

# THE SITUATION OF MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS IN THAILAND: BANGKOK, CHIANGMAI, CHIANGRAI, MAESAI, MAESOT, AND MAHACHAI

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MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MAE FAH LUANG UNIVERISTY

2008

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# AN INDEPENDENT STUDY SUBMITTED TO MAE FAH LUANG UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First and foremost, I whole heartedly thank God for His love and guidance throughout my life, especially in my study for making many ways where there seems to be no way.

I am exceedingly indebted to my Independent Study Examination Committee members: Dr. Chakrapand Wongburanavart, Lecturer Yutthapong Chantarawarin, and Lecturer Panapa Chintaradeja. I would like to express my sincere thanks not only to the president but also to all of my teachers, too.

I owe my deepest thanks to my parents and my elder brother for their love, support, inspiration, solace and understanding throughout the two years of my graduate study. Throughout my life, they have been and still are ever ready to assist me in my various endeavors – for which I am truly grateful. Particular thanks are due to my relatives and friends who have been pushing me up and helping and praying for me.

Finally, my deep regard and strong appreciation is to all the Myanmar migrant workers for without their assistance and trust, I would not be able carry out my research. I would like to thanks to all of my friends and staffs who have made my stay at Mae Fah Luang University a memorable one.

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Title

The Situation of Myanmar Migrant Workers in

Thailand: Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Sai,

Mae Sot, and Mahachai

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This independent study aim: to describe the conditions and characteristics of Myanmar illegal migrant workers in Thailand; to survey and analyze the pull and push factors to work in Thailand and to investigate other administration and work procedural problems; to study behavior and pattern of the migrants from their place of origin to their destination in Thailand; and to highlight the positive and negative effects the migrant encounter

The samples were selected from six specific areas: Bangkok, Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Maesai, Maesot and Mahachai. This study aims to highlight the reasons why Myanmar people migrate into Thailand, to describe the conditions and characteristics of Myanmar illegal migrant workers in Thailand to find out the consequences and impacts of migration. The respondents in this study were 625 Myanmar illegal workers, who intent to work here temporarily for better income to support back to their home. Field survey (personal interview) and mail questionnaires are used as the tool for this research. The non-probability sampling method is used in this study. In case Purposive Sampling Method also is used. For logistical reasons the fathering of data for this study is restricted to the situation of Myanmar migrants workers in Thailand after the year 2000. Subsequent data collection is guided by the theoretical sampling principle of grounded theory.

The result showed that higher income and better job opportunities played the most important

role in attracting illegal Myanmar migrants to flow into Thailand. The second most important factor

was relative economic deprivation in country of origin or poor state economy in country of origin.

The findings also showed that migrants' social network was by far the very important factor to

migrate into Thailand. The results indicated that the main factor which makes Myanmar workers

migrating to Thailand is economic reason.

It is suggested that both Myanmar and Thailand to create attractive employment

opportunities to reduce the flow of irregular migrants; to expand channels for safe, legal migration

and to enhance community awareness on the negative impact of trafficking. Not only Thai will face

lack of human resources in cheap labor if there is no Myanmar workers with them, but also many

Myanmar workers will not be able to survive without working in here, both sides should consider on

the maintaining of these workers.

Keywords: Myanmar Migrant Workers/Workers

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#### **CHAPTER I**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

Over the years Myanmar people have crossed the borders or the trans-boundaries in search of better job opportunities and higher incomes. Individual economic aspirations, rather than other reasons, were the coordinal motivation behind their movement. This situation has created opportunity for those who want to exploit them in various ways.

Myanmar has 3,805 miles (6122. 245km) of land boundary with five neighboring countries. Some people in Myanmar find better job opportunities in the more economically developed neighboring countries and elsewhere. Thus it is easy for the traffickers to lure the victims to such countries with false promises. The Thailand –Myanmar border is 18, 00 kilometers long. Although it has only six official border crossing points, there are countless unofficial ones since government controls are difficult to maintain because of the mountainous and jungle terrain in this area.

Thailand has benefited from Myanmar labor for many years. In the early 1990s, the movement of migrants from neighboring countries increased. Thai workers, formerly employed in agriculture, moved to the plentiful, comparatively high paying and comfortable production positions in Bangkok and its vicinity. People from Myanmar have become the major group of displaced persons in Thailand. From the early 1990s forward, Myanmar workers could be found in almost any dirty, difficult and dangerous jobs (3D jobs) in Thailand. Approximately ten percent of Myanmar's population migrates to other countries, according to a report, *Migration*, *Needs, Issues and Responses in the Greater Mekong Sub region 2002*, by the Asian Migrant Center. More than one million Myanmar illegal migrant workers in Thailand are one of the largest migrant populations in Asia. Migrant workers from Myanmar come from a variety of

geographical locations and ethnic groups and work in several different industries and service sectors in Thailand.

There are both push and pull factors at work when people make the decision to migrate to Thailand. The pull factors include the close geographical location of Thailand to Myanmar as well as the demand in Thailand for cheap labor. The push factors include the poor state of the Myanmar economy and many other unstable conditions occur all over the country. Myanmar is aware of the issue of trafficking having 38050 miles( 61222, 45km) of porous borders with five neighboring countries; Bangladesh, India, Laos, Thailand and China including the negative consequences of this issue. The Myanmar government gives a high priority to combat this issue and collaborates with UN agencies, local and international NGOs to prevent and reduce trafficking.

Officially, the State Peace and Development Council recognizes human trafficking as a problem and has worked to combat it through its Penal Code, which prohibits kidnapping, and the Suppression of Prostitution Act, and the Child Law, which include provisions against the sale, abuse, or exploitation of children.

In March 2004, Myanmar became a signatory to the UN convention on transnational crimes and the supplementary agreements on anti-human trafficking and smuggling. This reflects Myanmar's cooperation with the international community in the fight against human trafficking.

The stock of illegal immigrant workers from neighboring countries (Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia) in 2004 has been 1,512,587 when quasi amnesty was introduced that year. There are thought to be between 500,000 and 600,000 Myanmar workers registered in Thailand. There are around one million illegal migrants from various countries in the kingdom (MYANMAR TIMES Sep 4-10, 2006.)

In Myanmar, most trafficking begins as migration. Technical definition of trafficking includes 3 important aspects:

- 1. Movement from one place to another this can be between countries, or within a country. It could be within a city if the person was taken out of a familiar environment to one where they could not live safely.
- 2. The person ends up in a situation of exploitation. This may involve exploitation through being forced to work in the sex industry, but it can equally involve other types of work

such as factory work, housework, fishing, or running other business, where the pay or the work conditions are unfair. Most often, the person is also not able to escape from these conditions- they are held by force, they are not paid, or they are debt-bonded.

3. The person enters the exploitative work through force, coercion, deception, abuse, or being sold.

A person is trafficked if all of the above 3 steps happens to them.

#### 1.2 Objectives of the Study

- 1. To describe the conditions and characteristics of Myanmar illegal migrant workers in Thailand
- 2. To survey and analyze the pull and push factors to work in Thailand and to investigate other administration and work procedural problems;
- 3. To study behavior and pattern of movement of the migrants from their place of origin to their destination in Thailand.
  - 4. To highlight the positive and negative effects the migrants encounter

#### 1.3 Hypothesis

- 1. Low income in Myanmar as well as the demand in Thailand for cheap labor is the pull factor that the Myanmar migrants workers come into Thailand
- 2. Higher wages and better employment opportunities push the Myanmar workers to migrate into Thailand as well as social network plays vital role in migration.
- 3. There are both positive effect and negative effects for Myanmar illegal migrants who work in Thailand

#### 1.4 Research Questions

- 1. What factors and components are the most important factors influencing Myanmar migrant workers to migrate to Thailand?
  - 2. What and how do they benefit the demand of employment in Thailand?
  - 3. How is the situation of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand?

#### 1.5. Expected Outcomes

This study is aimed at finding ways describe the condition and characteristics of Myanmar illegal migrant workers in Thailand. In addition, this study analyzes the factors that pull and push Myanmar migrant workers to work in Thailand. In addition to the study of external factors such as demographic information on the migrants, this study also evaluates the internal factors which affect the migrants' decision making process. The output of the study will enlighten and create more awareness of migration system as political, social and economics problem to both of Myanmar and Thailand in terms of adjusting and creating other new ways to solve the Myanmar migrant workers problem in Thailand. Ultimately the result will serve as a reference to those who interest in the situation of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

#### 1.6 Scope of the study

#### 1.6.1 Population

The populations used for this study are some Myanmar migrant workers from various sorts of work, officers from concern offices both side of Myanmar and Thailand, and some Thai employers and some Myanmar street-children around Chiangrai and Chiangmai nigh bazaar. Six provinces among the 43 provinces authorized for employment of migrant labor served as the target areas. Each area fit one of the following two criteria: a) a province with the central city of

the region, b) a province along the border which serves as a point of entry for migrants. In addition, the type of work in which migrants engaged was also considered. The six provinces selected were: Bangkok, Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Maesai, Maesot and Mahachai. There were 625 respondents to the questionnaires and interviews.

#### 1.6.2 Time period and Limitations

The study only covers the situation of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand after the year 2000. This study attempts to describe the situation of Myanmar migrant workers in terms of economics, political and social consequences that they face in the port country. The data will only cover the situation of Myanmar migrants workers in Thailand in accordance with the policy and law laid down by the Myanmar government and Thai government. However, the research will sometime compare to the situation of other migrants other than Myanmar.

#### 1.7. Conceptual Framework

There are both push and pull factors at work when people make the decision to migrate to Thailand. The pull factors include the close geographical location of Thailand to Myanmar as well as the demand in Thailand for cheap labor. Higher wages and better employment opportunities, relative economic deprivation in country of origin, and poor state economy in country of origin are the push factors to people to migrate into Thailand.

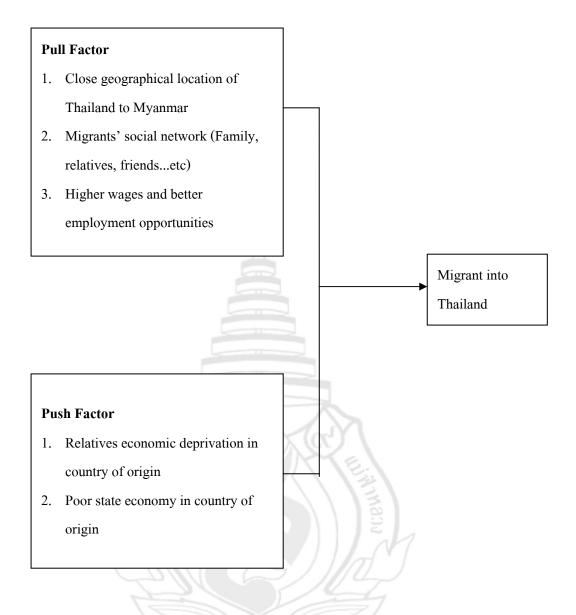


Figure 1.1 Conceptual Frameworks

#### 1.7 Definition of Terms

3D Job Dangerous, Difficult, and Dirty Job

**Commuter** Commuting means frequent and regular travel between residence and area of work. When the distance between the two sites becomes large, and when the frequency of movement slows to bi-weekly or monthly home visits, a situation analogous to labor migration arises.

