



**Message from the MMC Director:
The Success and Challenges of the HIV
Prevention Program for Foreign Migrant
Workers in Thailand**

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It is with pleasure that the Mahidol Migration Center (MMC) brings you the 5th volume of our Newsletter. As ever, this MMC Newsletter is released in conjunction with the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) Annual Conference, which is in its 10th consecutive year.

The MMC Newsletter was launched in 2010 to bring together various findings and viewpoints from researchers, policy makers, and civil society on specific themes related to migration. In this volume, we are pleased to present findings on the work being carried out under the Raks Thai Foundation and on the success of the Program on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Migrant Workers in Thailand 2010-2014 (PHAMIT-2)

This year, MMC is pleased to release the affirmative results of the Evaluation of the Program on the Prevention

of HIV/AIDS among Migrant Workers in Thailand 2010-2014 (PHAMIT-2), conducted by the Institute for Population and Social Research of Mahidol University. The Project is a continuation of the original PHAMIT Project of 2004-2008 with support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM). The Raks Thai Foundation (RTF) is the principal implementing agency for the Project in collaboration with eight other agencies including the Foundation for AIDS Rights (FAR), World Vision Foundation Thailand, the Stella Maris Seafarers Center, the MAP Foundation, the Pattanarak Foundation, the AIDS Network Development Foundation, the Social Development Association, and the Bureau of Health Administration (Ministry of Public Health). The primary target of the Project is to reduce the number of HIV infections through expanded coverage of prevention activities in the target provinces. The intended beneficiaries include those with risk behavior and, in PHAMIT-2, consist of international migrant laborers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos who are working in Thailand.

The RTF has commissioned IPSR as an independent agency to conduct the evaluation of the PHAMIT-2 Project during 2010-2014. The evaluation process included a Baseline Survey in 2010, Mid-term studies in early 2012 and an Impact Survey in 2013. The final evaluation result of the Project is now released in May 2014.

MMC is privileged to announce the positive results of the evaluation. During the course of the four years of program implementation, the PHAMIT-2 Project helped to significantly raise the level of HIV/AIDS knowledge, access to condom services, and practice of HIV prevention among migrant workers and their regular and casual partners. The evaluation also highlighted the observable and important role of the "Migrant Health Volunteers" (MHV) in the success of the program. Unlike

Migrant Health Personnel (MHP), whose work involved only office routines, MHVs exercised their activities in the field. Through meeting face-to-face with migrants and their families, and becoming their trusted friends and assistants, the MHVs are revealed to be the key to the success of the program.



Challenging issues ahead include developing policy dialogues to expand the appropriate health system designed to address migrants' needs on HIV prevention to other central and local government agencies. The social and cultural aspects of the programs are also of vital concern for the favorable, constructive and long-lasting integration of migrants into Thai society.

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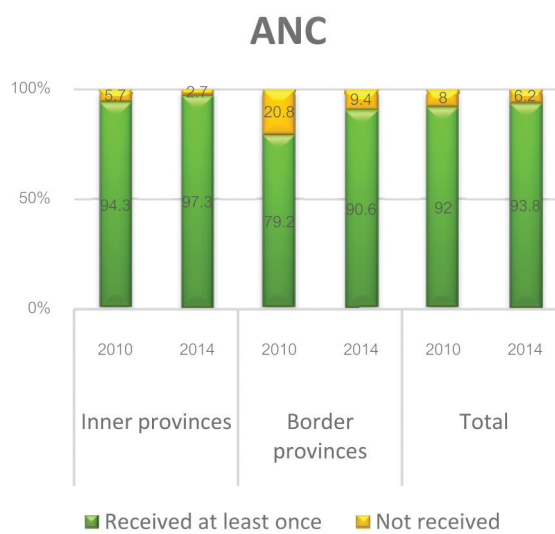


Access to Maternal Health Services by Migrants: How Have Things Changed?

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In August 2013, a big step for migrant health policy was taken by the Ministry of Public Health with the introduction of the new insurance scheme that allows all migrants of all ages and all statuses to enroll. Along with this, an initiative called “Health cards for mother and child” was also implemented. The key objective is to enhance universal access to free-of-charge maternal and child health (MCH) services by all mothers and children aged less than seven years. Not only Thai nationals but non-Thais are explicitly emphasized to be included. Whether the initiative would effectively enhance access to MCH services by migrants is still too soon to determine at this stage, and monitoring and evaluation is needed to track its effectiveness.

In preparation for that, let’s review briefly how things have changed in term of maternal healthcare access among migrant mothers in recent years. Examining data from the PHAMIT-2 Baseline Survey (in 2010) and Endline Survey (in 2014) some improved and some worsened situations are reflected. The survey was conducted in 11 provinces¹ and only female migrants who gave birth in Thailand in the past five years (at the time of the survey)² are selected for this analysis,



Overall, regarding access to antenatal care (ANC), more than 90% of migrant mothers reported receiving ANC at

least once during their pregnancy in both surveys. The percentage in 2014 is slightly higher than that in 2010 which is a good sign of the better access. Similarly, when asked about child-delivery method, quite a high percentage at more than 90% - with an increasing trend between year 2010 (92.2%) and 2014 (96.1%) - reported having their child delivered at a health facility. The majority of these were public hospitals (more than 80%). About 7.8% of migrant children were delivered in a non-institutional setting (particularly, delivery at home) in 2010. This number, pleasingly, decreases to only 3.9% in the 2014 Survey.

mothers reported visiting a health facility for a check-up and PNC after their child's delivery, and this proportion has dropped to only 63.5% in the 2014 Survey. This implies that more than one-third of migrant mothers did not receive PNC at all.

