale fish traders. Arguing that the position of an actor in a commodity chain has much to do with that person's gender—hence the tendency of markets to reproduce and reinforce gender norms and hierarchies—the authors illustrate the way in which opportunities for small-scale women fish traders have gradually decreased with the emergence and growth of economic activity on Cambodia's border with Thailand.

The paper begins with a detailed history of Cambodia's border trade in fish since the late 1970s and early 1980s. The story is largely one of overall increasing trade: first with the formation, in 1981, of the state-owned KAMFIMEX company (Kampuchea Fish Import and Export Company), and later with the simultaneous decline of state-controlled enterprise and rise of privately regulated border trade. The closure of KAMFIMEX in 2003 came about in part thanks to the protests of small-scale traders and transporters—men and women, though the main protest leaders were men—whose trading activities were threatened by the company's thorough control of the border fish market. But by this time, the border markets were already more “open” and liberalised, such that bilateral formalisation of privatised trade regulations continued to squeeze small-scale actors out of the relevant markets. Officialisation of border trade, the authors contend, “gave more room to manoeuvre for larger enterprises, who have stronger negotiation power with authorities, marginalising the small-scale traders.”

Kusakabe et al follow their historical reading with an overview of the border fish trade commodity chain, including a detailed breakdown of the various actors involved. The authors find that despite significant, and probably deepening, gender segregation within the chain of production, cross-border trade liberalisation has created a “fuzzy space” in which women traders negotiate counterhegemonic practice through an overtly social conception of market networks. “For women,” the authors write, “the market is not a location but people,” suggesting that women traders' agency lies in part in their resistance to the way market exchange commodifies chains of production, including the actors within them. Yet the authors strike a grim note: such resistance is itself a piece of small-scale women traders' vulnerability to shifting economic trends. As a general rule, Kusakabe et al conclude, net expansion of border-area economic activity has not benefitted small-scale women fish traders.

This paper has much to offer discussions of migration in GMS countries, and there is no reason its relevance can't be broader, as well. In particular, the authors provide a valuable contribution to a growing body of work that reads border-area economic development as more complicated than a simple neoliberal "state to market" transition. As this paper suggests, state-centric policies of control and regulation do not just fade away in supposedly liberalised border spaces; the opening of Cambodia's border has not displaced basic formations of state power. Instead, the liberalisation of cross-border trade began with an extension of the state to reach the formerly un-regulated border areas, which at that time were more friendly to small-scale women traders. Far from charting obverse trajectories, open borders and the Cambodian state were not, are not, opposed: trade liberalisation is also trade regularisation, facilitating the expansion of state power into previously non- or even anti-state spaces. In the authors' words, "economic liberalisation policies are actually a re-organising policy of the economy by the state. Under globalisation pressure, it re-negotiates its terms and regulations vis-à-vis the market."

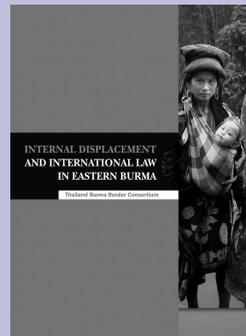
These negative affirmations of state power, forged in border areas against increasing globalising forces, contain considerable gender implications, forecasting what can be expected—and, to be sure, must already be apparent—with GMS countries' continued pursuit of greater border-area economic activity. In this paper, we can see that expanding state integration of border areas generates gender-differentiated impacts, scaling up commodity chains and reinforcing the peripherality, economic and otherwise, of those actors excluded by new market conditions—women small-scale fish traders, in the case at hand. The rise of border-area market forces thus tends towards the production of heightened gender divisions, further marginalising the social and economic position of women in border communities.

6. Internal Displacement and International Law in Eastern Burma

Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC).

Bangkok: Mekong Press, 2008. pp. 221.

<http://www.tbbs.org/idps/report-2008-idp-english.pdf>



This book documents the contemporary characteristics of internal displacement in Eastern Burma and is the product of collaboration between the TBBC and ethnic community-based organisations. The book is short, stark and powerful.

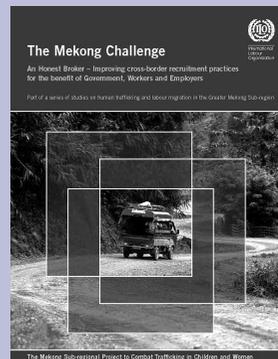
Divided into three main sections, the book first documents the types of internal displacement taking place in Eastern Borma, namely displacement resulting from conflict, development projects, and the destruction and relocation of villages. The second section provides situational updates from regions along the East of Burma. The third catalogues crimes against humanity being committed in the regions, ranging from attacks on civilians, to extrajudicial killings, enslavement, forcible transfer of population, torture and rape. Each section is complete with maps enabling the viewer to visualise exactly where development projects are being undertaken or just how many villages have been destroyed.

The power of the book lies in its simplicity. With little commentary, lists of abuses are catalogued and compared to international and customary law. Quotes are used to bring the subjects of the book – the internally displaced to life. The reader is continually reminded that most people living in Eastern Burma simply want to live in peace in their village, that the UN has criticised abuses but failed to act and that the Burmese military government and allies in some ceasefire groups are acting with impunity.

The data is bang up to date and is a token to groups working in Eastern Burma and the TBBC who risked their lives cataloguing abuse. The book is a gem and an absolute must read.

7. The Mekong Challenge: An Honest Broker - Improving cross-border recruitment practices for the benefit of Government, Workers and Employers

Mekong Sub-regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women
International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, International Labour Organization (ILO). Bangkok, 2008. pp.123.
http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/--asia/---ro-bangkok/documents/publication/wcms_099808.pdf



Are migrants in the GMS better or worse off by migrating through newly established legal channels? This is a question that continues to be raised by migrants and their advocates a couple of years since the MOUs on Employment Cooperation came into effect. Agreements signed by Thailand on the employment of Cambodian and Laotian workers were understood as a positive step forward to a new phase in labour migration management in the GMS. The agreements were put into action in 2006, but it's not all peaches and cream.

The uniqueness of this research is its focus on recruitment practice, and making a comparison of migrants' experiences between those moving through formal migration channels intermediated by state-licensed recruiters and those moving through informal channels. The research was founded on a two-fold hypothesis; 1) migrants receive better protection within formal migration channels, and 2) licensing of recruitment agencies provides the best outcome in a cross-border context. Then interviews to migrants from Cambodia and Laos and recruiters were conducted.

The research findings show motivation and decision making process of migrants concerning whether to migrate through regular or irregular channels. The findings conclude that despite policy advances, informal migration channels are still more flexible, efficient and cheaper than formal channels. With the perspective that it is good for business and good for employees to work in a stable and predictable environment, the ILO provides the following recommendations for improving recruitment process.

Key recommendations are;

- 1) Reduce significantly the cost of formal recruitment,
- 2) Subsidise or provide low-interest government loan for the cost of recruitment, so that migrants will not be in debt-bondage,
- 3) Formulate a standard employment contract,
- 4) Formulate a mechanism to receive migrants' grievances and labour disputes, and spread information among migrants,
- 5) Penalise the employers who confiscate the migrants' identification documents; and
- 6) Pursue public awareness campaign to promote the benefits of formal channel.

Among various publications which assess the MOUs and reach similar recommendations, this research is one that is more persuasive, as actual experiences and voices of migrants are reflected.

8. Migrant Worker Remittances and Burma: An Economic Analysis of Survey Results

Turnell, Sean , Alison Vicary and Wylie Bradford. Sydney: Burma Economic Watch/Economics Department Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, 2008. pp.24.
http://www.econ.mq.edu.au/Econ_docs/bew/Burma_Survey_Remittances.pdf

Amidst growing consensus over the central role migrant remittances can play in questions of poverty alleviation and economic development, this study amounts to the first major analysis of remittances in the case of Burma. Examining primarily the mechanisms, uses, and quantities of money sent home by workers from Burma in Thailand, Turnell et al assemble a detailed picture of Burma's remittance profile, concluding that the country's "dysfunctional" economy prevents the scaling up of remittances to combat its severe economic degradation. Instead, remittances function highly locally, and usually within family units, to address basic survival needs.

The authors open the paper by situating their analysis within an increasing awareness of the importance of remittances. In 2006, for example, total global remittances outpaced the total volume of aid and foreign direct investment (FDI) to developing nations by about \$30 billion—\$300 billion to \$270 billion. The relative stability and counter-cyclical qualities of remittances—meaning they tend to increase in times of economic recession—further commend their potential as reliable instruments of poverty alleviation. In Burma, however, a lack of formal financial institutions, and a broad-based distrust of what official banking mechanisms exist, limits the economic role of remittances, leaving informal payment methods as the primary form of remittance. Still, Turnell et al suggest a rough estimate of likely remittance payments to Burma to be on the order of \$300 million: nearly five times greater than official numbers, more than twice FDI, and about 5 percent of GDP.

The paper includes extensive documentation on (1) ways in which remittances in general can effect localised poverty alleviation; (2) different channels and instruments through which remittances are sent, including an emphasis on the informal systems most commonly used by migrants from Burma; (3) how remittances are used in Burma, i.e. largely for survival needs; and (4) how the political backdrop in Burma

negates the leveraging up of remittances for broader poverty alleviation objectives. As a result, the authors suggest a kind of artificial ceiling imposed on the positive impact of migrant remittances—limits born of Burma's economically stagnant military regime.

In some ways, this paper's findings are not very surprising: a high volume of migrants produces a high volume of remittances; a low-functioning financial sector leads to the prevalence of informal remittance channels; and remittances address basic survival needs due to a lack of banking infrastructure for scaling up their impact. Still, the rigorous documentation of these claims proves an extremely valuable contribution to understanding the at-times inscrutable economics not only of military rule in Burma, but also of migration from Burma. The predominance of informal mechanisms and lack of reliable data increase the difficulty of implementing a study such as this. This study has overcome these obstacles; it should be commended for doing so.

At the same time, it should be noted that a growing constituency of migrant rights activists and advocates have begun reformulating debates around migrant remittances. An over-emphasis on remittances as poverty alleviation tools, they say, contributes to un-sustainable development. Economic growth and stability should be the mission of formal institutions; private funds should be private property—not an unofficial treasury to be tapped by malfunctioning states like Burma. In the case of the Thai-Burma border, there is some concern that forced labor migration, and increasing feminisation of migration, are connected to structural remittance demands, perpetuated by sustained political and economic stagnation inside Burma.

There is some value, then, to questioning discussions positioning migrant remittances as a central tool of poverty alleviation: the burden of economic development must not be on the shoulders of migrants undertaking precarious and often dangerous work abroad. Migrants should not be forced to compensate for ineffective economic infrastructure at home—for sustainable poverty alleviation, there can be no substitute for holistic and competent state action. Turnell et al do see great development potential in migrant remittances, but equally, they do not absolve the Burmese junta of economic responsibility. The study remains, as a result, a very important work—and to date, the only one of its kind.

Section 2: MMN Publications

Published by MMN

1. **Migrants, Migration and Development in the Greater Mekong Sub-region Proceedings of the Workshop, 15-16 July 2008, Vientiane, Lao PDR**
Mekong Migration Network and Asian Migrant Centre. Hong Kong, 2008. pp.92.

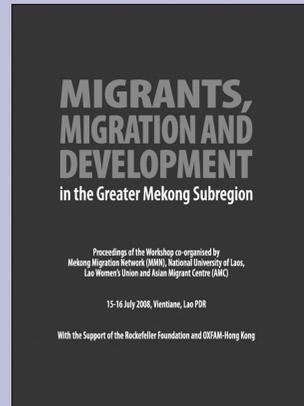
Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

General Description

This document summarises the proceedings of the workshop entitled “Migrants, Migration and Development in the Greater Mekong Subregion,” held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in July 2008. The theme of migration and development in the GMS is yet to be substantially studied and Mekong Migration Network (MMN) believes that it is important for MMN to initiate discussions. Thus, the Workshop was aimed at helping to develop the capacity of MMN members in analysing and understanding the issues of development and migration in the GMS, and to develop a collective perspective and subregional responses. The workshop was organised into five sections—which focused on 1) discourse on migration and development, 2) review of development policies in the GMS, 3) development projects and migration in the GMS, 4) the impact of development policies on migration in the GMS and 5) migration and development.

The first half of the programme featured global discourse and its implications in the GMS, and summaries of the most recent policy changes and agreements made by the ADB, ASEAN and countries involved. In the second half of the programme, several case studies were presented, such as development project induced displacement in



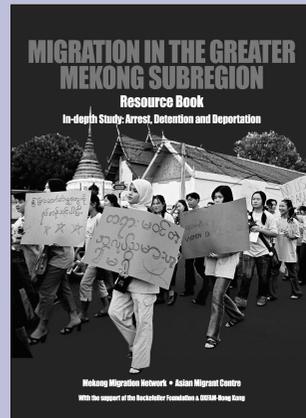
Cambodia, Thai contract farming projects in Burma and experiences of migrant women from Burma. Another of thematic presentations looked at gender dimensions of migration, the economy of migration and human development giving participants deeper understanding of the issues.

The main recommendations emerging from the workshop were that discriminatory laws should be revoked, formal migration processes be made less expensive, MOUs be reviewed to align policy with objectives, migrant workers be allowed to form trade unions and research on the social impacts of mega development projects be conducted more extensively.

2. Resource Book: Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region In-depth Study: Arrest, Detention and Deportation
Mekong Migration Network and Asian Migrant Centre. Hong Kong, 2008. pp.234.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)



General Description

This book is the latest in a series of Resource Books on Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion co-published by the Mekong Migration Network (MMN) and Asian Migrant Centre (AMC). The book is divided into three sections, providing a general overview of the socio-economic and political situations in each country; an overview of migration patterns and related policy framework in each country; and a third section which provides an in-depth study on arrest, detention and deportation.

The information collected in the resource book is the product of cross-country collaboration. MMN member organisations formed country research teams (CRTs) in their respective GMS countries, with each CRT conducting primary research missions in selected locations, carrying out focal group discussions, snow-

balling interviews and in-depth interviews with migrant workers and relevant officials over a period of months. The primary purpose of the research was to increase knowledge of the arrest, detention and deportation processes through the experiences of migrants. Secondary research on the migration policy framework within each country and the overarching international legal framework governing human rights, labour rights and migrant rights shows a stark contrast to practices on the ground. The findings demonstrate the reasoning and processes at each stage of the arrest, detention and deportation of migrant workers and provide a basis for the regional level recommendations given at the end of the book.

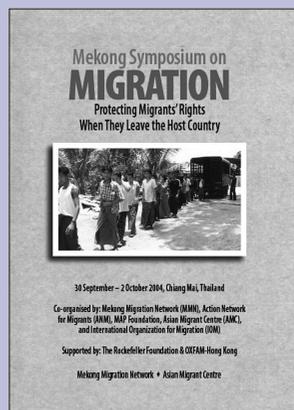
The majority of migrants in the GMS have migrated spontaneously through informal channels for decades. They have greatly contributed to the economies of both countries of destination and origin. While there have been a number of government attempts to respond to the migration reality, more restrictive policies have only led to worsening of conditions faced by migrants, MMN thus recommends that the legislation governing migration be relaxed and that migration management in the sub-region should enable safe and fair migration which is genuinely responsive to labour demand. In this way, migrants would be less vulnerable to arrest, detention and deportation. Other recommendations focus on implementing international law and human rights standards to which GMS countries have treaty obligations and standardising procedures of arrest, detention and deportation, such that they be conducted in a fair, transparent and predictable manner.

3. Mekong Symposium on Migration: Protecting Migrants' Rights When They Leave the Host Country

Mekong Migration Network and Asian Migrant Centre. Hong Kong, 2007. pp.210.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)



General Description

This report summarises proceedings at the three day symposium on “Migration: Protecting Migrants’ Rights when they leave the Host Country,” which took place in Chiang Mai in 2004. Mekong Migration Network (MMN) chose to highlight issues related to arrest, detention, deportation, return and reintegration of migrants in the Mekong in preparation for MMN’s collaborative research to be carried in 2005 and 2006. This symposium brought representatives of IGOs, NGOs and migrants’ grassroots organisations together to jointly discuss issues, challenges and responses concerning migrants’ rights.

The symposium looked at the “exit process” of migration, referring to both deportation and voluntary return of migrants, from host countries in the context of an international human rights framework. Participants learned that further research was needed to better understand the “exit process” as was further analysis of national policies in the home and host countries of migrants.

This symposium featured five plenary secessions. In the first plenary, entitled “Managing Migration: How does it Protect Migrant Rights?” the first two presenters addressed migration management from the perspectives of the IOM and ILO. The next three presenters illustrated the viewpoint of sending countries (Lao PDR and Cambodia) and a receiving country (Thailand). The second, named “How Migration Polices (including Arrest and Deportation) are Affected by Economic & Security Considerations in the Host Country” focused on the political economy of migration, and discussed examples of Thailand and other Asian countries. The third plenary, “Health Issues When Migrants Leave their Host County,” emphasised the need for health coverage and benefits for migrants, both when they were out of their home country and when they returned. The fourth plenary was called “Arrest, Detention, Deportation,” and featured presentations by the Department of Immigration in Thailand, a speaker from the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking, another by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and one by a representative from the IOM. The final plenary “Social and Economic Needs of Migrants When They Leave the Host Country Back to Their Country of Origin,” discussed some of the challenges migrants faced upon returning to their home country. One presentation focused on the

situation of women and girls returning to Lao PDR, another looked at the situation for Cambodian returnees, and a further presentation highlighted the difficulties of saving and making investments to ease the challenges of returning home.

Key Recommendations (Areas for Action)

- MOUs on Employment Cooperation – Migrants and support groups should be involved in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MOUs.
- Health – The absence of a formal referral system between home and destination countries is one of the issues to be tackled. Mandatory physical screening of migrants at any stage of the migration process should be prohibited.
- Arrest, Detention and Deportation – Violation of rights of migrants during the arrest, detention and deportation procedure is of great concern, and law enforcement officials must be held accountable to ensure they uphold their duties and implement relevant laws and regulations.
- Reintegration – Reintegration should be based on a framework of empowerment.

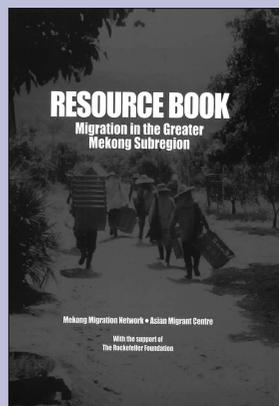
4. Resource Book: Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region In-depth Study: Quality of Life of Migrants Mekong Migration Network and Asian Migrant Centre. Hong Kong, 2005. pp.220.

Languages: Thai and English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)

General Description

This is the second in a series of thematic resource books on migration published by the MMN and AMC. The book focuses on the quality of life of migrants throughout the migration cycle within the GMS, in their countries of origin and countries of destination.



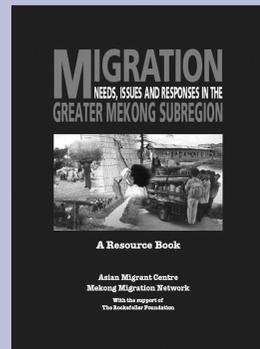
Building from information collected in the previous resource book, this edition provides updates on socio-economic, political and migration related data across the GMS and at the country level and aims to go beyond studies simply looking at the working and living conditions of migrants by taking a more holistic approach, looking at broader issues encapsulated in the term “quality of life.”

