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## Welcome from the Director

**Associate Professor Sureporn Punpuing, Ph.D.**  
**Director of the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University**

[prspu@mahidol.ac.th](mailto:prspu@mahidol.ac.th)

Migration studies have been at the forefront of IPSR research since its inception. Through our own research and through collaborations with other institutions, our internationally distinguished faculty have demonstrated excellence in academic and action-oriented research on migration, with the goal of improving the quality of life of marginalized migrant populations in Thailand and throughout Asia. To further strengthen and re-focus these efforts the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) takes great pride in announcing the launch of this new migration resource center. With initial funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Mahidol Migration Center (MMC) will bring our efforts to shed light on the forces affecting migration in the region into focus, and help to disseminate information about migration more effectively.

The center will act as the primary outlet for migration-related information produced by IPSR and its partners. Its purpose is to gather and synthesize the large amount of migration data available; to collaborate with partners and organizations to form internal and international networks for theory and policy

formulation; to act as a platform for advocacy; and to assist in the prioritization of resources to improve both internal and international migrants' physical and mental well-being. The MMC, along with IPSR and Mahidol University hold this core humanitarian value, along with the goal of engaging in interdisciplinary and international collaboration, very dearly. It is in this spirit that the MMC cordially invites all stakeholders and interested parties to attend their monthly meetings and provide their valuable input for future collaboration and research.

### Objectives of the MMC:

1. To encourage the conduct of research and sharing of results and methodologies on migration and related policies;
2. To raise the awareness of policy and decision makers and the public at large about migration issues in the region;
3. To support the development of policies and legislation that will promote the quality of life of migrants in the region in line with internationally accepted standards;
4. To contribute to the development of regional migration and development studies and interventions by sharing research results and information about successful migration programs among all countries in the region;
5. To evaluate interventions in the area of migrant health.

## MMC Field Focus

'Sabai'<sup>1</sup> Discussion with Lao Migrants in Ubon Ratchathani  
March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

By Jason Theede

Migration studies comprise a broad spectrum of topics, and thus a broad range of fieldwork techniques are required to connect with migrant communities, gain insight, collect data and formulate recommendations to address their needs. The MMC Field Focus provides us a chance to exhibit the diverse research being undertaken by our MMC Associates and Faculty at the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR). For the inaugural edition we highlight the most mysterious and inconspicuous of the three migrant populations in Thailand, as we traveled with our IPSR colleagues to the Thai border province of Ubon Ratchathani to observe fieldwork for the survey of Lao Migrants for the Raks Thai Foundation project, *Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Migrant Workers in Thailand* (PHAMIT).

It is widely known that Thailand plays host to large cross-border movements of people, most of them irregular migrant workers seeking supplemental income and higher wages. Lao are no exception. Outside of domestic agricultural activities there are few opportunities for Lao to make money, especially in the months that the rice fields remain fallow. In such context, with a long and porous border between the two countries and the costs and difficulties associated with the migrant registration process<sup>2</sup>, large numbers of Lao migrants continue to follow this trend and become irregular workers<sup>3</sup>.

The IOM suggests there are 124,174 documented Lao migrants in Thailand<sup>4</sup>, and perhaps an additional 80,000 irregular workers, though no reliable statistics are available. One can find Lao nationals working as truck drivers, factory workers, agriculturalists, construction workers, sex workers, domestic workers and in the livestock sector<sup>5</sup>.

Unlike their counterparts from Cambodia and Myanmar, Lao migrants can remain relatively invisible within the host country and possess an uncanny ability to integrate with relative ease within the local population, often being mistaken for 'Isaan' or North-Eastern Thais with whom they share a common ancestry in language and culture. The availability of Thai media, radio and television broadcasting throughout Laos PDR, allows them to mimic the Thai linguistic tone and style unlike their peers. These are but a few of the contributing factors that allow for this integration and make it difficult to access and understand this highly itinerant migrant population. Our interviews in the province of Ubon Ratchathani provided us with two brief case studies of

the ease of Lao nationals entering Thailand and the sabai nature of their life as irregular workers in Thailand.