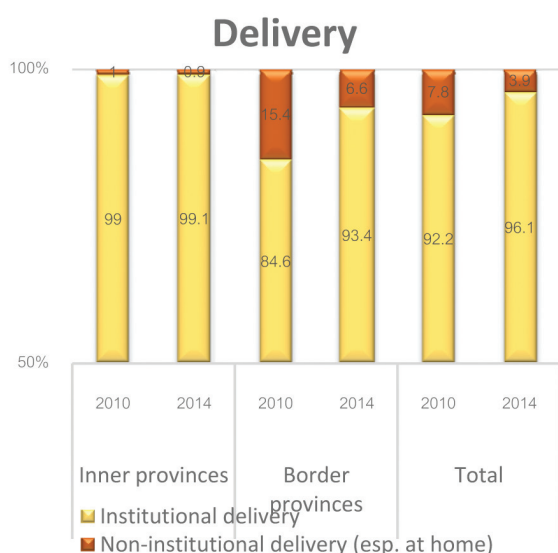
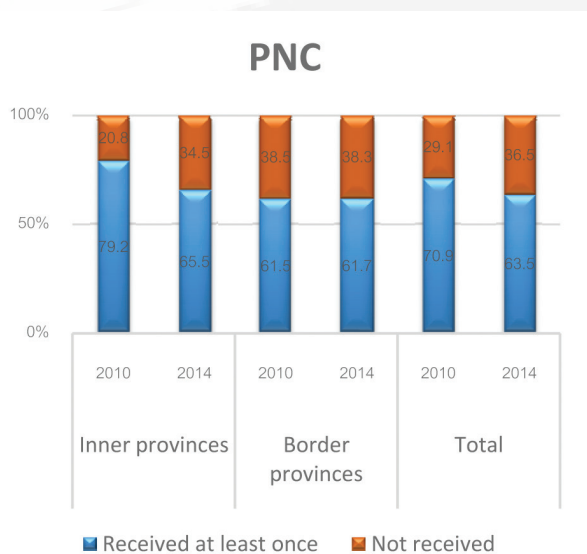
When viewed by type of province, trends in situational changes in the inner and border provinces over the 2010 and 2014 period are not different from the overall picture. Positive trends in access to ANC and uses of institutional child-delivery services, but a low rate with a worsening trend in PNC visits by migrant mothers are evidenced in each province type. Nevertheless, in comparison, maternal health care access among migrants in the border areas appeared to be worse than those in the inner provinces. From the 2014 Survey, the percentage of migrant mothers in the border provinces who reported not receiving ANC, giving birth to their children at home, and not receiving PNC are as high as 9.4%, 6.6% and 38.3%, respectively. These are higher than the numbers reported by the mothers in the inner provinces which are 2.7%, 0.9% and 34.5%, respectively.

Though figures from the surveys are not presented here, in general, geographical barriers (distance to the health facility), illegal status and financial costs are the common reasons and key constraints given by migrants for not accessing maternal services. Problems with registration status and financial constraints (e.g., having money for care fees and cost of transportation) seems to be more influential in border provinces than inner provinces.

*** The author would like to thank Prof. Dr. Apichat Chamratrithirong, Director of the Mahidol Migration Center (MMC), and his research team at the Institute for Population and Social Research for the kind permission to use the dataset from the PHAMIT-2 Surveys in this article.

¹ The surveys were conducted with support from the Raks Thai Foundation. The 11 provinces are categorized into 2 groups - border provinces (Tak, Ranong, Ubonrachathani, Nongkhai, and Trad) and inner provinces (Bangkok, Samutsakorn, Samutprakarn, Rayong, Khonkaen and Suratthani) – to reflect the situation in different contexts or areas. Numbers presented for the Endline Survey in 2014 are preliminary.

² Selected sample size is 361 and 482 for the year 2010 and 2014, respectively.



Despite these positive changes for ANC and child delivery, an area of concern is the access and use rate of post-natal care (PNC) by migrant mothers; this was found to be comparatively low and has worsened during the past 5 years. In the 2010 Survey, only 70.9% of the

Undocumented, Unskilled Women Migrant Workers: The ASEAN Way

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Background

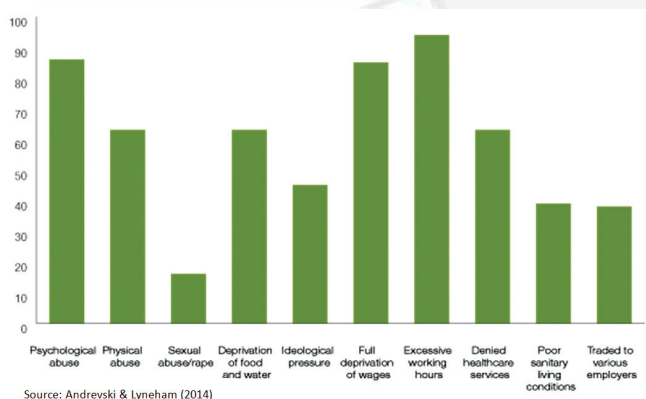
The major flows of migration in Southeast Asia are concentrated in two areas: between Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, and along the Thailand-Myanmar border. Quite surprisingly, the number of women migrant workers with minimum education and work skills are increasing in these cross-border labor flows. This is mainly the result of economic factors pushing women to work outside their home countries-taking advantage of the economic benefits such as wage differentials between sending and receiving countries.

In this backdrop, this article discusses the major features and problems related to women migrant workers-most of whom are viewed as 'least manageable' due to their legal status according to the receiving countries' standpoint-and how ASEAN frameworks can protect them.

Upholding Basic Human Rights

An estimated 30-40% of total migration flows in Southeast Asia take place via unregulated recruitment channels (Samydorai, 2012). Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are the major destinations for such migrants. Approximately two million undocumented migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are now believed to be in Thailand.

Figure 1 Percentage of victims who experienced abuse, by type of abuse



In Malaysia, the rise of undocumented women workers has been quite phenomenal over time; currently about 100,000 irregular migrants are classified as 'domestic servants'. These women have no protection against termination of contract, exploitive work hours, or layoff, and no welfare benefits such as maternity leave or retirement benefits. In Singapore, low-skilled foreign-born workers are required to hold work permits to acquire benefits such as medical checkups. Further, repatriation is done without exemption if a worker is found to be pregnant (Yeoh & Lin, 2012). Women migrant workers not only face restrictions under the required legal status but are also vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. As seen in Figure 1, a survey conducted by IOM (2011) revealed

the extent that women domestic workers from Indonesia have faced abuse and exploitation (Andrevski & Lyneham 2014). The situation is more complicated for migrant workers who emigrated from Myanmar to Thailand due to political unrest and economic deprivation, although the Thai government carefully takes into account the differences between political asylum seekers and economic migrants on the basis of human rights.



Challenges of the ASEAN Declaration

The ASEAN declaration on the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers has been proposed for action since January 2007. The declaration stipulates that ASEAN countries should: a) adopt appropriate and comprehensive migration policies on migrant workers (Para 8); b) address cases of abuse and violence against migrant workers whenever such cases occur (Para 9); and c) mandate and create an ASEAN Framework instrument on the protection of the rights of migrant workers.

It is still a long journey for women migrant workers to be lawfully protected, unless the ASEAN countries work towards a coherent policy. This includes prioritizing strong action against illegal recruitment and more professional training for women to help them ready for working overseas.