Research was conducted country research teams (CRTs) in the respective GMS countries through country level literature reviews, focus group discussions, individual in-depth interviews, key information interviews and participatory research methods. Findings were then shared and divided thematically when structuring the book. There are a number of sections including a regional overview of the GMS covering the political, economic and migration situation in the GMS, with an extensive analysis of regional integration mechanisms and targeted recommendations. There are five country reports analysing the quality of life at migrants’ countries of origin in Burma, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR and Vietnam and a further three reports detailing the quality of life of migrants in host countries including Thailand, Cambodia and China. Each country chapter included targeted recommendations for future action. Adding to its value as a resource book aimed at improving the quality of policy output and implementation, the resource book also contains regional and country maps of intra-regional migration patterns, tables of up to date statistics, an extensive appendix of new intra-regional and bilateral agreements relating to migration and a list of organisations working on relevant issues.

5. Resource Book: Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region In-depth Study: Mapping Migration Needs, Issues, and Responses
Mekong Migration Network and Asian Migrant Centre. Hong Kong, 2003.
pp.213.

Languages: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)



General Description

This resource book covers migration needs, issues and responses in the Greater Mekong Subregion. The book synthesises research conducted by MMN and the AMC in 2001-2002 and aims to go beyond existing situational analyses of migration by mapping contemporary issues and strategies, with a view to formulate action oriented recommendations to key groups, government agencies and IGOs. Research was conducted by AMC, MMN and country research teams, involving secondary data gathering, key informant interviews, field visits and observations and experts' mapping and analysis of the findings. In line with its action oriented approach, the resource book also provides a list of groups working on migration related issues in individual GMS countries and across the region as a whole.

The resource book is divided into two main sections. The first provides a regional synthesis of migration issues across the region, looking at personal and family related issues, legislation and policy, working conditions, gender and socio-cultural issues and social welfare. It goes on to detail responses by the UN, IGOs, regional and national NGOs and national governments and concludes by highlighting policy implementation gaps and providing targeted recommendations. The second section of the book consists of six country reports which go into greater detail on the national level issues, needs and responses relating to migration, conglomerating data to provide an up to date snapshot of country level situations. Each country report concludes with targeted recommendations to improve policy and implementation from a gender and human rights framework.

*MMN publications are all downloadable from the MMN website.
<http://www.mekongmigration.org/>

Published by MMN Members

■ EMPOWER Foundation

6. Bad Girls Dictionary

Empower Foundation. Bangkok, 2008.
pp.120.

Language: English

Country Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion
(GMS)



General Description

This dictionary compiled by Empower Foundation gives definitions of words and terms commonly used in reference to sex workers' views and experiences. The aim is to shift the terms of contemporary debate on sex work and highlight the strength, skill and dignity of men and women working in the sex industry.

Key Topics/Issues

- Strength, agency and dignity of sex workers

Key Responses

- Shift the terms of the debate on sex work away from discourse of victimisation to recognise the agency and capacity of sex workers.

Key Actors

Sex workers, clients of sex workers, national government, politicians and law enforcement officials, IGOs, NGOs and research community

7. Sex Worker Tales in Thailand

Empower Foundation. Bangkok, 2006.

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This article produced by Empower Foundation gives a social history of sex work in Thailand. Looking back over the centuries, the article

portrays Thailand's shifting socio-economy, the role of women in society and Thailand's links to the outside world. The role of sex work is situated in the evolution of Thai history and is characterised as a dignified profession that has generated massive revenues for the economy.

Key Topics/Issues

- Role of women in society
- Sex work and the law
- Historical approaches to sexual health
- Dignity of sex work and its underappreciated role in Thai economic development

8. Empower Scrapbook

Empower Foundation. Bangkok, 2005.

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

The Empower Foundation has been working successfully with sex workers for the past 20 years. This book was published to share Empower's journey with sex worker groups and other communities. The Empower Scrapbook includes the history of Empower, workshops and activities carried out by the Foundation. This is written in non-academic English with many photos so that those who speak English as a second or third language can enjoy the publication.

■ Federation of Trade Unions – Burma (FTUB)

9. Brief Overview of Mae Sot

Federation of Trade Unions - Burma (FTUB) - Migrant Labour Secretariat. Bangkok, June 2004. pp. illus. 41.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This report is based on a case study of textile and garment workers in Mae Sot, Tak, Thailand. Most of the workers are Burmese who have migrated to Thailand. The report includes an executive summary for ILO-IOM: *Improving Migration Policy Management in Thailand*.

Key Topic/Issue

- Illegal labour and migration

10. Report of Legal Action for Migrant Workers

Federation of Trade Unions – Burma (FTUB) - Migrant Labour Secretariat. 2004. pp.23.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This report documents casework taken up by the FTUB. It looks at human trafficking, domestic work, child labour and workers in factories, palm and rubber plantations and fisheries in Mae Sot and Southern Thailand. Based on extensive field work, the report provides excerpts from interviews with migrant workers and detailed statistics on migrant workers in the areas examined.

11. Migration from Burma

Federation of Trade Unions – Burma (FTUB) - Migrant Labour Secretariat. Washington D.C., 2003. pp.25.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This document details some of the problems Burmese migrant workers face in the borders. It focuses on the Burma-Thailand border but also touches on the status of Burmese workers in India (Arunachalpradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram), Singapore, Malaysia (Kelang-Selangor) and China (Ruili and Mujie - two ports

located in the Yunnan province). It pays particular attention to Burmese sex workers, child labourers and farm workers in Thailand.

Key Topics/Issues

- Human trafficking
- Burma-Thailand border
- Burmese migrants and irregular migrants

Key Response

- Contacting local trade unions
- Education on labour rights
- Provision of HIV/AIDS services and education programmes

Key Actors

State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Thai police, Burmese migrants and irregular migrants

Related Material

Migration from Burma

Federation of Trade Unions – Burma (FTUB). Washington D.C., 2000. pp.19.

■ Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University

12. Migrant Domestic Workers: from Burma to Thailand

Panam, Awatsaya, Mar Kyaw Zaw Khaing, Therese Caouette and Sureporn Punpuing. Nakhonpathom: Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR), Mahidol University, 2004. pp.227.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This report presents the findings of research proposed and implemented by members of the Shan Women’s Action Network and the Karen Women’s Organisation regarding girls and women who have migrated from Burma into domestic work in Thailand.

The study focuses on two sites in Thailand – Chiang Mai and Mae Sot – and highlights the extreme conditions and often abusive environments in which domestic workers from Burma have been employed.

The majority of participants in this study came from ethnic minority communities in Burma and have left abusive political and economic conditions. The study describes the harsh conditions in which they work and their inability to defend their most basic rights. While most of the women interviewed were earning enough income to be able to send money back home to Burma, they were unable to actually do so because of the absence of a safe mode of transferring money.

■ Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW)

13. Gender Analysis of the Patterns of Human Trafficking into and through Koh Kong Province

Preece, Shelley and Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW). Phnom Penh: Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW), 2005. pp.117

http://www.lscw.org/images/lscw_research_gender.pdf

Language: English

Countries Covered: Cambodia and Thailand

General Description

It reports on the migration and trafficking of women from Cambodia to Thailand - especially between the provinces of Koh Kong in Cambodia and Trad in Thailand. It discusses the push and pull factors for such migration, the vulnerable situation of the migrants in the absence of regular channels for seeking employment in urban areas like Trad. Stress is laid on the gendered nature of the migration experience and the greater vulnerability of female migrants, especially because governments may focus more on regularising migration to male-dominated sectors such as construction and fisheries.

Key Topics/Issues

- Gendered nature of migration
- Push and pull factors for labour migration from rural provinces in Cambodia to urban areas in Thailand

Key Responses

- Provision of safer migration channels
- Attention must be paid to different experiences of women and men
- Inter-governmental MOUs must consider the needs of women migrants

Key Players

Governments, NGOs and women migrants

■ MAP Foundation

14. The POSH Worker Series (animation)

MAP Foundation. Chiang Mai, 2008.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veLslo3giok>

Country Covered: Applicable to all

General Description

MAP Foundation produced a series of nine cartoon episodes concerning Occupational Safety and Health (OSH). The animations target Burmese migrant workers, but are applicable to a wide audience. The nine episodes, available on You Tube cover issues such as machine hazard, dangers in construction sites and garment factories and provide suggestions on pushing for better working conditions and provision of protective gear. The characters do not speak, so the cartoon is accessible to all.

**Key Topics/Issues**

- Importance of safety gear
- Importance of organising labour to bargain collectively

15. MAP 10 Year Book “1996 – 2006”

MAP Foundation. Thailand, 2006. pp.76.
www.mapfoundationcm.org/eng/PDF/eng/map10yrsbook.pdf



Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

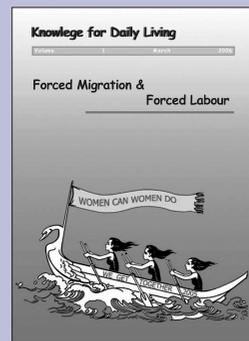
This report by the Migrant Assistance Programme (MAP) Foundation, marks the tenth anniversary of the organisation’s foundation. The report details the work of MAP Foundation over the last ten years and provides in depth analysis of the current situation of migrants in Thailand, the evolution of migration policy from the 1990s to the present and an overview of migration within the context of the globalising world.

Key Topics/Issues

- The situation of migrants under Thai law
- Rights afforded to migrants and rights that should be guaranteed under international and domestic law
- Migrants’ struggles for justice

16. Forced Migration and Forced Labour, Knowledge for Daily Living, Vol. 1.

MAP Foundation. Thailand, March 2006.
pp.27
http://www.mapfoundationcm.org/eng/PDF/eng/english_ia1_forced_labor.pdf



Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand (Global)

General Description

This paper provides a report of working sessions held at the 2005 Women Exchange Get Together covering the topic of Forced

Migration and Forced Labour. Women Exchange groups in Thailand emerged from International Women's Day gatherings and aim to explore issues affecting women in society and act as a solidarity network. The report is intended as a platform for dialogue and further understanding on issues of forced migration and forced labour within the Women's Exchange groups and wider society. It contains presentations given at the Women's Exchange Get Together 2005 by representatives from the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Earth Rights International, the ILO, UNIAP, Committee for Asian Women and the Migrant Assistance Programme (MAP) which give an overview of the context in which forced labour and migration take place and legal, policy and advocacy tools indispensable in countering these phenomena.

Key Topics/Issues

- Definitions and legal status of forced migration and forced labour
- International labour standards and mechanisms for civil society to work through the ILO
- Relationship between forced labour, forced migration, human smuggling and human trafficking
- How to engage in the policy making process and make policy responsive to the needs of affected groups

Related Materials

- ILO body of international labour standards, including ILO Constitution, Conventions No. 29 and 105 on forced labour

17. Automatic Response Mechanism: What to do in Case of Sexual Violence for Migrant and Refugee Women

MAP Foundation Women Exchange. Bangkok: MAP Foundation, 2003.

Languages: Burmese/Myanmar, English, Thai, Shan and Karen

Countries Covered: Generally applicable (though more suitable for groups working with Burmese migrants in Thailand)

General Description

The book offers a ten-step process for migrant and refugee women organisations to assist victims of violence and deals with counselling

support, health response (e.g. how to access the hospital and what to ask for) and legal response (e.g. how to use it). The book also discusses the obstacles that female victims of violence face and offers possible solutions and activities. Over 600 women participated in the making of this book which is based on the experiences of women who had been raped.

Key Topics/Issues

- Violence against women
- Treatment of victims of violence
- Access to hospitals
- Legal redress

Key Actors

Government institutions, NGOs and female victims of violence

18. MAP Interactive Magazine

MAP Foundation. Thailand

http://www.mapfoundationcm.org/eng/resoure/ethnic_main.html

Forced labor

Language: Burmese (Volume 001) and Karen (Volume 013)

Published: 2006

Health Advocacy

Language: Burmese (Volume 002) and Karen (Volume 014)

Published: 2006

Labor's Rights

Language: Burmese (Volume 003) and Karen (Volume 015)

Published: 2006

Domestic Worker

Language: Burmese (Volume 004) and Karen (Volume: 016)

Published: 2007

Child & Youth

Language: Burmese (Volume 005)

Published: 2007

Paralegal

Language: Burmese (Volume 006) and Karen (Volume 018)

Published: 2007

Safety at Works

Language: Burmese (Volume 007)
Published: 2007

Nature Disaster

Language: Burmese (Volume 008)
and Karen (Volume 020)
Published: 2008

Reproductive Health

Language: Burmese (Volume 009) and
Karen (Volume 021)
Published: 2008

POSH

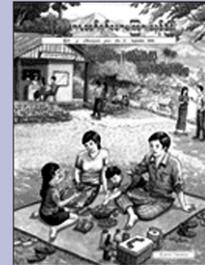
Language: Karen (Volume 019)
Published: 2007

Education for All

Language: Karen (Volume 017)
Published: 2007

Parenting

Language: Karen (Volume 012)



19. MAP Music Video

MAP Foundation. Thailand
http://www.mapfoundationcm.org/eng/resoure/ethnic_main.html Reproductive Health



Health & Education Music Video Volume (1) Karen version

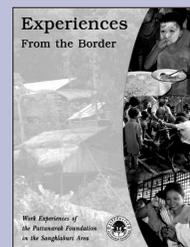
Health & Education Music Video Volume (2) Shan version



■ **Pattanak Foundation**

20. Experiences from Borders

Thongmak, Seri, Somphon Meeboon, Asok Pholbomrung, Kit Thainitat, Roy Upchurch and Leigh Lehane. Bangkok: Pattanak Foundation, 2008. pp. 60.
<http://www.pattanak.or.th/images/Experiences%20from%20the%20border%202.pdf>



Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

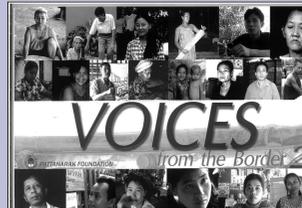
This paper by the Pattanarak Foundation documents the work, successes, challenges and lessons learned by this grassroots community development organisation since its official registration in 2006. Pattanarak Foundation works with marginalised people including Karen, Mon, Lao and Thai peoples living along the Thai-Burma border area of Sangklaburi District of Kanchaburi Province. The paper focuses on Pattanarak’s work in health and nutrition promotion, including HIV/AIDS and malaria projects, promotion of household farming to reduce reliance on expensive market produce and development of community savings schemes.

Key Topic/Issue

- Methodologies of community based, participatory development

21. Voices from the Border 2

Pattanarak Foundation. 2005. pp.68.



Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

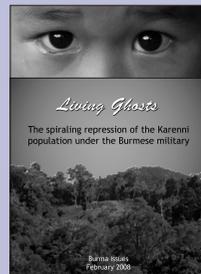
This is the second volume of *Voices from the Border*, published in 2003. This publication reflects on the voices of displaced people living in Sangklaburi District, Kanchanaburi Province examining human rights, migration, trafficking, health and HIV/AIDS.

■ **Peace Way Foundation**

22. Living Ghosts: The spiralling repression of the Karenni population by the Burmese military junta

Peace Way Foundation. 2008. pp.103.

www.burmaissues.org/En/reports/livingghosts.html



Language: English

Country Covered: Burma/Myanmar

General Description

This report documents the situation in the Karenni State in Burma between 2001 and 2007. It was compiled on the basis of field research conducted by Burma Issues' staff. The report is divided into eight chapters which provide up to date information on the impact of over 50 years of conflict and human rights abuses in the Karenni State. Facing oppression from various state and non-state actors, including the State Peace and Development Council, the Karenni National Progressive Party and different cease fire groups, the situation on the ground is deteriorating. The report concludes by making a series of recommendations to the international and regional community, humanitarian organisations and armed groups with a view to fostering peace and development.

Key Topics/Issues

- Declining economic indicators and failing agricultural production
- Virtual absence of health and education facilities
- Increasing production and trade of drugs
- Extremely high proportion of internally displaced persons
- Threats to regional stability

■ Raks Thai Foundation

23. Migrant Policy: Balancing Economy, Health and Well Being – National Conference Report

Raks Thai Foundation, 2008.

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This is a summarised version of transcripts from the national conference entitled “Migrant Policy: Balancing Economy, Health and Well Being,” held March 21, 2008, in Bangkok. The conference was attended by 390 people representing government agencies,

international organisations, academics, employers, migrant workers, community organisations and PHAMIT implementing partners. The report includes keynote speeches, a plenary session and three parallel sessions. The keynote speech is given by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour in Thailand, who gives updates on changes made to the Alien Workers Act. The plenary session speakers provide new perspectives in viewing migrant policies in Thailand, including using a “human-rights” approach versus the traditional security-minded or economy-oriented views. Parallel sessions discussed issues of: Migrant Workers and Cultural Rights; Health Security System for All Migrant Workers; and Employment Rights Protection for Migrant Workers.

Key Topics/Issues

- Migrant policy in Thailand
- Moving away from security or economy oriented policies towards a human rights perspective

Key Responses

- Increased and meaningful participation of migrants and civil society in the formulation and implementation of policies that affect the health and well being of migrant workers in Thailand

Key Actors

Migrant workers, NGOs and civil society, health providers, local and national level government officials, and employers

24. Regional Workshop Report “Capacity Building for Networks and Alliances on Reproductive Health and Sexual Health for Mobile and Cross-border Populations in the Mekong Region”, 21 - 23 February 2007, Laithong Hotel, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand

Raks Thai Foundation. Thailand, 2007. pp.43.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)

General Description

This report presents discussions at “Regional Workshop on Reproductive and Sexual Health for Mobile Populations in the Mekong Region,” hosted by Raks Thai Foundation. The workshop aimed to increase networking among participating organisations, donors and local practitioners.

Key Topics/Issues

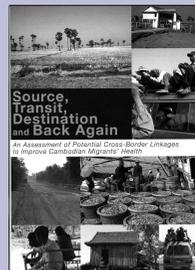
- Cross-border reproductive health
- Strengthening practice through capacity building and networking

Key Responses

- Joint training
- Linking action
- Information gathering: network website and data mapping with Google Earth.

25. Source, Transit, Destination and Back Again: An assessment of potential cross-border linkages to improve Cambodian migrants' health

Press, Brahm. Bangkok: Raks Thai Foundation, 2007. pp.35



Language: English

Countries Covered: Cambodia and Thailand

General Description

Cambodian migrants in Thailand mostly come from impoverished rural areas. They have migrated to work in Thailand as a survival mechanism. At the time of this report, there were few options available for those migrants in Thailand who found out they are infected with HIV. Antiretroviral drugs (ARV) were not readily available to migrants in Thailand, but ARVs have been available for free in Cambodia since early 2006. This posed a choice of life versus livelihood for Cambodian migrant workers living with HIV in Thailand – a choice that these migrants did not want to make. As a result, these Cambodian migrant workers would return home or

to the border and start taking medications for HIV and or TB. Once they felt strong again, they would discontinue the drugs in order to continue working back in Thailand.