The vast majority of Lao migrants in Ubon Ratchathani come from the southern Lao province of Champasak, where they cross the border to work primarily in the agriculture sector. During our visit we had the pleasure to discuss with two women from Pakse, the capital city of Champasak, working on a pig farm, and with a group of border porters at the Chong Mek crossing, about their life as migrant workers in Thailand. Although our sample was small, the overarching mood, temperament and information they contributed pointed to one primary theme. That life in Ubon Ratchathani as a migrant worker, at least for Lao nationals, is sabai.

### *Agricultural Farm Workers in the town of Ubon Ratchathani*

Both our informants were women. One had just arrived with her newborn baby to join her husband who worked on the farm, while the other had been working in Thailand for 5-6 years. In the beginning they seemed unsure about our intentions, however as the interview progressed they became more at ease and began to open up and share a little more detail about themselves and their lives, only providing more evidence that migrants from Lao take great care in trying to minimize their risk of detection.

They lived in a plain modest room, which is provided by their employer, with mats and Southeast Asian style head pillows on the floor under two hung bed nets and a ceiling fan. A few football posters hung on the walls and a small shrine was placed not far from the door. Supplemental funds are provided for food on a weekly basis by their employer, but have to pay for water and power that is used. Altogether the farm employed 30-40 Lao nationals.

The women stated without hesitation, '*Baan Thai Sabai Dee Deu*' [my Thai home is very relaxed]. One made a joke that



her life here on the farm is no different than in Laos, except that she is able to make Thai Baht that pays for a lot back home. Money is the primary push factor for migrating, but their enjoyment of the work and high wages provides a strong pull to Thailand, especially when the rice fields are fallow. They enjoy the relaxed nature of the farm and made a point to say that unlike other industries employing irregular migrants, their employer allows them the freedom to leave at will and return again when the time suits them.

Many within the farm are long-term migrants with the goal to send money back to help family, build a house, buy land or start a business. Income is dependent upon their role on the farm. Lower end work will bring in 3600 THB/month, while the more experienced and technical jobs fetch 6000-7000 THB/month.

Lao migrants tend to hear of work opportunities and get assistance through family members, friends, spouses and village networks, who have been working in Thailand. *'People in Laos are curious and ask every time I go home to visit'* says one woman. Both view this job as a positive experience and certainly recommend migrating and working in Thailand to any Lao who are interested.

According to the woman who had been at the farm for nearly 6 years, the migration process is quite simple. They apply for a cheap three-day permit to enter Thailand, at which time they cross the border and generally burn the document. On the return trip, people without their documents will mix with large groups of Lao who have the proper documentation. As passports and other identifications can be processed in bulk for large groups entering and leaving Thailand without being required to exit the vehicle for inspection, undocumented migrants pass unchecked.

They admit to having an advantage over their migrant peers from Cambodia and Myanmar. Although they say their life is *sabai*, their irregular undocumented status still poses risk. *'We cannot show ourselves too much'* the older women states. As a result, they generally stay close to their place of employment or residence and tend to *'mostly socialize with other Lao'*.

On the topic of police and their illegal status, they pronounce that they are not scared of deportation at all, because they can come back across quite easily. Jokingly, our respondents see the deportation as an excuse to visit the family back in Laos. Interestingly, they mentioned that they get along with the majority of Thai nationals, but the only reason why the police come and check at the farm is because of neighborhood jealousy from Thais, who dislike Lao migrants having stable work and easy living in their country.

Both women had never heard of the national verification process. Once I explained it to them and asked if they would want to register and receive a work permit, they flatly stated they did not want to register, as they did not trust the Thai government. They feel registration would restrict their movement, increase their chance of persecution and lead to a lower quality of life in Thailand.