**Labor migrants** Migrant laborers cross borders to find employment, stay for a period of several months to several years at their destination, and return for long period to their place of origin. Repeated or "circulatory" migration is the rule.

**Myanmar** By the order 6/89 (June 1989) the State Law and Order Restoration Council decreed a change country's official name from *Burma* to Myanmar. The United States and EU country still use the name BURMA

Myanmar Children Myanmar migrant children who stay with their family or stay alone and working in Thailand

**Myanmar Migrant** In this study, Myanmar migrant workers only refer to workers who migrate to Thailand from Myanmar

**Population** The officials and migrant workers whose information are included in this research due to the questionnaires and interviews

**Pull Factor** In this study, "pull factor" refer to the factor that force the Myanmar migrant workers to Thailand, specifically; close geographical location of Thailand and Myanmar, migrant's social network (family, relatives, friends...etc..), higher wages and better living standard opportunities in the Thailand

**Push Factor** Factors that push Myanmar migrant workers to Thailand, namely: relative's economic deprivation in country of origin, and poor state economy in country of origin.

#### **CHAPTER II**

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical and Related Concept

Ravenstein's Laws (1885) stated that the primary cause for migration was better external economic opportunities; the volume of migration decreases as distance increases; migration occurs in stages instead of one long move; population movements are bilateral; and migration differentials (e.g., gender, social, class, age) influence a person's mobility. Everett Lee (1996) reformulated Ravenstein's theory to give more emphasis to internal (or push) factors.

Causes of migration are described by neo-classical and political economist. The former explains that people migrate due to economic motivation. They are thus economic migrants of laborers. Pull factors for migration are higher wages and better employment opportunities. People will move from economically less advanced countries to more advanced ones (Borjas, 1989). Castillo-Freeman and Freeman (1992) indicate that the choice of destination depends on the different GNP in the country of origin and country of destination. Migration will correlate positively with GNP in destination country and negatively with GNP in country of origin. Other factors which affect migration are expenses for travel and types of employment (Cuthbert and Sterns 1981, Melendiz 1994 in Massey et al 1994). Illegal international migration is caused by low wages, low agricultural productivity and high unemployment in the country of origin (Frisbie, 1975). At the micro level, expected income in the destination country, along with expected contribution to household income in the country of origin, determine the decision of an individual and his or her family to migrate (Taylor, 1992).

Neoclassical economic theory (Sjaastad 1962: Todaro 1969) suggests that international migration is related to the global supply and demand for labor. Nations with scarce labor supply and high demand will have high wages that pull immigrants from nations a surplus of labor .World systems theory (Sassen 1988) argues that international migration tend to be from

the periphery (poor nations) to the core (rich nations) because factors associated with industrial development in the destination country generated structural economic problem and thus push factors, in the home country.

The theoretical research explains the theory to which the research evaluation is anchored on general system theory; it is assume that everything is a part of a larger and interdependent arrangement. (Reijntjes et. Al., 1992 as cited by Kattle, 1995).

Each working system and kind of works, registration manner, health care situation, income and every conditions mentioned step by step will build up the whole situation of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

#### 2.2 Literature Review

Sociological theories consider migration as a system of which economic parameters are a part. Migration systems include economic, social, and cultural, legal as well as political aspects. These systems also cover migration process beginning with the decision to leave the country of origin, then the migrant's network in both countries, the network of migration facilitators and that of employers in destination countries (Castles 1993). Migration systems thus cover three stages of migration process i.e., departure, migration and arrival.

The literature related to migration, particularly, the situation of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand, would be used as difference and some previous research outputs done by other researchers would be cited to support this study. This research will endeavor to provide overall positive and negative impacts of the situation of Myanmar migrants workers in Thailand.

Myanmar people migrate due to economic motivation. They are thus economic migrants of laborers. Pull factors for migration are higher wages and better employment opportunities quoted Miss Nwet Kay Khine (2005). People will move from economically less advanced countries to more advanced ones (Borjas 1989). Castillo-Freeman and Freeman (1992) indicate that the choice of destination depends on the different GNP in the country of origin and country of destination. The economic internationalization in the globalization process determines the direction of international migration in such a way that migrants will move from their country of origin to "global cities".

Factors which affect migration are expenses for travel and types of employment (Cuthbert and Sterns 1981, Melendez 1994 in Massey et al 1994). In economic migration, the labor demand in the secondary sector in the destination country is a major pull factor. Population mobility is facilitated and enabled by modern transportation, flows of information and capitalist culture from the core countries to the peripherals (Naw Eh Ywa (2002).

Nations with scarce labor supply and high demand will have high wages that pull immigrants from nations a surplus of labor. The migration from Myanmar tend to be from the periphery (poor nations) to the core (rich nations) because factors associated with industrial development in the destination country generated structural economic problem and thus push factors, in the home country (Bobby (2005). The migration phenomenon from the perspective of the individual migrant and their families, political economists consider structural perspectives as pull factors. Labor markets in capitalist countries will develop a segmented labor market economy and pull labor force from economically less advanced countries to fill shortages.

Supang Chantavanich and group (2000) reported that illegal migration from Myanmar to Thailand is caused by low wages, low agricultural productivity and high unemployment in the country of origin (Frisbie 1975). At the micro level, expected income in the destination country, along with expected contribution to household income in the country of origin, determine the decision of an individual and his or her family to migrate.

Cross-border migration is the mass movement of populations across the border from the country in which they belong to another country for a continuous living period where they are remunerated for work activities. The International Travel Regulations defines a period of 1 year as the length of stay in the new land which determines migrant status.

Thailand has benefited from Myanmar labor for many years ago. In the early 1990s, the movement of migrants from neighboring countries increased. Thai workers, formerly employed in agriculture, moved to the plentiful, comparatively high paying and comfortable production positions in Bangkok and its vicinity. People from Myanmar have become the major group of displaced persons in Thailand. From the early 1990s forward, Myanmar workers could be found in almost any dirty, difficult and dangerous jobs (3D jobs) in Thailand. Approximately ten percent of Burma's population migrates to other countries, according to a report, *Migration*, *Needs, Issues and Responses in the Greater Mekong Sub region 2002*, by the Asian Migrant

Center. More than one million Burmese migrant workers in Thailand are one of the largest migrant populations in Asia. Migrant workers from Myanmar come from a variety of geographical locations and ethnic groups and work in several different industries and service sectors in Thailand. There are both push and pull factors at work when people make the decision to migrate to Thailand. The pull factors include the close geographical location of Thailand to Myanmar as well as the demand in Thailand for cheap labor. The push factors include the poor state of the Myanmar economy and other indescribable states occur all over the country. There are also many Mon, Karen, and Karenni refugees living in camps along the border. This refugee population is not included in this research.

There are two causes; the first is natural of man made disasters. Another classification is by the decision of migrants, that is, voluntary migration and forced migration. In this study, we will focus only on man made disaster and voluntary migration. Causes of migration are described by neo-classical and political economist. The former explains that people, mostly, migrate due to economic motivation.

In addition, while neo-classical economists describe the migration phenomenon from the perspective of the individual migrant and their families, political economists consider structural perspectives as pull factors. The Myanmar people migrant into Thailand, mostly, for economic motivation.

#### **CHAPTER III**

#### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 The Study Sample

#### 3.1.1 Population

The populations for this study were some Myanmar migrant workers from various sort of work, officers from concern offices both side of Myanmar and Thai, and some Thai employers and some street children around Chiangrai and Chiangmai nigh bazaar. Six provinces among the forty three provinces authorized for employment of migrant labor served as the target area. Each area fit one of the following two criteria: a) a province with the central city of the region, b) a province along the border which serves as a point of entry for migrants. In addition, the type of work in which migrants engaged was also considered. The six provinces selected were: Bangkok, Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Maesai, Maesot and Mahachai. There were 624 respondents to the questionnaires and interviews: 106 from Chiangmai, 82 from Chiangrai, 154 from Maesot, 106 from Bangkok, 77 from Maesai, and 99 from Mahachai.

#### 3.1.2 Study Sample

The non-probability sampling method was used in this study. In case Purposive Sampling Method also was used. The entire people in the study population were able to this study. For logistical reasons, the fathering of data for this study will be restricted to the situation of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand after the year 2000. Subsequent data collection was guided by the theoretical sampling principle of grounded theory. Where necessary, data were used from secondary data collection.

In this study, other decision about the sampling process was made during research process itself. In a grounded theory study theoretical sampling cannot be fully planned before the study commerce.

#### 3.2. Sampling Size

Some Myanmar migrant workers from various sort of work, officers from concern offices both side of Myanmar and Thai, and some Thai employers and some street children around Chiangrai and Chiangmai nigh bazaar are set in the sample size. There were 625 participants in this sample size. The Yamane Formula is used to calculate the sample size.

$$n = \underline{N}$$
$$1 + Ne^{2}$$

n = Population Sample

N = Population

e= sampling error

e = 0.04

#### 3.3. Data Collection

#### 3.3.1 Primary Data

Semi-structure interviews were used as the primary means of data collection. Initially, arrangement was made to interview each of the participants in the population of the study side. It also allowed the researcher to find cases in which there as a mismatch between interview data and the facts in the situation of Myanmar migrant workers. Data were obtained from document analysis and interviews with selected workers. Arrangements were made to interview officers in both side of Myanmar and Thai related to this research. Phone interview was made to some officers in the Myanmar side too. Mail questionnaires were sent to the places where field survey could not be made.

#### 3.3.2. Secondary Data

In this study, data-gathering method was included former research papers, reports, observations, and document analysis and related website and papers.

#### 3.4. Data Analysis

Analyzing data by the grounded theory method is an intricate process of reducing raw data into concepts that are designated to stand for categories. The categories are then developed and integrated into theory (Corbin, 1986).

Coding procedures, memo writing and diagramming were used as data analysis strategies. Facts or incidents obtained from interviews. Documents, mail questions, and secondary data were code in a systematic way. Memos were developed as visual representations of the relationships between concepts. Code notes, memos and diagrams were become progressively more detailed and sophisticated as the analysis moves through the three of coding.