This is a report of an assessment done in early 2007 of the HIV-related activities and services that NGOs and health officials in Cambodia and Thailand were providing for migrants at the time. The report identified gaps and opportunities in the system to assist Cambodian migrants infected with HIV in receiving proper treatment and support all along the migration continuum.

Key Topics/Issues

- Migration and HIV
- Cross-border referral mechanisms
- Provision of ARV treatment for migrants
- Migrants' adherence to ARV treatments

Key Responses

- Provision of migrants with ARV in Thailand
- Increase awareness about HIV and ARV in prevention and pre-departure training
- Develop cross-border referral and database systems
- Develop PLHIV (People Living with HIV) support networks for migrants

Key Actors

NGOs, Ministry of Health and migrant communities

26. Reproductive Health of Burmese Migrant Youth in Thailand: Findings, Experiences, and Lessons Learned Nopachai, Vickie. Raks Thai Foundation, 2004.

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This book surveys the situation of migrants in the seafood processing industry in Mahachai, Samut Sakhorn Province, with a focus on young people's reproductive health. The survey focuses on attitudes,

beliefs and behaviours of migrant youth from Burma towards sex, relationships, and how gender roles affect use of contraception and reproductive health seeking behaviours. The report also provides reflection on the successes and lessons learned from the Raks Thai Foundation project in Mahachai.

Key Topics/Focus

Reproductive health among migrant youth:

- Attitudes and behaviour;
- Perceptions of how social roles influence behaviours that affect reproductive health; and
- Ways to communicate about reproductive health and sexuality with migrant youth.

Key Responses

- Incorporate youth in developing and communicating information and messages on reproductive health to change behaviours and influence social norms.
- Greater access to health services and rights, in addition to community support needs to accompany direct interventions

Key Actors/Players

Migrant youth leaders, migrant youth in general, migrant community leaders, NGOs, public health officials and factory owners

27. Untangling Vulnerability: A Study on HIV/AIDS Prevention Programming for Migrant Fishermen and Related Populations in Thailand

Press, Braham. Bangkok: Raks Thai Foundation, 2004. pp.120.

http://www.phamit.org/download/Untangling%20Vulnerability_section1.pdf

http://www.phamit.org/download/Untangling%20Vulnerability_section2.pdf

http://www.phamit.org/download/Untangling%20Vulnerability_section3.pdf

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

Raks Thai Foundation conducted a study to identify strategies used by implementers in HIV/AIDS prevention programs for migrant fishermen and related populations in Thailand. This study set out to assess the current level of implementation and effectiveness of HIV/AIDS programs in the major ports of Thailand and in their source communities, to explore possible future directions for this type of program.

28. Tangled Nets: The Vulnerability of Migrant Fishermen and Related Populations in Thailand

Press, Braham. Bangkok: Raks Thai Foundation, 2003. pp.34, including 18 pages of illustrations.

<http://www.phamit.org/download/TN1.pdf>

<http://www.phamit.org/download/TN2.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand

General Description

This book is a companion to another study by Braham Press on HIV/AIDS programming for fishermen and related populations, annotated at reference no. 27 of this section.

The book contains 18 pages of black and white photographs by Nic Dunlop, which provide a vivid picture of life among migrant workers of the Thai seafood industry. There are evocative but brief descriptions of the fishermen and their sub-culture. These include their reliance on one another, their use of service by shore-based sex workers, their relationships with women and children who either migrate with the men or join them in Thailand and invariably end up assisting in fish processing work and the source communities to which the fishermen may someday return. The book also focuses on the problems faced by fisher folk as they try to access health care provisions.

29. The Hard Road: HIV/AIDS and Mobile Populations in the Greater Mekong Subregion

Raks Thai Foundation. 2004.

Language: English

30. Information Sheet on Migrant Workers: Access to Health Services 2001-2002

Raks Thai Foundation. Migrant Workers: Accessibility to Health and Health Promotion, 2001. pp. 5.

Language: English

■ Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN)

31. Pushed back into the flames – The urgent need for protection of Shan refugees as the Burmese military regime fans the flames of war in Shan State

The Shan Women's Action Network,
September 2005, pp.8.

http://www.shanwomen.org/pdf/push_back_eng.pdf

http://www.shanwomen.org/pdf/push_back_thai.pdf

Language: English and Thai

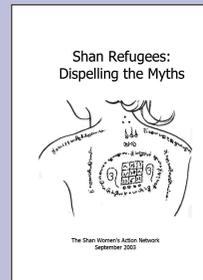


32. Shan Refugees: Dispelling the Myths

The Shan Women's Action Network,
September 2003, pp.12.

http://www.shanwomen.org/pdf/Dispelling_the_Myths.pdf

Language: English



33. SWAN Newsletter

The Shan Women's Action Network: (Annual from 1999).

<http://www.shanwomen.org/pdf/Oct-2008-Newsletter-English.pdf>

Language: English

■ **Thai Action Committee for Development in Burma (TACDB)**

34. Report -Research: Process to Identify Burmese Tsunami Victims and the Relatives of the Victims

Thai Action Committee for Development in Burma (TACDB).
Bangkok, 2008. pp.45.

Languages: Thai and English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This report by TACDB examines the lessons learnt during the process of identification of victims of the 2004 Tsunami in Thailand. Many thousands of Burmese workers lost their lives in the tsunami however identification was complicated as most were irregular migrants. The paper examines the operations of government agencies, the TACDB and IOM in order to improve future project implementation.

35. Helpless Before and After the Wave: The Plight of Burmese Migrant Workers in the Andaman Tsunami

Thai Action Committee for Development in
Burma (TACDB). Bangkok, 2007. pp. 511

Languages: Thai and English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand



General Description

TACDB was one of the NGOs which responded to the needs of Burmese victims and survivors immediately after the December 2004 Tsunami. TACDB reached out Burmese migrant workers in the six affected areas by using its existing networks. TACDB notes that the most difficult task was identification of victims, as many of Burmese people travelled to Thailand without any documents. This book compiles 92 interviews with victims' families and relatives. Most of these interviews were conducted during the first half of

2006 and these interviews focused mainly on the reason and process concerning their migration to Thailand, experiences during the Tsunami, and survival and recovery after the Tsunami. Some of the interviewees were interviewed once again several months after the first interviews and these additional information highlights a long term effect of the Tsunami on migrants' lives—including their struggle until they found the bodies of their loved ones, coping with the sense of loss, increased economic difficulty, and the decision as to whether or not to return Burma. TACDB felt that those voices of Burmese migrant workers were to be heard, in order to share lessons from tsunami and advocate for better and respectful protection for migrant workers in the future.

36. Research: Educational Accessibility of Migrant Workers in Thailand

Case Study in Mae-Sot, Mahachai, and Kuraburee

**Thai Action Committee for Development in Burma (TACDB).
Bangkok, 2007. pp.86.**

Languages: Burmese and English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This report details findings of a research study conducted by TACDB on accessibility of education to migrant children and working migrant children. The report details factors which impact on the accessibility of education, giving the reader an overview of the complexities of simply going to school. From the government, to community, family and individual levels numerous factors combine to impede access to education for many migrant children.

Key Topic/Issue

- Barriers to education: legal, administrative, financial, socio-cultural and linguistic.

Key Actors

Thai Ministry of Education, formal education facilities, provincial authorities, police, NGO community, non-formal education providers and local and migrant communities

37. A Memoir of Burmese Workers: From Slave Labour to Illegal Migrant Workers

Wai, Myint (Comp.). Bangkok: Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (TACDB), 2004. pp.148.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This book is a compilation of more than 30 interviews with Burmese workers in Thailand, conducted between 1998 and 2000. These workers are employed in so-called 3D (dirty, dangerous and difficult) jobs. The workers interviewed were employed in agriculture, fisheries, construction, sweatshops and domestic work sectors. There are also several case studies of the treatment meted out to Burmese workers in police stations. Since 1992, irregular migrants from Burma have been permitted to take jobs legally in Thailand by registering with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, however the ambiguous and changing nature of the policy continues to make the status of many workers unclear. The cases shed light not just on the plight of the migrant workers, but on the exploitation prevailing in the economic and political system.

38. Labour Affair Newsletter (Bimonthly)

Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (TACDB).
Since April 2002.

Language: Burmese/Myanmar

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

The Labour Affairs Newsletter is the bimonthly newsletter of the Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (TACDB) published in the Burmese language. Typically, each issue is 16 pages long with some 24-page special issues. This newsletter is published to provide space for Burmese migrant workers to share their problems and encourage them to voice their views including the suffering and exploitation that they may be subjected to. The newsletter includes

articles by workers from various Burmese websites that raise awareness about labour rights, the laws of Thailand, the regional labour movement, information regarding the political, social and economic situation of Burma, tsunami information and letters to the editor. Three thousand copies are distributed by mail to the homes of migrants and around two thousand copies are delivered through community centres and libraries TACDB set up in tsunami affected provinces in southern Thailand.

39. Background of Burmese Migrant Worker Project

Thai Action Committee for Development in Burma (TACDB). Bangkok, 2001.

Language: English

■ Young Chi Oo Workers' Association

40. Young Chi Oo Labor Journal (Monthly)

Young Chi Oo Workers' Association, Mae Sot, Thailand

Language: Burmese/Myanmar

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

The Labour Affairs Newsletter is the monthly newsletter of Young Chi Oo Workers' Association published for Burmese migrant workers in Mae Sot, Thailand.

■ Asian Migrant Centre (AMC)

41. Asian Migrant Yearbook

Asian Migrant Centre (AMC) and Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). Hong Kong: Published regularly since 1998 (the latest version in 2005).

Language: English

Countries Covered: 22 countries in Asia including Greater Mekong Subregion

General Description

This is a regularly published resource book about Asian migrant workers and migrant organisations. It includes country reports, thematic reports on issues of interest and photographs documenting migrants' activities throughout the region. Each country report updates issues, problems, and responses to international migration from the perspective of migrants and migrant rights advocates. In-depth discussions of migration issues are presented thematically and include gender, reintegration, regional responses and strategies, and relevant treaty ratification status. Reports also include highlights from regional conferences on migration and updates of MFA activities.

Key Topics/Issues

- Labour migration and working conditions
- Human rights of migrant workers
- Gender and migration
- Reintegration of migrants returning home
- Ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- Migrant organisations' programmes and campaigns

Key Actors/Players

Migrant workers, migrants' families, migrant grassroots organisations, and migrant support organisations such as NGOs, trade unions, churches, governments and UN/IGOs

Section 3: Annotated Bibliography

2009

1. Abuse, Poverty, and Migration: Investigating Migrants' Motivations to Leave Home in Burma

Karen Human Rights Group. 2009. pp.58.

<http://www.khrg.org/khrg2009/khrg0903.html>

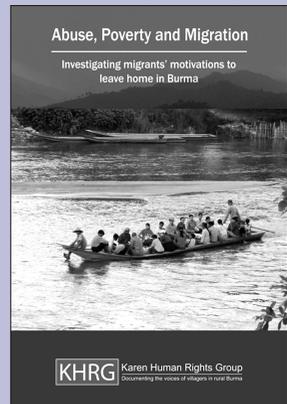
Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This report investigates the root causes of migration from Burma, and aims to enhance assistance and protection of Burmese migrants in receiving countries. 150 interviews were conducted to identify what motivated migrant workers to seek economic opportunities abroad and to examine whether current international frameworks adequately respond to the causes.

The interviews were conducted in Karen State where the SPDC heavily controls all aspects of daily life and in Thailand where many Burmese currently live and work. The interview results show that interviewees faced “life-threatening levels of poverty” in Burma, caused by the SPDC’s abuses, such as forced labour, arbitrary taxation, land confiscation and restriction of movements. While Burmese outside Burma defined as “refugees” have access to assistance, those defined as “economic migrants” are offered little, if any, protection. The report concludes that “economic migrants” from Burma made their decisions not because they sought financial security, but because they were fleeing from a life-threatening poverty caused by the SPDC’s mismanagement.



Key Responses

- Expand protections beyond refugees and IDPs and
- Establish international frameworks which more accurately respond to root causes of migration

2. Fact-Finding Report on: Rohingya: Stateless and Forgotten People and Recommendations from the Roundtable Discussion on the Inhumane Push-Back of the Rohingya Boat People

Thai Action Committee for Development in Burma (TACDB) and Sub-Committee on the Human Rights, Stateless Persons, Displaced Persons and Migrant Workers, Lawyer Council of Thailand. Bangkok, 2009. pp. 37.

<http://www.eurac.edu/NR/rdonlyres/B94E2596-D511-4830-9E6F-DDDC83716C14/0/TACDBFFMRoundtableSeminarFINALREPO RTason13MARCH2009.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This document begins with a fact-finding report which outlines the situation of Rohingya peoples and provides mission findings. In February 2009 a round table seminar entitled: “Discussions on Fact Finding Mission and Recommendations” was held in Bangkok. The seminar proceedings are recorded in this document, which summarises presentations made by keynote speakers and makes policy recommendations to the Thai Government. The document also contains two statements, both of which urge ASEAN to take a clear stance on how the Rohingyas are being treated.

Key Topics

- Situation of Rohingya in Arakan State
- Treatment of Rohingya by Thai Navy since December 2008

3. International Migration in Thailand 2009

Sciortino, Rosalia and Sureeporn Punpuing. Bangkok:
International Organization for Migration (IOM), Thailand
Office, 2009. pp.119.

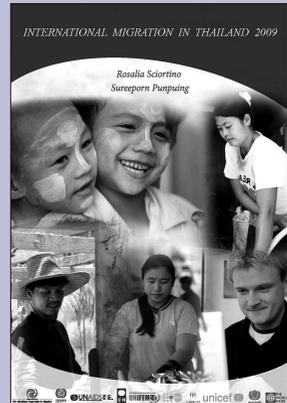
[http://www.iom-seasia.org/index.php?module=pagesetter&func=vi
ewpub&tid=6&pid=502](http://www.iom-seasia.org/index.php?module=pagesetter&func=vi
ewpub&tid=6&pid=502)

Languages: English and Thai

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This is an updated version of a previous report published in 2005 which documented and analysed Thailand's migration situation. The first chapter provides an introduction to the project: to track the interconnectivity and interdependence of goods and labour markets. This chapter also explains what methodology is used in this report. Chapter 2 discusses Thailand's foreign trade markets, demographic disparities and labour market transition and the impact of these changes on migration flow. Chapter 3 examines the trends of migration from Thailand. It shows that groups of "low-skilled" and "high-skilled" migrants have different experiences in their receiving countries, and that if members of the "low-skilled" group migrate irregularly, they face great difficulties in remaining in host countries, and are vulnerable to exploitation. Chapter 4 analyses migration to Thailand. It focuses on the various aspects of migration such as permanent/temporary migration, geographical/occupational distribution, characteristics of GMS migrants, vulnerability and social protection. Chapter 5 focuses on refugees and asylum seekers. It discusses both the history of seeking refuge in Thailand, and current policies.



Key Recommendations

- Improve information monitoring by setting up independent think-tanks to study migration trends, and strengthen data collection of ministries and enhance NGOs' capacities to document their work.

- Fill gaps in knowledge by encouraging inter-country collaborative studies, analysing costs and benefits of migration and studying the formation of transnational families and communities.
- Better manage inward migration by formulating a Safe Migration Act (or “Act to Prevent and Suppress Exploitation of Migrant Workers”), to grant longer periods of stay, encourage employers to provide training and respect migrants’ rights during arrest, detention and deportation.

4. Review of Migration Management Policies and Strategies in Thailand and Their Impact on Labour Immigration

Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI). Bangkok: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Asia Pacific Office, 2009. pp.178.

Language: Thai

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description

This report discussed problems encountered by the Thai Government in managing migrant workers and labour migration from neighbouring countries. Collaboration between Thailand and its GMS neighbours on labour migration policies was highlighted, and suggestions were provided to enhance the effective management of migrant workers.

Key Topic

- Policy management of migration in Thailand

Original Title:

การทบทวนนโยบาย ยุทธศาสตร์
การบริหารจัดการและแรงกดดันในการนำเข้าแรงงานข้ามชาติของประเทศไทย

Author:

สถาบันวิจัยเพื่อการพัฒนาประเทศไทย

Publisher:

สำนักงานแรงงานระหว่างประเทศ ประจำภูมิภาคเอเชียและแปซิฟิก

5. SAYA MIGRAN - A Domestic Worker's Guide to Understanding and Asserting Our Rights

United Foreign Domestic Workers Rights. 2009. pp.11.

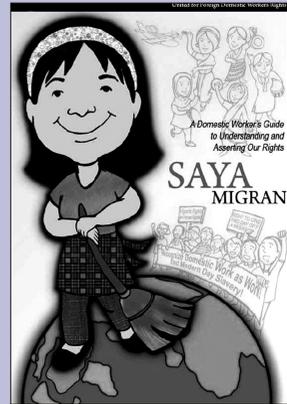
http://www.apwld.org/pdf/Saya_Migran_Final.pdf

Languages: English and various Asia languages

Countries Covered: Asia

General Description

This comic is a guide for migrant domestic workers to understand their rights. It was published by the United Foreign Domestic Workers network whose member organisations include the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, CARAM Asia (Coordination of Action Research and Mobility), Global Alliance Against Trafficking of Women and Mekong Migration Network.



6. Understanding Migrant Workers in Thailand

Migrant Working Group (MWG). Bangkok: International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2009. pp.85.

Language: Thai

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This booklet was published under an IOM project “Capacity Building in the rights of migrant workers for officials, employers, Burmese migrant workers and local communities in Thailand” conducted by the Thai Department for Immigrant Workers and Migrant Working Group. “Understanding migrants in Thailand” is intended to provide relevant stakeholders working in the field of migration with a basic understanding of issues facing migrant workers in Thailand. It covers public awareness and attitudes towards migrant workers and how the media covers migration; the importance of increasing awareness of migration issues; changing migration patterns over time; future challenges and concludes by tackling common misconceptions concerning migration.

Key Actors

Migrant workers and media

Original Title:

“มาทำความเข้าใจแรงงานข้ามชาติในประเทศไทยกันเถอะ”

Author:

เครือข่ายองค์กรด้านแรงงานข้ามชาติ

Publisher:

โครงการ "การเสริมสร้างศักยภาพในด้านสิทธิของแรงงานอพยพ
สำหรับข้าราชการ นายจ้างแรงงานอพยพชาวพม่าและชุมชนท้องถิ่น
ในประเทศไทย" แผนกแรงงานอพยพ
องค์การระหว่างประเทศเพื่อการโยกย้ายถิ่นฐาน

2008

7. Burma Human Rights Yearbook 2007

The Human Rights Documentation Unit. Bangkok: National
Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, 2008. pp. 964.