*Group of Chong Mek Border Porters*

The border of Chong Mek is of a very relaxed fluid nature with the hustle and bustle of business' and tourists alike crossing the border. Unlike the northern borders with Myanmar, there is very little military or police presence in the form of check points along the highway or at the border. As you enter the parking area and drive up to the brand new immigration office buildings, you notice groups of men who are border porters, standing around with make-shift pushcarts, talking with each other to pass the time. They are eager to assist travelers and merchants alike, either as rickshaws or with moving merchandise.

All the porters we spoke with came from the province of Champasak and are first and foremost domestic agriculturists with their families, living off the land, and use this to supplement their income while their spouse takes care of the household duties back in Laos.

As the porters can be considered day laborers, the process for crossing the border is to purchase a one-year pass for 400 THB that allows them to come in and out every day. With this document they are then permitted to enter Thailand at will, and pay only 2000 kip/day [~8 baht/day]. According to our group, if Lao nationals wish to migrate and cannot come across the border on their own, there are agents or middlemen who will provide an advance of capital. This loan is paid back within a couple of months, at which time they are free to stay in Thailand. Crossing the border is, *'very easy, sabai'* according to the group.

Morning is the busiest time of day, and during the fallow season, when most are free and looking for supplemental income, there can be nearly 200 porters working at the Chong Mek border. The starting price for one load is 40 baht, with the average daily wage being 200 baht.

Friends are the principal informants for these opportunities on the border. They chose this work because it is easy and provides them with the freedom to pick when to work and what time to return home. One informant describes why he enjoys the work as, *'we are the boss. In rainy season many would not come [to the border], as they have to attend to the rice. Once the rice is ok, we come to make daily income for food and necessities.'*

These narratives are but a glimpse into the life of Lao migrant communities working throughout Ubon Ratchathani province. Their freedom of movement, ease at integration, choice of labor sector and migration pattern clearly sets them apart from their Cambodian and Burmese peers, and points to the need for future in-depth research with Lao migrant communities to help build the knowledge base and assist stakeholders engaged with this sabai community.

Our trip proved to be rather relaxed and light hearted. However, according to one of our female informants who introduced us to the migrants, it would have been very difficult to gain access and speak with our respondents without their help. She explained that they generally would have left the compound upon our arrival or would refuse to speak with anyone whom they don't know. With this in mind I would like to thank the Raks Thai Foundation, Ubon Ratchathani office, for their advice and coordination. Thanks also to the Pattanark Foundation who provided us time for discussion and for taking the team around the border area. Finally a very special thank you must go to Phanthoula Chanthachak, a Lao national, for her assistance in the field and with translation.

<sup>1</sup> Often one the first words memorized by foreigners visiting Thailand and their smaller neighbor Laos, the word 'sabai' is generally translated as "happy", but its use is often closer to "comfortable", "relaxed", or "well." <http://www.thingsasian.com/>

<sup>2</sup> Kritaya Archavanitkul, and Kulapa Vajanasara. 2008. *Employment of migrant workers under the Working of Aliens Act 2008 and the list of occupations allowed to foreigners*. Bangkok: IOM.

<sup>3</sup> International Organization for Migration, IOM in Lao PDR website: <http://www.iom-seasia.org/index.php?module=pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=6&pid=46>

<sup>4</sup> Kritaya Archavanitkul, and Kulapa Vajanasara, 2008. *Employment of migrant workers under the Working of Aliens Act 2008 and the list of occupations allowed to foreigners*, International Organization for Migration (IOM).

<sup>5</sup> Jason Theede and Dares Chusri, 2008. *Migration and HIV/AIDS in Thailand: A Desk Review of Migrant Labor Sectors*, International Organization for Migration, Thailand.