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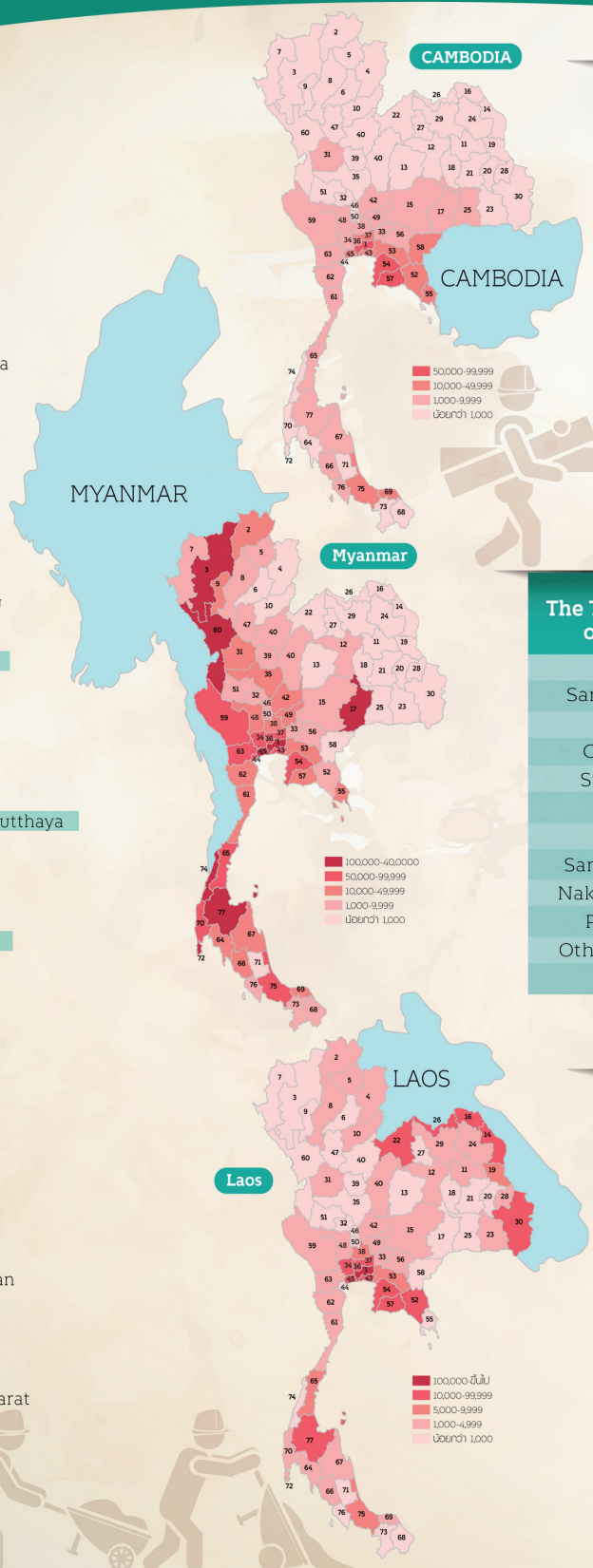
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Interesting Figure

The Ten Most Populated Provinces of Migrants in Thailand from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR, 2013

Kritaya Archavanitkul

- 1 Bangkok
- 2 Chiang Rai
- 3 Chiang Mai
- 4 Nan
- 5 Phayao
- 6 Phrae
- 7 Mae Hong Son
- 8 Lampang
- 9 Lamphun
- 10 Uttaradit
- 11 Kalasin
- 12 Khon Kaen
- 13 Chaiyaphum
- 14 Nakhon Phanom
- 15 Nakhon Ratchasima
- 16 Bueng Kan
- 17 Buri Ram
- 18 Maha Sarakham
- 19 Mukdahan
- 20 Yasothon
- 21 Roi Et
- 22 Loei
- 23 Si Sa Ket
- 24 Sakon Nakhon
- 25 Surin
- 26 Nong Khai
- 27 Nong Bua Lam Phu
- 28 Amnat Charoen
- 29 Udon Thani
- 30 Ubon Ratchathani
- 31 Kamphaeng Phet
- 32 Chai Nat
- 33 Nakhon Nayok
- 34 Nakhon Pathom
- 35 Nakhon Sawan
- 36 Nonthaburi
- 37 Pathum Thani
- 38 Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya
- 39 Phichit
- 40 Phitsanulok
- 40 Phetchabun
- 42 Lop Buri
- 43 Samut Prakan
- 44 Samut Songkhram
- 45 Samut Sakhon
- 46 Sing Buri
- 47 Sukhothai
- 48 Suphan Buri
- 49 Saraburi
- 50 Ang Thong
- 51 Uthai Thani
- 52 Chanthaburi
- 53 Chachoengsao
- 54 Chon Buri
- 55 Trat
- 56 Prachin Buri
- 57 Rayong
- 58 Sa Kaeo
- 59 Kanchanaburi
- 60 Tak
- 61 Prachuap Khiri Khan
- 62 Phetchaburi
- 63 Ratchaburi
- 64 Krabi
- 65 Chumphon
- 66 Trang
- 67 Nakhon Si Thammarat
- 68 Narathiwat
- 69 Pattani
- 70 Phangnga
- 71 Phatthalung
- 72 Phuket
- 73 Yala
- 74 Ranong
- 75 Songkhla
- 76 Satun
- 77 Surat Thani



The Ten Most Populated Provinces of Migrants from Cambodia

Bangkok	98,299
Cholburi	93,003
Rayong	75,713
Samut Prakarn	46,992
Trat	43,450
Pathum Thani	38,241
Nonthaburi	29,015
Chachoengsao	21,061
Sa Kaeo	20,119
Chanthaburi	17,864
Other Provinces	117,107
Total	600,864

The Ten Most Populated Provinces of Migrants from Myanmar

Bangkok	386,322
Samut Sakhon	313,398
Tak	235,820
Chiang Mai	153,494
Surat Thani	127,391
Ranong	116,883
Phuket	116,551
Samut Prakan	98,868
Nakhon Pathom	78,604
Phang-nga	75,361
Other Provinces	843,718
Total	2,546,410

The Ten Most Populated Provinces of Migrants from Lao PDR

Bangkok	126,694
Cholburi	24,908
Samut Sakhon	19,996
Nonthaburi	19,616
Pathum Thani	19,332
Surat Thani	15,157
Samut Prakan	14,464
Chanthaburi	11,601
Nakhon Pathom	10,822
Ubon Ratchatani	10,553
Other Provinces	135,972
Total	409,115

Source: Kritaya Archavanitkul. (forthcoming). Facts and Figures of Migrant Workers, and People having Legal Status Problem. Nakhon Pathom: Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University. (calculated from unpublished data of number of Migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR, the Bureau of Registration Administration, Ministry of Interior as of 14 May 2013).