#### **CHAPTER IV**

#### **FINDINGS**

This chapter is a compilation of findings from surveys carried out in Chiangrai, Maesai (Chiangrai province), Chiangrai (Chiangrai province), Maesot (Tak Province) and mail questionnaires response from Mahachai (Samut Sakorn province) and Bangkok. The responses and discussions are analyzed according to the situation of the Myanmar illegal migrants.

#### 4.1 Social Characteristics of Illegal Migrants

#### 4.1.1. Ethnic Composition

Myanmar is the largest country in mainland Southeast Asia, sharing border with Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, and Thailand. It has a population 50.2 million with as many as 135 groups speaking over one hundred languages and dialects (United Nation Human Development Report, 2006). As the settlement of the major ethnic groups, the country is divided into seven states and seven divisions.

It is interesting that the migrants home in Myanmar were not only limited to areas along the border but also from the distant states of northwest Myanmar. Table 4.1 shows a breakdown of migrants from states and divisions entering into Thailand from six sites, Chiangrai, Chiangmai, Maesot, Maesai, Bangkok and Mahachai. In Chiangmai 27.36%, in Chiangrai 45.16% and in Maesai 58.84% of the migrants are from Shan States, which is the closest state from Thailand. In Maesai, most of the workers are daily commuter. The Thai Immigration Department in Maesai estimates that there are at least 600 illegal migrants from Myanmar who enter Thailand at Maesai every month with the intention of staying in the country. 21.15 % and 18.91% of migrants are from Shan and Karen and the other groups make up it as a whole (Table 4.2)

 Table 4.1
 The Respondents' Original Place of Living

Place of	Chia	ngmai	C	hiang	M	aesot	Bar	ıgkok	M	laesai	Ma	hachai	T	otal
Living				rai										
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Kachin	21	19.81	2	1.66	11	7.14	9	8.50	5	6.49	8	8.08	56	8.97
State														
Kayar	4	3.77	3	3.71	9	5.84	6	5.66	-	-	3	3.03	25	4
State														
Karen	28	26.42	15	18.94	44	28.57	12	11.32	13	16.88	6	6.06	118	18.91
State														
Chin State	4	3.77	12	14.65	7	4.55	1	0.94	1	1.30	-	-	25	4
Mon State	4	3.77	-	- [	6	3.90	9	8.50	2	2.60	46	46.47	67	10.73
Rakhine	1	0.94	9	10.98	36	23.37	8	7.55	2	2.60	3	3.03	59	9.45
State														
Shan	29	27.36	37	45.16	13	8.44	16	15.08	43	55.84	9	9.09	147	23.6
State			20					1/8						
Yangon	8	7.56	2	2.45	5	3.25	12	11.32	5	6.49	8	8.08	40	6.41
Divisin									2					
Bago	4	3.77	H	(1-1)	11	7.14	9	8.50	2	2.60	3	3.03	29	4.64
Division														
Tanintarry	-	- 7	2	2.45	9	5.85	14	13.20	37	-	4	4.04	29	4.64
Division														
Irawaddy	-	-	-	<u> </u>	3	1.95	7	6.60	3	3.90	9	9.09	22	3.52
Division														
Sagaing	3	2.83	-	-	-	-	3	2.83	1	1.30	-	-	7	1.13
Division														
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field Survey and questionnaire 2007)

Table 4.2 The Respondents' Race and Ethnic Group

Race	Chia	Chiangmai		nai Chiangrai		aesot	Baı	ngkok	M	Maesai		hachai	Total		
and	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Ethnic															
Group															
Kachin	21	19.82	2	2.44	11	7.14	9	8.50	5	6.50	8	8.08	56	8.97	
State															
Kayar	4	3.77	3	3.66	9	5.84	6	5.65	-	-	3	3.03	55	4	
State															
Karen	28	26.43	15	18.30	44	28.57	12	11.32	13	16.88	6	6.06	118	18.91	
State															
Chin	4	3.77	12	14.63	7	4.55	1	0.94	1	1.30	-	-	25	4	
State															
Mon	4	3.77	-	乄	6	3.90	9	8.50	2	2.60	46	46.46	67	10.73	
State															
Rakhine	1	0.94	9	10.98	36	23.38	8	7.55	2	2.60	3	3.03	59	9.45	
State				3//					1						
Shan	22	20.75	36	43.90	11	7.14	13	12.26	42	54.54	8	8.08	132	21.15	
State		N	=						1						
Bama	22	20.75	5	6.09	30	19.48	48	45.28	12	15.58	25	25.26	142	22.79	
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100	

(Field survey and questionnaires 2007)

#### 4.1.2. Age and Gender

According to survey result, over half of the migrants are their best working age between 18-35 years and not much documented difference found in gender distribution (Table 4.3). This is basically in line with findings of Bobby (2004).

 Table 4.3
 Respondent's Age and Sex

Age		,	Total		
	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage	
<18 years	24	27	51	8.17	
18 to 35 years	191	109	300	48	
36 to 50 years	104	111	215	34.5	
>50 years	33	25	58	9.33	
Total	352	272	624	100	

(Field survey and mail questionnaire 2007)

#### 4.1.3. Marital Status

The result reveals that over half of the migrants are married, some are single and a few others are widowed or divorced. The finding is similar to that of Bobby (2004) and nearly in line with the finding of Eh Ywa (2002) where single and married are 32 and 68 percent respectively. There is not much gender distribution different in single and married migrants (Table 4.4). In marriage, most of the youth are just living together and departed when their work places changed. The most common family size in this survey is 4 and 7 members.

Table 4.4 Respondents' Marital Status

Marital Status	5	Sex	Total					
	Male	Female	Frequency	Percentage				
Married	187	176	363	58.17				
Single	104	142	246	39.50				
Widow /Divorce	4	11	15	2.33				
Total	295	329	624	100				

(Field Survey and mail questionnaire 2007)

#### 4.1.4. Educational Status

According to the migrants' responses, more than 85% of the people have at least basic education. It is very interesting that about 5% of the people have earned degree from university and come here to be hard labor workers. Some of them work as sale persons and even in garment. Most of the respondents drop out school in secondary level for aiming for higher social status. The illiterates make up 9.46 % of the respondents. Most of them have been working in construction, fishery and garment. Table 4.5 shows the educational status of the respondents.

 Table 4.5
 Educational Status of Respondents

Educational	Chia	angmai	Ch	iangrai	M	aesot	Baı	ngkok	M	Iaesai	Ma	hachai	Т	otal
Status	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Illiterate	16	15.10	2	2.44	27	17.53	4	3.77	1	1.30	9	9.09	59	9.46
Grade 1 - 4	59	55.66	63	76.82	41	26.62	9	8.50	43	55.84	27	27.27	242	38.78
Grade 5 -10	24	22.64	16	19.52	83	53.90	86	81.13	27	35.06	57	57.58	293	46.95
10 <sup>th</sup> and	7	6.60	1	1.22	3	195	7	6.60	6	7.80	6	6.06	30	4.81
above			3				$\langle \ \rangle$	18		e.				
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaires 2007)

#### 4.1.5 Religion

Myanmar is composed of Buddhist (89%), Christian (5%), Muslims (3%), Hindus (2%) and animist and others (1%). In my data collection among the Myanmar migrants in Thailand, 48.71% of the respondents are Buddhist, 29.16% are Christian, and 14.90% and 6.73% are Hindu and Muslim, and 0.50% is animists and others

 Table 4.6
 Religion of Respondents

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Buddhist	304	48.71
Christian	182	29.16
Muslim	93	14.90
Hindu	42	6.73
other	3	0.50
Total	624	100

(Field Survey and mail questionnaires 2007)

#### 4.2 Migrants' Employment and income in Myanmar

The first hypothesis is low income in Myanmar as well as the demand in Thailand for cheap labor is the pull factor that the Myanmar migrant workers come into Thailand

At least about two third of the Myanmar people live in rural area (30.02 million) and the rest live in urban (20 million). People in rural area are normally depended on subsistence agriculture and unstable job. The labor force in Myanmar is recorded as 23.7million in 1999 which can be further divided by occupation as agriculture (65%), factory (105) and services (25%). Economic hardship is further expressed by unemployment rate as 5.1, 20% of population lives below poverty line and inflation project as 20% (World Population database, 2002).

The main reason why Myanmar people migrate into other countries is economic reason. Their income is very low and job is scare.

In this survey, 37.5% the respondents have unstable in Myanmar and 27.08% of the respondents earn less than 10,000 Kyats per month. The students were jobless and without income. Particularly shown in the table as previous work in Myanmar are all unskilled and low income people. Farmers, vendor, students, plantation workers do not have regular income. Only 6.09% of the respondents had got more than 50,000 Kyats in Myanmar. Table 4.7 and 4.8 show the migrants' employment and income in Myanmar.

 Table 4.7 Respondents' Previous Work In Myanmar

Previous	Chia	angmai	Chi	angrai	M	aesot	Baı	ıgkok	M	aesai	Ma	hachai	Т	otal
work in	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Myanmar														
Jobless	14	13.20	6	7.32	11	17.14	5	4.71	17	22.07	17	17.17	70	11.21
Factory	9	8.50	3	3.66	19	12.34	14	13.20	6	7.81	9	9.10	60	9.62
worker Plantation worker	11	10.38	11	13.41	17	11.04	4	3.77	21	27.27	16	16.16	80	12.83
Construction worker	37	34.90	16	19.51	28	18.18	36	33.97	14	18.18	19	19.19	150	24.03
Student	8	7.55	6	7.32	18	11.69	23	21.71	1	1.31	13	13.13	69	11.05
Vender	4	3.77	11	13.41	27	17.53	14	13.20	9	11.68	4	4.04	69	11.05
Farmer	21	19.81	24	29.27	31	20.13	9	8.51	9	11.68	17	17.17	111	17.8
Odd job	2	1.89	5	6.10	3	1.95	100	0.63	\	-	4	4.04	15	2.41
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaire)

Table 4.8 Respondents' Household Income in Myanmar

Household income in Myanmar (Kyat)	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 10,000	169	27.08
10,000 - 20,000	341	54.65
30,000 – 40,000	76	12.18
50,000 – 100,000	24	3.85
100,000 -above	14	2.24
Total	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaires, 2007)

Myanmar people, mostly, are living together with an extending family and the household members living together are very big. Table 4.9 shows that 38.62% of the respondents' households are above six people living together as a family. 47.12% indicate as four to five persons and only 14.26% have three and less than three people in their family.