## Indirect Migration Policies: Lessons from the Past

By Aphichat Chamrathirong and Kerry Richter

In the early 1990s, IPSR conducted the National Migration Survey of Thailand (NMS). Funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the survey included complete migration and life histories for a nationally representative sample. It was the first study to give national and regional estimates of circular, seasonal and long-term migration in Thailand. A longitudinal follow-up survey then revisited the households from the Northeast to investigate changes in the two years following the first survey. NMS2 was funded by the Ford Foundation and was conducted in 1994.

It is fascinating to note that the policy analysis drawn from these two surveys contains many issues that are still relevant today. For internal migration in Thailand, migration policies are only "indirect." Rural development and other forms of economic stimulus may influence individual decision-making, but in the end individuals and households make migration decisions based on their own perceptions of the costs and benefits. This fact remains, even with the vast changes in local development that have resulted from decentralization and new government stimulus programs in the past fifteen years.

### From the National Migration Survey, 1995<sup>1</sup>:

- Development, which centers on people, suggests the promotion of rural sustainability. It also implies a fair share of national resources and the generation of awareness among rural people so they can live with dignity. People in rural communities should be provided with equal access to knowledge and information necessary for the improvement of their living standard. Fair distribution of educational opportunities, self-governance authority and equitable share of government budgets for rural people, and respect for local wisdom are important factors for sustainable development. Rural development and pro-poor policies are therefore development policy, and not direct "migration policy".
- Findings from the national survey strongly suggest that the government's news and information services especially for rural-to-urban migrants should be improved. A public information center for potential migrants should be set up. More serious attention should be paid to prevent rural migrants from being lured, oppressed or taken advantage of.
- Migration should be supported as one of the mechanisms through which people can take advantage of better opportunities in life. Seasonal migration is an excellent

example. Apart from their current effort to create job opportunities in rural villages during the dry season (which is limited in terms of the number of jobs created and the areas covered), the government should try to gather nationwide information on job opportunities for seasonal migrants.

- Since the migration rates of male and female migrants are almost equal, various problems concerning the female labor force should be seriously addressed. Priority areas of concern regarding the female force are equal wages and welfare, the right to take maternity leave, and protection from being lured into the sex industry or other forms of exploitation.
- The majority of migrants are young people, so the government should allocate more money for the provision of facilities such as informal education and vocational training for these migrants. The increased human resources of young migrants will eventually rebound to the benefit of the country.
- Local networks based on successful migration should be also promoted in addition to formal information services for job opportunities. The findings from the national survey are consistent with previous migration studies, which showed the importance of migration information through local networks.
- Migrants' incomes should be spent in a way that would strengthen the family institution, rural communities, and benefit the migrants themselves. Money should be directed towards human resource investments rather than just spent for consumption goods. Such income could also encourage rural people to retain possession of their land.

**From the Northeast Regional Follow-up Survey (NMS2<sup>2</sup>):**

- One of the major findings from the study was that many of those who migrated would prefer to stay home if they could make sufficient income. For this reason **development efforts should be directed towards allowing rural residents to make a sustainable livelihood in their home communities.** Programs could include expanded agricultural extension activities; expansion of crop varieties that would provide year-round income; social marketing to aid farmers in gaining income from new crops; and expansion of irrigation facilities.
- For other migrants, we have seen that there are certain attractions that migration provides, particularly to urban areas that could nonetheless be re-directed. Young people often stated that they were motivated by the desire to gain

experience in different kinds of occupations and to have new social experiences, even while they ultimately wanted to return home. For this group, **policies must be implemented to improve the quality of life and job opportunities in rural areas.** Rural development schemes would include further investment in the infrastructure in rural areas; improved educational facilities; and expanded employment opportunities. Industrialization thus may spread into the countryside, but with sustainable development as a goal. This would include incentives for private industry to build small factories that do not overload the infrastructure of rural communities or create an undesirable environment.