Passport Forgery, Human Trafficking and the Transnational Crime Nexus

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Thailand has served as a major center for migration flows involving millions of regular and irregular migrants from Indochina and other regions. Moreover, Thailand is a major international gateway in Asia, serving more than 20 million foreign tourists per annum. The country also attracts a large number of businesspeople and foreign expats working for the multinational firms that invest heavily in the central region and the Eastern Seaboard. Many nationalities are therefore exempted from visa requirements for short-stay visits or may apply for “visa on arrival” at major gateways. The surge in the number of foreign visitors and migrants and the ease of traveling in and out of the country has made Thailand an ideal place for foreign crime syndicates operating illegal activities, ranging from human trafficking to money laundering to the narcotics trade and others.



A gang of foreign passport forgers led by an Iraqi were arrested in Pattaya on 22 September 2012

Source: Pattaya Daily News, 23 September 2012

Human trafficking is a major problem in Thailand. The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report in 2013 by the US Department of State put Thailand in the Tier 2 Watch List, as the country is a source, destination and transit point for victims of forced labor and sex trafficking. Victims were brought into Thailand from neighboring countries and China, Vietnam, Russia, Uzbekistan, and others. Forced labor in Thailand still exists in commercial fishing, garment production, food processing industries and domestic work. The report noted that traffickers who brought victims into Thailand are mostly individuals or unorganized groups whereas those exploiting victims abroad are more organized. Brokers are both Thai and foreign nationals whose networks are linked with officials and employers.

Human trafficking is one of many criminal activities involving transnational crime syndicates operating in Thailand. It is also linked with other criminal activities,

particularly the forgery of travel documents. The tragic news of the disappearance of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370 on 8 March 2014 unintentionally exposed transnational crime networks of passport forgery in Thailand. The Malaysian authorities revealed that two passengers on the MH370 flight were traveling on stolen passports of Italian and Austrian tourists during their visit to Thailand. Thai officials later found out that their ticket purchases were done through a travel agent in Pattaya, Thailand.

In fact, the forgery of travel documents is no surprise to Thailand. The country has often cracked down on foreign criminal gangs producing faked passports or modifying stolen documents for clients both in Thailand and overseas. In June 2012, Thai authorities rounded up a foreign syndicate issuing 3,000 falsified passports and visas over five years, two of them to Iranian terrorists carrying out bomb attacks in Bangkok aimed at Israeli citizens in February 2012. Previously, a foreigner was arrested at Bangkok airport upon arrival in 2009 as he brought in 103 stolen passports from Europe and elsewhere to be modified in Bangkok. Subsequently, Thai officials broke into an apartment rented to a foreign criminal and found more than 1,000 stolen passports to be falsified and sold to foreign criminals involving arms trafficking, human trafficking, and terrorism (Henley, 2014).

Stolen passports could also be found locally. It was reported that 2,475 passports were lost in Thailand in 2013 alone. Most of them belonged to tourists from Russia (384), UK (378), France (334), China (290), South Korea (223), US (218), Japan (200), Germany (172), Australia (156) and Canada (120) (Vorawut, 2014). In the past, crime syndicates often produced faked passports for willing buyers. But frequent arrests forced them to use authentic documents which are doctored to suit individual buyers. Despite an effort to prevent forgery by using e-passports with a chip implant, some gangsters managed to learn the technique and produce it quickly. The passports could be supplied to clients both in Thailand and abroad. They could be carried by couriers or sent by mail to designated places. It was estimated that the number of falsified passports reached its peak during 2006-2011 before decreasing in recent years, due both to a number of arrests by the Thai authorities and a shift of operations to other transit countries.

Apart from syndicates carrying out passport forgery centered around Soi Nana and Khao San Road in Bangkok, the Thai immigration office revealed that major groups of foreign gangsters operate in Thailand. These



A Laotian falsified Thai ID card before using it to apply for a Thai passport

Source: ASTV Manager, 11 March 2014

include the following: 1) Yakuza gangsters involved with gambling and money extortion in Bangkok, Pattaya, Samui and Phuket; 2) European mafia engaging in money laundering, money extortion, narcotics trade and human trafficking in Pattaya, Phuket and Samui; 3) Black Money gangsters producing faked dollar notes in Sukhumvit areas of Bangkok and Samutprakan province; 4) Chinese connection gangsters around Ratchadapisek Road and Huai Kwang areas of Bangkok, whose operations include human trafficking and smuggling; 5) call-center gangsters carrying out economic crimes in Bangkok, Pattaya, Chiang Mai and Phuket; 6) Central Asian gangsters engaging in forgery of identity documents, narcotics trade, human trafficking and smuggling; 7) “Kitten” gangsters focusing on stealing and pickpocketing in crowded places; 8) arms trafficking gangsters in Pattaya area dealing with arms trade, money extortion, prostitution and forgery of credit cards; 9) Indochinese gangsters often involved with begging, burglary, illegal logging and stealing of cars and motorbikes across borders (Chuanpipatpong, 2014).

In addition to the above criminal activities, some other foreign groups are operating illegal business activities such as real estate scams, money laundering and counterfeit goods. Some British syndicates sell overpriced properties to foreigners or operate holiday home share programs, ignoring Thai laws that prohibit land ownership for foreigners. The Russian mafia in Pattaya often open restaurants as part of money laundering operations. Some are also involved with prostitution of Eastern European women in the Sukhumvit area of Bangkok. Malaysian and other foreign mafia gangs are involved with smuggling of

pirated goods from Russia, China, and Taiwan into Thailand. Such products include counterfeit brand name garments, handbags, suitcases, pirated computer software, games and movie DVDs (Schmid, 2010). It seems that Thailand is an ideal place for various foreign crime syndicates which benefit from the increasing flows of foreigners and migrants to Thailand.