Table 4.9 Number of persons living together as a family

No. of persons living together	Frequency	Percentage	
Three persons	89	14.26	
Four to five	294	47.12	
Six persons and above	241	38.62	
Total	624	100	

(Field survey and mail questionnaire, 2007)

According to field survey (Table 4.10), 65.54% of the respondents make the decision by themselves. Because of financial problems, many parents have to depend on their working children; therefore, many youth make their decision to migrate to Thailand to get better job and more income to support their family. According to field survey, 43.59% of the respondents are female that it is not much lesser than that of men (Table 4.4). Decision is made by spouse for 15.54% of the respondent, for 11.38% by their parent and for 7.54% by friend and others.

Table 4.10 Decision Makers

Who make Decision	Frequency	Percentage
Myself	409	65.54
Spouse	97	15.54
Parents	71	11.38
Friends/relatives	47	7.54
Total	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaires 2007)

Table 4.11 Respondents' Decision Making Process

<b>Push Factors</b>	Frequency	Percentage	Pull Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Relatives economic	601	96.32	Close geographical location of	84	13.46
deprivation in			Thailand to Myanmar		
country of origin					
Poor state economy	23	3.68	Migrant's social network	206	33.01
in country of origin			(relatives/friendsetc)		
			Higher wages and better job	334	53.53
			opportunities		
Total	624	100		624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaire)

#### 4.3 The Pattern, Process, and main factors of Myanmar migrants

Higher wages and better employment opportunities push the Myanmar workers to migrate into Thailand as well as social network plays vital role in migration.

Economic hardship, mostly, led Myanmar people to migrate. 85.1 % of the respondents migrate into Thailand with the hope to get better income. 8.2 % has followed their family, relatives and friends. 6.7% of the respondents have reasons other than the mentioned reasons. Decision making process involved push, pull and risk factors of the country of origin and destination place. Push factor in Myanmar include relative economic deprivation and poor state economy. Pull factor in Thailand include close geographical location, migrant's social network, higher wages and better job opportunities and better living conditions (Table 4.12)

Table 4.12 The Reason of Migration

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
better income	420	67.3
better living conditions	111	17.8
followed relatives or friends	51	8.2
Other than above reasons	16	2.5
No opinion	26	4.2
Total	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaire 2007)

#### 4.3.1. Information Source

Migrant networks are set of interpersonal ties that connect migrants, former migrants and non-migrants in origin and destination areas through ties of kinship, friendship, and shared community origin (Massey et al., 1993). Chain migration is a process in which migrants move to destinations which they already know and where they have establish contacts, or which they have heard of indirectly through relatives and friends(Young,1979). Chain migration can be defined as that movement in which prospective migrants learn of opportunities, and provided with transportation and employment arranged by means of primary social relationships with previous migrants (MacDonald, 1964)

Getting information is one of the networking to migration. These information sources came from agents or brokers, friends and relatives who have already been working in Thailand. In table 4.13, 67.46% of the respondents got information from their relatives and friends. 14.11% known from agents and 10.10% visited Thailand before. For Chiangrai, Chiangmai, Maesai and

Maesot are more close to border areas and not too much steps to enter inside Thailand. Entering into Mahachai and Bangkok is a little bit more risky. Mostly people who are working in bordering town, such as Maesot, Ranong, etc; try to come to Bangkok and Mahachai for more job opportunity and better income. Some people who have visited Thailand before had known about Thailand situation, but most people did not have any knowledge about Thailand. They took risk for their future. Table 4.14 shows that 63.14% have no knowledge about Thailand before entering into Thailand while 26.92% know a little bit about and, 9.94% know well about Thailand.

Table 4.13 Getting source of information

Getting source	Chia	ngmai	Chi	angrai	Mae	sot	Bang	gkok	Ma	esai	Ma	hachai	Tota	1
of information	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Friends/relatives	87	82.07	68	82.93	91	59.09	37	34.90	57	74.02	81	81.81	421	67.46
Agents	9	8.50	4	4.88	14	9.09	58	54.71	-	-	3	3.03	88	14.11
Visited before	6	5.66	9	10.97	9	5.85	9	8.50	19	24.67	11	11.11	63	10.10
Other	4	3.77	Y	1.22	40	25.97	2	1.89	1	1.31	4	4.05	52	8.33
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaire2007)

Table 4.14 Knowledge about Thailand before Migrated

Knowledge about Thai	Frequency	Percentage
before migrated		
No Knowledge	394	63.14
Little	168	26.92
Know well	62	9.94
Total	624	100

(Field Survey and questionnaires 2007)

#### 4.3.2 Cost of investment

Migration costs include agent's fee, transportation, meal, and other factors that help to pass the main gates. The costs differ as geographical location, information availability, accessibility and net working. Mostly, all the costs calculated have to be paid to agents. For those who have reliable relatives in Thailand, the cost in less than those who have no network. For Maesai, Maesot, Chiangrai and Chiangmai, as the border pass is easier and the location is nearer, the fee to travel is less. So, for the 47.44% and 20.35% of the respondents who have used less than 1000 Baht to 2500 Baht are mostly from the above four region. Comparing to the other four areas, an agent fee in Bangkok and Mahachai is higher. 22.28% of the respondents have to give 4000 Bath to even more than 5000 Baht (Table 4.15)

To get the cost of investment 42.30% of the respondents borrowed money from money lender. 37.5% of the respondents got help from their family and relatives while 17.63% of the respondents had to sell their own properties and 2.575 of the respondents got the cost of investment in other ways. Most migrants who get help from family and relatives and who sold their own properties do not need to pay for the interest while some have to pay the interest even they are relatives, but the interest rate is less than the rate of money lenders (Table 4.16)

Table 4.15 Cost of Investment

Amount of	Chia	ngmai	Chi	angrai	M	aesot	Bar	ıgkok	M	aesai	Ma	hachai	T	otal
money to pay	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
for agents														
(baths)			~			3			7					
Less than	91	85.84	52	63.41	91	59.09	2	1.88	57	74.02	3	3.03	296	47.44
1000														
1001 -2500	9	8.50	29	35.36	39	25.33	29	27.36	18	23.38	3	3.03	127	20.35
2501-4000	5	4.72	1	1.23	24	15.58	9	8.50	2	2.60	21	21.21	62	9.93
4001-5500	-	-	-	-	-	-	64	60.38	-	-	71	71.72	135	21.64
5501 to above	1	0.94	-	-	-	-	2	1.88	-	-	1	1.01	4	0.64
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaire 2007)

Table 4.16 Sources of getting investment cost

Source of	Chia	ngmai	Chi	angrai	Maes	sot	Bang	gkok	Ma	esai	Ma	hachai	Tota	l
investment	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Money lender	82	77.36	29	35.36	43	27.92	35	33.01	4	5.19	71	71.72	264	42.30
Relatives/friends	14	13.21	43	52.44	61	39.62	38	35.85	65	84.42	13	13.13	234	37.5
Sold own	10	9.43	6	7.32	49	31.81	31	29.25	-	-	14	14.14	110	17.63
properties														
Others	-	-	4	4.88	<u> </u>	0.65	2	1.89	8	10.39	1	1.01	16	2.57
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field Survey and mail questionaire 2007)

#### 4.3.3 Making Arrangement for Entering Thailand

Before migrate, the people try to contact with the people from the destination country. Even who have relative and friends need to depend on agents for a safety journey. This agents have network with who are concerning on the way to the place where the migrants want to go.

In Table (4.17) 61.62% from the Mahachai, respondents have to depend on agents. Compare to other areas, migrants Mahachai are more rely on agents. For the whole, 9.77% of the respondents come to Thailand with their on accord, and 20.68% enter into Thailand by the help of relatives. 57.37% of the respondents rely on the agents while other 12.18 just enter into Thailand in other ways.

Table 4.17 Making Arrangement for Entering Thailand

Who make	Chia	ngmai	Chi	angrai	Mae	sot	Bang	gkok	Ma	esai	Ma	hachai	Tota	l
arrangement	F	%	F	<b>%</b>	F	<b>%</b>	F	%	F	<b>%</b>	F	<b>%</b>	F	<b>%</b>
Own accord	4	3.77	1	1.22	9	5.85	-	-	39	50.65	8	8.08	61	9.77
Relatives/friends	5	4.73	-	-	9	5.85	91	85.85	-	-	24	24.24	129	20.68
By agent	81	76.41	71	86.58	105	68.18	12	11.32	28	36.36	61	61.62	358	57.37
Others	16	15.09	10	12.20	31	20.12	3	2.83	10	12.99	6	6.06	76	12.18
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field survey and questionaires 2007)

#### 4.3.4 Risk taking to enter Thailand

There are six main legal entry points for migrants to enter along the border of Thailand: (1) Kawhtaung –Ranong; (2) Myawaddy – Maesot, Tak province; (3) Three Pagodas – Sangklaburi district, Kanachanaburi province; (4) Kareeni State –Maehongson; (5) Karenni – Fang District, Chiangmai province; (6) Tachileik –Maesai, Chaingrai province (Figure 4.1 and 4.2)

People choose the closest entry point to enter into Thailand from their original place. In Table 4.18 respondents from Maesot, Bangkok and Mahachai mostly choose the entry points of Myawaddy –Maesot and Kawhtaung- Ranong. Most respondents from Chiangmai, Chaingrai and Maesai used Tachileik-Maesai entry. For the whole, 64.74 % of the respondents used the main check points while 34.62% of the respondents used illegal entry points (Table 4.18)



