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Migrant Information Note (MIN)

Issue #21 - September 2013

This issue of the Migrant Information Note (MIN) highlights the Thai Government's latest policy on low-skilled Myanmar/Burmese, Lao and Cambodian migrant workers, the Ministry of Public Health's new measures on health examinations and insurance for migrants, and the latest statistics on the migrant regularization, Nationality Verification and MOU processes.

Thai Cabinet Resolution on extension of regularization period of Myanmar/Burmese, Lao and Cambodian migrant workers

On 6 August 2013, the Thai Cabinet passed a Resolution that extended for an additional year the deadline for completion of the regularization process for irregular migrants in Thailand.

The Resolution specifically applies to two groups of migrants:

- **GROUP 1:** Migrant workers whose employers submitted documents for regularization, but who did not receive a Temporary Passport by the original deadline of 11 August 2013. This group is allowed to temporarily stay and work in Thailand for another year. While awaiting completion of the regularization process and receipt of a Temporary Passport, under the new extension these migrants are requested to register for temporary stay by obtaining a civil registration document (Tor Ror 38/1) from the Ministry of Interior and to apply for a work permit with the Ministry of Labour. The legal status of these migrants will continue to be irregular until they complete the regularization process and receive a Temporary Passport from their country of origin.
- **GROUP 2:** Irregular Myanmar/Burmese, Lao and Cambodian migrant workers in the fishing sector; the Cabinet Resolution allows this group to register twice a year for temporary stay by obtaining the Tor Ror 38/1 and to apply for a one-year work permit.

The process and implementation period are as follows:

GROUP 1: Registration process for migrant workers who have not received temporary passports (i.e. whose status has not been verified by countries of origin)

Step 1: Employers submit documents (copy of demand letter, name list of migrant workers, and personal profile form) at Bangkok/Provincial Employment Offices.
(20 August - 20 September 2013)

Step 2: Bangkok/Provincial Employment Offices check the submitted documents and issue a certified letter for submitting to Local/District Registrar Offices.
(20 August - 20 September 2013)

Step 3: Employers and migrant workers submit application form (Tor Tor 1) for obtaining Tor Ror 38/1, demand letter, name list of migrant workers, personal profile form, the certified letter obtained from BKK/Provincial Employment Offices, and 2 photos (one-inch size) at Local/District Registrar Offices.

(16 September -15 October 2013)

Step 4: Migrant workers go for medical exam and apply for health insurance at health facilities specified by the Ministry of Public Health. Tor Ror 38/1 is required to present to the health facilities.

(16 September - 30 October 2013)

Step 5: Migrant workers apply for work permit at Bangkok/Provincial Employment Offices. Documents required for work permit application include Tor Tor 8 (work permit application form), Tor Ror 38/1, medical certificate, certificate of employment, copy of employer's household registration document, copy of employer's identity card, certificate of company registration, 3 photos (3 x 4 cm), and map of workplace.

(16 September-14 November 2013)

Step 6: BKK/Provincial Employment Offices receive work permit application and issue receipt.

(16 September -14 November 2013)

Step 7: Migrant workers collect work permit on the appointment date notified by Bangkok/ Provincial Employment Offices at the Bangkok/ Provincial Employment Offices. To collect the work permit, migrant workers must bring a copy of work permit application and a copy of receipt of work permit fee.

GROUP 2: Registration process for migrant workers employed in fishing sector in 22 provinces¹

Step 1: Employers submit a demand letter for employment of migrant workers, copy of household registration/identity card, certificate of company registration, and map of workplace at Provincial Employment Offices in 22 provinces.

(16 September -15 December 2013)

Step 2: Provincial Employment Offices in 22 provinces check submitted documents and issue a certified letter for submission to Local/District Registrar Offices.

(16 September-15 December 2013)

Step 3: Employers and migrant workers submit application form (Tor Tor 1) for obtaining Tor Ror 38/1, demand letter, name list of migrant workers, the certified letter obtained from Provincial Employment Offices and 2 photos (one-inch size) at local/district registrar offices in 22 provinces.

(16 September -15 December 2013)

Step 4: Migrant workers go for medical exam and apply for health insurance at health facilities specified by the Ministry of Public Health. Tor Ror 38/1 is required to present to the health facilities.