There is light at the end of the tunnel. Thailand ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in late 2013. However, enforcement is still difficult. As different crimes may involve different laws and different law enforcement agencies, a lack of coordination among various government units has hampered law enforcement efforts. Criminal gangs also try to find loopholes and new opportunities with modern technology and new scams. Constant training and capacity building of law enforcement officials would be required to equip them with the expertise to deal with transnational crime activities. Thai authorities will be busy trying to combat human trafficking, forgery of travel documents, and other transnational crimes in Thailand.



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Transnational Migration Puts Thai Researchers in the Snow

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The Mahidol Migration Center received support from the European Union (EU) to conduct research for Thailand on “Transnational Migration in Transition: Transformative Characteristics of Temporary Mobility of People (EURANET)”, under the leadership of Professor Pirkko Pitkänen, University of Tampere, Finland. EURANET is a collaborative project between academic institutions from 12 different countries—Finland, Belgium, the People’s Republic of China, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Turkey, Ukraine, and Thailand.



The objective of the EURANET project is to attain an understanding of the current characteristics and related policy impact of temporary and circular transnational migration. The preliminary aim is to promote migration governance from a development perspective at all levels. Theoretical and empirical studies will be conducted to attain an understanding of the key factors in the past, of the state of affairs in the political, legal, economic, social, cultural and educational contexts that challenge policy-makers and other stakeholders today, and of the prospects for the decades to come.

The mission of the EURANET project derives from the fact that a key tendency in today’s world is an increase in people’s transnational activities and mobility between nation-states for different reasons. Roughly a billion people traverse nation-state borders annually, and an estimated 214 million people live outside the country of their birth. Recent trends suggest that ad hoc transnational mobility is increasing, which raises questions about ways of understanding the existing and potential impacts of transnational mobility in the context of increased global integration of economies, politics, and social relations.

The kick-off project meeting was in early February 2014, where Assoc. Prof. Sureeporn Punpuing, Director of Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University and Chairman of the Executive Board of Mahidol Migration Center (MMC), together with Dr. Manasigan Kanchanachitra from IPSR gave an interview in the Aamulehti Newspaper in Finland on the transnational migration situation between Thailand and EU and on the EURANET collaborative project.

Uutiset 8.2.2014

Euroopan ja Aasian välillä työmatkoja yhä enemmän

Tutkimus: Tampereen yliopisto vetää maailmanlaajuista II maan suurhanketta

KARI ASIKAINEN
Aamulehti

Ihminen liikkuvuus Euroopan ja Aasian välillä. Tämä tutkimus, jota aletaan kolmen vuoden ajan miettiä Tampereen yliopiston koordinoimana. EU rahoittaa projektia 2,5 miljoonalla eurolla ja mukana on tutkijoita 11 maasta, eli kyseessä on laaja tutkimusprojekti. Tutkimusryhmä kokoontuu Tampereellä viikokoppuna.

– Tutkimus suunnitellaan tiilapilistä ja lyhytkeskiä muuttamasta toiseen ja sen vaikutuksia lähtömaahan, kohteeseen ja läpikulkuun, sanoo tutkimuksen johtaja Pirkko Pitkänen tutkimusaiheikkeen esittelyssä.

Tampereen yliopistosta tutkimusryhmään kuuluvat Pirkko Pitkänen lisäksi Vivek Kallio-niemi-Chambers, Mazi Korpe-la, Pekka Rantanen ja Jaakko Hyttiä.

Yksi tutkimusaihe on Thaimaan ja Suomen keskinen väestöllinen muutos. Tutkijoita kiinnostavat marjapöytäruokien tuomat ja suomalaiset yleensä tavetki Thaimaahan muuttavat. – Meitä kiinnostaa erityisesti marjapöytäruokien perheiden asema. Tutkimme niitä perheitä, joita marjapöytäruokien lähtevät Suomeen lyhyelle työntekijä, sanoo apulaisprofessori Sureeporn Punpuing Mahido-

lin yliopistosta. – Yhteydespito perheeseen on yhä helpompaa kommunikaatiovälineiden kehittyessä, mutta silti ongelmia syntyy etäisyydestä, jatkaa Punpuing. – Suomesta Thaimaahan lähtee

Marjapöytäruokien synnyttää muuttokehän. Suomeen lähtevien tiilä tarviitaan Thaimaassa maatalouteen työtehtäviä.

Näitä muuttaa sinne halvemmän kustannustason maista kuten Laosista.

Pekka Rantanen
tutkija

opiskelijoita asumaan halvalla ja haastavalla kokemuksella, samoin eläkeläisiä ja yrittäjiä siirtyä yhä enemmän. Suurimmat ongelmat ovat kuitenkin marjapöytäruokien.

– Pöytäruokien ansiota ei ole pystytty turvaamaan varsinkin, jos satovasi on huono.

Myönteistä on se, että luonnontieteellisesti on alkanut kehittyä sosiaalista vastuujärjestelmää. Syöy ongelmat oototavat, että alan toiminnassa riittää kehittämistä, sanoo tutkija Pekka Rantanen.

– Marjapöytäruokien synnyttää muuttokehän. Suomeen lähtevien tiilä tarviitaan Thaimaassa maatalouteen työtehtäviä. Näitä muuttaa sinne halvemmän kustannustason maista kuten Laosista, jatkaa Rantanen.

Ukrainasta pois

Ukrainan levottomuudet ovat synnyttäneet suuren epävarmuuden maassa ja ukrainalais-

nen tohtori Ihor Markov on mako laaja muuttolähtö, jos maa ei pian rauhoitu. – Massamuutto on täysin mahdollista, jos maahan ei synny uskottavaa lähtöä oivaltua. Muuttajia voi tulla eri ryhmiä kannattajista, sanoo tohtori Markov.

Ukrainalaiset ovat tottuneet muuttamaan pois joko taloudellista tai poliittista syyistä, ja muutto on ollut sekä läntten että Venäjälle. – Ukrainassa on ollut kolme suurta muuttolahtoa parissa-vuodessa ja nyt on vaaraa neljäs muuttolahti, Ihor Markov jatkaa.

Fakta

Eura-net-tutkimus

Tutkimus on nimeltään Transnational Migration in Transition: Transformative Characteristics of Temporary Mobility of People. Sen lyhenne on Euro-net. Tampereella on tutkijat Belgiasta, Hollannista, Filippiineistä, Kiinasta, Intiasta, Thaimaasta, Ukrainasta, Turkesta, Ukrainasta, Kookasta ja Saksasta. Tutkimuksen johtaja on professori Pirkko Pitkänen.

Tutkija Pekka Rantanen ottaa kuvia Thaimaasta tuleista tutkijakollegoistaan. Kuvan pääsivillä Manasigan Kanchanachitra (vas.) ja Sureeporn Punpuing.