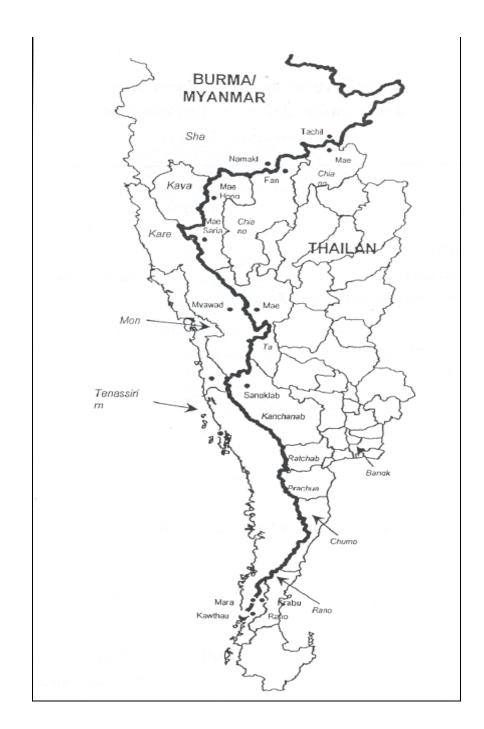


Figure 4.1. Myanmar – Thailand Major Border Points

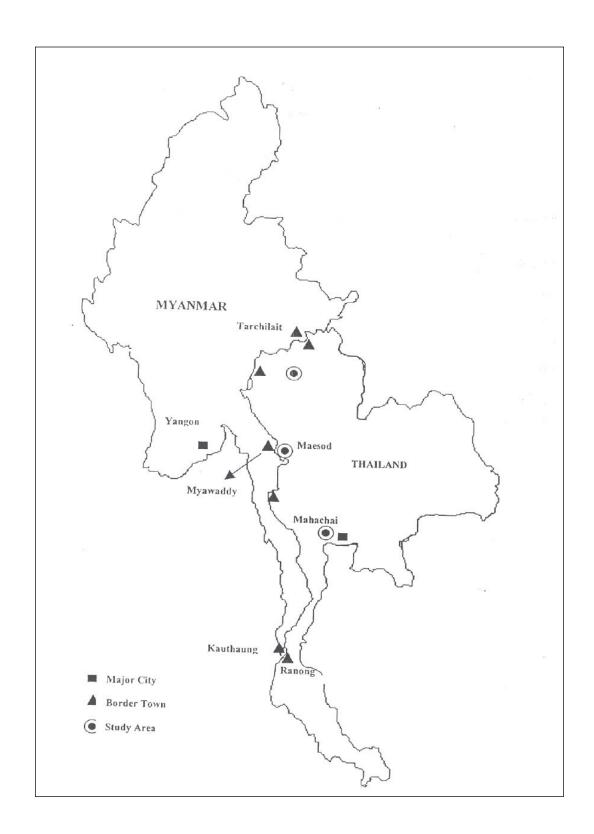


Figure 4.2. Map Showing Thailand-Myanmar Border Towns and Study Area

Table 4.18 Choose Border Points for Entering Thailand

Entry	Chia	ngmai	Chi	angrai	Mae	sot	Bang	gkok	Ma	esai	Ma	hachai	Tota	1
Border	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Point														
Myawaddy -	1	0.94	-	-	145	94.16	59	55.66	-	-	17	17.17	222	35.58
Maesot														
Kawhtaung-	-	-	-	-	-	X	47	44.34	-	-	74	74.74	121	19.40
Ranong														
Three	-	-	-	-	9	5.84	-	-	-	-	7	7.08	16	2.56
Pagoda -														
Sangklaburi														
Tachileik-	105	99.06	82	100	-	-	-	-	77	100	-	-	264	42.30
Maesai														
Karenni-	-	-	M		X-)	\ <del>-</del> }	100	<b>)</b> [(	-		1	1.01	1	0.16
Maehongson			100	74	(V	$\mathbf{Y}$	1	(8)						
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaires, 2007)

 Table 4.19 Respondents Using Entering Points to Cross the border

<b>Entering Point</b>	Frequency	Percent
Main check point	404	64.74
Illegal entry point	216	34.62
Others	4	0.64
Total	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaires, 2007)

# 4.3.5 Arrested and Deportation

The number of illegal migrant workers in Thailand, especially from Myanmar, rapidly increased during nineties as the economy surged. In 1999, the Thai government estimated that there were still more than 500,000 illegal migrant workers in the country and in 2006 more than one million again (Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, 2000, 2006).

Table 4.20 shows respondents' experience about arrest by the police. More than 82% 0f the respondents have never been arrested. It means they have some ways to escape before getting behind the bars. Respondents who experienced arrest by police were also asked for how they got release. In the survey, most of the respondents answered that it is better and safer to use about 2,000 to 3,000 Baht to get free than to be send back to Myanmar. Table 4.21 shows that 15.60% of the respondents completed arrest period and 4% were send back to Myanmar. The other 80.73% have some way to get free earlier.

Table 4.20 Respondents' Experience about Arrest by Police

Arrested by police	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	109	17.46
No 2	515	82.54
Total	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaire, 2007)

Table 4.21 Way of Getting free from arrested

Getting free	Frequency	Percentage
Completed arrest period	17	15.60
Send back to Myanmar	4	3.67
Others	88	80.73
Total	109	100

(Field survey2007)

In Thailand, the Immigration Act of 1979 determines legal status in the following tow ways: (1) People who can legally say in Thailand and (2) Migrants who illegally stay in Thailand.

Migrant who entered Thailand under the Immigration Act of 1979: have legal immigration documents and entered Thailand through legal channels.

Migrant who illegally entered Thailand: Some people who illegally entered Thailand are allowed to temporarily stay under Section 17 of Immigration Act 1979, and are categorized as color-card holders or registered migrant workers.

For Myanmar people who entered Thailand before March 1976 have Pink Card, post –March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1976 Myanmar arrivals hold Purple Card, Thai ethnic from Myanmar hold yellow card with dark blue edge.

A work permit totaling cost baht 3,250 Baht, Baht 1,200 for health insurance, Baht 900 for the work permit, Baht 150 for ID card, and Baht 1,000 for deposit fee. Baht 1,200 fee must be paid to renew the card for an additional six months. Some employers who initially paid the registration fees often deduct money each month from the salaries of their workers. Because of the high fee, many workers just stay without work permit card. In 2007, only 31% of the Myanmar migrant workers hold work permit cards and the other 69% have no work permit cards (The NATION, December 19, 2007). This is nearly the same line with my survey results in Table 4.22

Table 4.22 Migration who have work permit card

	Frequency	Percentage
YES*	194	31
NO	430	69
Total	624	100

(Field Survey and Mail Questionnaire, 2007)

#### 4.3.7 Occupation and Income

The main reason why many Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand is to get higher income that they will get better living for themselves and also for their family. As the majority of

illegal migrants are unskilled laborers, their works are mostly unskilled jobs such as construction factory, housemaid, fishery, garment and others.

Table 4.23 Distribution of Respondents' Occupation in Study Areas

Major	Chia	ingmai	Chi	angrai	Ma	aesot	Bar	ıgkok	M	aesai	Ma	hachai	T	otal
work in	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Thailand														
Construction	84	79.24	77	93.90	29	18.83	51	48.11	18	23.37	7	7.08	266	42.63
Factory	-	-	-	-	-	X	9	8.50	-	-	3	3.03	12	1.92
Housemaid	7	6.60	1	1.22	È		17	16.03	-	-	-	-	25	4
Sales Person	6	5.66	1	1.22	18	11.68	23	21.70	39	50.66	6	6.06	93	14.91
Fishery	-	-	-	-	- ·		4 -	-	-	-	69	69.69	69	11.05
Garment	-	-	-	-	83	53.90		-	-	-	-	-	83	13.31
Agriculture	-	-	2	2.44	3	1.95		-	9	11.69	-	-	14	2.24
General	-	-	_	大	7	<u>_</u>	4	3.77	9	11.69	6	6.06	19	3.04
worker														
Other	9	8.50	i	1.22	21	13.64	2	1.89	2	2.59	8	8.08	43	6.90
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field survey and mail questionnaires 2007)

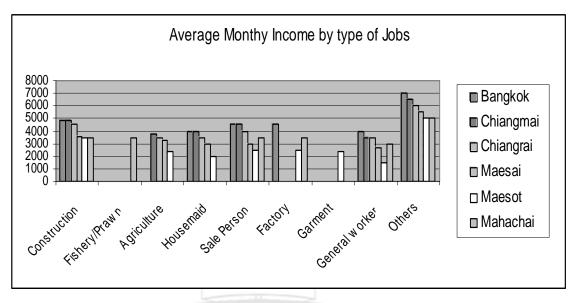
Most of the respondents resided and worked in Thailand without proper documentation, therefore, fell outside Thai laws that ensure labor rights and the mandatory minimum wage of 147 Bath. Income differences between and within sites were largely determined by the type of work in which migrants were engaged. Other than Maesot, the other five areas in my survey, 77.89% of the respondents get between 2500 Baht and 6000 Baht. Respondents from Maesot, mostly get 50 baht to 80 baht as daily wage. For people who get more than 5000 Baht, the over time fee are also included. Mostly the overtime fee is 12 Baht per hour. 44.23% of the respondents get between 2500 and 3500 Baht per month, and 27.73% get 3500 Baht to 5000 per month, and only 7.7% of the respondents can get from 5000 Bath to more than 6000 per month. The 5.28% who get less than 1000 per month are only from Maesot.

Table 4.24 Respondents' Monthly Income by Study Areas

Monthly	Chia	ngmai	Chi	angrai	Maes	sot	Bang	gkok	Ma	esai	Ma	hachai	Tota	1
income in	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Thailand (														
in Baht)					- (	4								
Less than	-	-	-	-	33	21.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	5.28
1000														
1000-2500	8	7.55	4	4.88	67	43.50	-	-	15	19.48	-	-	94	15.06
2501-3500	68	64.15	31	37.80	34	22.08	59	55.66	32	41.56	52	52.53	276	44.23
3501- 5000	21	19.81	41	50	17	11.04	37	34.91	13	16.88	44	44.44	173	27.73
5000-6000	7	6.60	4	4.88	2	1.30	6	5.66	15	19.48	3	3.03	37	5.93
Above 6000	2	1.89	2	2.44	1	0.65	4	3.77	2	2.60	-	-	11	1.77
Total	106	100	82	100	154	100	106	100	77	100	99	100	624	100

(Field Survey 2007)

In Figure 4.3 show more specific in monthly income according to the type of jobs. Mostly the construction workers get between 3500 Baht to 4800 Baht per month, and workers in fishery and prawn industry from Mahachai get more than 3500 Baht per month, and workers from agriculture get between 2500 to 4000 Baht per month, and housemaid get from 200 to 4000 Baht per month, and sale persons can get between 2500 and 4500 Baht per month, and factory workers get from 2500 to 4500 Baht per month, and the garment workers from Maesot get about 2500 Baht per month. Some migrant workers have no specific job, so their income depend on the quantity of job they can got in a month so their income per month is from 1500 to 4000 Baht. For other jobs, such as commercial sex workers get from 5000 to more than 7000 Baht per month.