(16 September-15 December 2013)

Step 5: Migrant workers apply for work permit at Provincial Employment Offices in 22 provinces. Required documents include Tor Tor 8 (work permit application form), Tor Ror 38/1, medical certificate, certificate of employment, copy of employer's household registration, copy of employer's identity card, certificate of company registration, 3 photos (3 x 4 cm), and map of workplace.

¹ Krabi, Chantaburi, Chachoengsao, Chonburi, Chumporn, Trad, Trang, Nakornsrithammarat, Narathiwat, Prachubkhirikhan, Pattani, Phang Nga, Phetburi, Phuket, Ranong, Rayong, Samut Prakarn, Samut Sakorn, Samut Songkram, Suratthani, Songkhla, and Satun.

(16 September -15 December 2013)

Step 6: Provincial Employment Offices in 22 provinces receive work permit application and issue receipt of work permit application and fee.

(16 September-15 December 2013)

Step 7: Migrant workers collect work permits on the appointment date notified by Provincial Employment Offices. Documents required include copy of work permit application, and copy of receipt of work permit fee.

Update on regular migrant workers who have completed the permitted 4-year work period in Thailand

According to the 2003 MOU on employment cooperation signed between Thailand and Myanmar/Burma, migrant workers must return home for 3 years after completing the initial 4 years of continuous employment in Thailand before becoming eligible to return to work to Thailand again. However, in the bilateral meeting between Thailand and Myanmar on 26 November 2012, Thai and Myanmar officials agreed that a return period of 1 month, in lieu of 3 years, is required for a migrant worker, who has already completed the terms and conditions of employment, to re-apply for employment in Thailand. No official announcement has yet been issued regarding the detailed process for migrant workers whose visa expired as they completed the 4 year working period in Thailand.

Updates on health examinations and insurance for migrants

Pursuant to the Thai Cabinet Resolution on 15 January 2013 appointing the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) as the main agency responsible for providing medical and health care to all migrants who are not covered by the social security scheme (SSS), on 22 March 2013 MOPH issued an announcement detailing health examination and insurance processes and fees. On 13 August 2013 MOPH provided additional details on health examinations and insurance for migrants, with two main amendments to the previous announcement as follows:

- Increase in the health insurance fee for adult migrants from THB 1,300 to THB 2,200. While most of the benefits of the insurance remain the same (please see the list of benefits in MIN No.20), the new scheme also covers ARV provision.
- Reduction from 15 years old to 7 years old of the age limit for migrant children who are eligible for the rate for children of THB 365.

Please find below a breakdown of the new rates for health examination and insurance, as applicable to different groups of migrants, effective as of 12 August 2013:

Migrants who are entitled to SSC and are waiting to access it -Total Cost=THB 1,150

- Health examination THB 600 per person

- Health insurance THB 550 per person

(3-month coverage from the date when health insurance is purchased)

Migrants who are not entitled to SSC - Total Cost= THB 2,800

- Health examination THB 600 per person

- Health insurance THB 2,200 per person

(1-year coverage from the date when health insurance is purchased)

Children under 7 years of age- Total Cost= THB 365

- Health examination free of charge
- Health insurance THB 365 per person

(1-year coverage from the date when health insurance is purchased)

Migrants Statistics

Table 1. Number of migrant workers who entered into the migrant regularization process (according to the Cabinet Resolution on 15 January 2013), as of 25 July 2013

Nationality	Number of migrant workers whose employers have submitted requests for employment	Number of migrant workers who have completed the migrant regularization process and possess valid work permit	Number of migrant workers who have not completed the migrant regularization process*
Cambodia	122,899	9,671	113,228
Lao PDR	66,082	3,385	62,697
Myanmar/Burma	462,162	386,068	76,094
Total	651,143	399,124	252,019

**this group will benefit from the deadline extension provided by the Cabinet Resolution in August 2013*

Table 2. Stock of migrant workers who have completed nationality verification and possess a valid work permit (as of July 2013)

Nationality	Number
Cambodia	89,618
Lao PDR	31,782
Myanmar/Burma	778,258
Total	899,658

Table 3. Number of migrant workers who have entered into Thailand through MOUs on employment between Thailand and three neighboring countries, and possess a valid work permit (as of July 2013)

Nationality	Number
Cambodia	85,733
Lao PDR	16,665
Myanmar/Burma	36,650
Total	139,048

Source: Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand

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://th.iom.int/index.php/component/remository/facilitating-migration/migration-information-notes/>