Factors Affecting Safety or Vulnerability among Cross Border Migrants in Thailand

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Migrants have been identified as a vulnerable population in Thailand. Ongoing research at IPSR is focused on trying to identify the aspects of vulnerability that may be most important in reducing HIV risk and improving health in this population.

Migrating to work and reside in the new land forces recent migrants to search for essential information and knowledge to survive and be well in the new environment. Being new members in the community of migrant workers in Thailand comes along with various vulnerable characteristics such as language and cultural differences, identity concealment caused by undocumented status, feeling inferior, and being prone to various types of exploitation. These can cause difficulty in accessing and utilizing existing health services; moreover, they form crucial barriers to accessing information and gaining knowledge on disease prevention.

Using data from the 2013 PHAMIT study, an IPSR survey of about 3,500 migrants from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, we have examined a number of variables that measure vulnerability. These include witnessing and experiencing abuse, exploitation and discrimination; low wages; the lack of legal documents; the absence of relatives in Thailand; lack of Thai language; short duration in Thailand; participation in community events; and lack of social integration. Using factor analysis to identify the most important dimensions of vulnerability, four main factors emerged. First, the lack of social integration is built on variables that included participation in community events, use of Thai language and length of residence in Thailand. The second factor, documentation of immigration/ low wage worker, reflects the legal status of

immigration including possession of a work ID and a work permit and having wages in the bottom quarter of migrants. The third and fourth variables represent problems in the workplace and community including 3) witnessing or experiencing exploitation of migrants and 4) witnessing or experiencing abuse of migrants.

Factors in Migrant Vulnerability

- Lack of Social Integration
- Lack of Legal Documents
- Witness/Experience Exploitation of Migrants
- Witness/Experience Abuse of Migrants

Ongoing analysis is focusing on the factors most important to HIV risk and health care. A lack of social integration was associated with lower levels of AIDS knowledge, HIV testing and reduced condom use with non-regular partners. These results are similar to results from a previous PHAMIT survey (Ford et al., 2014). Greater social integration was also related to higher use of HIV testing for both males and females.

However, HIV testing use may differ for males and females because it may be more closely related to risky behavior for males and to pregnancy for females. Thus while greater social integration was related to greater use of testing among both males and females, the factor measuring lack of legal documents and low income was negatively related to the use of HIV testing among females. This may indicate a lower use or lower quality of prenatal care among women with irregular status. Further analysis of these relationships is proceeding at IPSR.

Reference:

Kathleen Ford, Aphichat Chamrathirong, Kanya Apipornchaisakul, Promboon Panichapak, Tongphit Pinyosinwat. *Social Integration, AIDS Knowledge, and Factors Related to HIV Prevention among Migrant Workers in Thailand. AIDS and Behavior. 2014. 18(2): 390-397.*



Trends in the Percentage of Children Affected by Parent’s Migration in Thailand

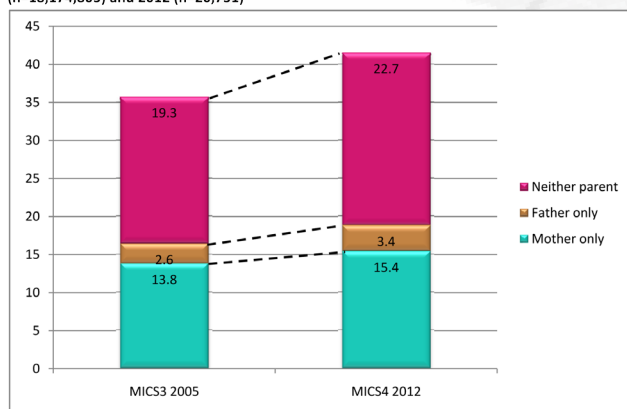
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In the last MMC newsletter, I wrote about how IPSR’s CLAIM studies are examining the well-being of children who live separately from their migrant parents. In the past year, new data has become available which provides greater information about how many of Thailand’s children are affected by their parents’ migration.

The National Statistics Office and UNICEF-Thailand have now released the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 4. Conducted in 2012, the MICS4 survey is a national survey providing key indicators of Thai children’s well-being. Most notably, it provides updates in these indicators since the MICS3 survey in late 2005-2006.

The MICS survey contains information about whether children aged 0-17 live with their parents, and (if not) whether their parents are alive. It does not ask why children are not living with parents who are alive, but we can assume that the major reason is that parents have migrated elsewhere for work. Since 2005, the percentage of children not living with both parents has increased from 35.7% to 41.5% (Figure 1). Within this group, the biggest increase is found in the percentage of children living with neither parent (from 19.3% to 22.7%).

Figure 1: Percentage of children aged 0-17 who are not living with both parents in Thailand, 2005 (n=18,174,805) and 2012 (n=20,751)

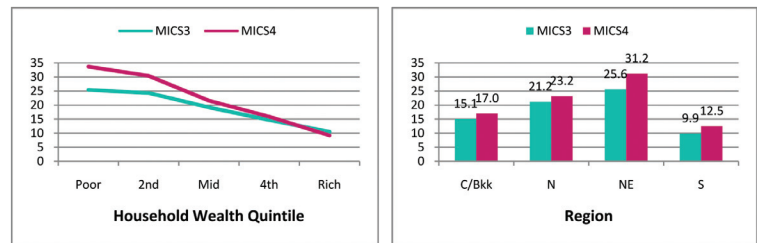


Source: National Statistical Office of Thailand, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (2005-06 & 2012).

Focusing on the children who live with neither parent, we see that children living in the poorest households are more likely to live separately from parents (Figure 2); moreover, the percentage has increased for children in the poorest 40% of households while for those in the richest 20% it has declined slightly. By region, children in the Northeast and North have the highest proportion living separately

from both parents, and the largest increase since 2005 has occurred in the Northeast (from 25.6% to 31.2%).

Figure 2: Percentage of children living with neither parent by household wealth quintile and by region, 2005 (n=18,174,805) and 2012 (n=20,751)



Source: National Statistical Office of Thailand, Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (2005-06 & 2012).

The MICS surveys also show that children are most likely to live separately from parents from age 5-14; the proportion is lower for younger (0-4) and older (15-17) children. Since this corresponds to the years when children are attending school, it may be that parents feel that children’s lives are more stable if they are left in someone else’s care during their primary and lower secondary schooling.

