

## Quarterly Briefing Note

### GMS TRIANGLE Project: Thailand



International  
Labour  
Organization

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<b>Duration:</b>	June 2010 – June 2015
<b>Key Partners:</b>	Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW), Department of Employment (DOE), Labour Congress of Thailand (LCT), Thai Trade Union Congress (TTUC), National Congress Private Industrial of Employee (NCPE), Employers' Confederation of Thailand (ECOT), National Fisheries Association of Thailand (NFAT), MAP Foundation (MAP), Foundation for AIDS Rights (FAR), Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF), Thai Allied Committee with Desegregated Burma foundation (TACDB), and Homenet Thailand
<b>Target Sites:</b>	Bangkok, Samut Prakarn, Samut Sakhorn, Chiang Mai, Tak (Mae Sot) and Rayong
<b>Focal Point:</b>	Mrs Kuanruthai Siripatthanakosol, National Project Coordinator (NPC) for Thailand, <a href="mailto:kuanruthai@ilo.org">kuanruthai@ilo.org</a> , +(66)2-288-1354

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#### Background Information

Following rapid economic growth during the 1990s, inflows of migrant workers from neighbouring countries increased dramatically. It is estimated that migrants now constitute approximately 5 per cent of Thailand's labour force, primarily employed in agriculture, construction, fishing and seafood processing, manufacturing and domestic work.

In 2002 and 2003, the Thai Government signed MOUs with Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar to establish bilateral frameworks for recruitment and employment with the goal of reducing irregular migration. To regularize the large number of undocumented migrants already working in the country, a nationality verification procedure was launched in 2010. However, regardless of their legal status, many migrants continue to be subjected to exploitation and abuse. During the last few years, incidents of human trafficking and forced labour on board Thai fishing vessels, in particular, have drawn concern from the international community.

In June 2014 the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) established a new Committee on Migrant Workers and Trafficking. Also in June there was a series of raids, arrests and deportations, as well as large scale voluntary return of migrant workers. The vast majority of those leaving were Cambodian, although Myanmar and Lao workers were also affected. The NCPO established One Stop Service Centres (OSSCs) in all provinces to conduct registration of workers. This registration is scheduled to end on 31 October 2014. Since the opening of the OSSCs, over one million workers and their dependents have registered.

<b>Population:</b>	66.7 million
<b>Labour Force:</b>	38.6 million

#### Migration to Thailand:

- **Regular migrants entering through MOUs ( August 2014):** 258, 989 (Myanmar 55%, Cambodia 36.5%, Lao PDR 8.5%)
- **Migrants who have completed the National Verification process (August 2014):** 1,153,586 (Myanmar 87%, Cambodia 9.5%, Lao PDR 3.5%)
- **Migrants entered through the MOU and completed Nationality Verification (August 2014):** 1,412,575 (Myanmar 81.2%, Cambodia 14.4%, Lao PDR 4.3%)
- **Undocumented migrants registered during June – September 2014:** 1,056,738 (Myanmar 40%, Cambodia, 44%, Lao PDR 16%)

Source: Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Ministry of Labour, Thailand, 2014

**Main Activities (July – September 2014)**

- From 28 July to 2 August, the third series of labour inspection trainings were organised in Samut Sakhon Province. There were 25 labour inspectors (15 women and 10 men) from 22 coastal provinces in attendance. The training also included unannounced inspection at sea and at small peeling sheds. During 18 – 22 August, the fourth series of labour inspection training was organised in Samut Sakhon. There were 29 trained labour inspectors (14 women and 15 men). This was the last training in the series that commenced in May. 123 labour inspectors were all trained (70 women and 53 men).
- On 8 September, a TWG meeting on Labour Inspection in Thailand was organized to provide feedback to the final revision of the training materials and tools, including the checklist for labour inspectors, and discuss monitoring and evaluation and other activities relating to strengthening the Thai labour inspectorate.
- On 26 August, the Executive Workshop on Strengthening Migrant Access to Complaints Mechanisms in Thailand was organized to discuss the findings of a series of provincial consultations on the subject. The Permanent Secretary of DLPW chaired this event, with the Deputy Permanent Secretary in attendance as well. Social partners and CSOs participated along with representatives from the central and provincial Ministry of Labour, and from the central and local level of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.
- On 29 August, the *Saphan Siang* Youth Ambassadors Capstone Event was held at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok. The Youth Ambassadors shared their experiences, put forward their social outreach proposals, and took part in a workshop on the participatory model of development.
- On 3 September, a ‘Consultation Workshop with Employers on Recruitment and Employment of Migrant Workers under the Framework of the MOUs’ was jointly organised with International Organization for Migration (IOM) to document recommendations from employers for a review of the MOUs. 11 women and 16 men, employers’ representatives from four sectors (agriculture, garment and textiles, seafood processing and fishing) attended, including representation from the Federation of Thai Industries and ECOT. This outcome of this meeting will feed into the ILO MOU Assessment report.
- The ‘Consultation Workshop with Workers and CSO partners on Recruitment and Employment of Migrant Workers under the Framework of the MOU’ was held on 26 September. On 18 September, the preparation meeting for the workshop was organized to draft an agenda and identify case studies to be incorporated in the ILO MOU assessment report. 22 civil society organisations participated as members of the Migrant Working Group.

**Main Activities in the Next Quarter (October – December 2014)**

- A National Tripartite Consultation Workshop on Recruitment and Employment of Migrant Workers under the Framework of the MOUs will be jointly organized with IOM in October.
- A consultation on the revision of Ministerial Regulation No. 10 on Sea Fisheries Work will be jointly organized with the Law Reform Commission of Thailand on 7 October.
- A meeting on Inter-Agency Labour Inspection will be organized on 16 October to discuss labour inspection planning and to identify labour inspection training needs of the inter-ministerial group.
- The side meeting to the bilateral TWG meeting between Myanmar and Thailand to put forward recommendations on how to strengthen the MOU will be organized in November.