- We have seen that migration is a selective process, and that the outflow of the young and more educated has drained the resources of the rural areas. For this reason, **human resource development** should include training for rural people in vocations suitable to the modern job market. Return migrants should particularly be targeted for these programs.
- For the same reasons, **social programs are needed for families left behind,** especially in regard to children and the elderly. This includes the need for supportive care as well as provision of basic needs.



- Because migration is a long-term pattern in the rural Northeast, it is unlikely that migration flows can be completely stemmed. Thus it is important to **re-direct migration flows to make the migration process more systematic and efficient.** This would include working with migrants' already strong social networks and information flows. The government and NGO's should take a more active role in providing this information to migrants, including that regarding more local opportunities. Regional centers responsible for aiding migrants should be established that would match skill of workers with needs of employers

- Besides efforts to stem migration flows and make the process more efficient, efforts should be made to re-direct migration away from over-crowded destination communities, namely Bangkok. This would include policies to **decentralize employment opportunities**, including incentives for employers to locate outside of the Bangkok metropolitan area, and continued movement of higher education facilities including universities and vocational/technical training.



government has adopted a flexible approach, relaxing its policy and allowing undocumented migrants to work on a temporary basis. As the issue became more convoluted the government started to issue cabinet resolutions and establish a framework for the legal registration of this workforce on a yearly basis.<sup>2</sup> As a result migrant workers from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia were able to register and apply for work permits to undertake only menial and labour-intensive jobs. This ‘temporary permission’ has been extended on a year-to-year basis through cabinet resolutions, in recognition that migrants fill important gaps in the labour force and strengthen the Thai economy. Up until 2009, there have been 14 cabinet resolutions involving both reactive and proactive policy approaches, illustrated in the following table.

In trying to deal with the influx of people, there has been a clear evolution in the Royal Thai Government’s approach to migration policy. Between 1996 and 2003, the government took a **reactive policy** approach and carried out seven phases of registration. The Cabinet Resolution of June 1996 stated that irregular migrants from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia were permitted to work for no more than two years in 43 provinces within eight industries: agriculture, construction, sea fishing, land freight, sea freight, mining, production and domestic services. Additional resolutions followed in 1998 and 1999 expanding the type of work migrants can engage in, as well as placing restrictions on the number of workers able to register. With the new millennium, it became clear that responding to the problems of migrant workers was a continuous and difficult undertaking. The change of government in 2001 led to a change in the rules for registering foreign workers, as migrant workers were finally permitted to register in any province, in any industry. This was also the first time that migrants who did not have a permanent employer were allowed to register themselves. As a result the number of registered migrants ballooned to 568,249 individuals.

With the cabinet resolution of April 2004 the government began implementing **proactive policies**, which completely changed the registration system for migrant workers. The main features of the decree were as follows:

- **Both employees and employers registered.** Workers who were accompanied by their employers were entered in their employers’ household registration forms. Workers who were not accompanied by their employers, or who were casual laborers, could register themselves. Conversely, employers who had not yet hired migrant workers, or who had not employed sufficient numbers to qualify as a registered employer, could state how many workers they needed. They could also, if they chose to do so, specify which one of the three countries they would prefer.

<sup>1</sup> Aphichat Chamratrithirong, , Krittaya Archavanitkul, Kerry Richter, Philip Guest, Varachai Thongthai, Wathinee Boonchalaksi, Nittaya Piriathamwong and Panee Vong-Ek 1995. *National Migration Survey of Thailand*. IPSR Publication No.188.