While this national data is troubling, especially since it shows that the trend is growing among the poorest families, findings on the well-being of children living separately from parents have been mixed. Another survey conducted by IPSR in 2013 provides additional evidence on this topic: the CHILDLIFE Baseline Survey was conducted with a sample of children identified as being affected by AIDS or being in a vulnerable situation for another reason (n=902). While 40% of the children were living separately from parents, few differences were found in child well-being between children living with both, one or neither parent. Children living separately were not significantly more likely to live in a household below the poverty line and were not significantly different in measures of well-being in six domains from children living with parents.

The CLAIM2 study is examining differences in child development for very young children (aged 0-36 months) by whether they live with both, one or neither parent, and will follow up the children in two years to track their development. Preliminary findings indicate that this study will provide some fascinating insight into how the absence of a parent may affect the youngest children. These will be presented in the next MMC newsletter.

Migration News: International Migrants Day

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The UN secretary-general’s message strongly confirms that millions of migrants around the world are crucial part of enhancing opportunity in our life.

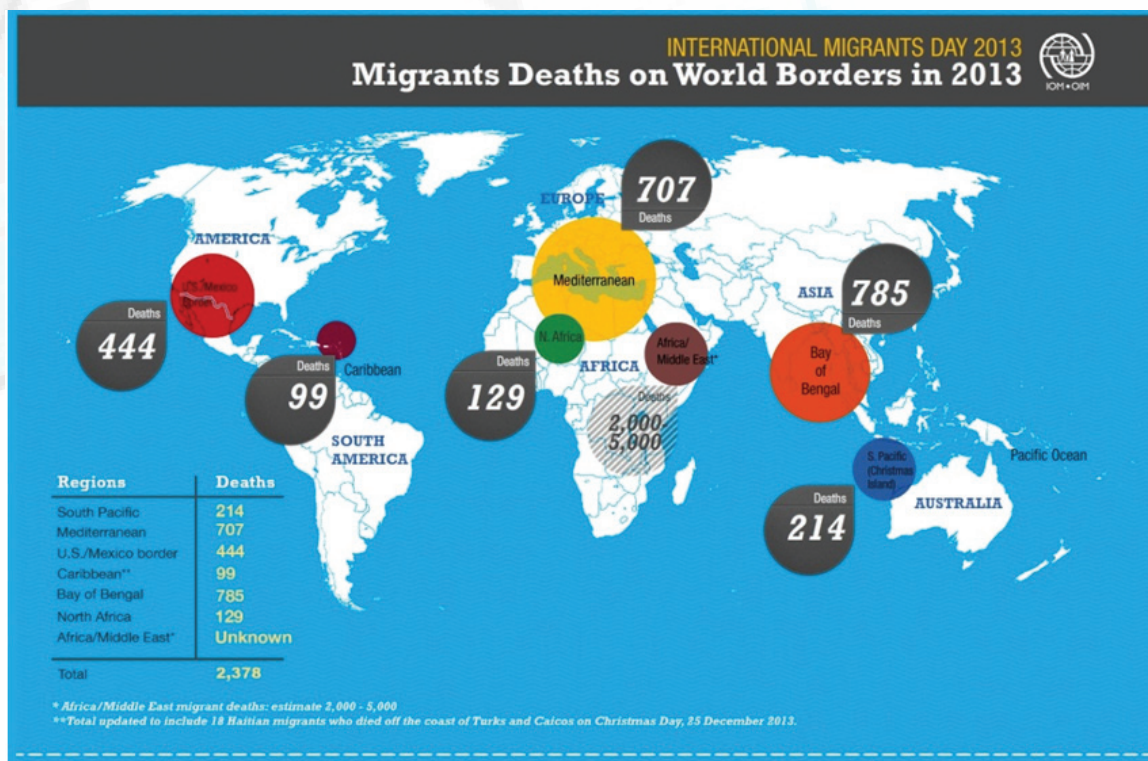
“Let us make migration work for the benefit of migrants and countries alike. We owe this to the millions of migrants who, through their courage, vitality and dreams, help make our societies more prosperous, resilient and diverse.”¹

Ban Ki-moon
 International Migrants Day, 18 December 2013

Back in 1990, the UN adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families on 18 December. Then, Migrant organisations in Asian countries started to promote this day as the International Day of Solidarity with Migrants in 1997 and proclaimed 18 December as International Migrants’ Day in 2000.

From the beginning, the International Migrants Day has been seen as an opportunity to recognise the contributions made by millions of migrants and respect their basic human rights. Those invisible and silent voices of migrants have been heard since then.

¹ Secretary-General’s Message for International Migrants Day. 18 December 2013. Retrieved 8 May 2014, from United Nations Website: <http://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/2013/sgmessage.shtml>



Source: International Organization for Migration. 2013. Migrants Deaths on World Borders in 2013. Retrieved 2 May 2014, from IOM website: <http://migrantsday.iom.int/migrants/>

Conducting Fieldwork Amidst the Unrest: A Field Note from the Three Southernmost Provinces

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The research project entitled “*Women, Migration and the Unrest in the Three Southernmost Provinces: M&M*” is made possible with support from the National Research Council of Thailand. The research team includes Dr. Kathleen Ford, Dr. Aphichat Chamratrithirong, and myself. In fact, none of us is quite sure if we are too ambitious in trying to answer the research question of *whether and how the historically ongoing migration of the Muslim population to Malaysia is related to the ongoing unrest in the three southernmost provinces*.



We fully realized that the road to conduct research amidst the beyond-our-understanding conflict was going to be rough, and far different from the fieldwork that we usually experience. Though not discussed openly, I feel that the very question that the three of us kept asking ourselves while waiting for the proposal to get approved was whether we should have given up the attempts to improve our understanding on this important research question due to the unrest in the study site. Clearly, the answer was no.

So, the study began. While writing this field note, I felt very much grateful to God that the survey of 1,100 households in the three provinces has been completed and the majority of the completed questionnaires have been brought to the IPSR main office for coding and data entry. We especially feel so grateful that each of our field staff members is safe and sound.

While scientific research should conform to common principles in a manner that allows others to both reply and to reproduce results, many social research studies cannot fully uphold the principles of scientific research, i.e. systematic, reproducible, reliable, and valid (Cohen & Arieli, 2011). While conflict is a phenomenon that deserves extensive attention, it poses challenges to the researchers in many ways. The challenges range from difficulties in accessing data, its analysis and interpretation, and its presentation. This field note is to share some of the field experiences reflected by the field staff during the field visit of Dr. Ford and myself in April, 2014. The note focuses on only one issue, difficulties in accessing data.

