LABOUR MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

The GMS is home to more than 240 million people, including an estimated 3 million migrants. Thailand is the major receiving country for migrants in the region, hosting around 2 to 2.5 million migrants, while Cambodia and the Yunnan province of China also host a number of migrants, including long-term residents.

While much of the migration from within the GMS to outside the GMS takes place within the context of labour exportation schemes or through recruitment agencies, most of the migration flows within the GMS are spontaneous and through informal channels. Through the implementation of the MOU on Cooperation in Employment of Migrant Workers, Thailand and its neighbouring countries, particularly Lao PDR and Cambodia, are attempting to establish a legal migration channel. There is also increased policy dialogue among the GMS governments with the goal of expanding cooperation on migration management. Despite some developments, newly established legal migration channels are currently not affordable or accessible to most of the migrants, and the majority of people continue to cross the border through informal channels.

The map shows migration flows from countries such as Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, China (Yunnan), Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, and more.

### Migration Flows

- **From Burma**
  - To Thailand: 614,590
  - To Malaysia: 102,781
  - To Bangladesh: 21,903
  - To United States: 6,793
  - To Japan: 5,914
  - To South Korea: 3,374
  - To China: 1,471

- **From Thailand**
  - To Russia: 588,439
  - To Japan: 48,078
  - To China: 1,471

- **From China**
  - To Russia: 588,439
  - To Japan: 48,078
  - To South Korea: 503,427
  - To United States: 1,471
  - To Singapore: 6,620
  - To Cambodia: 2,646

- **From Cambodia**
  - To Thailand: 82,251
  - To Malaysia: 6,620
  - To South Korea: 2,464
  - To Japan: 2,353

- **From Lao PDR**
  - To Thailand: 76,459
  - To United States: 183,265

- **From Lao PDR**
  - To China: >100,000
  - To Japan: 90,000
  - To South Korea: 50,000
  - To United Kingdom: 1,000
  - To Saudi Arabia: 200
  - To United States: 10

- **From Vietnam**
  - To China: >100,000
  - To Malaysia: >100,000
  - To Taiwan: 90,000
  - To South Korea: 50,000
  - To Japan: 19,000
  - To U.A.E.: 1,000
  - To United Kingdom: 400
  - To Saudi Arabia: 200
  - To United States: 10

**LEGEND**

- From Burma
- From Cambodia
- From China
- From Vietnam
- From Lao PDR
- From Thailand

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