IOM International Organization for Migration

# MIGRANT INFORMATION NOTE (MIN)

**Special Issue – June 2012**

## *Extension of Nationality Verification deadline to 14 December 2012*

Following the recent meeting of the **National Committee on Alien Workers Administration** (known in Thai as Kor Bor Ror), the Thai Minister of Labour has stated that the Committee has **approved the extension of the deadline for completion of nationality verification** (NV) of registered migrant workers from Myanmar/Burma, Lao PDR and Cambodia for six months **from 14 June 2012 to 14 December 2012**. The extension of the deadline has already been approved by the Cabinet.

In addition, the Committee **agreed to set up a sub-committee to study the social security benefits of migrant workers**, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour. The Committee will assess appropriate social security benefits for migrant workers of regular status, including those who have passed nationality verification or have entered the country under the MOUs between Thailand and the three neighboring countries.

http://thainews.prd.go.th/view.php?m_newsid=255505310347&tb=N255505&return=ok&news_headline=
**(in Thai)**

### *What does this extension mean for migrants?*

This **extension only applies to migrants who currently hold a valid work permit**. It provides for an extension of their work permits to allow them to continue to stay and work in Thailand temporarily until completion of NV.

### *What does this mean for health insurance coverage for migrants?*

**The full extent of changes in the National Verification process on health insurance coverage for migrants remains to be determined.** Previously, migrants working in Thailand under MOUs were automatically joined in the Social Security Scheme and are entitled to all of the benefits of that scheme. However, this mechanism applied to only a small portion of migrants and even those who are eligible sometimes have problems accessing these benefits. Other migrants who registered to work in Thailand were eligible to access the Compulsory Migrant Health Insurance Scheme (CHMIS) which requires a fee of THB 1,900 per annum per person. Unregistered migrants must pay for their own health care at local clinics. A Cabinet resolution on 13 February proposed significant changes for migrant health insurance, but details have not yet been clarified by the various relevant Ministries.

Detailed health related details will be provided as soon as they are available.

- For more information regarding health exam and insurance (**in Thai**):

http://phdb.moph.go.th/ewtadmin/ewt/hss_pro/download/article/article_20120601115153.pdf

- For an opinion piece on migrants and health (**in English**)

http://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/295674/govt-healthcare-policy-will-leave-foreign-workers-in-cold

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