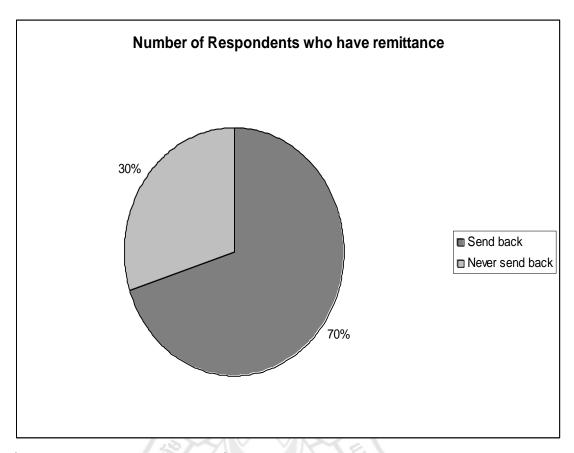
(Field survey and mail questionnaire 2007)

Figure 4.3 Average Monthly Incomes by Type of Jobs

## 4.3.8 Saving and Remittance

Remittances are one type of economic impact on migrants' families. According to my survey result, the income and remittance of funds and saving are different depending on the kinds of jobs. For respondents who work in wool knitting, garment, housemaid, sale persons got their salary monthly, and construction workers and other respondents, mostly, got their salary weekly and every fifteen days. Respondents who worked in prawn industry and fishery do not have regular income. As daily workers, the incomes depend on how much they can work.

As illegal workers, the job owners, mostly and often, play tricks on them. For 30% of the respondents, they cannot remit money back to their home as their income is unstable. In this 30% respondents are typically from fishery, prawn industry and general workers. From the 70% who have remittance, some respondents remit money every month(3.84%), every three months(18.59%)and some remit their money every six months(33.96%) and once per year(13.61%). (Figure 4.4) (Table 4.25)



(Field Survey and questionnaire, 2007)

Figure 4.4 Number of Respondents who have remittance

 Table 4.25 Times of Remittance

Times of Remittance	Frequency	Percentage
Every month	24	3.84
Every Three Month	116	18.59
Every Six Month	212	33.96
Once Per year	85	13.61
Never	187	30
Total	624	100

(Field Survey, 2007)

Only 3.20% of the respondents can save less than 1000. 18.59% save between 1,000 and 2,000 Baht. 25.32% can save 2,000 to 3,000 Baht per month. The 39.11% who can save 3,000 to 4,000 Baht are respondents from construction, Housemaid, and sale persons. The 10.26% and 3.52% of the respondents who get 4,000 to 5,000 Baht and even above 5,000 Baht are respondents mostly from service workers. (Table 4.26)

Table 4.26 Saving per Month by Respondents

Saving per month (Baht)	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 1,000	20	3.20
1,000- 2,000	116	18.59
2,000-3,000	158	25.32
3,000-4,000	244	39.11
4,000-5,000	64	10.26
Above 5000	22	3.52
Total	624	100

(Field Survey 2007)

The main purpose of the Myanmar migrants who are working Thailand is to get better income and better job that they may able to support their family. 71% of the respondents send money to their home by agents. 10% of the respondents bring along with them when they visit back home. For the respondents who live in Maesot and Maesai, their family members can cross the border gates for one day pass that they can come and take the money. For 8% of the respondents, they send their money through their friends who visit back home. If the migrants send money by agents, they pay to the agents by Thai currency (Baht) and the agent's family in Myanmar pays migrants' family in Myanmar currency (Kyats). Hence, frequently, the amount of receive is different depending on the exchange rates. (Figure 4.5)

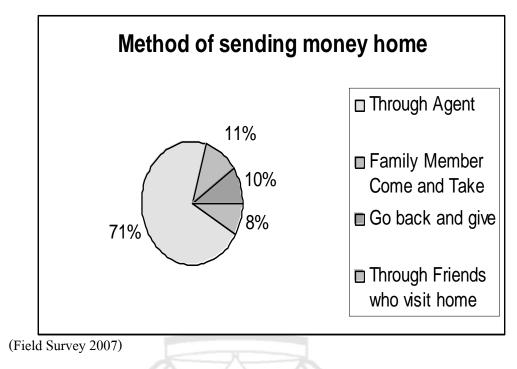
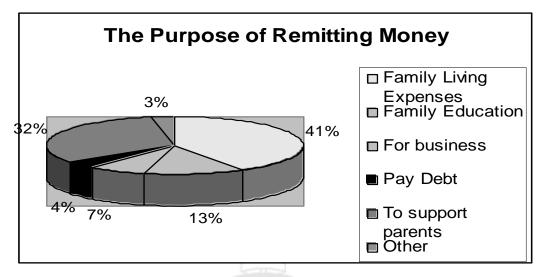


Figure 4.5 Method of sending money home

## 4.3.9 The Purpose of Remitting

The migrants have various purposed for remittance. According to Figure 4.6, 41% of the respondents remit their money to support their family living expenses. 32% of the respondents send back their money to support their old age parents who cannot work any more.13% of the respondents send the money to support their children, sisters and brothers to go to school. 7% sends their money for family run business and 4% the respondents send their money to pay back their debt. 3% of the respondents have other reasons than above reasons in their remittance.



(Field Survey 2007)

Figure 4.6 The Purpose of Remitting Money

## 4.4. The Consequence of Migration

As the third factor of the hypothesis, there are positive effect and negative effects for Myanmar illegal migrants who work in Thailand.

#### 4.4.1. Positive effects

For most Myanmar migrant worker in Thailand, how much money they can remit to home is the positive affects. The more money they can send the higher living standard their families have. Their children can go to school. On the other hand, many of their family can start small family business for regular income. For some migrants, they borrowed the money to come into Thailand to find job, so when they send back some money, their family pay the debt back. For some, but only a little, they even can buy own land and build house in Myanmar after working in Thailand for several years. For the migrants themselves, they have better and higher living standard that, at least they can have mobile phones which is highly expensive in Myanmar.

#### 4.4.2. Negative effects

As illegal migrants, they have no freedom as much in their home place. Because of the different culture and situation, mentally, they feel unconfident. As illegal migrants, their work owner frequently plays tricks and pay less than they should get. As illegal workers, they have no right to state the case to the authority. For some housemaid, they faced sexual harassment by their employers.

Some migrants borrowed money with great interest and travel into Thailand. When situation is not in favor, they cannot pay back the money in time that the interest become higher and higher.

For the migrants who left their children in Myanmar, their children lost their parents guidance and protection that affect them mentally and also socially. Another sad effect is communication break-down between the migrants and the families at home. This is probably due to the difficulty in transportation as some of their families live in remote area where there is no communication system. Mostly the communication they only have is air mails. Table 4.27 shows 50.16 % of the respondents never contact to their home for many untellable reasons.49.84% of the respondents have contact with their families not more than four times per year. For 61.54% of the respondents never visit back to their home after getting to Thailand as most of them are illegal migrant that it will be very difficult to enter again into Thailand. 33.81% of the respondents who visit back home occasionally are from Maesot and Maesai that they can pass the border gate by one-day pass ticket and one-week-border-pass booklet. The other 4.65% who visit home once per year, mostly, have work permit card(Table 4.28) The other negative the migrants face is that most of their children cannot go to Thai school even if the Thai schools accept because of financial aid problem and language problem.

Table 4.27 Migrants' Contact with their family

Contact	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	311	49.84
No	313	50.16
Total	624	100

(Filed Survey 2007)

 Table 4.28 Migrants Visited home

Visited Home	Frequency	Percentage
Never go back	384	61.54
Once per year	29	4.65
Occasionally	211	33.81
Total	624	100

(Field Survey 2007)

#### 4.5. The Thai Cabinet Resolution

Because the estimated number of clandestine immigrants rapidly increased while Thai officials failed to regulate the flow, the National Security Council (NSC) held a meeting on June 12, 1996 to assess the situation and discuss possible administrative responses. On July 25, the NSC presented a plan to the Cabinet for consideration. The Cabinet approved a directive to permit Myanmar, Lao and Khmer to work in Thailand as laborers in seven sectors and domestic helpers for two years.

Thaksin Shinawatra's government policy toward Myanmar migrant workers is markedly different from that of the previous administrations, which tried to control the numbers of Burmese workers for reasons of national security. Over the last two years, Burmese workers were allowed to work only in 18 business sectors in 37 selected provinces. All this has changed due to the Thai Cabinet resolution of 28 August 2001, which allows unlimited numbers of Burmese to work in Thailand, in all sectors and in every province, at least as long as they register with the authorities. This resolution has resulted in 447,093 Burmese migrant workers being legally registered for a maximum period of six months, at the Ministry of Labor between 24 September and 25 October 2001.

During the registration renewal period for migrant workers that ran from September 15 to October 15 2002, Thailand instituted a new form, the Tor Dor 13, which migrants had to fill out. This form required that applicants provide their addresses in their home countries, leading

some workers to fear that their families in Burma might face harassment from the SPDC which actively discourages illegal migration. Migrants were also afraid that if they gave a false address then they would be banned by the SPDC from returning to Myanmar in the future.

In late 2001, the Thai and Myanmar Governments entered into negotiations about the repatriation of illegal workers. The SPDC agreed to set up a number of holding centers or reception camps directly on the border inside Myanmar.

As mentioned in the objectives of the study, brief administration and work procedure concerning with migration from both sides, Myanmar and Thailand, are as follow.

# 4.6. The Corporation of Myanmar Government in Trafficking and Migration Sector

Considering trafficking in persons a serious case, Myanmar has been tackling it through a comprehensive approach at bilateral and multi-lateral levels. And the nation is fighting against such evil acts through the National Plan of Action and legal actions. The National Plan of Action covers strategies for prosecution, protection and prevention. It formed the Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons, the Working Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons, and the Task Force to draft the anti-trafficking law. The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Law, a prerequisite for combating transnational organized crimes including trafficking in person, was enacted in 2004. Moreover, as money laundering is linked to trafficking in persons, the Control of Money Laundering Law and Rules were also enacted in 2002 and 2003 respectively. The Central Control Board (CCB) and the financial investigation body have been set up as well.

In the international area of cooperation, Myanmar signed an agreement with Australia to curb human trafficking in Asian region. Myanmar has been cooperating with Cambodia, Laos and Thailand according to the agreement. In March 2004, Myanmar formed an anti-human trafficking group to look into the cases relating to the crime. In addition, Myanmar is a signatory to the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC), the Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants agreement. The

Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand and on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers has come into force since June 2003. The MoU has provided enormous assistance to the work of prevention against human trafficking.

The Working Committee or Prevention against Trafficking in Persons formed in July 2002 is playing an active role in the drive. From 2002 to 2004, the Committee exposed 474 cases. In connection with the cases, actions were taken against 519 persons, 2,629 victims could be rescued, 722,061 were educated regarding the dangers posed by human traffickers and 17,280 were repatriated. Myanmar has also enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law. In 684 cases prosecuted between 2001 and May 2006, action was taken against 1920 persons of which 2 were given life sentence and 99 were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. As preventive measures, 830,000 were counseled and 28,840 were deterred in time by working groups on trafficking in persons, including MWAF members, in cooperation with the Myanmar Police Force and the local authorities.

