

Round Table Discussion on Past and Current Research on Migrant Workers in Thailand

Miracle Grand Convention Hotel
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Organized by

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
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A range of issues relating to migrant workers in Thailand have been increasingly reported, discussed and researched in the last decade. Working and living conditions of migrant workers have been documented, immigration and labour policies have been revisited, and MOUs have been proposed and signed between Thailand and neighbouring countries. But still the vulnerability of migrant workers in Thailand does not seem to improve; on the contrary, the marginalization that they are experiencing seems to be deepening. How political the situation of the migrant workers in Thailand can be was manifested during the recent uprising in Burma.

This round table discussion aims to review the current state of research and knowledge on the issue of migrant workers in Thailand to explore research agenda that would be strategic to enhance rights of migrants. Especially, it will focus on the gendered nature of migrant workers' citizenship, and how this is shaped by state policy on registration and the regional economic integration.

Timetable

Time	Topic	Presenter
7.30-8.30	Registration	
8:30-9:00	Introduction to Round Table : issues and stakeholders	Dr. Philippe Doney, Coordinator, GDS/AIT Dr. Jean D'Cunha, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM E/SEA Regional Office Ms. Jackie Pollock, Coordinator, MAP Foundation
9:00-9:15	Self-introduction of participants	
9:15-9:30	Introducing research project "Gender, Cross-border Migrant Workers and Citizenship: A case study of the Burmese-Thai border" supported by IDRC	Prof. Ruth Pearson, Leeds University, UK and Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe, AIT

Time	Topic	Presenter
	Session 1: Migrant workers in Thailand: The regional context	Chair: Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe
9:30-10:00	Thailand and the regional economy: Implication of China and its relation with GMS	Dr. Yongyuth Chalamwong , TDRI
10:00 -10:30	Regional economic integration and migrant workers	Dr. Rosalia Sciortino, Mahidol Unviersity
10:30-11.00	Break	
	Session 2: Issues of labour rights and citizenship	Chair: Ms. Jackie Pollock
11:00 -11:30	Registration policy and MOU I	Mr. Nara Ratanarut, MOL
11:30-12:00	Gender perspective of registration policy and MOU	Dr. Jean D’Cunha, UNIFEM
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
	Session 3: Citizenship, mobility and borders	Chair: Ruth Pearson
1:00-1.30	Nationality and citizenship of migrant workers	Dr. Sriprapha Petcharamesree, Mahidol University
1:30-2:00	Representation and organisation of migrant workers: Voice and visibility	Ms. Jackie Pollock, MAP
2:00-2:30	Discussion	
2:30-3:00	Break	
3.00-4.00	Session 4: Discussion on future strategic research areas	Chair: Jean D’Cunha
4:00	Wrap up and closing	Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe