



IOM International Organization for Migration

MIGRANT INFORMATION NOTE

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This issue of the IOM Migrant Information Note (MIN) details the latest developments in the nationality verification procedures for Cambodian, Lao and Myanmar/Burmese migrant workers in Thailand and specifically addresses their access to the social security system and health care. In addition, it discusses the recent increase in minimum wage standards implemented nationwide, offers the latest available statistics on migrants with work permits in Thailand, and outlines progress made by government agencies in terms of anti-human trafficking, migrant education, social wellbeing and quality of life.

Developments of Nationality Verification (NV)

A Cabinet resolution issued on February 13, 2012 extended the period to complete nationality verification (NV) for migrants from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar/Burma to June 14, 2012. This extension applies both to migrants newly registered in June 2011 and to the renewal group¹. The February Cabinet resolution also provides for the extension of work permits for the renewal group until June 14, 2012, which also marks the expiration date for the work permits of newly registered migrants. A manual issued by the Ministry of Labour in March 2012 provides detailed information regarding the process that migrants must follow to complete NV and the required documents:

NV Procedures for Myanmar/Burmese Migrant Workers

Employers are required to bring migrant workers to one of the eight Nationality Verification Centers (NVC) established in Thailand. The procedure is as follows:

1. Employers must obtain NV form from a Provincial/Bangkok Employment Office and distribute to migrant employees;
2. Migrant applicant must complete NV form, attach one photo directly to the form, place a second photo in a plastic sleeve, attach the bag to the form, and submit the package to his/her employer;
3. Migrant's employer must submit the application package to the appropriate Provincial/Bangkok Employment Office;
4. The Employment Offices will submit the NV form to the Thai Department of Employment and Myanmar/Burmese officials;
5. Myanmar/Burmese officials will verify and enter data into the NV system, update the list of migrants who have passed NV, and notify within the NV system – a computerized database – as to the date and place where the migrant applicant may collect a temporary passport;

¹ The renewal group refers to migrant workers who registered in 2010, renewed their work permits in 2011 (which have since expired in early 2012 and are undergoing additional renewal) and have not yet completed NV. Please refer to MIN 14 for more information.

6. The Thai Department of Employment will verify whether the migrant applicant has a valid work permit. If so, the Department of Employment will notify the NV system and confirm that the migrant applicant is allowed to obtain a temporary passport;
7. The employer will then receive an appointment card from the Provincial/Bangkok Employment Office in order to take their migrant employee to the NV center on the specified date;
8. Migrants who reside outside the province of the NV center processing their application must request permission from the relevant Governor before traveling to the province with the purpose of obtaining a temporary passport at the NV center.
9. At the NV center, visa will be stamped onto migrant's temporary passport;
10. Employer must then accompany the migrant to a hospital for a mandatory health exam as specified by Ministry of Public Health;
11. Employer must then apply for the migrant's work permit within 15 days of receipt of the temporary passport;
12. After completing this process; migrant must report their continued presence to immigration officers every 90 days.

Note: Call Center Myanmar/Burma Information Tech: 089-812-2400.

Documents Required for NV Application

- Completed NV form;
- Two color photos;
- Copy of Tor Ror 38/1;
- Copy of Myanmar/Burmese ID card,
or any document issued by Myanmar/
Burmese officials

Required Fees

- Temporary Passport: specified by country of origin;
- Visa: THB 500 (valid for 2 years)
- Health Exam: THB 600
- Work Permit Application: THB 100
- Work Permit: THB 900-1,800
(dependent upon localities and industry)

Documents Required for Processing at NV Center

- Appointment Card;
- Copy of Tor Ror 38/1;
- Proof of submitted application *or* work permit receipt *or* work permit

NV Centers for Myanmar/Burmese Applicants

1. Bangkok

143 Moo 8, Ratburana Sub-District, Ratburana District, Bangkok 10400

2. Samut Prakarn Province

16 Moo 2, Rachatheva Sub-District, Bangpree District, Samut Prakarn Province 10540

3. Samut Sakorn Province

U-arthorn Home Project's Community Center (Tha Chin), Rama II Road, Moo 7, Tha Chin Sub-District, Muang Samut Sakorn District, Samut Sakorn Province 74000

