IOM International Organization for Migration

MIGRANT INFORMATION NOTE

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From the beginning of the Nationality Verification (NV) process - in 2006 for Cambodians and Laotians and August 2009 for Myanmar/Burmese - until the end of February 2011, a total of 550,003 migrant workers from Cambodia (103,826), Lao PDR (93,429) and Myanmar/Burma (352,748) have obtained a temporary passport and permission to legally work and stay in Thailand.

As of December 2010, 543,749 migrants had not yet completed the process out of a total of 932,255 eligible in February 2010.

Those migrants who have not yet completed NV but wish to stay and work in Thailand were required to renew their work permits by the end of February 2011 while their NV applications continued to be processed by the authorities.

295,136 migrants succeeded in renewing their work permits by this date, indicating a high likelihood that large numbers of migrants failed to renew and thus lapsed back into irregular status.

But discussions regarding the opening of a new round of registration for migrant workers have progressed, which could signal a further opportunity for unregistered migrant workers to obtain permission to stay and work in Thailand.

This IOM Migrant Information Note details the latest regulations affecting migrant workers in Thailand together with the latest statistics on the work renewal and NV processes.

New round of migrant registration approved by migrant sub-committee

Following a third request from the Ministry of Labour (MOL) to open a new round of registration for migrant workers, the Sub-Committee on the Integrated Management of Alien Workers approved the opening of a new round on 30 March 2011.

The issue will now be put forward to the National Committee on Illegal Worker Administration on 19 April for its consideration and approval. If approved by the National Committee, the matter will subsequently be put to the Cabinet for its final approval.

But given the limited time remaining before the upcoming general election, it is possible that the decision of the Cabinet and potential issuance of a resolution on a new round of registration will be delayed until later in the year.

Temporary stay and work permit for victims of human trafficking

As detailed in *IOM Migrant Information Note Issue # 6*, a Cabinet resolution issued on 4 May 2010 granted permission for migrants who are victims of human trafficking to temporarily stay and work in Thailand.

The Department of Employment of the Ministry of Labour (MOL) is currently working on specifying a list of occupations that the victims of human trafficking can perform.

To draw up the list of occupations, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security is providing the Ministry of Labour with relevant information on occupations that might be useful for the victims.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Interior is responsible for preparing a regulation on their temporary stay in Thailand.

Cabinet's approval of the draft MOE regulation on migrant learning centers

On 28 March 2011, the Thai Cabinet approved in principle a draft regulation of the Ministry of Education (MOE) on the legal right of individual persons or organizations to provide basic education to undocumented and non-Thai people in migrant learning centers. The Cabinet also assigned the Office of the Council of State of Thailand to review the draft regulation.

The provisions of the draft regulation include the establishment of a national committee on the provision of basic education to undocumented and non-Thai people, to be chaired by the Education Minister, and a provincial committee, to be chaired by the Governor of each province, with a member of the Primary Educational Service Area Office serving as a committee member and secretary.

It also stipulates regulations on the establishment and dissolution of migrant learning centers. Once the Office of the Council of State approves the draft regulation, the MOE can officially announce the regulation and put it into force.

Ministry of Public Health's plan on migrant health in 2012-2016

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) has been drafting a 2012-2016 strategic plan on migrant health, together with a master plan on border health to be implemented throughout the same period. The MOPH's five-year strategies will focus on several key issues:

- *Development of access to quality health service.* Health service units will reach out to migrant communities and information materials will be provided in migrant languages.
- *Improvement of health service system.* Expansion of coverage of health facilities.
- *Development of health-related activities promoting the participation of migrants and migrant communities.* A health-related committee will be set up with the participation of relevant stakeholders and migrant health centers will be improved.
- *Effective and efficient management in supporting the implementation of the strategies on migrant and border health.* Trainings for health personnel and improvement of health information system.

STATISTICS

- **NV processing status in 2011**

Nationality	Cumulative number of migrants who have completed NV from the beginning of NV process[1] to February 2011
Cambodian	103,826
Laotian	93,429
Myanmar/Burmese	352,748
Total	550,003

Please note this is a cumulative figure of the number of migrants who have completed the NV process up until February 2011. The number of migrants who have completed NV from the total of 932,255 eligible in February 2010, together with the number of migrants still to complete NV, is not yet available.

Source: Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand

- **Renewal of work permit in 2011**

Nationality	Number of migrant workers who have renewed work permit as of Feb 2011
Cambodian	17,570
Laotian	11,194
Myanmar/Burmese	266,372
Total	295,136

As above, please note that the total number of migrants eligible for NV as of 1 March 2011, and therefore the exact number of migrants who failed to renew their work permits, is unavailable at this time. It would not be correct to deduct 295,136 from *543,749* (number of migrants who *had not yet completed the process* as of 30 December 2010) as a number of them (this figure is not yet available) have completed the process during January and February 2011.

Source: Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand.

Introduction to IOM's latest publications

The IOM counter-trafficking unit has produced two publications: "*Training Manual on Psychosocial Assistance for Trafficked Persons*" now available in both Thai and English, and "*Research on Psychosocial and Mental Health Service Provision for Survivors of Trafficking*" in English.

The training manual provides qualified reference to general helpers and counselors on the appropriate operational standards of care and assistance to trafficked persons, paying special consideration to the psychosocial aspects of the trafficking experience.

The research explores a snapshot view of the provision of psychosocial and mental health services for trafficked persons in the Greater Mekong Subregion and Indonesia, highlighting good practices and providing some constructive recommendations to guide further programming in this crucial area. The publications can be downloaded from the following link:

http://203.155.51.53/iomthailand/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=21&Itemid=4

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[1] NV between Thailand and Cambodia and Thailand and Lao PDR began in 2006; NV between Thailand and Myanmar/Burma began in 2009.