In our fieldwork, the difficulties in accessing data stem largely from security issues; this is also the most outstanding concern in conducting research in the three southernmost provinces. We were concerned about the safety of both the field staff and the respondent households. In designing the sample, we were tempted to exclude villages known as “red” (dangerous/difficult to access). Our final decision was, however, to include all villages in our sampling frame for at least two reasons. First, in principle, excluding “dangerous” sites would potentially affect the research outcomes as the central issue of our study is migration in relation to the unrest. Thus, excluding the study sites with a high level of conflict could underestimate the effects of the unrest. Secondly, we were assured by consulting with a few experts on the



on-going conflict that it was possible to conduct academic research by carefully and appropriately approaching local contacts. As a result, a few “red” villages in each province were randomly selected and included in our survey.



Our main lesson learned was that the study sites are unreachable primarily because of distrust of outsiders. People in the three southernmost provinces are in fact cooperative and extremely friendly. To illustrate the result of the distrust, we take our field staff’s experience in one village as an example. The village is known as an outsiders-not welcome village. We were told that no outsider was allowed to enter the village except for the health personnel to rescue injured people in case of incidents. Anyway, our contact person assured us that he explained our research to the key persons of the village, and our field staff was permitted to interview the villagers.

However, due to some miscommunication, our interviewers faced an unexpected welcoming when they first arrived. Upon their arrival in the village, a team of four female field staff was brought into a meeting room of the village’s *masjid* (mosque). Surrounded by more than 20 villagers, men and women, our field staff were intensely interviewed and questioned about the research for almost an hour. Trying to respond to each question carefully, despite the hot summer weather, our field staff said that they felt the coldness around them. They were all full of fear and worries.

Finally, our field staff convinced the villagers to trust them and to allow them to do their job. Fascinatingly, when trust had been created, our field staff received full and warm

support. Each of them was accompanied by one villager to the sampled eligible households. And none of those being contacted refused to participate. After a few days in the village, our interviewers become attached to the village and villagers. To them, the friendship and support that had been offered during their stay (after the long, cold interview!!!) were both impressive and very much appreciated.

Evidently, the coldness and unwelcoming reception was due to the lack of trust. For people in the areas encountering historically-long conflict and violence, reacting to outsiders with doubt and distrust is normal and understandable.

The dilemmas of how to conduct systematic research in conflict environments is critical and should be discussed more extensively. What a researcher must question is how the conflicts might affect research processes and outcomes. We hope to further share our experiences on other aspects of the challenges in doing research amidst the unrest. Our ambition is that our research will contribute, if not to a purely academic purpose, at least to the potential of influencing policy.



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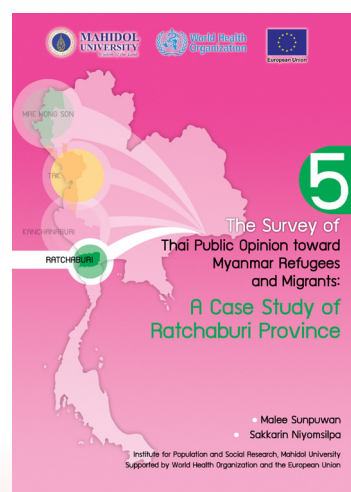
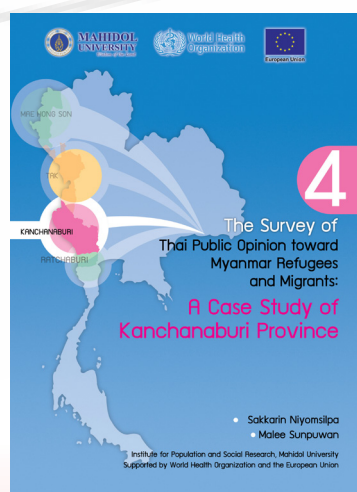
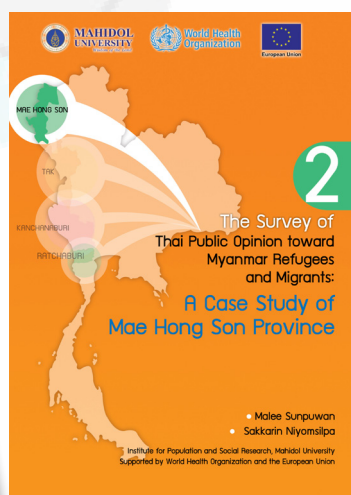
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 5. Migration and "Skipped Generation" Households in Thailand. Sureeporn Punpuing, Berit Ingersoll-Dayton, Kanchana Tangchonlatip & Kanchana Tainlai. (University of Michigan) [2013-2014]

Research reports on The Survey of Thai Public Opinion toward Myanmar Refugees and Migrant Workers, May 2014





Border Life at the Myanmar-Thai border

Editor's note

This 5th edition of the MMC Newsletter reflects IPSR's commitment to a broad range of research on migration. The achievement of the PHAMIT project is highlighted here, for several reasons. Increasingly, the value of well-designed and rigorously executed evaluation studies are being realized in the region. Efforts such as the PHAMIT studies provide both quantitative and qualitative evidence of the Raks Thai Foundation's effectiveness at increasing HIV prevention among migrants and improving their access to health care. Such studies are not easy to conduct: to reach a representative sample of migrants from multiple countries, fieldworkers must work in a number of languages, and must have the interviewing skills to put often suspicious migrants at ease. The depth and breadth of the PHAMIT studies provide unique information about Thailand's migrants, in addition to providing support for RTF's impressive efforts.

The M&M project provides another example of the challenges in conducting research in sensitive areas, in this case in the volatile Southern provinces. Few have attempted to gather such systematic information about how the violence of many decades has affected Southern residents, and we eagerly await the results of this effort. Articles on the growth of passport forgery, trafficking and legal issues for women migrants also bring insight into recent "hot topics" in the migration and immigration field. Though less likely to be featured in news stories, the slow but steady growth in the percentage of children who do not live with their parents is also troubling. The prevalence of this phenomenon seems to have led to complacency, when in fact little is known about the effects of the separated family on children's well-being. IPSR's CLAIM studies will hopefully bring more attention to the issue and raise awareness of the potential harm to a large proportion of the next generation.

Finally, IPSR's researchers have also demonstrated great valor in venturing to Finland in February, braving the snow to join a large international study on transmigration. We hope that you enjoy these highlights of IPSR's migration research, and that you will explore the publications listed here for further insight into this work.

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