



IOM International Organization for Migration

MIGRANT INFORMATION NOTE

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The new round of registration for migrant workers and their dependents from Myanmar/Burma, Cambodia and Lao PDR took place between 15 June and 14 July 2011. A total of 996,278 migrant workers registered during this time – 648,921 from Myanmar/Burma, 242,429 from Cambodia and 104,928 from Lao PDR. The registration for migrant workers in the fishing sector will continue until 13 August 2011.

This Migrant Information Note details the latest progress and statistics from the new round of registration, together with other important regulations affecting migrant workers in Thailand.

New round of registration for migrant workers and their dependents

The registration of migrant workers and their dependents took place between 15 June and 14 July 2011 for labourers and domestic workers, while the registration of migrant workers in the fishing sector will continue until 13 August 2011. The cumulative registration figures up until 14 July 2011 are displayed in the table below. Health check-ups and work permit applications are now ongoing for the migrant workers who have registered, continuing until 12 September and 12 October 2011 respectively (12 October and 11 November 2011 for migrant workers in the fishing sector). The registration increased the total number of documented migrants in Thailand to almost two million. However, procedures for newly registered migrant workers to acquire temporary passports/certificate of identity and legal work and stay status have not yet been clarified.

Table 1: Number of migrant workers for whom employers have submitted registration documents: 15 June 2011 to 14 July 2011

Area	Employers	Migrant Workers	Myanmar/Burmese	Laotian	Cambodian
Thailand	165,980	996,278	648,921	104,928	242,429
Bangkok	39,604	174,295	98,854	30,865	44,576
Greater Bangkok	32,027	249,590	169,468	23,582	56,540
Central Thailand	38,130	250,544	104,637	23,243	122,664
Northern Thailand	22,326	116,239	110,749	4,167	1,323
North Eastern Thailand	7,459	24,538	5,457	11,916	7,165
Southern Thailand	26,434	181,072	159,756	11,155	10,161

*Source: Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Ministry of Labour
Figures updated July 2011.*

Figure 1: Registration of migrant workers by area

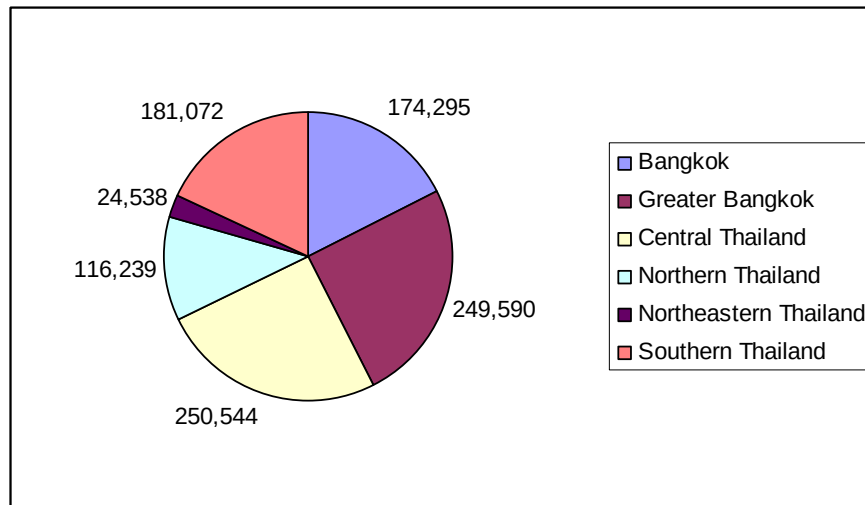
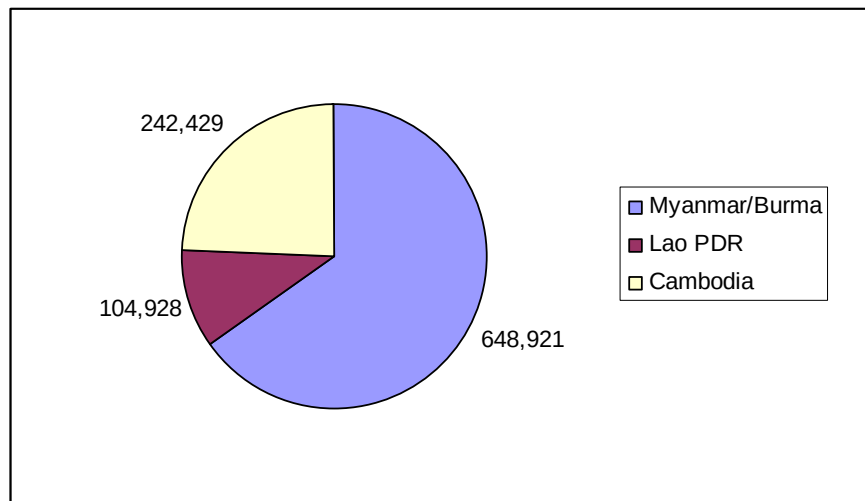


Figure 2: Registration of migrant workers by nationality



Temporary passport validity extended for migrant workers from Myanmar/Burma

The Myanmar/Burma government has extended the validity period of temporary passports for migrant workers who have passed Nationality Verification (NV) from three to six years, effective from 1 July 2011. For those migrant workers who already hold three-year passports, they will be able to renew their passport for another three years.