The most recent Thai government initiative, from October to November 2001, resulted in 447,093 persons being registered in ten labor sectors. The majority were workers in agriculture (99,149), fishing (77,714), and domestic services (59,873), with an additional 19,600 "laborers without employer." The registration scheme did not include migrants working in many other sectors, such as the service industry (including massage or sex work), seasonal workers (those working with an employee less than one year), market vendors, child workers (less than 18 years of age), other family members or those who could not pay the 4,450 baht registration fees. Many migrants failed to register because they were not informed (or were ill-informed), could not travel to the registration sites, had become confused by the various work permits and processes introduced or their employers refused to participate. For the majority of migrants, the registration process increased their dependence on their employer not only to register, but also to maintain their "legal status." In addition, it is reported that employers consistently keep their workers' registration cards, limiting migrants' autonomy and ability to prove their legal status.

# 4.7. Laws and Agreements Concerning with Migration between Thai and Myanmar

In June 2003, Thailand and Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on migrant workers, similar to the MoUs Thailand had previously signed with Laos and Cambodia. The bilateral agreement is meant to establish a legal labor import system in coming years, and also sets the terms for the repatriation of illegal Myanmar workers.

The proposed changes to the regulations for migrant workers include requiring all legal migrants to have passports, visas, official contracts and limited terms of stay. The changes, aimed to start in 2004, mean that all imported workers would receive a two-year work permit, renewable only once. Fifteen percent of their wages would be deducted and returned to them when they return to their home country, theoretically to help with the costs of repatriation. Foreign workers will be charged a fee for medical examinations and work permits, and employers will be charged around 3,000 baht for permits and for arranging utilities and other services for their staff. Further changes to the permitted categories of labor for migrants are also expected. The Thai Labor Ministry also plans to allow Burmese workers to come to Thailand for the day to work in border factories, as long as they return home in the evenings.

In 2003, the implementation of the MoU had two main effects. The first was a reduction in the number of labor sectors in which migrant workers were legally entitled to register for work. The second effect of the MoU was the effective streamlining of the deportation process for migrant workers. Under the agreement, Myanmar authorities consented to accept all deported illegal workers regardless of ethnicity. In the past, Thai officials had to send the SPDC a list of names of any illegal workers being deported, and had to wait for Myanmar officials to verify the workers' citizenship before the Thai government could send them back. Thus the Thai government was often required to hold deportees in detention centers for long periods of time while the SPDC decided whether or not to allow its nationals to return.

#### **CHAPTER V**

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMANDATION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

Cross-border migration had increased significantly due to the opening of borders and as a result of globalization. Sociological theories consider migration as a system of which economic parameters are a part. Migration systems include economic, social, and cultural, legal as well as political aspects. These systems also cover migration process beginning with the decision to leave the country of origin, then the migrant's network in both countries, the network of migration facilitators and that of employers in destination countries. Castillo-Freeman and Freeman (1992) indicate that the choice of destination depends on the different GNP in the country of origin and country of destination. Migration will correlate positively with GNP in destination country and negatively with GNP in country of origin.

Thailand has benefited from Myanmar labor for many years ago. The geographical location of Thailand to Myanmar as well as the demand in Thailand for cheap labor is the pull factor that the Myanmar migrant workers come into Thailand. Higher wages and better employment opportunities pull the Myanmar workers to immigrate into Thailand. Myanmar migrant workers benefit the demand of employment in Thailand, as in the other hand effect the national security of Thailand. The issue of trafficking in persons especially women and children is not new, and in every country concerned, governmental organizations, the NGOs and UN organizations have always strive their best to prevent it. However, it appears to be increasing and acquiring grave new directions in the recent context of globalization.

Myanmar, as presented above has achieved progress to some extent in prevention, protection, prosecution and rehabilitation of the victims. Some of the constraints in dealing with this issue are difficulty in obtaining accurate data because of the sensitivity and illegality of the trafficking business and the existence of new sophisticated mechanism. It has now become

evident that the trafficking issue cannot be adequately addressed through short term and microprojects.

The number of illegal migrant workers in Thailand, especially from Myanmar, rapidly increased during nineties as the economy surged. In 1999, the Thai government estimated that there were still more than 500,000 migrant workers in the country and in 2006 more than one million again (Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, 2000, 2006).

According to the findings in this research, the main push factor of migration is economic hardship. Conversely, better living condition, more job opportunity and higher income in Thailand are the pull factor as well. It is interesting that the migrants home in Myanmar were not only limited to areas along the border but also from the distant states of northwest Myanmar. 8.17 of the population in this research are under 18 years old who should be in the school room rather than work place in other countries. On the other many of these young children follow their family and only a few of them go to school in Thailand, mostly private run school as there are some blockages to enter into Thai schools even if the government says it is possible to accept the migrant children.

This situation highlights that as 58.17% of the respondents in this research are married, many of them bring their family to Thailand. This situation highlights that as 58.17% of the respondents in this research are married, many of them bring their family to Thailand. It is interesting that 4.81 % of the respondents have hold university degree and migrate into Thailand as general workers. Nearly the half of the respondents' population has reached primary school level. Only 2.24% of the respondents got above 100,000 Kyat (-3,000 Baht) and many of them have no job in Myanmar. Getting information is one of the networking to migration. These information sources came from agents or brokers, friends and relatives who have already been working in Thailand. Migration costs include agent's fee, transportation, meal, and other factors that help to pass the main gates. The costs differ as geographical location, information availability, accessibility and net working. Mostly, all the costs calculated have to be paid to agents. For those who have reliable relatives in Thailand, the cost in less than those who have no network. Some migrants borrowed money with great interest and travel into Thailand. When situation is not in favor, they cannot pay back the money in time that the interest become higher and higher.

A work permit totaling cost baht 3,250 Baht, Baht 1,200 for health insurance, Baht 900 for the work permit, Baht 150 for ID card, and Baht 1,000 for deposit fee. Baht 1,200 fee must be paid to renew the card for an additional six months. Some employers who initially paid the registration fees often deduct money each month from the salaries of their workers. Because of the high fee, many workers just stay without work permit card. In 2007, only 31% of the Myanmar migrant workers hold work permit cards and the other 69% have no work permit cards (The NATION, December 19, 2007).

Before migrate, they have to contact with the people from the destination country. Even who have relative and friends need to depend on agents for a safety journey. This agents have network with who are concerning on the way to the place where the migrants want to go. As the majority of illegal migrants are unskilled laborers, their works are mostly unskilled jobs such as construction factory, housemaid, fishery, garment and others. Most of the respondents resided and worked in Thailand without proper documentation, therefore, fell outside Thai laws that ensure labor rights and the mandatory minimum wage of 147 Bath. Income differences between and within sites were largely determined by the type of work in which migrants were engaged.

Remittances are one type of economic impact on migrants' families. According to my survey result, the income and remittance of funds and saving are different depending on the kinds of jobs. The better job they have, the more money they can save and the more they can support their families in their home.

For many children who follow their parents to Thailand this mean the end of their education. On the other hand most of the respondents from this survey are illegal migrants that there are many limitations for them to go to school. The Thai hospitals help Myanmar illegal migrants in giving the birth bigheartedly but mostly deny giving birth certificates. The Regulation on Evidence of a Child's Birth for School Admission was issued by the Thai Ministry of Education on 10 February 1992. The regulation grants access to education for children without Thai nationality and children who do not possess civil registration documents. The regulation allows schools to admit children without proper documentation by having their parents, legal guardians, or an accepted humanitarian aid agency fill in the necessary forms on their behalf. Even if there is nobody or no agency available, an official may fill in the forms using information from an interview with the child. These documents are evidence that can be submitted to the

education authorities in the admission procedure. The main reason many migrant children cannot to school is because of financial aid problem and language.

In the international area of cooperation, Myanmar signed an agreement with Australia to curb human trafficking in Asian region. Myanmar has been cooperating with Cambodia, Laos and Thailand according to the agreement. In March 2004, Myanmar formed an anti-human trafficking group to look into the cases relating to the crime. In addition, Myanmar is a signatory to the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC), the Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants agreement. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand and on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers has come into force since June 2003. The MoU has provided enormous assistance to the work of prevention against human trafficking.

#### 5.2. Recommendation

#### 5.2.1 General Recommendation

Migration is indeed a national development issue, linked to larger regional and global development process. In addition, it is very important to consider trafficking as a growing global issue and place it on national, regional, international agendas. Not only Thailand will face lack of human resources in cheap labor if there is no Myanmar workers with them, but also many Myanmar workers will not be able to survive without working in here, both sides should consider on the maintaining of these workers. Efforts only from one side will not solve this problem. Hence, to formulate the proper method, by both Myanmar and Thailand, to handle these illegal migrants is highly required. To create more legal job opportunities form both sides, Myanmar and Thailand, will deal with a better control on illegal migration as well. On the other hand, to exchange information on the involved networks of connections and intermediaries in sending/transit/receiving countries would effectively prosecute the unscrupulous agents residing in these countries. Preventing illegal migration only by the governments would not be effective, so, it in vital to encourage cooperation of the people, NGO and INGO NGO and INGO. Generally, the most effective method is to create attractive employment opportunities to reduce

the flow of irregular migrants. On the other hand, it is also very crucial to expand channels for safe, legal migration and to enhance community awareness on the negative impact of trafficking.

#### 5.2.2. Recommendation for Future Research

Since illegal migrants are vulnerable position, they have a potential to cause serious security problems in both origin and destination countries. The following two factors are highly recommended for future research.

- 1. The Situation of illegal Myanmar migrant children in Thailand need to be highlight so that the concern authority may have more serious attention on them in relation to their education, working condition, and even nationality.
- 2. Illegal Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand still have huge problems in registration and getting work permit card. Concerning with this registration, better and clearer research and ways should be done. On the contrary, it should be examined do the Sa Wa Dee Kaan (Worker Helping Organization) take effective action on the demand and the request of the workers or not?

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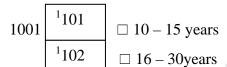


# QUESTIONAIRES on The Situation of Myanmar Migrant Workers in Thailand (August - December 2007, Thailand)

# **Section 1: Demographics Information**

<u>Instructions</u> Please mark (x) by the most suitable choice.