4. Chiang Mai Province

Main Stadium Building: 2nd Floor – Room 207 and 810, Sompot Chiang Mai 700th Year Stadium, Liepklongchonlapratarn Road, Don Kiew Sub-District, Mae Rim District, Chiang Mai Province 50180

5. Surat Thani Province

30/3 Kanjanavithi Road, Moo 1, Bangkung Sub-District, Muang Surat Thani District, Surat Thani Province 84000

6. Tak Province [*Passport pick-up across Myanmar/Burma border*]

403 Moo 2, Tha Sai Luat Sub-District, Mae Sot District, Tak Province 63110

7. Chiang Rai Province [*Passport pick-up across Myanmar/Burma border*]

100/228-229 Moo 5, Viangpangkham Sub-District, Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai Province 57130

8. Ranong Province

291/9 Moo 3, Bangnon Sub-District, Muang Ranong District, Ranong Province 85000

NV Procedures for Cambodian Migrant Workers²

Employers are required to bring Cambodian migrant workers to the Ministry of Labour (MOL) or the Cambodian Embassy in Bangkok in order to undergo the NV process. The required documents for NV are:

1. Original and copy of Tor Ror 38/1;
2. Employer's permit to employ migrant workers (applicable to migrants referenced in 19 January 2010 Cabinet resolution);
3. Two photos (size 1.5");
4. Original and copy of work permit (and other relevant documents);
5. Copy of employer's house registration with signature verification;
6. Copy of employer's ID card with signature verification;
7. In the event that an employer has authorized another party to process on his/her behalf, i.e. power of attorney, authorized party must submit copy of ID with signature verification.

Note: Contact Cambodian Embassy with NV inquiries until 14:00 at 02-957-5851.

NV Procedure for Lao Migrant Workers

Lao authorities informed Thai authorities that there will be no NV for Lao migrant workers in Thailand who will be required to go back to Lao PDR after 14 June 2012.

February Cabinet Resolution: NV Fee and Other Updates

In addition, the February Cabinet resolution provided for a reduction of the visa fee from THB 2,000 to THB 500, assigned relevant agencies to proceed with NV for the newly registered group, and postponed collection of the repatriation fund more than one year (new effective date is March 1, 2013). A ministerial regulation on such postponement is expected to be announced in the near future.

Nationality Verification and Migrant Health

According to the plan of the Thai MOL as of June 15, 2012 all migrants living and working in Thailand will be regular.

² The following information was not included in the manual issued by MOL, but was instead issued by the Thailand Employment Office.

As a result, these newly regularized migrant workers should be enrolled in the Social Security System (SSS), which is managed by MOL. Migrant workers eligible for the Social Security System are not required to enroll in the Compulsory Migrant Health Insurance Scheme (CMHI), which is managed by MOPH.

Enrollment in the Social Security Scheme is not to be extended to migrant workers in the agriculture or domestic help sectors, which are considered 'informal'.

Sub-Committee on the Social Aspects and Quality of Life of Irregular Migrant Workers

On March 22, 2012, the National Committee on Alien Workers Administration issued Order No. 005/2555 establishing the Sub-Committee on the Social Aspects and Quality of Life of Irregular Migrant Workers. The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) Permanent Secretary is the sub-committee chair and the Minister of Public Health plays an advisory role.

The sub-committee is comprised of relevant MOPH units, line ministries/government agencies, academic institutions, the Federation of Thai Industries, and the president of a private hospital association. Its tasks include determining policies, measures and courses of implementation regarding the social aspect and quality of life of migrant workers. The sub-committee then may present its work to the National Committee on Alien Workers Administration, supervise implementation, evaluate the results of implementation, appoint working groups, and perform other assigned duties.