<sup>2</sup> Kerry Richter, Philip Guest, Wathinee Boonchalaksi, Nittaya Piriathamwong, and Nimfa B. Ogena. 1997. *Migration and the Rural Family: Sources of Support and Strain in a Mobile Society*. IPSR Publication No.190

## Thai State Policy to Manage Irregular Migration from Neighboring Countries<sup>1</sup>

By Kritaya Archavanitkul

Prior to 1988, the Thai state did not experience a massive influx of irregular migrants from neighboring countries. But since that time, the large number of migrant workers has necessitated numerous changes in Thai state policy. These policies in relation to migrant communities have been a point of discord over the years between the Royal Thai Government (RTG) and those working to improve migrant rights and their overall standard of life. Two contributing factors forced the government to acknowledge the existence of irregular migrant workers. First, was the 1988 political unrest in Myanmar, which over the decades has driven hundreds of thousands of Burmese into Thailand. Second, the booming Thai economy has required a large number of unskilled laborers, resulting in the private sector’s demand for the government to regularize this essential illegal workforce.

Principally speaking, the Thai state has never had a direct policy to manage irregular migration, only a policy of trying to control the people who enter the Thai border illegally. Under the *Working of Aliens Act* 1978 unskilled foreign migrants were not allowed to work in Thailand. Since 1996 however the

**Table 1: Number of registered migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR allowed by cabinet resolutions (CR) from 1996 to 2009.<sup>3</sup>**

Year of each CR	Number of permitted sector	Number of permitted provinces	Duration	Number of registered migrants	Country of Origin		
					Myanmar	Cambodia	Lao PDR
(1) CR 1996	36	43	2 yr	293,654	256,492 (88%)	25,568 (7%)	11,594 (5%)
(2) CR 1998	47	54	1 yr	90,911	79,057 (87%)	10,593 (12%)	1,261 (1%)
(3) CR 1999	18	37	1 yr	99,974	89,318 (89%)	9,492 (10%)	1,164 (1%)
(4) CR 2000	18	37	1 yr	99,656	90,724 (91%)	7,921 (8%)	1,011 (1%)
(5) CR 2001	11	76	6 month	568,249	451,335 (79%)	57,556 (10%)	59,358 (11%)
(6) CR 2002	11	76	1 yr	430,074	349,264 (81%)	38,614 (9%)	42,196 (10%)
(7) CR 2003	6	76	1 yr	288,780	247,791 (86%)	19,675 (7%)	21,314 (7%)
(8) CR 2004	2 types	76	1 yr	844,387	629,260 (75%)	110,018 (13%)	105,109 (12%)
(9) CR 2001/1	2 types	76	1 yr	705,293	539,416 (76%)	75,804 (11%)	90,073 (13%)
(10) CR 2005/2	2 types	76	1 yr	208,562	163,499 (79%)	23,410 (11%)	21,653 (10%)
(11) CR 2006	2 types	76	1 yr	460,014	405,379 (88%)	24,952 (5%)	29,683 (7%)
(12) CR 2007	2 types	76	1 yr	535,732	489,282 (91%)	21,659 (4%)	24,791 (5%)
(13) CR 2008	2 types	76	1 yr	501,570	476,676 (95%)	12,094 (2.4%)	12,800 (2.6%)
(14) CR 2009	2 types	76	1 yr	1,310,690	1,076,110 (83%)	110,406 (9%)	124,174 (10%)

- **Dependents were also registered.** The registration process was divided into three stages as the table below describes.

The conceptual basis for this system was to try and record the actual number of migrant workers present in the country, rather than only those employed, as well as to continually update the registry with timely reports of births, deaths and relocations.

- **Setting up a procedure for formalizing irregular migration flows between countries.** The nationality verification (NV) procedure for migrants from each origin country was formalized according to a bilateral agreement or memorandum of understanding between the

Thai Government and the governments of Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Myanmar. The NV procedure for Laos and Cambodian began in 2005. Up to November 2009, approximately 80,000 undocumented migrants that had been converted to documented migrants holding travel documents from their country of origin. Lao migrants receive a temporary passport issued by the Laos Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while Cambodians receive a certificate of identification issued by the Cambodian Ministry of Labor. Unlike Laos and Cambodia, the NV procedure for migrants from Myanmar, operating since 2009, has been extremely complicated and slow. By the end of 2009, only a few hundred Myanmar migrants passed all the necessary steps of NV set up by

Myanmar Government.