# 1. Age



1103	□ 31 – 45 years
<sup>1</sup> 104	$\Box$ 45 – above

# 2. Sex

1002	<sup>1</sup> 1	☐ Male	12	☐ female

## 3. Education



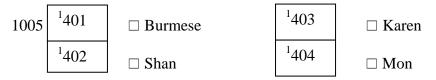
## 4. Marital Status



# If married, number of children



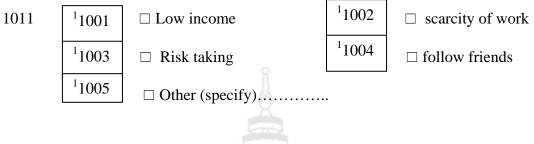
# 5. Ethnicity



Section 2	<sup>1</sup> 405 <b>2: Situation</b>	☐ Other (specify) n of Myanmar Migrant W		n Thailand			
Section 2.1 Pull Factor to migrate to Thailand							
		graphical location of Tha ant to Thailand?		Myanmar affect your			
1006	<sup>1</sup> 501	□ Yes	<sup>1</sup> 502	□ No			
2. Who	suggest/fac	ilitated you to come here	?				
1007	<sup>1</sup> 601	□ Myself	<sup>1</sup> 602	☐ Friends/relatives			
	1603	□ Employer	<sup>1</sup> 604	□ Parents			
	$^{1}605$ $\Box$ Recruiters $^{1}606$ $\Box$ Other (specify)						
3. Reaso	ns for wor	king in Thailand					
1008	1701	☐ Better income	1702	☐ Better living condition			
	1703	☐ More job opportunity	<sup>1</sup> 704	☐ Follow family / friends			
	$1705$ $\Box$ Other (Specify)						
4. Incom	e per month	in Thailand (in Baht)					
1009	1801	□ 2000 – 3000	1802	□ 3001 -4500			
	1803	□ 4501 – 5500	1804	□ 5501 –above			
6. Length of Stay in Thailand							
1010	<sup>1</sup> 901	☐ less than one year	1902	$\Box$ 1 – 5 years			
	1903	$\Box$ 6 – 10 years	<sup>1</sup> 904	□ more than 10 years			

# Section 2.2 Push Factor to migrant to Thailand

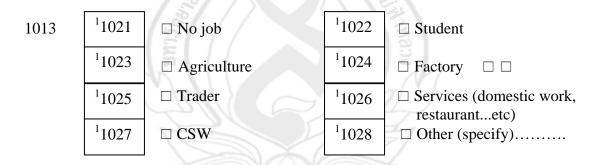
1.	Why	did	you	decide	to	leave	Mya	anmar?



# 2. Income per month in Myanmar (in Baht)

1012	<sup>1</sup> 1011	□ less than 1000	<sup>1</sup> 1012	□ 1000 -1500
	<sup>1</sup> 1013	□ 1501 – 2000	<sup>1</sup> 1014	□ 2001 –above

# 3. What did you do before coming to Thailand?



# 4. Do any other push factor you have to move to Thailand from Myanmar?

# Section 2.3 Factors other than Push and Pull factors

1. Do y	ou have	Work Permitted identificati	ion Card?	
1014	1031		11032	$\square$ No
2. Type	e of Worl	ks		
1015	1041	☐ Agriculture	<sup>1</sup> 1042	☐ Carpenter and Mason
	1043	□ Construction	11044	□ Domestic work
	<sup>1</sup> 1045	□ Fishery	<sup>1</sup> 1046	☐ Garment
	<sup>1</sup> 1047	□ Industry	11048	☐ General Worker
	<sup>1</sup> 1049	☐ Merchant	<sup>1</sup> 1050	□ Other (specify)
1016 If yes,	<sup>1</sup> 1051	☐ Yes  ny times?	1052	□ Never
	<sup>2</sup> 1051	☐ One time		
	<sup>2</sup> 1052	☐ Two times		
	<sup>2</sup> 1053	☐ More than three times		
_	ou can cl		ur country	y and working in Thailand, what
1017 <b>5. How</b>	1001	☐ Thailand  measure your situation in T	<sup>1</sup> 1062	□ Myanmar

# APPENDIX B

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
ON COOPERATION INTHE EMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

# THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR ON COOPERATION IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties";

BEING CONCERNED about the negative social and economic impacts caused by illegal employment;

DESIROUS of enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries; HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

#### **OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE**

#### ARTICLE I

The Parties shall apply all necessary measures to ensure the following:

- 1) Proper procedures for employment of workers;
- 2) Effective repatriation of workers, who have completed terms and conditions of employment or are deported by relevant authorities of the other Party, before completion of terms and conditions of employment to their permanent addresses;
- 3) Due protection of workers to ensure that there is no loss of the rights and protection of workers and that they receive the rights they are entitled to;
- 4) Prevention of, and effective action against, illegal border crossings, trafficking of illegal workers and illegal employment of workers. This Memorandum of Understanding is not applicable to other existing processes of employment that are already in compliance with the laws of the Parties.

#### **AUTHORISED AGENCIES**

#### ARTICLE II

For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Ministry of Labour of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Ministry of Labour of the Union of Myanmar shall be the authorized agencies for the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and for the Government of the Union of Myanmar respectively.

#### ARTICLE III

The Parties, represented by the authorized agencies, shall hold regular consultations, at senior official and/or ministerial levels, at least once a year on an alternate basis, on matters related to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

The authorized agencies of both Parties shall work together for the establishment of procedures to integrate illegal workers, who are in the country of the other Party prior to the entry into force of this Memorandum of Understanding, into the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding.

#### **AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURE**

#### ARTICLE IV

The Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure proper procedures for employment of workers.

Employment of workers requires prior permission of the authorized agencies in the respective countries. Permission may be granted upon completion of procedures required by laws and regulations in the respective countries.

The authorized agencies may revoke or nullify their own permission at any time in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations.

The revocation or nullification shall not affect any deed already completed prior to the revocation or nullification.

#### ARTICLE V

The authorized agencies may through a job offer inform their counterparts of job opportunities, number, period, qualifications required, conditions of employment, and remuneration offered by employers.

#### ARTICLE VI

The authorized agencies shall provide their counterparts with lists of selected applicants for the jobs with information on their ages, permanent addresses, reference persons, education, experiences and other information deemed necessary for consideration by the prospective employers.

#### ARTICLE VII

The authorized agencies shall coordinate with the immigration and other authorities concerned to ensure that applicants, who have been selected by employers and duly permitted in accordance with Article IV, have fulfilled, inter alia, the following requirements:

- 1) Visas or other forms of entry permission;
- 2) Work permits;
- 3) Health insurances or health services;
- 4) Contribution into savings fund as may be required by the authorized agencies of the respective Pa rties;
  - 5) Taxes or others as required by the Parties;
  - 6) Employment contracts of employers and workers.

Contract of the terms and conditions of employment shall be signed between the Employer and Worker and a copy each of the contract submitted to the authorized agencies.

#### ARTICLE VIII

The authorized agencies shall be responsible for the administration of the list of workers permitted to work under this Memorandum of Understanding. They shall keep, for the purpose of reference and review, the lists of workers who report themselves or have their documents certified to the effect that they have returned to their permanent addresses after the end of the employment terms and conditions, for at least four years from the date of report or certification.

#### RETURN AND REPATRIATION

#### ARTICLE IX

Unless stated otherwise, the term and conditions of employment of workers shall not exceed two years. If necessary, it may be extended for another term of two years. In any case, the terms and conditions of employment shall not exceed four years. Afterwards, it shall be deemed the termination of employment.

A three-year break is required for a worker who has already completed the terms and conditions of employment to re-apply for employment.

# ARTICLE X

The Parties shall extend their fullest cooperation to ensure the return of bona fide workers, who have completed their employment terms and conditions, to their permanent addresses.

#### ARTICLE XI

The authorized agencies of the employing country shall set up and administer a savings fund. Workers are required to make monthly contribution to the fund in the amount equivalent to 15 per cent of their monthly salary.

#### ARTICLE XII

Workers who have completed their terms and conditions of employment and returned to their permanent addresses shall be entitled to full refund of their accumulated contribution to the savings fund and the interest by submitting the application to the authorized agencies three months prior to their scheduled date of departure after completion of employment. The disbursement shall be made to workers within 7 days after the completion of employment.

In the case of workers whose services are terminated prior to completion of employment and have to return to their permanent addresses, the refund of their accumulated contribution and the interest shall also be made within 7 days after termination of employment.

#### ARTICLE XIII

Temporary return to country of origin by workers whose terms and conditions of employment are still valid and in compliance with the authorized agencies' regulations shall not cause termination of the employment permission as stated in Article IV.

#### ARTICLE XIV

Procedures and documents required in the application for refund as stated in Article XII shall be set forth by the authorized agencies.

#### ARTICLE XV

The right to refund of their contribution to the savings fund is revoked for workers who do not return to their permanent addresses upon the completion of their employment terms and conditions.

#### ARTICLE XVI

The authorized agencies of the employing country may draw from the savings fund to cover the administrative expenses incurred by the bank and the deportation of workers to their country of origin.

#### **PROTECTION**

#### ARTICLE XVII

The Parties in the employing country shall ensure that the workers enjoy protection in accordance with the provisions of the domestic laws in their respective country.

#### ARTICLE XVIII

Workers of both Parties are entitled to wage and other benefits due for local workers based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality of sex, race, and religion.

#### ARTICLE XIX

Any dispute between workers and employers relating to employment shall be settled by the authorized agencies according to the laws and regulations in the employing country.

#### MEASURES AGAINST ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT

#### ARTICLE XX

The Parties shall take all necessary measures, in their respective territory, to prevent and suppress illegal border crossings, trafficking of illegal workers and illegal employment of workers.

#### ARTICLE XXI

The Parties shall exchange information on matters relating to human trafficking, illegal immigration, trafficking of illegal workers and illegal employment.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

#### ARTICLE XXII

Any amendment to this Memorandum of Understanding may be made as agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

#### SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

#### ARTICLE XXIII

Any difference or dispute arising out of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through consultations between the Parties.

#### ENFORCEMENT AND TERMINATION

#### ARTICLE XXIV

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force after the date of signature and may be terminated by either Party in written notice. Termination shall take effect 90 (ninety) days following the date of notification. In case of termination of this Memorandum of Understanding by either Party, for the benefit of the workers, the Parties shall hold consultation on how to deal with employment contracts that are still valid.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

DONE at Chiang Mai on the Twenty First Day in the Month of June of Two Thousand and Three of the Christian Era, in the Thai, Myanmar, and English languages, in two original copies all of which are equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND
THE UNION OF MYANMAR

(Surakiart Sathirathai) (Win Aung)

Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister of Foreign Affairs

# **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Name Mister Khen Suan Khai

**Date of Birth** December 24, 1982

**Education** 

High School Level No (2) Basic Education High School, Insein, Yangon, Myanmar 1999

Undergraduate Level Bachelor of Art in English, Dagon University, Yangon, Myanmar, 2005

Bachelor of Art in Religious Studies, Myanmar Institute of Theology,

Insein, Yangon Myanmar, 2005.