Victims of Trafficking allowed to work in Thailand

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's announcement on February 29, 2012 declared that victims of human trafficking – defined by the Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2008 – who are awaiting their court process or receiving health assistance in Thailand may work under two possible job categories: manual labour and domestic work.

Ministry of Education Regulation on Migrant Education Provision

On December 29, 2011, the Ministry of Education (MOE) issued a regulation enabling individuals to provide basic education (formal and informal) to migrants via the establishment of migrant learning centers.

The regulation stipulates the necessary qualifications for individuals providing migrant education, the application required for establishing migrant learning centers, as well as the creation and role of committees in operating said centers. Additionally, the regulation specified that students are required to meet certain qualifications, must undergo learning assessment, and will be rewarded with certificates of completion issued by MOE.

More broadly, the MOE regulation outlines principle sources of operational funding for the migrant learning centers, the intended role of education service offices, and procedures for the closure of migrant learning centers. The migrant learning centers may also pursue alternative sources of funding.

Rise in Minimum Wage Standards across Thailand

As of April 1, 2012, a higher standard of minimum wage was implemented across Thailand. Wage increases were the result of a Cabinet resolution issued in November 2011. It stated that by January 1, 2013 the minimum wage will rise to 300 baht in all 77 provinces and will remain in place throughout 2014 and 2015. However, if the Thai economy proves volatile and affects the livelihood of workers, the Wage Committee will revise the minimum wage standard over the course of 2014 and 2015.

Provided below is a table with the minimum wage organized by province as of April 1, 2012.

Minimum Wage	Area
300	Phuket, Bangkok, Samut Prakan, Nakhon Pathom, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Samut Sakhon
273	Chonburi
269	Chachoengsao, Saraburi
265	Ayutthaya
264	Rayong
259	Phang Nga
258	Ranong
257	Krabi
255	Nakhon Ratchasima, Prachinburi
254	Lopburi
252	Kanchanaburi
251	Chiang Mai, Ratchaburi
250	Chantaburi, Petchaburi
246	Songkhla, Sing Buri
244	Trang
243	Nakhon Sithammarat, Angthong
241	Loei, Chumporn, Phatthalung, Satun, Sakaeo
240	Samut Songkhram, Prachuapkhirikhan, Yala, Suratthani
239	Narathiwat, Ubonratchathani, Udonthani
237	Nakhon Nayok, Pattani
236	Nongkhai, Lamphoon, Buengkan, Trat
234	Kamphaengphet, Uthaithani
233	Kalasin, Khon Kaen, Chainat, Suphan Buri
232	Chiang Rai, Nakhon Sawan, Buriram, Phetchabun, Yasothon, Roiet, Sakon Nakhon
230	Chaiyaphum, Mukdahan, Lampang, Sukhothai, Nongbualamphu
229	Nakhon Phanom
227	Phichit, Phitsanulok, Phrae, Mahasarakham, Mae Hong Son, Amnatcharoen, Uttaradit
226	Surin, Tak
225	Nan
223	Sisaket
222	Phayao

Statistics

Table 1.1 – *Total stock of migrants recruited through MOU working in Thailand as of March 2012*

Nationality	No. of migrants working with active work permits and valid passports
Cambodia	56,924
Lao PDR	15,603
Myanmar/Burma	18,372
Total	90,899

Source: Website of Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Ministry of Labour, Thailand
<http://wp.doe.go.th/sites/default/files/statistic/7/sm03-55.pdf>

Table 1.2 – *Total stock of migrants who completed nationality verification (NV) as of March 2012*

Nationality	No. of migrants working with active work permits and completed NV
Cambodia	67,238
Lao PDR	45,766
Myanmar/Burma	500,263
Total	613,267

Source: Website of Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Ministry of Labour, Thailand.
<http://wp.doe.go.th/sites/default/files/statistic/7/sm03-55.pdf>

The Migrant Information Note is produced by the Labour Migration Programme, IOM Thailand Office.

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The Migrant Information Note is available online at

http://203.155.51.53/iomthailand/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_details&gid=58&Itemid=4