**Current Context:**

Most recently on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010, the Thai Cabinet issued a resolution linking the extension of migrant work permits to Nationality Verification (NV). Over 1.3 million migrants who received permits during 2009, and are willing to submit biographical information to their home governments prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010, will receive permission to remain and work in Thailand until the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012, thus allowing the NV to be completed. However, migrants who do not enter NV, and all irregular migrants<sup>4</sup> estimated to be in the range of 1 million

individuals<sup>4</sup> shall be deported after the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2010.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 2: Stages of the registration process for migrants specified in the cabinet resolution of 2004.**

Stages of Registration	
<b>First</b>	Migrant workers and dependents over 1 year old had to register and receive a 13-digit ID number before applying for a work permit at no fee. All those who registered and had their picture and fingerprints taken were permitted to stay in the country for one year.
<b>Second</b>	People who wished to work were required to submit to a health check, costing 600 baht and to pay for a health insurance card costing 300 baht.
<b>Third</b>	Migrants applied for a work permit. The registration fee was 100 baht, and the price of the permit was 1,800 baht.
<b>Total cost - 3,800 baht</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Excepted from, Kritaya Archavanitkul, and Kulapa Vajanasara, 2008. *Employment of migrant workers under the Working of Aliens Act 2008 and the list of occupations allowed to foreigners*, International Organization for Migration (IOM). [Available in Thai at <http://research.mol.go.th/rsdat/prg/eachview.php?okey=JHWMni1&prg=viewpop.php&Page=1>]

<sup>2</sup> In fact, this type of cabinet resolution was first made in March 1988 during the Anan Panyarajun's administration, only to allow the hiring of displaced persons from Burma or Burmese illegal immigrants with temporary residency in Thailand in nine border provinces. But subsequent cabinet decisions since 1996 allowed migrant workers from Burma, Cambodia and Laos, while the provinces on the list changed from one decision to the next.

<sup>3</sup> Modified from Table 5 in Kritaya Archavanitkul and Kulapa Vajanasara, 2008. *Employment of migrant workers under the Working of Aliens Act 2008 and the list of occupations allowed to foreigners*, International Organization for Migration (IOM).

<sup>4</sup> Open Letter of Concern for the Safety and Security Of Migrant Workers in Thailand to the Prime Minister, Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, dated 18 January 2010, signed by a list of individuals and NGOs working with migrant workers led by the Migrant Justice Programme of The Human Rights and Development Foundation.

## Current Research

### **Baseline Survey 2010 of The HIV/AIDS Prevention Program Among Migrant Workers in The Border Provinces in Thailand**

**Researchers:** Aphichat Chamrathirong , Wathinee Boonchalaksi , Chalernpol Chamchan , Charamporn Holomyong ,  
Kanya Apipornchaisakul, Patama Yampeka

Duration : January 2010 - August 2010

### **The Impact of Internal Migration on “Children Left-Behind” in Thailand**

**Researchers:** Aree Jampaklay, Kanchana Tangchonlatip, Kerry Richter, Patama Vapattanawong, Nipat Ponphai

Duration : April 2010 - July 2011

## Latest Associated Publications

Rosalia Sciortino and Sureeporn Punpuing, 2009 International Migration in Thailand. International Organization for Migration (IOM) .



## Links

- Institute for Population and Social Research Mahidol University <http://www.ipsr.mahidol.ac.th>
- Mahidol University <http://www.mahidol.ac.th>
- Rockefeller Foundation <http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org>

For any MMC related information please contact:

Jason Theede  
MMC Coordinator

Tel: (66) 2-441-0201 Ext:272

Jtheede@gmail.com

Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University  
Salaya, Phutthamonthon, Nakhon Pathom 73170, Thailand  
Tel. +662-441-0201-4 Fax. +662-441-9333



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