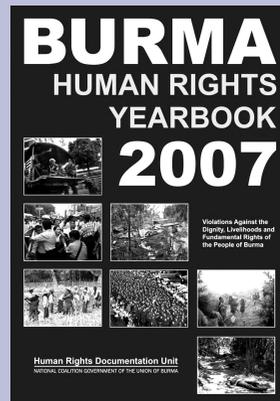
<http://www.ncgub.net/mediagallery/download.php?mid=20080909113939780>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar,
China and Thailand

General Description

This report documents human rights violations which took place in Burma in 2007. The catalogue of abuse conducted by the Burmese military regime includes forced labour, extortion, arbitrary arrest, summary execution, rape, forced



relocation, confiscation and destruction of land and property, religious persecution and ethnic discrimination. The report also details the brutal crackdown on the Saffron Revolution protests which took place in September 2007.

Issues facing Burmese migrant workers are discussed thematically with a focus on working conditions, health and children. Most analysis relates to Burmese migrants in Thailand, but there is also information on conditions faced by Burmese migrants in Malaysia, Bangladesh, India, Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. The section also highlights the response of Burmese migrants to the Saffron Revolution.

Key Topics/Issues

- International human rights law
- Political and socio-economic situation in Burma
- Burmese migrant workers
- Refugees and internally displaced people

Key Response

- Need to protect to internally displaced persons, refugees and migrant workers

Key Actors

ASEAN, national government and civil society

8. Challenging the Limits: Indigenous Peoples of the Mekong Region

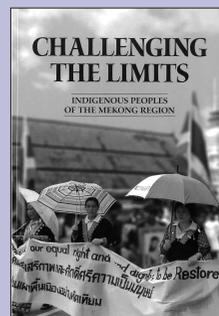
Prasit Leepreecha, Don McCaskill and Kwanchewan Buadaeng.
Chiang Mai, Thailand: Mekong Press, 2008. pp.379.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

General Description

This book is a collection of papers presented at an international conference on the “Impact of Globalisation, Regionalism and Nationalism on Minority Peoples in Southeast Asia”



held in Chiang Mai in 2004. Collectively the papers address the impact of globalisation, modernisation and government policies on indigenous peoples in the region. Recognising that people both react to and actively influence their circumstances, the book is divided into two sections. The first discusses the impact of nationalism and globalisation and the second analyses strategic responses of indigenous groups to national policies and projects.

Key Topics/Issues

- Identity, agency and power politics
- Land reform and environmental change
- Education politics
- Culture, tradition and change

9. Children on the Move in the South-East Asia-Why child protection systems are needed

Save the Children UK. London: Save the Children, 2008. pp.32.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

See the Book Review in Section 1.

10. The Cross-Border Migrants in the Main Border Trading-ports in Yunnan Province and the Borderland Security

He, Yue. *Journal of Yunnan Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, Vol.40, No.2, pp.35-43. 2008.

Language: Chinese

Country Covered: China

General Description

The author examines issues surrounding the management of population flows in border areas of Yunnan Province. First, the author analyses the categories and situation of the floating population from outside China in the main border trading-ports of Yunnan Province.

The floating population from abroad in the main border trading-ports along Sino-Vietnam, Sino-Lao PDR, Sino-Burma border areas consists mainly of people conducting business and trading activities, as well as irregular floating populations. The author argues the large size of the floating population and high frequency of movement weakens the border security system. Factors such as large differences in political environments in China and its neighbouring countries, geographical proximity to known drug producing areas, and the variety of religion and beliefs along the borders, make frontier defence difficult.

云南边境地区主要贸易口岸的境外流动人口与边疆安全, 何跃, 云南师范大学学报(哲学社会科学版), 2008年3月第2期 (第40卷), 云南师范大学

11. A Dangerous, Difficult Life

Cho, Violet. *The Irrawaddy*, Vol. 16, No. 53. Thailand, May 2008
http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=11640

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This article tells the story of Yan Naing Htun, a migrant worker who travelled through irregular migration channels from Burma to Thailand. Transported in the back of a pickup truck and hidden with a tarpaulin sheet along with ten other men, Yan Naing Htun hoped to find work to support his family. Many migrants are not as lucky as Yan Naing Htun. The article gives many tragic examples of what can go wrong for migrants moving through irregular channels, for example, in April 2008, 54 Burmese migrants were suffocated as they were transported in an airtight truck to Ranong, Thailand. The article also discusses hazardous working conditions and difficulties migrant workers face to make ends meet once they are in Thailand.

Key Topics/Issues

- Working and living conditions and challenges faced by Burmese migrant workers in Thailand

Key Actors

Burmese migrant workers and migrants' families

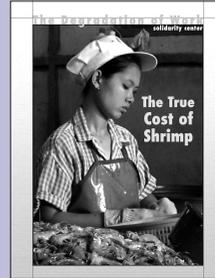
12. The Degradation of Work: The True Cost of Shrimp

The Solidarity Center. Washington DC, 2008. pp.40

www.solidaritycenter.org/files/pubs_True_Cost_of_Shrimp.pdf

Language: English

Countries Covered: Bangladesh, Burma/
Myanmar and Thailand



General Description

This report by the Solidarity Centre highlights the working conditions of employees in the shrimp processing industry in Thailand and Bangladesh. The findings are based on industry research and an extensive series of interviews with workers in shrimp processing plants in Thailand and Bangladesh. It uncovers widespread violations of labour rights and instances of the worst forms of labour exploitation in this \$13 billion industry and concludes with recommendations to governments, employers and industry regulators.

Key Topics/Issues

- Labour rights violations
- Working and living conditions of employees in shrimp processing industry
- Role of child labourers, women workers and migrant workers
- Prevalence of worst forms of labour exploitation, such as human trafficking, forced labour and debt bondage
- Role of labour brokers
- Role of subcontracting and outsourcing within industry supply chains
- Environmental and food safety standards

Key Responses

- Commitment by shrimp businesses and governments to improve industry-wide regulations and enforce fundamental labour rights
- Accountability of companies to labour and criminal law
- Increase inspection at both ends of the supply chain to ensure compliance with international standards.
- Increase workers' access to justice system.
- Increase unionisation to strengthen the voice of labour.

Related Materials

Aquaculture Certification Council (ACC): Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP)

13. Determinants of Remittances: Recent Evidence Using Data on Internal Migrants in Vietnam

Yoko Niimi, Thai Hung Pham and Barry Reilly. London: World Bank, 2008. pp.38.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2008/04/14/000158349_20080414091528/Rendered/INDEX/wps4586.txt

Language: English

Country Covered: Vietnam

General Description

This report presents findings of an empirical study on remittances. Using data from a 2004 survey on internal migration in Vietnam, the study looks at factors affecting remittance sending patterns among individual internal migrants. The study found that migrants tend to be “risk-averse” and send remittances back to the household of origin to insure against potential labour market instability at the destination. Remittances are also found to be driven by migrants’ labour market earnings level. The study also found that the education of migrants has a well-defined positive effect on the level of remittances. It also highlights the important role of remittances in providing an effective means of risk-coping and mutual support within the family.

Key Topics

- Gender; macroeconomics and economic growth; health, nutrition and population; financial sector development and Vietnamese migration

Key Actors

The Vietnamese Government, migrant workers, communities and banks

14. Displacement and disease: the Shan exodus and infectious disease implications for Thailand

Suwanvanichkij, Voravit. *Conflict and Health*, 2:4. March 2008.

<http://www.conflictandhealth.com/content/2/1/4>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This paper presents findings on health problems of Shan migrants and their ability to access health care in Thailand. Health problems may arise from the outset of the migratory cycle due to the limited provision of health services in Burma. Once in Thailand, Shan migrants who have moved through irregular channels face numerous barriers to accessing health programmes. Despite ongoing conflict in Burma's Shan State, Thailand frequently denies Shan migrants refugee status, classifying them instead as "economic migrants." Many Shan migrants find themselves working in exploitative and dangerous conditions. Migrant workers often slip outside the realm of legal protection mechanisms, living with the risk of arrest and deportation. Irregular migrants are ineligible to access to basic health services in Thailand. The paper gives a case study of a Shan migrant, who worked in the agricultural sector in Chiang Mai. The migrant was diagnosed with AIDS and tuberculosis; as a migrant worker, he was ineligible for state funded treatment programs, and died soon after diagnosis.

Key Topics/Issues

- Health and barriers facing migrants in accessing healthcare services in Thailand
- Infectious diseases
- Forced displacement in Shan State
- Working conditions of migrants in Thailand

Key Actors

(Shan) migrants and healthcare agencies

15. Do International Migration Policies in Thailand Achieve Their Objectives?

Huguet, Jerrold W. Bangkok: ILO, 2008. pp.16.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub15.htm>

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

See the Book Review in Section 1.

16. Eastward Bound: An update on migration and trafficking of Kachin women on the China-Burma border

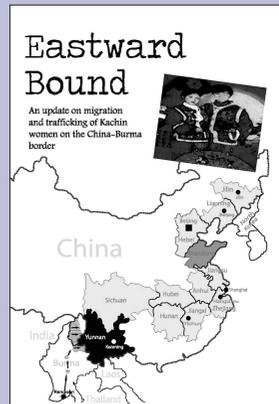
Kachin Women's Association Thailand (KWAT). Thailand, 2008. pp.28.
<http://www.womenofburma.org/Report/EastwardBound.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and China

General Description

This report by the Kachin Women Association Thailand (KWAT), documents the trafficking of 163 women and girls between 2004 and mid-2007. It shows that growing numbers of Kachin women are being trafficked as brides to China as political and economic conditions in Burma deteriorate. The report highlights the failure of the new anti-trafficking law in Burma.



Key Topics/Issues

- Migration and trafficking of Kachin women
- Growing numbers of Kachin women trafficked as brides across China
- New Burmese anti-trafficking law

Key Response

- Awareness-raising campaigns on the dangers posed by traffickers

Key Actors

International agencies, governments and NGOs

17. Employment of migrant workers under the Working of Aliens Act 2008 and the list of occupations allowed to foreigners

Archavantikul, Kritaya and Kulapa Vajanasara Bangkok: IOM and Mahidol University 2008. pp.75.
<http://bkkintra.iom-seasia.org/pubs/ResearchEmploymentMigrantWorkers.pdf>

Language: Thai, summary in English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This report analyses the possible impacts of the Working of Aliens Act (2008), and presents policy recommendations, including a framework for an occupation list open to migrants. The new Act specifies the occupations aliens are allowed to have, whereas the previous Act only listed forbidden occupations. The report was compiled using documentary analysis, interviews and group discussions where groups working with migrant workers exchanged opinions.



Key Findings/ Recommendations

- Provincial level committees to be set up to promote flexibility in registration of migrants and to match the reality of demand for labourer.
- Foreign health care workers, interpreters and liaison persons need to be considered in the occupation list.
- The levy placed on employers should take into account the high turnover of workers, flexibility needed for different types of workers (e.g. daily workers, short-term workers or seasonal workers) and the usage of collected levies should be transparent.
- While most employers are happy to contribute to their employees' repatriation funds, many agree that the funds should be proportionate to the workers' ability to contribute and to the province. Additionally, they feel that reimbursements should be practical and accessible.
- Raids conducted without court orders might be seen as unconstitutional.

Original Title

การจ้างแรงงานข้ามชาติตามพระราชบัญญัติการทำงานของคนต่างด้าว พ.ศ. 2551 กับการจัดทำบัญชีรายชื่ออาชีพสำหรับคน ต่างชาติ

Authors:

กฤตยา อาชวนิจกุล
กุลภา วจนสาระ

18. Factors Affecting the Enforcement of Labour Protection in Labour Intensive Industries Employing Migrant Workers

Sinma, Kinkamol, Chariyaporn Kanchanakom, Nuttapol Leelawattanan, Wichai Tosuwanjinda, Amarin Boonyapaiboon and Oratai Pagakayai Bangkok: Labour Protection Office, Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, 2008. pp.838.

Language: Thai

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description

This report had the following four objectives: (1) to study the problems and prospects of employment of migrants in Thailand; (2) to study methods and ways to protect migrant workers going abroad; (3) to study the impact of laws to protect migrant workers; and (4) to devise a model migration management system including operational measures and guidelines for managing migrant workers and law enforcement procedures to protect workers effectively. Research findings were gathered from a secondary literature review and primary data was collected through a field survey of migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

Key Topics

- Labour law and labour protection

Key Actors

Government officials, employers and migrant workers

Original Title:

ปัจจัยที่มีผลกระทบต่อการบังคับใช้กฎหมายคุ้มครองแรงงาน
ในกิจการที่มีการจ้างแรงงานต่างด้าวทำงาน

Authors:

กิ่งกมล สีนมา
จริยาภรณ์ กาญจนาคม
ณัฐพล สี่ลาวัดมนานันท์
ผศ.วิชัย โสสุวรรณจินดา
อัมรินทร์ บุญญาไพบูรณ์
อรุทัย ผกาขยาย

Publisher

สำนักคุ้มครองแรงงาน กรมสวัสดิการและคุ้มครองแรงงาน
กระทรวงแรงงาน

19. Fear Comes with the Job

Paung, Shah. *The Irrawaddy*, Vol. 16, No. 2. Thailand, February 2008

http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=10098

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This article highlights the threat of physical danger to which Burmese migrant workers in Thailand are subject, including cases of murder. Despite the dangers migrant workers face in Thailand, poverty in Burma continues to push people to seek work in Thailand. This article contains interviews of Thai human rights lawyers and labour rights activists criticising the reaction of Thai authorities in dealing with cases of violence against migrant workers. Nearly 2 million Burmese migrants, less than 500,000 of whom are registered, are estimated to be working in Thailand, and violence against Burmese migrant workers is increasing.

Key Topics/Issues

- Arbitrary killings
- Rule of law and law enforcement

20. The Floating Population from abroad in the Main Border Trading-ports in Yunnan Province and the Borderland Security

He, Yue. *Journal of Yunnan Normal University* (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition), Vol.40, No.2, p35-43. 2008.

Language: Chinese

Country Covered: China

General Description

The author examines issues surrounding the management population flows in border areas of Yunnan Province. First, the author analyses the categories and situation of the floating population from outside China in the main border trading-ports of Yunnan Province. The floating population from abroad in the main border trading-ports along Sino-Vietnam, Sino-Laos, Sino-Burma border areas consists mainly of people conducting business and trading activities, as well as irregular floating populations. The author argues the large size of the floating population and high frequency of movement weakens the border security system. Factors such as large differences in political environments in China and her neighbouring countries, geographical proximity to known drug producing areas, and the variety of religion and beliefs along the borders, make frontier defence difficult.

云南边境地区主要贸易口岸的境外流动人口与边疆安全,何跃,云南师范大学学报(哲学社会科学版) 2008年3月第2期(第40卷),云南师范大学

21. Gendering Border Spaces: Impact of Open Border Policy Between Cambodia-Thailand on Small-scale Women Fish Traders

Kusakabe, Kyoko, Prak Sereyvath, Ubolratana Suntornratana and Napaporn Sriputinibondh. *African and Asian Studies*, 2008, 7: pp.1-17

Language: English

Countries Covered: Cambodia and Thailand

See the Book Review in the Section 1.

22. Hard Labor

Cho, Violet. *The Irrawaddy*, Vol. 16, No. 5 Thailand, May 2008
http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=11641

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Malaysia

General Description

The article tells the stories of migrant workers from rural areas of Western Burma who moved to Malaysia in search of a better life. The migrant workers face exploitation by employers and deportation by authorities in Malaysia. After facing difficulties, some say they are losing hope and would like to return to their homelands.

Key Topics/Issues

- Exploitation and deportation of migrant workers
- Malaysian work permit policy

23. HIV/AIDS & Mobility in South-East Asia-Rapid Assessment

United Nations Regional Task Force on Mobility and HIV
Vulnerability Reduction in South-East Asia and Southern
Provinces of China. Bangkok, 2008. pp.74
<http://www.undp.org/asia/asean-un-2008-report.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Southeast Asia

General Description

This is a UN report on the status of the HIV/AIDS situation in 10 ASEAN countries, looking at national HIV programming and response, migration patterns, HIV response for migrant populations and recommendations for change. It contains information on 25 organisations engaged in multi-country HIV and Mobility Programmes in South-East Asia.

Key Topics/Issues

- Cambodia— Female sex workers are at-risk. Strengthening capacity of national institutions is urgently required.
- Lao PDR—Raising awareness of HIV/AIDS amongst mobile families is needed.
- Myanmar—Increased gender-based data collection mechanisms to identify infection patterns and risk behaviours are needed to target at risk populations, as well as provision of better prevention infrastructure before Burmese migrant workers migrate.
- Vietnam—Pre-departure information must be improved.

Key Responses

- Advocacy, education, counselling, research and data collection
- Capacity-building with government health counterparts and training of doctors

24. Internal Displacement and International Law in Eastern Burma

Thailand Burma Border Consortium. Bangkok, Thailand: Mekong Press, 2008. pp.221.

<http://www.tbcc.org/idps/report-2008-idp-english.pdf>

Language: Burmese/Myanmar, English and Thai

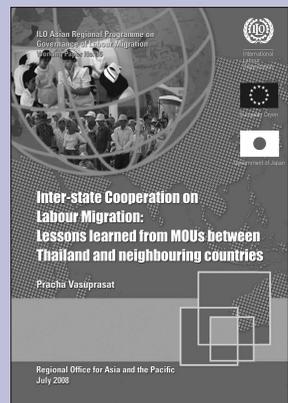
Country Covered: Burma/Myanmar

See the Book Review in Section 1.

25. Inter-state Cooperation on Labour Migration: Lessons learned from MOUs between Thailand and neighbouring countries

Vasuprasat, Pracha. Bangkok: ILO, 2008. pp. 50.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub15.htm>



Language: English

Countries Covered: Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description

This paper provides an overview of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on the Employment of Workers signed between Lao PDR, Cambodia and Myanmar in 2002 and 2003, with particular focus on Lao PDR and Cambodia. It is argued that the MOUs have been presented as mechanisms to improve the orderly flow of migration and to address irregular migration by formalising bilateral cooperation, and in practice most emphasis has been put on regularisation of migrant workers registered with the Thai Government in 2004. However, high costs and complexity of the regularisation and migration process coupled with limited perceived benefits by workers and employers alike, as well as limited administrative capacity of sending countries has constrained the impact of the MOUs. Indeed between 2005 and 2007, the number of admissions under the MOU from Cambodia and Lao PDR matched just 15% of demand.

Key Responses

- Greater emphasis on links between migration and development
- Increase opportunities for legal migration and protection of migrant workers.
- Reduce push factors in sending countries by increasing cross-border trade.
- Greater efforts to enforce labour standards in businesses and sanction employers who hire irregular migrants
- Compulsory deduction of migrants' savings under the MOUs should be combined with other measures if it is to be effective in encouraging circular migration.

26. Labour Migration from Viet Nam: Issues of Policy and Practice

Anh, Dang Nguyen. Bangkok: ILO, 2008. pp.19.

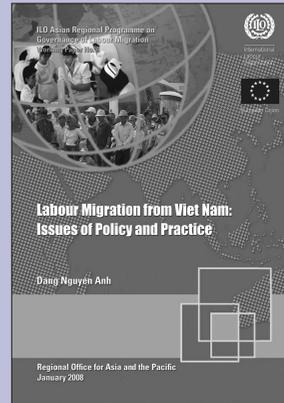
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub15.htm>

Language: English

Country Covered: Vietnam

General Description:

This paper examines emerging issues of policy and practice concerning labour migration from Vietnam. Detailing trends in labour migration patterns, which has seen the number and destination of workers increase and diversify greatly since the 1980s, the report goes on to highlight problems faced by migrant workers in destination countries (poor working conditions, ill treatment, language barriers) and in Vietnam (heavy involvement of intermediaries such as brokers and high costs of migration).