The change in the validity period of temporary passports will ensure that migrant workers can use one passport for the maximum work permit/visa validity period of four years (work permits and visa have an initial validity of two years, extendable for an additional two years), and thus continue working in Thailand until the expiration of their work permits. Under the previous system of three-year passports, migrant workers from Myanmar/Burma were required to return home to renew their temporary passports after three years – before the expiration of their visas and work permits.

Temporary Myanmar passports are issued in Myawaddy, Tachilek and Kawthaung in Myanmar/Burma, and in Ranong in Thailand.

Cabinet considers private insurance fund for migrant workers

On 14 June 2011, the Thai Cabinet acknowledged the Ministry of Labour's (MOL) proposal to establish a private insurance fund to provide coverage for migrant workers in cases of work-related accidents or sickness. It is proposed that the scheme will be applied to all migrant workers who enter Thailand illegally and register to stay and work temporarily in the country.¹ MOL will issue a ministerial announcement on the details of the private insurance scheme.

MOL had pushed for an alternative system for registered migrant workers, who, despite having permission to temporarily stay and work in Thailand, are not eligible to receive benefits under either the Workmen's Compensation Fund or the Social Security Fund. Migrant workers are generally able to access the universal health care scheme of the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) for the treatment of general ailments, but are not covered in cases of work-related injuries under this scheme.

In order to enable migrant workers to enjoy their full rights as per the 1994 Worker's Compensation Act, it was agreed that migrant workers completing the registration process in Thailand should access a private insurance system, paid for by their employers, providing the same protection level and benefits currently accorded to Thais and MOU/NV migrants under the Workmen's Compensation Fund.

Ministry of Interior allows migrant victims of trafficking to stay in Thailand

On 28 February 2011, the Ministry of Interior issued an announcement permitting some groups of migrants who are victims of human trafficking to temporarily stay in Thailand. Migrants receiving permission to stay will be identified by inquiry officers, who will consider whether the migrant is a victim of human trafficking according to the Anti-Human Trafficking Act 2008. The migrant must express his/her willingness to receive any form of assistance and protection from the Department of Social Development and Welfare, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security as follows:

- 1) Legal prosecution of perpetrators who are guilty according to the anti-human trafficking act, *or*
- 2) Medical treatment, mental and physical rehabilitation or claiming other entitlements of victims of human trafficking.

The Department of Social Development and Welfare is required to submit relevant proof that those migrants are identified victims of human trafficking by the inquiry officers (falling into this definition) to the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Interior together with the suggested length of stay, which must not exceed 6 months. Upon approval of the Permanent Secretary, the migrant will report to registrar offices in order for the registrar offices to issue ID documents.

The migrant can also apply for a work permit. The conditions of employment will be specified by the Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour. The work permit will not exceed the length of stay permit granted by the Ministry of Interior.

¹ Migrants who have completed NV or been recruited through the MOUs signed with Myanmar/Burma, Lao PDR and Cambodia are entitled to access benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Fund.

STATISTICS

- **Total number of migrants who have been recruited through MOU from October 2010 to June 2011**

Nationality	Number of workers granted permission to work in Thailand	Number of migrants allowed to enter Thailand for work and already received work permit
Cambodia	37,140	31,327
Lao PDR	6,849	6,300
Myanmar/Burma	3,018	1,367
Total	47,007	38,994

Source: Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand.

** Figures updated as of June 2011*

- **NV processing status in 2011**

Nationality	Number of migrants eligible for NV as of February 2010	Number of migrants who have completed NV March 2010 – July 2011	Number of migrants who have completed NV and received work permit	Number of migrants who haven't yet completed NV
Cambodian	56,479	29,274	28,424	27,205
Laotian	62,792	34,999	30,997	27,793
Myanmar/Burmese	812,984	454,448	319,006	358,536
Total	932,255	518,831	378,427	413,424

Source: Office of Foreign Workers Administration, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand. The NV statistics were revised by MOL.

** Figures updated as of June 2011.*

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The Migrant Information Note is available online at

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