Two principle recommendations to the Vietnamese Government emerge from the report. Firstly that there is a need to better safeguard migrants' rights by improving implementation of regulations governing the role of recruitment agencies and by creating a legal framework for cooperation among social partners to facilitate safe migration. Secondly, there is a need to link migration to long-term socio-economic development plans. This can be done by promoting skills training and education of migrant workers to enable them to fill more highly paid niches in labour markets abroad and by addressing return and reintegration to foster skills transfer back to Vietnam.

Key Responses

- Sign the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families.
- Full implementation of the 2006 law for Vietnamese labour to work overseas.

Key Actors

Recruiting and other sending entities, government ministries/agencies and migrant workers

27. Legislating to Combat Trafficking in Vietnam

Phuong, Hoang Thi Tue. Paper presented at the *17th Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia; Melbourne 1-3 July 2008*. Asian Studies Association: Australia. pp.18

<http://arts.monash.edu.au/mai/asaa/hoangthituephuong.pdf>

Language: English

Country Covered: Vietnam

General Description

The paper analyses Vietnamese legislation on human trafficking, as an example of a country in the early stages of perceiving trafficking as an issue. It compares these regulations to the requirements of international instruments, showing that the current legislation prioritises a criminal justice approach in combating trafficking in persons and emphasises less on protection of trafficked persons. Additionally, cases are cited as evidence of weaknesses in the current legislation. A number of suggestions are put forward to improve the Vietnamese legal system by combining a criminal justice and victim-centred approach.

Key Topics/Issues

- Human trafficking
- Patterns of trafficking within, from and into Vietnam
- Legal systems combating trafficking in woman
- Vietnam's penal code

Key Responses

- National programme on fighting trafficking in women and children across borders
- Enhancement of victim-centred approach
- Amendments of Penal Code

Key Actors

Vietnamese Government, Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), Ministry of Defence and Women's Union

28. Life-Skills: Activities Manual on HIV and AIDS by International Organization for Migration

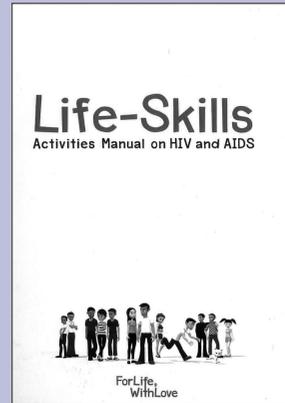
International Organization for Migration (IOM). Bangkok: Kantana Animation, 2008. pp.260

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam

General Description

This activities manual forms part of the IOM's HIV Safe-Mobility package, targeting mobile and migrant populations in the GMS. The manual consists of a series of activity sessions for use by organisations working with mobile populations to help development of life skills enabling people to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). There are five sections concerning prevention of STIs, living with HIV/AIDS, interpersonal relationships, life planning and a guide for facilitators on how to use the manual.



Key Responses

- Use of life skills – psychosocial competencies to reduce risky behaviour that could lead to HIV infection
- Capacity building of psycho-social competencies to help people make informed decisions, communicate effectively and develop coping and self-management skills that may help them lead a healthy and productive life

29. Living in a Globalized World-Ethnic Minorities in the Greater Mekong Subregion

Mccaskill, Don, Leepreecha Prasit and Shaoying He. Bangkok: Silkworm Books, 2008. pp. 374.

Language: English

Countries Covered: China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam

General Description

This book contains a series of essays written by scholars in universities and research institutes across Thailand, China, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Canada. The essays provide empirical academic analysis of the impacts of globalisation, nationalism and regionalism on ethnic minorities in four countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion. Thematic analyses discuss the rise of China as a global power, the end of regional wars, sanctions, open door policies, economic

development in upland areas home to ethnic minorities, and regional integration; and examine the impact of these changes on the lives and culture of indigenous peoples in Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, and Yunnan Province, China. The authors focus on a variety of phenomena including religious conversion, the media, healing practices, rituals, hydropower projects, and tourist-oriented ethnic enclaves. The book concludes with an epilogue that draws together findings presented in the preceding chapters.

Key Topics/Issues

- Indigenous peoples
- Cross-border movement

Key Response

- Study the transformation of ethnic minorities in GMS countries

Key Actors

Indigenous peoples and media

30. Market Transformation, Migration & Social Protection in a Transitioning Vietnam

Le Bach Duong and Khuat Thu Hong. Hanoi: The Gioi Publisher, 2008.

Language: English

Country Covered: Vietnam

General Description

This book was produced by the Institute for Social Development Studies with the support of The Rockefeller Foundation, with a view to enhancing knowledge and public awareness of the social protection needs of migrant workers in and from Vietnam. Drawing upon extensive field research, the book provides a comprehensive analysis of the core relationships between migration and socioeconomic transformation in Vietnam and in this way aims to assist in the reduction of social and health vulnerabilities that many migrants encounter.

Key Topics/Issues

- Socioeconomic transformation in Vietnam
- Social and health vulnerabilities of Vietnamese migrants

Key Response

- More comprehensive research on migrants' social and health vulnerabilities

Key Actors

Migrants, government, health sector and academic institutes

31. The Mekong Challenge: An Honest Broker - Improving cross-border recruitment practices for the benefit of Government, Workers and Employers

Mekong Sub-regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, International Labour Organization (ILO). Bangkok, 2008. pp.123.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/buildingknowledge/anhonestbroker.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

See the Book Review in Section 1.

32. Migrant Worker Remittances and Burma: An Economic Analysis of Survey Results

Turnell, Sean, Alison Vicary and Wylie Bradford. Sydney: Burma Economic Watch/Economics Department Macquarie University, 2008. pp.24.

http://www.econ.mq.edu.au/Econ_docs/bew/Burma_Survey_Remittances.pdf

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

See the Book Review in Section 1.

33. Migrants Are Not Commodities

Aung, Htet. *The Irrawaddy*, Vol. 16, No. 2, Thailand, February 2008
http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=10097

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This article criticises the heavy focus on national security of Thai policy towards migrant workers. The article argues that the Thai media depicts migrants as criminals, disease carriers and drug traffickers. The author views the Thai Government's view is that migration is economically driven and as long as migrant workers spur the economy, they are of national benefit. Once they are no longer of use to the economy, it is argued, migrants can be returned to their country of origin. The article argues that the Thai Government should adopt migration policies that are human rights based and which reflect labour market demands rather than simply promoting the generation of income for governments of sending and receiving countries.

Key Topics/Issues

- Economic contribution of migrant workers
- Policy toward migrant workers

Key Actors

Government, ILO and migrant workers

34. Migration and Health Impacts among Low-skilled Labourers in the Greater Mekong Subregion: A Case Study

Souvannaphoum, Keoamphone. Thailand: Mekong Institute, 2008. pp.32.

[http://www.mekonginstitute.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper
&view=wrapper&Itemid=64](http://www.mekonginstitute.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=64)

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

General Description

This paper reviews current health issues of migrants in the Greater Mekong Sub-region and was prepared as a case study by the Mekong Institute as part of the “Follow up Regional Policy Dialogue on Transborder Migration Policy Implementation and Monitoring: Its Effectiveness and Current Policy Gaps in the Greater Mekong Subregion,” November 2007. The study aims to raise awareness of key challenges concerning health and migration in order to effect change at the policy level. The paper highlights health issues faced by migrants at all stages of the migratory cycle; details prevalent health problems and their causes, and analyses the implications of these issues. On the basis of research findings, conclusions focus on country specific recommendations for further action in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand.

Key Topics/ Issues

- Epidemiology of disease within the GMS
- Levels of vulnerability to health problems
- Provision of health education
- Barriers to migrants seeking and accessing health care
- Links between poor health and poverty

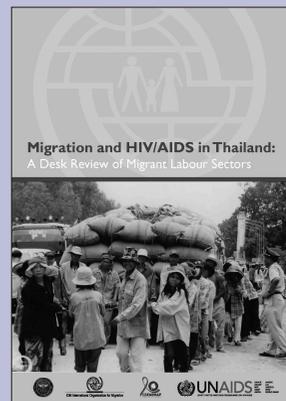
Key Responses

- Increased health support for migrants
- Regional, multi-sectoral cooperation
- Attention to all health issues affecting migrants including occupational diseases, tuberculosis and malaria as well as HIV/AIDS and reproductive health

35. Migration and HIV/AIDS in Thailand: A Desk Review of Migrant Labour Sectors

Jason, D. Theede and Dares Chusri.
 Bangkok: International Organization for Migration (IOM), Thailand Office, 2008.
 pp. 64.

<http://www.iom-seasia.org/resource/pdf/MigrationHIVAIDS.pdf>



Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description

This report analyses the vulnerability of migrant workers to HIV infections over the period 2000 to 2006 and includes a review of relevant policies and regulations. The report focuses on five sectors of the labour force, namely seafarers and seafood factory workers, factory workers outside of the fishing industry, sex workers and displaced persons from Myanmar. Sex workers and seafarers are considered as the highest risk of contracting STIs and HIV. The report recommends that the governments under review enhance multi-sectoral coordination on migrant health. For instance, information could be distributed by factory owners. It is also emphasised that the estimated 2 million migrant workers in Thailand should not be marginalised in their access to health care.

36. Migration and Remittances Factbook 2008

Ratha, Dilip and Zhimei Xu. United States: World Bank, 2008. pp.220.

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECPROSPECTS/0,,contentMDK:21352016~isCURL:Y~menuPK:3145470~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:476883,00.html>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam and other countries

General Description

This factbook compiled by Dilip Ratha and Zhimei Xu presents a snapshot of statistics on migration and remittance flows for 194 countries, 13 regions and different income groups of the world. It provides numbers and facts behind the stories of international migration and remittances, drawing on reliable, publicly available data.

Key Topics

- Migration, skilled migration and remittance flows

Key Actors

Migrant workers, refugees, governments and migrants families

37. Migration and Trafficking: putting human rights into action

Myint, Nikolas Win. *Forced Migration Review*, No. 30, April 2008.
<http://www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR30/38-39.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, China and Thailand

General Description

This article reviews human-trafficking from Burma to Thailand and to China. Based on interviews with trafficked people, the article paints an overall picture of trafficking from Burma, as migration gone wrong. Many migrants confront risks and dangerous conditions, exploitation, abuse, disease and even death. However, the challenge of the anti-human trafficking process is not only to think about poverty and relative economic differences. Anti-trafficking action requires a complex response, including respect for human rights and the rule of law and a coordinated ministerial and inter-agency response at the national and international level, especially amongst the GMS countries and non-governmental service agencies.

Key Topics/Issues

- Human trafficking
- Human rights abuses

38. News Magazine: The Myanmar Times

Yangon: Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd., since 2000.
www.mmtimes.com

Languages: Burmese/Myanmar and English

Country Covered: Burma/Myanmar

General Description

This magazine covers a number of topics, including weekly local and international news, business, health, education opportunities aboard and youth related information. It also covers some news about work opportunities abroad and the risk migrants can face.

Key Topics

- Local news in general, working opportunities abroad
- Useful information for potential migrant workers

39. News Magazine: Zaygwet Journal

Yangon: since 1997.

<http://www.zaygwet.com>

Language: Burmese/Myanmar

Country Covered: Burma/Myanmar

General Description

This business journal covers Myanmar and international news, particularly issues relating to cross border trade with China, Thailand and India. Other news topics include migrant workers' experiences and their abuse by employers and work opportunities abroad as well as the risks could be faced.

40. News Magazine: Weekly Eleven News Journal

Yangon: Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd., since 2008.

<http://www.first-ll.com>

Language: English and Burmese/Myanmar

Country Covered: Burma/Myanmar

General Description:

Weekly news about Myanmar and the world, including some migration related topics. Some news stories cover migrant workers' experiences and their exploitation by employers. There is also some news concerning work opportunities abroad and potential risks for migrant workers.

41. Problem Pregnancies

Myate, Aye Chan. *The Irrawaddy*, Vol. 16, No. 7. Thailand, July 2008
http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=13192

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This article describes the living conditions of women migrant workers, by telling the story of a pregnant migrant woman. The lady reflected that pregnancy and the prospect of caring for a newborn pose a real threat to her livelihood. She said that many other women feel the same. Already working in low paid jobs, pregnancy and motherhood may cost women their jobs and push them back into poverty. As a result, many women have abortions, according to staff in Mae Tao Clinic in border town of Mae Sot.

Key Topics/Issues

- Low incomes of migrant workers
- Livelihood of women migrant workers
- Pregnancy and motherhood

Key Actors

Women migrants

42. Protecting Migrant Workers: Governance of Labour Migration in Asia and the Pacific

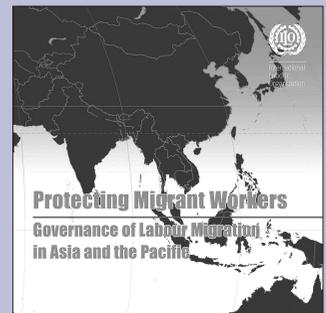
Stalker, Peter. Bangkok: ILO, 2008. pp.31.
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub15.htm>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Asia

General Description

This booklet provides information on the services the International Labour Organisation can provide regarding labour migration management to governments, employers



associations and trade unions. The booklet is divided into three sections. The first gives an overview of the trends, opportunities and risks involved in the migration process in Asia, and provides relevant data and graphs. The second section deals with ILO response to labour migration issues in Asia and the third section goes on to discuss the ILO's involvement in regional and bilateral cooperation and networking activities.

An international organisation unique in its tripartite structure, the ILO is well situated in bringing together social partners at the national and international levels and to work with other international and regional organisations. The ILO chiefly functions as an international standard setter. Under the basic premise that migration should be a choice and not a necessity, the ILO assists social partners in information gathering, dissemination and promotion of best practice, technical cooperation and capacity building with a view to integrating migration management schemes into sustainable and equitable development plans and the decent work agenda. Specific areas of technical cooperation range from local economic development and job creation activities, to pre-departure training of migrants and promotion of comprehensive, portable social security systems. Two regional and global initiatives of the ILO are the Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, which gives guidelines and principles for formulation of migration management policy and the Regional Programme to Promote Cooperation among member states on migration. Finally, the ILO has recently proposed the establishment of a regular ASEAN Forum on Labour Migration.

Key Topics/Issues

- Asian Decent Work Decade
- International and regional cooperation
- Consensus building and cooperation between social partners

Key Actors/Players

ILO, national governments, trade union organisations, employers associations and ASEAN

Related Materials

ILO Guide to Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP)

43. Regional Integration and Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: A Review

Sciortino, Rosalia, Therese Caouette and Phillip Guest. *Review of Development and Cooperation*, Vol. 2, Issue 1: Mekong Institute, pp.32-47: 2008.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

General Description

This report reviews intra-regional migration trends in the GMS from a socio-economic perspective. In the mid-1990s, the ADB initiated the GMS Cooperation Program, and supported infrastructure development for transportation, in an effort to expand cross-border trade. While socio-economic integration expanded, the disparities in economic growth among the GMS countries widened. This uneven development resulted in massive intra-regional migration. The report concludes by pointing out possible future trends, including the following: 1) labour migration to Thailand will be expanded depending on the pace of increasing regionalisation; 2) China and Vietnam, which have rapidly growing economies, will attract labourers from other GMS countries in the long term; 3) China may send out larger number of workers, especially in managerial positions, as Chinese business expands; 4) more women may become involved in cross-border migration, because of the demand for unskilled workers and the development of cross-border networks; and 5) governments still need to create policies to protect the millions of irregular migrants currently in their countries.

44. Relatives from the North

Lae, Aye. *The Irrawaddy*, Vol. 16, No. 2, Thailand, February 2008
http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=10094

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and China

General Description

This article depicts changes taking place in Mandalay, Burma. Business from China is increasing, import of commercial goods is growing and new buildings owned by Chinese businessmen are

springing up. The author mentions pro-democracy demonstrations that took place in September 2007, led by monks from Mandalay's many monasteries. More people now speak out against the government, on the other hand, concerns are growing about many of Mandalay's teenagers who seem depressed about their future and have turned to drugs or alcohol use.

Key Topics/Issues

- Increasing of Chinese businessmen and their commercial goods in Burma

45. A Rights-based Policy Framework for Migrant Workers and Stateless People in Thailand: Recommendations for Policymakers and Practitioners Migrant Working Group. Bangkok, 2008. pp.51.

Languages: English and Thai

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

Migrant Working Group acts to track the situation of migrant workers and stateless people and the findings of this report aim to enhance policy making in Thailand. The report notes that the current population of migrant workers from Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia in Thailand is seriously underestimated and argues that the development of migration management systems is inefficient and not reflective of the reality.

In addition, policy is argued to pay scant attention to the protection of migrant workers' rights and migrants face widespread discrimination and oppression. The report concludes that Thai policy on documentation of all types of migrants needs to be reframed in order to ensure provision of basic rights and facilities and to improve their quality of life.

Key Topic

- Migrant workers management policies

Original Title:

กรอบแนวคิดเชิงนโยบายด้านสิทธิแรงงานข้ามชาติและคนไร้รัฐในประเทศไทย ข้อเสนอต่อผู้กำหนดนโยบายและปฏิบัติการ

Author/Publisher:

เครือข่ายองค์กรด้านแรงงานข้ามชาติ

46. Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia

Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking.: International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2008. pp.256.

www.iom-seasia.org/resource/pdf/IOMSituationReport.pdf?POSTNUKESID=984a3a48f51dc543f629a34c996e9e8a

Language: English

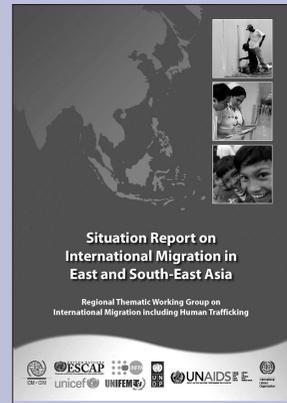
Countries Covered: East and Southeast Asia

General Description

This report by the IOM provides a comprehensive overview of migration in the 16 countries of East and South East Asia. The first section of the report gives a brief overview of migration issues in each of the countries and how these issues link to other countries in the region. The second section covers thematic issues including regional cooperation, remittances, gender, children, health and indigenous people. The third section concludes with a series of thematic recommendations.

Key Responses

- Development of coherent migration policies, with identified objectives that align with national development strategies
- Increased dialogue and cooperation at the regional and bilateral levels
- Facilitate transfer of remittances.
- Policy based research on irregular migration with a view to reducing its occurrence



- Promotion of the “full potential and dignity” of migrants
- Improve mechanisms to identify victims of trafficking, including men, women and children.
- Improve research and data collection on migration and monitoring and evaluation of related programmes.

47. Strengthening Social Protection for ASEAN Migrant Workers Through Social Security Agreements

Tamagno, Edward. Bangkok: ILO, 2008. pp.120.

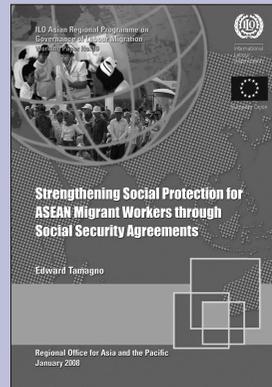
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub15.htm>

Language: English

Countries Covered: ASEAN

General Description

This report is part of the ILO’s Asian Regional Programme on the Governance of Labour Migration. It states that while migrant workers contribute greatly to both host and sending countries, they face numerous disadvantages; one of which is a frequent lack of access to social security programmes in host countries. The report aims to demonstrate the importance of international agreements to coordinate social security systems to ensure migrant workers and their families have equal access to programmes of countries in which they have worked and shows specific measures and tools which can be used to conclude social security agreements, whether bi-lateral, multi-lateral or regional.



Key Topics/Issues

- ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers
- Extension of social security coverage
- ILO’s Decent Work Agenda

Key Responses

- Long term: Ratify ILO Convention No. 118 on Equality of Treatment

(Social Security), Convention No. 157 on Maintenance of Social Security Rights, and Recommendation No. 167 on Maintenance of Social Security Rights. To date, of the ASEAN member countries, only the Philippines has ratified these conventions.

- Long term: Create multilateral ASEAN social security agreement.
- Medium term: negotiate, ratify and implement bilateral social security agreements among ASEAN countries.
- Shorter term: For ILO to conduct training course for senior officials of ASEAN social security institutions and ministries on social security agreements with possible coordination with the ASEAN Social Security Association.
- Hold technical discussions assisted by ILO social security experts on coordination of a provident fund and a social insurance scheme between officials in relevant governmental institutions.
- Develop ASEAN-specific model provisions for social security agreements.

48. Study and Development of Health Communication among Migrant Workers: Case Study of Shan Migrant Workers in Chiang Mai

Buadaeng, Kwanchewan. Bangkok: Research and Development Plan for Public Health Communication Systems, Health Systems Research Institute, 2008. pp.127.

Language: Thai

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This report was an action research evaluating Shan migrants' knowledge of health care provision in Thailand. Research focused on the patterns of knowledge dissemination on health care among Shan workers, much of which takes place through peer to peer communications. Having found the contemporary limitations to gaining awareness of health issues (such as inability to read or understand Thai) the report made recommendations to improve access to knowledge, such as training of Shan health volunteers to promote dissemination of information.

Key Topics/Issues

- Promoting health communication among migrant workers
- Promoting health of migrant workers

Original Title:

การศึกษาและพัฒนาการสื่อสารสุขภาพในกลุ่มแรงงานข้ามชาติ:
กรณีศึกษากลุ่มแรงงานไทใหญ่ในพื้นที่จังหวัดเชียงใหม่

Author:

ดร. ขวัญชีวัน บัวแดงและคณะ สถาบันวิจัยสังคม
มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่

Publisher:

แผนงานวิจัยและพัฒนาระบบสื่อสารสุขภาพสู่ประชาชน
สถาบันวิจัยระบบสาธารณสุข

**49. A Study of Regional Management of the Floating
Population from Abroad in the Frontier of Southwest
China**

He, Yue. *Guizhou Social Sciences*, Vol. 228, No.12. pp. 38-43. 2008.

Language: Chinese

Country Covered: China

General Description

The author examines the problems existing in the current exit-entry administration system. He argues that a regional management institution should be established to meet the needs of cross-border ethnic people's communication and identity, while fulfilling the need of maintaining national security in border areas.

中国西南边疆境外流动人口的区域管理研究
以云南为例,何跃, 贵州社会科学, 2008年第12期 (总228期),
贵州社会科学院

50. Survey on Sex Workers' Flow/ Migration in the Mekong Region

Zi Teng. Hong Kong, 2008. pp.45

Languages: Chinese and English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, China, Lao PDR and Vietnam

General Description

Yunnan Province has one of the highest HIV infection and mortality rates in China. Although the most prevalent mechanism of HIV transmission in Yunnan Province is intravenous drug use, sexual intercourse also results in a significant proportion of infections. This report summarises findings from a survey of migrant sex workers from Burma, Vietnam and Lao PDR in Jinping, Gejiu and Ruili. The findings aim to contribute information necessary in assisting disease prevention and control. The report is divided into two main sections. The first gives background information on Ruili City, Hekou Country, Jinping Country and Gejiu and the second section breaks down the survey results from each area, focusing on reasons for migration, routes taken and costs incurred, length of time migrant sex workers spent in a given location, frequency of changing workplace, attitudes to the labour-migration experience and attitudes to HIV/AIDS testing.

Key Topics/Issues

- Economic liberalisation, increasing cross-border trade and movement of people
- Infrastructure development facilitating population mobility e.g. transnational highway from Yunnan to Bangkok
- Low uptake of free HIV testing
- Human trafficking and the practice of selling or renting women by entertainment sites

Key Responses

- Targeted pre-departure education for potential migrant sex-workers on risks and working skills
- Awareness raising and education on free HIV testing services

湄公河性工作者流动调查报告, 紫藤, 香港

51. Trade Facilitation Policy Gap Analysis on Cross Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, 7-8 April 2008, Mekong Institute
 Mekong Institute. Khon Kaen, Thailand, 2008. pp.106.
http://mekonginstitute.org/mekong/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=85:policy-dialogue&catid=53:research-publication&Itemid=89

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

General Description

This report details research findings presented at the “Conference on Trade Facilitation Policy Gap Analysis on the Cross Border Transport Agreement (CBTA) in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)” held in Khon Kaen, April 2008 and organised by the Mekong Institute, as part of its series of Regional Policy Dialogues. The conference provided an opportunity to overview and discuss the process of implementation of the CBTA across the sub-region and for participants to present research findings in each GMS country. Presentations were given on each of the GMS countries focusing on related domestic laws and policies, conflicting with the CBTA and gave recommendations concerning potential opportunities and challenges for implementation.

Key Topics/Issues

- Regional cooperation
- Infrastructure development
- Freedom of movement of goods and people
- Barriers to trade in the GMS

Key Responses

- Strengthen coordination between GMS governments, IGOs and relevant stakeholders
- Review and amend conflicting laws and policies preventing implementation of the GMS CBTA
- Clarify and streamline responsibility of implementing agencies
- Capacity building and awareness-raising to increase understanding of the GMS CBTA among relevant stakeholders and policy implementers
- Increase private sector participation

Related Materials

- ADB Technical Assistance Report (Project Number 39094), July 2006; Support to Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building in the Greater Mekong Sub-region
- ADB Technical Assistance Report (Project Number 40246); October 2006; Capacity Building for Designing, Negotiating, and Implementing Free Trade Agreements in Selected Asian Development Member countries
- GMS Cross-Border Transport Agreement: <http://www.adb.org/GMS/Cross-Border/default.Asp>

52. Transborder Issues in the Greater Mekong Sub-region

Thaweessit Suchada, Peter Vail and Rosalia Sciortino (eds.).
 Thailand: Mekong Sub-region Social Research Center, 2008.
 pp.502.

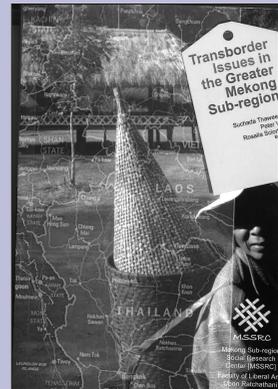
Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion
 (GMS)

General Description

This is a compilation of essays presented at an international conference, entitled “Transborder issues in the Grater Mekong Subregion,” which was held by the Mekong Subregion Social Research Center, at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, Ubon Ratchatani University in 2005.

It focuses on the issues of regional cooperation in the GMS and transborder conflicts arising in a context of economic and social reform and regional integration with the world economy. The changes taking place are impacting strongly on traditional ways of life. The paper also discusses labour migration and gender and human rights, highlighting the interplay of rapid economic development and persistent rural poverty. In addition, it addresses the changing dynamics of cross border trade, development of transport routes, changing border and customs regulations, and the overall political vision that promotes regional integration.



Key Topics/Issues

- Regional cooperation and transborder conflict
- Transborder trade and border towns

Key Responses

Raising awareness among nations in the GMS that in order to attain economic progress, economic and political cooperation policies between countries must be adopted.

Key Actors

Migrant workers, migrants' families, government institutions and local people

2007

53. Adolescent Migrants in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Are They Equipped to Protect Themselves Against Sexual and Reproductive Health Risks?

Yoddumnern, Bencha, Chaanya Sethaput, Supanee Pluemcharoen and Jirakit Boonchaiwattana (eds.). Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO), 2007. pp.87.

Language: English

Countries Covered: China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam

General Description

This book is the final report of a collaborative multi-centre study entitled “The Regional Research Initiative on Adolescent Migrants in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region.” The research project focused on adolescent migrants moving from rural to urban areas and their reproductive health issues in China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. Following the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), governments acknowledged the importance of reproductive health programmes; however, the needs of adolescent migrants have not been adequately addressed. As such, this joint study aims to improve reproductive health policies and programmes and assist in filling gaps in existing knowledge and service delivery.

Key Topics/Issues

- Specific risks and vulnerabilities of migrant adolescents to sexual and reproductive health problems
- Barriers to accessing information and sexual and reproductive health services
- Impact of gender inequalities and social networks

Key Responses

- Conduct life skills education and awareness-raising specifically targeting adolescent migrants both pre-departure and at destination.
- Encourage joint responsibility of men and women in preventing unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Expand social security and health coverage to include adolescent migrants.

54. Beyond Chinatown New Chinese Migration and the Global Expansion of China

Thuno, Mette. Copenhagen S, Denmark: NIAS Press, 2007. pp.304.

Language: English

Country Covered: China

General Description

This book presents changing patterns of Chinese migration across the 19th and early 20th centuries. It also studies the transformation of Chinese communities, in particular looking at attitudes of recent generations towards their ethnic Chinese identity. The research highlights how the rise of China in a globalising world is affecting Chinese migrant communities.

Key Topics

- The changing nature of Chinese migration
- The transformation of the Chinese diasporas, and their attitudes to Chinese ethnicity, in response to the rise of China
- Remittances
- Chinese cultural exchanges

55. Borders of Fertility: Unplanned Pregnancy and Unsafe Abortion in Burmese Women Migrating to Thailand

Belton, Suzanne. *Health Care for Women International*, 28:4. 2007. pp. 419-433

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This paper is a study of reproductive health issues faced by migrant-refugee Burmese women living in camps outside the United Nation High Commission for Refugee system, in the Thai province of Tak. It aims to document the problems of reproductive health and in particular the widespread practice of unsafe abortion for these Burmese women.

Key Topics/Issues

- Barriers to accessing reproductive health care for refugee-migrant women.
- Lack of knowledge about reproductive health and contraception and how to access services.
- High level of unsafe abortions carried out by Burmese refugee-migrants, often resulting in complications.

Key Responses

- Place bicultural workers in Thai public health services.
- Carry out community outreach programmes supported by the Thai government.
- Provide modern methods of family planning to Burmese women in a timely and culturally appropriate manner.

Related Materials

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- WHO, 2003; Safe Abortion: Technical and Policy Guidance for Health Systems
- WHO & Department of Reproductive Health and Research, 2000: Guide for Programme Managers
- WHO, 2000; Improving Access to Quality Care in Family Planning: Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use

56. Capital Expansion and Migrant Workers: Flexible Labour in the Thai-Burma Border Economy

Arnold, Dennis. Thailand: Office of Human Rights Studies and Social Development (OHRSD)
Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mahidol University, Salaya Campus, 2007. pp.108.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

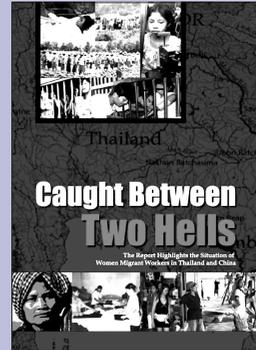
See the Book Review in Section 1.

57. Caught Between Two Hells-The Report Highlights the Situation of Women Migrant Workers in Thailand and China

Burmese Women's Union. 2007. pp.80.
<http://www.womenofburma.org>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, China and Thailand



General Description

The Burmese Women's Union looks at the life chances of Burmese women migrants. Interviews were conducted in depth with 149 migrant women and girl workers in Thailand's Chiang Mai, Mae Sot, Ranong and China's Rulli between November 2006 and March 2007. The findings show that migrant women and girl workers from Burma have very limited work opportunities in their host countries due to their irregular migration status. As a result, they tend to work in "3Ds jobs" which are dirty, dangerous and demeaning and have few or no labour rights. The women are subject to double discrimination on the basis of gender and migration status and are thus highly vulnerable to human rights abuses.

Key Topics/Issues

- Voice of migrant workers
- Personal stories of experiencing a living hell in Burma
- Migrant women and girls from Burma

Key Actors

Women migrants, SPDC, governments, ASEAN, UN, civil society and NGOs

58. Children Caught in Conflicts: The Impact of Armed Conflict on Children in Southeast Asia

Risser, Garry. Bangkok: Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), Institute of Asian studies, Chulalongkorn University, 2007. pp.169.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines

General Description

This report examines the affects of armed-conflict on children in Indonesia, the Philippines, and the Thai-Burma border. In the case of the Thai-Burma border, all respondents interviewed were in Thailand, either in refugee camps or mixed among the larger community of undocumented migrant workers. This report provides background information on the conflicts and discusses the relevant international, regional and domestic legal protection mechanisms. The nature of children’s special vulnerability to violence and abuse during armed conflict is highlighted with reference to their physical insecurity, displacement and conscription as child soldiers. The report goes on to discuss the impact of conflict on children’s physical and mental health, education, and livelihood. This study devises protection strategies for children in situations of low-intensity conflict and gives recommendations for reducing the impact of armed conflict on children.

Key Topics/Issues

- Armed conflict in Southeast Asia
- Legal institutions and the rule of law
- The impact of armed conflict on the well-being of children
- Vulnerability of children to violence and other severe forms of abuse

Key Responses

- Protect children from violence and abuse
- Prevent the use of child soldiers

Key Actors

UNICEF, academic institutions, child refugees and migrants

59. Children for Sale: Child Trafficking in Southeast Asia

Rafferty, Yvonne. *Child Abuse Review*, 16: 2007. pp.401-422.
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/117354275/issue>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Southeast Asia

General Description

This article provides an overview of child trafficking in Southeast Asia, underscoring human rights and international laws pertinent to this form of child abuse. It discusses the experiences of the young victims and the impact on their physical and emotional welfare. In conclusion, the article suggests several legal and policy initiatives to curb the sale and exploitation of children.

60. COLLATERAL DAMAGE-The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures on Human Rights around the World

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW). Bangkok, 2007. pp.266.
<http://www.gaatw.org/>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States of America

See the Book Review in Section 1.

61. The Economic Contribution of Migrant Workers to Thailand: Towards Policy Development

Martin, Philip. Bangkok: ILO, 2007. pp.32.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub15.htm>

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand



General Description

This paper forms part of an ILO research project entitled “Economic Contributions of Migrant Worker to Thailand: Policy Development.” It aims to contribute to a more cohesive debate on migration by providing empirical data on the economic contribution of migrant workers to Thailand. The first section of the paper provides an overview of the Thai Government’s approach to migrant registration. The main thrust of the article concerns migrants contribution to Thailand, on a macro economic level, at the sectoral level and their relationship to changes in aggregate labour demand and wage levels. Migrants’ use of public services relative to their tax contributions is discussed, as are non-economic impacts of migration relating to crime and education. The complex interdependency of issues relating to the economic impact of migrants is shown with clarity at both the theoretical and empirical level.

Key Topics/Issues

- Economic contributions of migrant workers to Thailand
- Non-economic impact of migrants
- Need for balanced understanding of the impact of migration to enable good policy practice

Key Responses

- Acknowledge that migration of workers into Thailand is likely to continue in the medium term
- Involve social partners in development of a transparent migrant worker policy
- Increase cooperation with sending countries
- Introduce policies that give priority to economic growth and development
- Encourage regular labour migration
- Increase flexibility of current registration procedures

62. Gender Concerns in Migration in Lao PDR-Migration Mapping Study: A Review of Trends, Policy and Programme Initiatives

Phetsiriseng, Inthasone. Bangkok: UNIFEM Regional Programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia, 2007. pp.132.



Languages: English and Laotian (summary and recommendations)

Country Covered: Lao PDR

General Description

This is a mapping study conducted by UNIFEM as part of the UNIFEM Programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia-Pacific and the Arab States, Phase II (2005-2007). It provides a review of trends, policy and programme initiatives on labour out-migration from Lao PDR. The information will provide background information for UNIFEM in developing an engendered database on Lao migrant women workers. The report is broken into eight chapters covering labour policy and legislation in Lao PDR, data on out-migration, problems and challenges faced by Lao women migrant workers, case studies and recommendations for immediate action.

Key Topics/Issues

- High proportion of migrant workers from Lao PDR work as domestic workers in Thailand
- Domestic work is not fully covered by Thai and Lao labour laws and is not recognised by the Lao government as a work sector for recruitment and sending in the process established following the MOU on Employment cooperation between Lao PDR and Thailand.
- Vulnerability to exploitation of women migrant workers

Key Responses

- Continue and increase regional cooperation to manage migration with respect to human and gender rights.
- Ratify relevant international instruments.
- Governments of Lao PDR and Thailand to fill in legislative gaps and extend labour law protection to domestic workers

- Simplify the process of nationality verification and lower the costs of migrating under the MOU.
- Government of Lao PDR to increase monitoring and regulation of recruitment agencies
- Reduce migration push factors by prioritising job creation and education in Lao PDR.

63. The Government of Thailand: New reproductive health and HIV/AIDS policies for migrant workers

Achawanijkul, Kittaya Nakhon Pathom: Institute for Population and Society Research (IPSR), Mahidol University 2007. pp.300.

Language: Thai

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This book assesses policy and planning related issues affecting the health of migrant workers. It focuses on health issues, particularly reproductive and sexual health. The researcher looked at printed announcements, legal documentation and official decrees, as well as procedures and practices in place in order to identify problems in the systems and enhance humanitarian responses. The research aims to conduct policy evaluation and provide recommendations that are sensitive to evolving contexts, based on the rights of both Thai and migrant worker service recipients.

The research is broken into four main areas:

- 1) Analysis of education policy regarding health care service provision for irregular migrant workers particularly concerning reproductive and sexual health and HIV/AIDS;
- 2) Analysis of national and international legal documents and regulations relating to health policies and services that affect the rights and health of irregular migrant workers;
- 3) Analysis of challenges to implementation of health policy and comparison of differences in service provision for migrant workers in different areas; and
- 4) Recommendations include capacity building for government officials and work to enhance public policy and management of health problems of workers.

Key Topic

- Migrant worker's rights and health

Key Responses

- Implementation of international health law and standards
- Capacity building for health service providers

Original Title:

รัฐไทยกับการปรับเปลี่ยนนโยบายเอตส์และอนามัยเจริญพันธุ์
ในกลุ่มแรงงานข้ามชาติ

Author:

กฤตยา อาชวนิจกุล

Publisher:

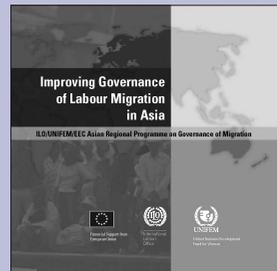
สถาบันวิจัยประชากรและสังคม มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล

64. Improving Governance on Labour Migration in Asia

ILO/UNIFEM/EEC Asian Regional Programme on Governance of Migration.

2007. pp.16.

<http://www.pstalker.com/ilo/resources/pamphlet%20final.pdf>



Language: English

Countries Covered: East Asia, ASEAN and South Asia

General Description

This paper outlines the Asian Regional Programme on Governance of Migration to be conducted jointly by ILO, UNIFEM and the EEC. It explores general trends and patterns of migration in Asia and provides an overview of issues and challenges relating to migration in countries of employment and origin. Project activities are discussed and split into categories relating to global networking, regional dialogues, training, advisory services and policy research.

Related Material

- ILO Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration

65. International Labour Standards on Migrant Workers' Rights: Guide for Policymakers and Practitioners in Asia and the Pacific

ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,
Sub-Regional Office for East Asia. Bangkok:
ILO, 2007. pp.89.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/library/pub15.htm>



Language: English

Countries Covered: Asia and the Pacific

General Description

This report acts as a reference guide on international labour standards and rights of migrant workers for use in design and implementation of migration related policy. The guide is divided into five chapters which give an overview of the labour standards relevant to migrants at all stages of the migration cycle and explain how the ILO functions, how labour standards are made and enforced and different procedures by which complaints can be raised within the ILO.

Key Topics/Issues

- Standards of migrants' rights at each stage of the migration process: pre-departure and during the journey; on arrival; during employment; and return and repatriation
- Standards on fundamental principles and rights at work
- Other standards relevant to migrant workers including those concerning social security, employment policy, private and public employment agencies, employment and working conditions

Key Actors/Players

Policy makers and practitioners working in the migration field including:

- Government officials;
- Employers organisations;
- Workers and workers' organisations;
- Migrant workers and migrant worker organisations; and
- Civil society groups advocating workers' rights.

Related Materials

ILO Conventions and recommendations relating to labour migration, notably, but not limited to:

- Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97) and Recommendation (Revised) 1949, (No. 86)
- Protection of Migrant Workers (Underdeveloped Countries) Recommendation, 1955 (No. 100)
- Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143) and the Migrant Workers Recommendation, 1975 (No. 151).

66. A Journey from Vulnerability to Greater Resilience: A profile of migration-affected communities in Mon State, Myanmar

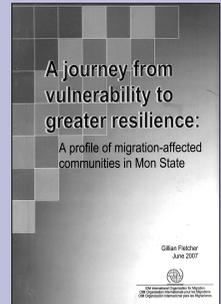
Fletcher, Gillian. Yangon: IOM, 2007. pp.41.

Languages: Burmese/Myanmar and English

Country Covered: Burma/Myanmar

General Description

This report examines issues relating to external and internal migration and HIV/AIDS in Myanmar. A profile is presented of migration affected communities in Mon State, Myanmar. Mon State is located in the South East of Myanmar and is the major gateway for border migration to Thailand. The report was initially intended as a vulnerability profile based on data from Mon State, in which the IOM was working. The author stated that while villages are no doubt vulnerable to HIV as a result of migration, they also hold “seeds for resilience” which are already beginning to assist in HIV prevention, AIDS care and support.



Key Topics/Issues

- Myanmar internal and external migration
- Health issues
- HIV/AIDS

Key Actors

- People at border areas, government departments and NGOs

Key Response

- Use of pre-existing skills and knowledge

67. Labor Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Does Immigration to Thailand Reduce the Wages of Thai Workers?

Bryant, John and Pungpond B. Rukumnuaykit. World Bank, 2007. pp.24.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/main?menuPK=64187510&pagePK=64193027&piPK=64187937&theSitePK=523679&entityID=000020439_20070917133305

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This paper presents findings of a study on the effects of immigration into Thailand on wage levels and employment rates of Thai workers. Using data on migrant workers from a 2004 registration campaign and data on Thai workers from four rounds of the Labour Force Survey conducted by the Thai National Statistical Office in 2004, it is found that immigration reduces the wages of Thai workers but that immigration has no effect on Thai employment rates.

Key Topics/Issues

- Adjustment of Thai labour markets to immigration through wage deflation rather than reduction in employment rates or hours
- Effects of the absence of a binding minimum wage
- Effects of high levels of irregular migration
- Effects of variations in human capital on wage differentials

Key Actors

Thai Government, migrant workers, Thai workers and Thai labour market

68. Life Experiences of Shan Women: Women Migrant Workers

Ruenmul, Suntaree. Chiang Mai Foundation for Women Law and Rural Development Center and Women's Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences Chiang Mai University, 2007. pp.260.

Language: Thai

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This publication was written as a Masters thesis on sexuality and the experiences of Shan women working in markets. The thesis studied mobility of Shan women from a gender perspective, interlinking the cross-cutting issues of ethnicity and age. It also situated the women within their multiple spatial relationships of power, as mothers, daughters or wives. The research found that cultural constructions dominated the social experiences of Shan women. The position of Shan women as migrant workers was seen to act as a complicating factor in their modes of sexuality.

Key Topic

- Experiences of women migrants

Original Title:

ประสบการณ์ชีวิตของผู้หญิงไทใหญ่: แรงงานผู้หญิงข้ามชาติ.

Author:

สุนทรี เรือนมูล

Publisher:

มูลนิธิผู้หญิง กฎหมาย และการพัฒนาชนบท และศูนย์สตรีศึกษา คณะสังคมศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่

69. Living on Both Sides of the Border: Transnational Migrants, Pop Music and Nation of the Shan in Thailand

Jirattikorn, Amporn. Working Paper No. 7. Chiang Mai: Regional Centre for Social Science and Sustainable Development, Chiang Mai University. 2007. pp.38

Language: English

Country Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Thailand

General Description

This paper looks at the Shan immigrant community in Chiang Mai. It conducts an examination of constructs and expressions of national identity of Shan people through the interplay of popular cultural goods, such as pop music and cultural events held in the public sphere.

Key Topics/Issues

- Cultural and national identities
- Theories of nationalism

70. Migrant Workers' Needs and Managing Migrant Workers in Agriculture, Fishing, Fish processing and Construction

Dr. Chalamwong Yongyuth, et. al. Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI). Bangkok: The Office of Alien Employment Administration. Department of Employment, 2007.

Language: Thai

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This research aims to investigate the needs of migrant workers in agriculture, fishing, fish processing and construction sectors, all of which experience labour shortages. Research findings are based on surveys of employers in these sectors and data collected by the Thai Alien Employment Management Bureau, Department of Employment; as well as information sharing at conferences concerning migration management. The findings are aimed to inform migration management policy and recommendations include setting quotas for employment of migrant workers.

Key Topics/Issues

- Employment, recruitment and management of migrant workers

Key Actors

Migrant workers and employers/entrepreneurs

Original Title:

การศึกษาความต้องการแรงงานที่แท้จริง
และการบริหารจัดการแรงงานต่างด้าวในภาคเกษตร ประมง
กิจการต่อเนื่องจากการประมง และการก่อสร้าง

Author:

รศ.ดร.ยงยุทธ แฉล้มวงษ์ และคณะ สถาบันวิจัยเพื่อการพัฒนาประเทศไทย

Publisher:

สำนักบริหารแรงงานต่างด้าว กรมการจัดหางาน

71. Mitigating Exploitative Situations of Migrant Workers in Thailand

Chantavanich, Supang, Anchalee Chantapo, Samarn
Laodumrongchai, Tanyaporn Wongboonchainan, Nattapol
Eksaengsri, Paul Ruengrojpitak and Waranya Jitpong. Bangkok:
Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), Institute of Asian
Studies, Chulalongkorn University. 2007. pp.200.

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This research project aims to 1) examine the existing exploitative situations in fisheries and fish processing, domestic work and manufacturing; 2) explore options in the legal system and in social practices to ensure safer migration for Greater Mekong Subregion migrants working in Thailand; 3) develop hypothetical models to reduce workload, mitigate dangerous tasks, and improve working conditions for migrant workers; the project also seeks to document the best existing practices. The study was conducted in Samutsakhon, Ranong, Mae Sot district (Tak) and Bangkok. Four sectors of employment are discussed, namely: fishing, fish processing, domestic work, and manufacturing work. Seven models to mitigate

the exploitative situation of migrant workers in Thailand are proposed: 1) good practices for fishing boat captains, 2) labour inspection model for migrant workers in the fishery sector, 3) “Outstanding Fishing Pier Award” contest, 4) bilingual community radio for migrant workers, 5) complaint mechanisms for migrant workers toward labour protection authorities, 6) ministerial regulation draft on the protection of domestic workers, and 7) hotline services for migrant domestic workers.

Key Responses

- Private sector participation to ensure implementation of rights
- Follow-up actions, monitoring, and endorsement to ensure implementation of recommendations
- The media and local communities should be included in undertaking all recommendations.

Key Actors

- Government authorities at the national and provincial levels, notably the Ministry of Labour
- Professional associations such as the Fishing Association of Thailand
- NGOs
- Academics
- Communities with high numbers of migrants
- General public

72. Opening Borders: Reportage from Our Mekong

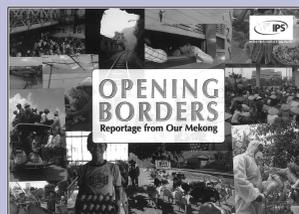
IPS Asia Pacific. Bangkok, 2007. pp.237.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

General Description

This work is the product of the fifth cycle of the “Imaging Our Mekong” fellowship programme. The participants are journalists from the Mekong countries who work on cross-border issues. This volume is divided into four sections dealing with connections between the different countries and regions of the Mekong Subregion, including physical connections relating to transport and infrastructure, business and trade, and movement of people. This volume has a section on avian flu, and presents cross-border implications.



Key Topics/Issues

- Opening borders
- Interactions between peoples of the GMS

Reportage from Our Mekong Series**73. Crossing Borders: Reportage from Our Mekong, 2006**

Includes articles and photo essays looking into the lives of various ethnic communities in the Mekong region. The book is divided into four chapters entitled “The Cultural Fabric,” “The Development Dilemma,” “Beyond Nation-states,” and “Linking Communities.”

74. Bustling Borders: Reportage from Our Mekong, 2005

Describes different cultures and communities from Tibet down to the Mekong Delta, the push and pull factors that drive the movement of people and illegal trading of goods, and the ties that bind ethnic groups across border.

75. Exploring Borders: Reportage from Our Mekong, 2004

Includes many anecdotes and photographs related to border trade, development, migration in the Mekong region.

76. Invisible Borders: Reportage from Our Mekong, 2003

The articles focus on interconnections between the countries of the Mekong basin, for example, examining the effects of dams in China affecting the fisher folk down the river in Thailand, Lao PDR and Vietnam.

77. Refugees from Burma: Their Backgrounds and Refugees Experiences

Ranard, Donald A. and Sandy Barron (eds.) . *Culture Profile No. 21*. Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington DC, June 2007. pp.88
<http://www.cal.org/co/publications/cultures/burmese.html>

Language: English

Country Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This paper gives a profile of the lives of Burmese ethnic groups, both in Burma and as refugees in Thailand, Malaysia and the USA. It is intended for use by refugee service providers in the USA and aims to raise awareness and cultural sensitivity towards the history, culture, languages and beliefs of refugees from Burma. The paper focuses particularly on the Burmans, the Karen and the Chin with a cursory discussion of other ethnic groups. The final section details potential issues that refugees may encounter in their early days in the USA and how service providers can best ease what can be a stressful transition.

Key Responses

- Provide refugee service providers with a list of recommended reading, films and websites to increase understanding of Burma's peoples
- Meet, talk to and make friends with peoples from Burma

78. Relational Places of Ethnic Burman Women Migrants in the Borderland Town of Tachilek, Myanmar

Kusakabe, Kyoko and Zin Mar Oo. Bangkok, Thailand: Gender and Development Studies, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, 2007. pp. 14.

Language: English

Country Covered: Burma/Myanmar

General Description

This paper presents the results of an investigation of the power structures in Tachilek, Myanmar, where many internal women migrants are situated. An examination is conducted on the concept of "relational places" and the impact the locale has on the women's lives and relations with their home communities.

Key Topics/Issues

- Construction of gender and ethnic identity
- Negotiation of social position and resource allocation and control

79. A Research on the Potential Risk of HIV/ AIDS Infection Among the Mobile Population on Border of Yunnan Province

Chen, Jiang. Kunming: Kunming Medicine College, 2007. pp.92.

Language: Chinese

Country Covered: China

This report conducts an analysis of the characteristics of the mobile population in a port of Yunnan province, and looks at factors influencing risk of HIV/AIDS infection. A gender analysis is used to provide evidence for the establishment of effective intervention measures targeting the mobile population. On the basis of research findings, the report draws a number of conclusions.

- 1) Border mobility is seasonal in nature, increasing in the dry season and decreasing in the rainy season.
- 2) Social networking plays a strong role in border mobility.
- 3) Men tend to be more mobile than women, due to the nature of their work, as they engage in occupations such as truck driving, manual labour, cross-border business, etc. Women are less mobile and are subordinate to men in the economic and social status.
- 4) Many people in the mobile population, especially women, have low awareness regarding STD and HIV/AIDS transmission.
- 5) Truck drivers and businessmen are found to be the highest risk groups in HIV/AIDS transmission and dissemination.

Key Responses

- Education and awareness raising on safe sex through radio/TV and dissemination of information materials
- Gender sensitive programming

云南某边境口岸流动人口感染的潜在危险性研究,陈江, 硕士学位论文, 昆明医学院, 2007.

80. Solidarities of Coexistence: People Living in Borderlands and Migrant Workers

Dr. Chalamwong, Yongyuth and Supranee Choeichom. Bangkok: Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), 2007. pp.13.

Language: Thai

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This report discusses migration into Thailand and argues that current policy is inadequate to effectively manage migration. Long and porous borders are difficult to control, and brokers facilitating the passage of irregular migrants add further complexity to border control issues. The report highlights push and pull factors influencing migration, analyses issues generating friction between indigenous groups living along the borders and newly arriving migrants and suggests measures the government can take to improve relations.

Key Actors

Migrant workers, employers, Thai Government and community

Original Title:

การอยู่ร่วมกันอย่างสมานฉันท์กับกลุ่มชนตามแนวชายแดนและแรงงานต่างด้าว

Authors:

รศ.ดร. ยงยุทธ แฉล้มวงษ์
สุปราณี เขยชม

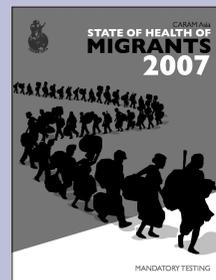
Publisher:

สถาบันวิจัยเพื่อการพัฒนาประเทศไทย

81. State of Health of Migrants-2007

Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM)-Asia. Kuala Lumpur: CARAM Asia Berhad, 2007. pp.241.

http://www.caramasia.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=592&Itemid=343



Language: English

Countries Covered: 16 sending and destination countries in Asia including Thailand and Vietnam

General Description

This report documents a second round of research of mandatory testing for HIV/AIDS in the GMS conducted by CARAM Asia’s “Taskforce on the State of Health of Migrants”. The taskforce used participatory research methods to conduct its research, which allowed it to analyse prospective migrants at their countries of origin, migrants working in destination countries and returnee migrants, including those living with HIV and those who were deported following mandatory testing. On the basis of research findings, CARAM partner organisations concluded that mandatory testing for HIV and other health conditions as a screening tool for the entry of migrant workers into destination countries is discriminatory. It was found that migrants were treated differently from the general population, which was protected from discriminatory testing requirements, and that migrants were not recipient to standard testing practices. Migrants were rarely asked for their consent in being tested or guaranteed confidentiality. CARAM and its partner organisations suggest that mandatory testing and related deportation cease immediately, and that, at the very least, all countries adopt a “Migrant Friendly” Testing Framework to better protect the human rights of migrants living with and being tested for HIV/AIDS.

82. State of Terror: The ongoing rape, murder, torture and forced labour suffered by women living under the Burmese Military Regime in Karen State

The Karen Women’s Organisation (KWO). Thailand: 2007.
pp.120.

<http://www.karenwomen.org/Reports/state%20of%20terror%20report.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This report by The Karen Women’s Organisation (KWO) documents human rights violations taking place across Karen State, Burma. The

report focuses on abuse of women and girls including practices of forced labour and portering. It catalogues the multiplicity of human rights violations to which women are subjected in Karen State, including rape, beating, mutilation, torture, and murder, denial of rights to food, water and shelter, and absence of the right to legal redress. The report maintains that these human rights abuses occur as part of a strategy designed to terrorise and suppress the Karen people, in order to destroy their culture and communities. The book highlights that attacks on civilians in Karen State are increasing, resulting in rising tides of internally displaced people and refugees crossing the border to seek asylum.

Key Topics/Issues

- Human rights violations
- Internally Displaced People (IDPs)
- Attacks on civilians

Key Responses

- Protection of refugees in line with international law
- Gender sensitive policy implementation and assistance to women and girls who are survivors of rape and sexual violence
- Emergency relief and humanitarian assistance for IDPs in ethnic areas in Burma
- Ensure the safety and security of members of groups providing services to women and girls
- Encourage the Thai Government to maintain and enhance recent openness to expand livelihood opportunities for refugees
- Pressure the Burmese military regime to begin a tripartite dialogue

Key Actors

Women and girls in Karen State, Burmese military regime, community based organisations and the international community

83. Thailand Policies towards Migrant Workers from Myanmar

Chantavanich, Supang, Premjai Vangsiriphisal and Samarn Laodumrongchai. Bangkok: Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, 2007.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This paper reviews Thai policies towards migrant workers from Burma, focusing on the impacts of changing policies governing mobility and living and working conditions of migrants, comparing the experiences of documented and undocumented workers. The study also looks into problems associated with migration flows. The paper goes on to analyse factors influencing the formulation of policies and the impacts of these policies over time on destination communities.

Key Responses

- Improve knowledge on labour migration issues in the GMS with a focus on the socio-economic impacts of migration on both sending and receiving countries
- Raise awareness of decision makers about these issues and their significance for poverty reduction
- Strengthen the capacity of governments and development agencies to refine and implement a regional system to regulate labour migration

Key Actors

Thai Government and NGOs

84. Trans-border Migration Policy Implementation and Monitoring: Its Effectiveness and Current Policy Gaps in the Greater Mekong Sub-region Regional Policy Formulation Programme, 15-17 November, 2007, Mekong Institute

Mekong Institute. Khon Kaen, Thailand: Mekong Institute, 2007. pp.74.

http://mekonginstitute.org/mekong/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=85:policy-dialogue&catid=53:research-publication&Itemid=89

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

General Description

This report presents the proceedings of the “Follow up Dialogue on Transborder Migration Policy Implementation and Monitoring: Its Effectiveness and Current Policy Gaps in the GMS,” part of a regional policy formulation programme in the Greater Mekong Subregion, coordinated by the Mekong Institute and supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. This second dialogue provided updates and follow-up on changes and actions taken since the Mekong Institute’s first policy formulation meeting on “Transborder Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion” in 2006. The 2007 dialogue looked at migration policies at the subregional and national level and included a series of in-depth thematic presentations and workshops concerning the various impacts of contemporary migration management on the lives of migrants.

Key Topics/Issues

- Regularising migration
- Links between migration and development
- Migrants’ health
- Migrants and their families: registration, education, rights
- Role of different actors in migration management: government, INGOs, NGOs, civil society
- Lack of implementation and monitoring and evaluation of regulations supporting migrants’ welfare

Key Responses

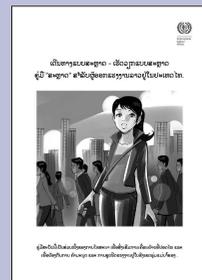
- Regional framework of cooperation on labour migration
- Enhanced policy coordination at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels
- Development of an information management system
- Improvement of interagency communication and information sharing
- Greater attention to the needs of ethnic minorities

85. Travel Smart - Work Smart Guides for Foreign Migrants Seeking Work in Thailand

ILO Mekong Project and Partners Roll Out.

Bangkok: ILO, 2007. pp.24.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/index.htm>



Languages: Burmese/Myanmar, English, Khmer, Laotian and Thai
Countries Covered: Burmese/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description

This guide by the ILO targets migrant workers in Thailand. It gives advice on working and travelling safely in Thailand, avoiding exploitative agents and employers and provides contacts for assistance for those in need of help.

2006

86. Abuse Without End: Burmese Refugee Women and Children at Risk of Trafficking

Young, Wendy and Sandee Pyne. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, 2006. pp.45.
http://www.womenscommission.org/pdf/mm_traff.pdf

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

The study looks into the situation of women and children in Thailand from Burma and particularly those who face situations such as severe exploitation, forced labour and trafficking. It outlines international laws and obligations and looks at the way Thailand and Burma are responding to these issues. The authors review the global discourse on trafficking taking into account the underlying both economic and political reasons that motivate people to migrate. This study offers a holistic, rights-based approach addressing the root causes of migration, and need for assistance for trafficked people who cannot return to their home is well emphasised.

Key Topics/Issues

- Trafficking
- Women
- Children
- Refugees

87. Assessing the Situation of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Samutsakhon Province, Thailand

Chantavanich, Supang, Samarn Laodumrongchai, Sompong Srakaew, Premjai Vungsiriphaisal, Pichate Pansab, Nuttapol Eksaengsri and Paul Ruengrojpitak. Bangkok: Asian Research Center for Migration (ARCM), Institute of Asian studies, Chulalongkorn University, 2006. pp.183.
<http://www.arc.m.ias.chula.ac.th/Downloads/Abstract/B31-AE.pdf>

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This paper presents findings of a study of the worst forms of child labour in two districts of Sumutsakhon Province, Thailand. It is estimated that there are at least 20,000 Thai and foreign child workers in the province. The research collected data from 600 Thai and migrant child workers in the fishing, agricultural and domestic work sectors.

The paper focuses on the use of migrant children in the worst forms of child labour and proposes policies and solutions to protect child rights.

Key Topics/Issues

- Local and migrant child workers in fishing, agricultural and domestic work
- Reasons for children needing to enter the workforce
- Advocacy role for foreign workers in Samutsakhon

Key Response

- More research and data on child workers in Thailand

Key Actors

NGOs, government and academic institutions

88. At What Price, Honour?: Research into Domestic Trafficking of Vietnamese (girl) Children for Sexual Exploitation, from Slums in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Reimer, J. K. Phnom Penh: Chab Dai, 2006. pp.132.
<http://www.humantrafficking.org/publications/398>

Language: English

Country Covered: Cambodia

General Description

This book surveys the trafficking of ethnic Vietnamese minors/girls in Cambodia and identifies the major risk factors that contribute to the likelihood of a child being sold for sexual exploitation. These include crisis/extra-ordinary expenses, debt, the phenomenon of “normalisation,” materialism, family honour, and cultural perceptions of the value/place of women. The research also considers the extent to which the social conditions may bear some responsibility for the “epidemic” in the sale of children for sexual exploitation. Amongst the communities surveyed, the research suggests that nearly half of the families sell a child for sex work and that more families consider this as an option. It appears that under-age girls are more likely to be sold for virginity (then return home), than sold into longer-term prostitution/brothel work.

The research reports a high level of awareness among children and adults about the presence of trafficking and prostitution. Many children expressed that they experienced the danger of being sold or were forced into involvement in the sex trade.

89. Cambodian Women Migrant Workers: Findings from a Migration Mapping Study

Chen Chen Lee. Phnom Penh: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Regional Program on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia, 2006. pp.112.

<http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/pdf/pages%20from%20migration%20mapping%20study.unifem%20-%20short.pdf>

Language: English

Country Covered: Cambodia

General Description

This paper by UNIFEM is intended as a “mapping study” of issues and problems relating to internal and external labour migration of Cambodian workers, with particular focus on women. The paper provides an overview of the existing legal framework and policy

structure governing migration in Cambodia and the work of migration related NGOs in Cambodia. It goes on to examine the patterns, causes, processes and outcomes of regular, irregular and migration of unskilled Cambodian women migrant workers and concludes with a series of recommendations aimed at relevant stakeholders.

Key Topics/Issues

- Gender sensitive rights-based approach to migration

Key Actors

- Governmental ministries: Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MoLVT), Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Provincial Office of Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSAVY) in Prey Veng
- NGOs including: Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM Cambodia), Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC), Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD) and Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Private recruitment agencies
- Commune leaders, community representatives and families of the migrant workers

90. Female Labour Migration in Cambodia

Chen Chen Lee. Phnom Penh: UNESCAP, 2006. pp.20.

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Events/RegSem22-24Nov06/Papers/ChenChenLee.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand

General Description

This research studies the links between labour migration and gender issues in Cambodia. It is divided into sections describing the push and pull factors for female Cambodian migrant workers (both internal and cross-border), highlighting gender based norms and traditions in Cambodia and vulnerabilities of Cambodian women migrant workers and reviewing regional and national level laws and policies regarding labour migration, with special attention to policies impacting on female migrant workers.

Key Topic/Issues

- Gender dimensions of Cambodian migration
- Push and pull factors of female labour migration in Cambodia
- Economic role of women
- Challenges faced by Cambodian female migrant workers

Key Actors

- Female migrant workers
- Cambodian government and governments of destination countries
- NGOs, IGOs, UN agencies
- Local communities

Key Responses

- Cohesive policy response to female migration
- Increase dialogue and inter-sectoral coordination among social partners to implement normative policy responses for female migrants.
- Gender sensitive education and awareness-raising on safe migration and women's role in the economy

91. Female Migration in Thailand: A Study of Migrant Domestic Work

Punpuing, Sureeporn. Regional Seminar on Strengthening the Capacity of National Machineries for Gender Equality to Shape Migration Policies and Protect Migrant Women, Bangkok, 22-24 November, 2006. pp.30.

<http://www.unescap.org/esid/GAD/Events/RegSem22-24Nov06/Papers/SureepornPunpuing.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description

This paper investigates the experience of female migrant domestic workers in Thailand. It reviews the evolution of labour migration into Thailand and changes in migration policies. The main causes of irregular migration into Thailand are examined and are argued to include restrictive immigration policies and the high costs of regular migration, uneven economic development across the GMS and

political conflict. The paper goes on to examine the working and living conditions of domestic workers, remittances, and their decision making role within the family. The author focuses on gendered roles of female migrants in the context of international labour migration and looks at the lack of legal protection afforded to them.

Key Responses

- Recognise domestic work as work.
- Standardise employment contracts for migrant domestic workers.
- Right to travel freely in Thailand for migrant workers

92. Good Practices to Protect Women Migrant Workers: High-Level Government Meeting of Countries of Employment

UNIFEM. Bangkok: UNIFEM, 2006. pp.61.

Language: English

Countries Covered: Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore and Jordan

General Description

This is a general study of the situation of women migrants in some countries in Asia including Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Jordan and Thailand. While its scope is a general one, it provides some insight into the various types of practices that can be undertaken by governments to provide protection for women migrant workers. It also provides some migration-related statistics on these countries.

93. HIV Risk and Vulnerability along the East – West Economic Corridor in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam

Minh Giang, Le, Chau Van Hien, Do Thi Phuong, Thanh Thuy Dinh, Quang Phuong Nguyen and Dinh Hoa Van, Edited by Asia Nguyen. Hanoi: MEDICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE, 2006. pp.197.

Languages: English and Vietnamese

Country Covered: Vietnam

General Description

This book looks at the impact of the development of the East-West Economic Corridor on HIV/AIDS vulnerability in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam. The study selected three primary research sites: 1) Lao Bao Township in Huong Hoa, which is the starting point of the East-West Corridor in Vietnam; 2) Dakrong Commune, which lies at the crossroads of the East-West Corridor; and 3) A Ngo Commune which has a 12km border with Laos and is the only commune of the three survey sites not lying on the East-West Corridor. The authors describe vulnerability to STDs in Lao Bao and the impact of changing patterns of mobility and economic activities of population groups; population mobility in the history and development of Lao Bao, and the current dependency of ethnic minority groups on the cash economy. An overview is also provided of population mobility and socio-economic life in A Ngo and Dakrong communes including discussion of practices of unsafe sex among ethnic minority youth, with particular focus on the impacts of increased mobility on local people's social life and health.

Key Topics/Issues

- Population mobility and STD risks
- Impacts of East-West Corridor
- Ethnic minorities
- Safe sex

Key Response

- Raising awareness of unsafe sex among ethnic young people

94. Human Rights Abuses and Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS: The Experiences of Burmese Women in Thailand

Leiter, Karen, Voravit Suwanvanichkij, Ingrid Tamm, Vincent Iacopino and Chris Beyrer. *Health and Human Rights*, vol.9, No.2, Rights-Based Approaches to Health, Harvard School of Public Health, 2006. pp.24.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4065403>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This article investigates human rights concerns related to migration, living and working conditions, and access to HIV/AIDS services and reproductive health services for Burmese women in Thailand. It also describes the vulnerability to HIV/AIDS for Burmese women, which results from different forms of abuses they experience.

Key Issues/Topics

- Weak implementation of international human rights laws in Thailand
- Lack of health service provision for Burmese women and insufficient efforts to address their risks of contracting HIV/AIDS.
- Need to incorporate human rights concerns into Thai national response to HIV/AIDS to guarantee the epidemic will not worsen in the future

95. Labour Migration in the Mekong Sub-Region: A Synthesis Report

World Bank. 2006. pp.80.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTTHAILAND/>

[Resources/333200-1089943634036/475256-1151398858396/LM_in_GMSs_Nov06.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTTHAILAND/Resources/333200-1089943634036/475256-1151398858396/LM_in_GMSs_Nov06.pdf)

Language: English

Countries Covered: Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

General Description

This is a synthesis report of the first phase of a World Bank project on labour migration in the Mekong region. It is based on five separate papers commissioned by the Bank from the research institutes in Thailand and Cambodia. The project aims to manage migration in the Mekong region so that there is adequate information and data on migration patterns and so new research can support policy.

The report describes labour migration program in GMS, including objectives and expected outputs. Its emphasis lies more on facilitating rather than restricting labour migration. It also provides the main research findings of the programme. The reports also review patterns and characteristics of the migration in GMS – especially in Thailand – roles of migrants in both sending and receiving countries, and impacts of migration on households in sending countries. The report presents the evolution of migration management policies in

the GMS: its limitations and prospects for improvements then future research and development agenda.

Key Topics/Issues

- Current information on migration patterns and characteristics of migration, employment including profiles of migrants
- Roles played by migrants and their remittances in sending economies
- Estimation of remittances
- Policies of the GMS countries relating to the sending and receiving of migrants

Key Responses

- Collect accurate data on migration and remittances
- Facilitate rather than restrict migration
- Enable policies that will make the migration process safe and remunerative

Key Actors/Players

Research agencies, government departments and INGOs

96. The Mekong Challenge - Human Trafficking: Redefining Demand - Destination factors in the Trafficking of Children and Young Women in the Mekong Sub-Region (Abridged)

Pearson, Elaine. *Se: The Mekong Challenge*. Bangkok: International Labour Organisation (ILO), 2006. pp.91.
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/demand.pdf>

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

The report approaches the question of trafficking from the perspective of the demand for labour. It strongly suggests that if workers' rights for migrants and local workers were equally enforced and there was a channel for safe migration, trafficking would not be possible.

The report provides an analysis on the current research on migrant labourers and their condition in Thailand, especially in the sectors of

agriculture, manufacturing, fisheries and domestic work. It outlines the ways in which migrant workers are being exploited – through underpayment, overwork, physical abuse, denial of basic benefits like education, health, family life and so on. It also sets out the conditions in which migrants in Thailand become vulnerable when interacting with the law enforcement agencies and accessing the legal system.

Key Responses

For the Thai Government to:

- Reform the legal and enforcement regimes regarding workers' rights, with specific suggestions relating to applicable Thai law and international conventions;
- Educate and inform employers and recruiters on migrant workers' rights; and
- Provide assistance to civil society organisations working for migrants' rights.

For the ILO and civil society organisations protecting migrant workers to:

- Research and document the extent of trafficking;
- Advocate on corporate social responsibility (CSR) regarding maintaining labour standards; and
- Raise awareness to facilitate the forming of organisations of migrant workers and workers in informal sectors form informal unions and migrant support organisations.

Key Actors/Players

Thai Government, ILO, NGOs, trade unions and migrant networks

97. The Mekong Challenge - The Underpaid, Overworked and Overlooked: The Realities of Young Migrant Workers in Thailand

Pearson, Elaine, Sureeporn Punpuing , Aree Jampaklay, Sirinan Kittisuksathit and Aree Prohmmo. *Se: The Mekong Challenge*. Bangkok: International Labour Organisation (ILO), 2006. pp.176-vol. 1; pp.220-vol. 2.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/underpaid-eng-volume1.pdf>

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/newpublication-showcase.htm> (for Thai)

Language: English and Thai

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This is a report on the conditions of migrant workers in four major industries in Thailand – manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries (fishing and fish processing) and domestic work. The study suggests that workers in fisheries and domestic work are more likely to be underpaid, overworked and be younger than those in the other two sectors. The report found that the demand for migrant workers exists mainly because of the wage differential between local and migrant workers: local Thai labour is not prepared to work for such low wages and in such difficult working conditions that Burmese, Cambodian or Laotian workers put up with. The researchers suggest that removing this differential, with better monitoring, enforcement and education of employers, should help reduce the incidence of trafficking. The first volume is a summary of the research findings and recommendations. The second volume contains a closer examination of the results from the research conducted within each of the four sectors.

Key Topics/Issues

- Working conditions in manufacturing, fisheries, agriculture and domestic work
- Payment violations (under and delayed payments), restricted freedom of movement, employers holding identity documents, physical and verbal abuse, extended working hours and absence of working contracts
- Trends in employment by age, gender, social, cultural and economic factors

Key Responses

- Reform the Thai Labour Protection Act so that it applies to currently unprotected sectors like fisheries (working at sea), domestic work, agriculture and the informal sector
- Educate, inform and provide assistance to employers to follow and enforce current labour law
- Empower migrants and migrant organisations
- Encourage safe and legal migration

Key Actors/Players

Thai Government, employers and recruiters, NGOs and migrant organisations

98. The Mekong Challenge - Working Day and Night: The Plight of Migrant Child Workers in Mae Sot, Thailand
 Federation of Trade Unions - Burma Migrants Section and Philip Robertson, ed. *Se: The Mekong Challenge*. Bangkok: International Labour Organization (ILO), 2006. pp.120.
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/workingdayandnight-english.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Burma/Myanmar and Thailand

General Description

This report provides an extensive analysis and discussion of the situation of child migrant workers in Thailand, largely focusing on the factories of Mae Sot. It provides the domestic and international legal and policy background within which to consider the situation of child migrant workers. This is followed by an extensive overview of the situation of migrant workers in Mae Sot and other parts of Thailand based on FTUB (Federation of Trade Unions – Burma)’s prior investigations and research in the field. The profile of the exploitative conditions faced by the child workers is based on the responses to questionnaires administered to 313 child migrant workers, presenting the data in a tabular format with accompanying explanations. The appendices provide detailed case studies of workers as well as profiles of other industries and statistics.

Key Topics/Issues

- Push and pull factors for migrant workers in Mae Sot
- Exploitative conditions faced by child workers
- Lack of education
- Underpayment and extended working hours
- Abysmal conditions of work and housing
- Bonded labour (seized identity papers)

Key Responses

- Effective enforcement of existing Thai law on labour – preventing child labour, provision of minimum wage and working conditions
- Education and involvement of the employers in Mae Sot in eradicating child labour
- Monitoring by ILO on the implementation of and compliance with the law
- Reform Thai laws to enable migrant workers to form unions and strengthen participation of migrant workers in the labour movement
- Establish a NGO-run hotline to deal with issues affecting migrant workers
- Capacity-building activities for the government and NGO personnel by ILO
- Generating a social dialogue in Mae Sot to enable a transformation of the work culture

Key Actors/Players

Ministry of Labour and other relevant ministries in the Thai government, ILO, trade unions and migrant organisations

99. People Trafficking Baseline Awareness Survey in Three Provinces, Lao PDR: Analytical Report

O'Connor, Lucy. Bangkok: International Labour Organisation (ILO), Mekong Sub-Regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women, 2006. pp.48.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/lao-awareness-survey.pdf>

Language: English

Countries Covered: Lao PDR and Thailand

General Description

This is a report of a survey aimed to establish an awareness concerning trafficking issues and media habits of young people in two areas of Lao PDR. The survey is based on a small sample of around 340 people.

It suggests that Thai television was the most important source of information, news and entertainment in the border regions. Women were more likely to rely on Lao language television for information. Young

people would like to know more about work opportunities in Thailand, as they remain unaware of the legal implications of working there.

Key Topics/Issues

- Labour migration from Lao PDR to Thailand
- Comparison between different areas in Lao PDR of the information available prior to departure
- Baseline information to help evaluate the impact of a media campaign on migration and trafficking issues

Key Responses

- Provide orientation and pre-departure information
- Identify target population
- Study the impact and use of media
- Identify type of information to be provided and manner of doing so
- Promote employment offices

Key Actors/Players

Governments and NGOs

100. PHAMIT, National Conference for International Migrants' Day "Stop AIDS. Migrants' Participation," December 20th, 2006, Bangkok

PHAMIT. Bangkok, 2006.

Language: English

Country Covered: Thailand

General Description

This report details the conference proceedings of the 2006 Conference for International Migrants' Day hosted by PHAMIT (Prevention of HIV/AIDS Among Migrant Workers in Thailand Project). The conference focused on issues related to the spread and prevention of HIV/AIDS among migrant workers in Thailand.

Key Topics/Issues

- AIDS prevention
- Voluntary counselling and testing
- Cross border process for treatment and referral