

Migration in Thailand: Timeline of Facts and Figures

Royal Thai Government Policy	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
<p>Migrant Worker Registration</p> <p>These arrows summarise information concerning registration of migrants from Burma, Cambodia and Lao PDR, who had entered Thailand illegally and were granted permission to work pending deportation under Cabinet resolutions.</p> <p>Additional Migrant Registration</p> <p>These arrows summarise information concerning additional registration, which were introduced due to declining numbers of migrants registering in the process described above.</p> <p>Special Registration for Southern Provinces</p> <p>Special registration for Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, Satun and Songkhla in response to labour shortage in troubled southern provinces.</p> <p>MOU Process</p> <p>NV Process</p> <p>Recruitment</p> <p>The Royal Thai Government signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) on Employment Co-operation with Lao PDR, Cambodia and Burma in October 2003, May 2003 and June 2003 respectively. Signing of the MOUs has led to two processes: 1) nationality verification (NV) of migrants who are already working in Thailand; and 2) fresh recruitment of workers through recruitment agencies in the countries of origin. Migrants who complete NV or are recruited through an MOU process are to receive a temporary passport (TP), which will allow them to travel freely in Thailand and join the Social Security System (SSS).</p> <p>Other Policies concerning Migrants</p> <p>Events Negatively Affecting Migrants</p>	<p>June Implementation of December 2003 Cabinet Resolution • Allowed migrants and their families to register for a temporary residence card, Tor Ror 38/1 • Free of charge • Valid for one year • The card is independent of employers • Registered migrants are to apply for the Compulsory Migrant Health Insurance (CMHI). • Number of migrants registered for Tor Ror 38/1 in 2004 = 1,284,920</p> <p>August • Migrants who registered in the above process are required to apply for work permits • Total cost: THB 3,800 for year • Valid for one year • Only allowed to work for the employer named on card • Not allowed to travel outside of the province where registered • Number of migrants receiving work permits during this registration = 814,000</p>	<p>July Implementation of 10 May 2005 Cabinet Resolution: • Total cost: THB 3,800 for renewal work permits • Total cost: THB 4,250 for those holding Tor Ror 38/1 but no permit • Conditions imposed on those wishing to change their place of employment • Number of migrants who renewed/received work permits = 705,293</p>	<p>July Implementation of 18 May 2006 Cabinet Resolution: • Renewal of work permits • Can only change employer under very specific circumstances • Total cost: THB 3,800 • Valid for one year • Number of migrants who renewed work permits during this registration = 460,014</p>	<p>July Implementation of 19 December 2006 Cabinet Resolution: • Renewal of work permits • Allowed to register with a new employer under specific circumstances • Total cost: THB 3,800 • Valid for one year • Number of migrants who renewed work permits during this registration = 394,443</p>	<p>July Implementation of 18 December 2007 Cabinet Resolution • Renewal of work permits • Allowed to register with a new employer under specific circumstances • Valid for one year, renewable until 28 February 2010 • All registered migrants must enter NV process.</p>	<p>July Implementation of 18 December 2008 Cabinet Resolution • All migrants registered in 2008 can renew work permits until 28 February 2010. • All registered migrants must enter NV process.</p>	<p>19 January 2010 Cabinet Resolution • All migrants registered under 18 December 2008 Cabinet Resolution through 3 November 2009 Cabinet Resolution granted permission to remain in Thailand until 28 February 2012 • All registered migrants must enter NV process.</p>	<p>June Implementation of 26 April 2011 Cabinet Resolution • New round of registration for migrant workers and dependents of migrant workers • Registration period from 15 June to 14 July 2011 • Targets unregistered migrants, previously registered migrants lacking work permits, and dependents under the age of 15 • Number of migrants workers registered during this round = 996,278 • All registered migrants must enter NV process.</p>	<p>15 January 2013 Cabinet Resolution • The deadline to complete NV was extended to 15 April 2013</p>		
			<p>March Implementation of 20 December 2005 Cabinet Resolution • Interim registration - open for migrants who registered for work permit in 2004 and for new migrants • Valid for one year • Levy/Deposit fee: THB 10,000 for previously registered migrants, THB 50,000 for new registration. Number of migrants who received work permits during this registration = 208,562</p>	<p>March Implementation of 19 December 2006 Cabinet Resolution • Interim registration for migrants who registered in March 2006 • Valid for one year Number of migrants who renewed work permits during this registration = 141,289</p>	<p>March Implementation of 18 December 2007 Cabinet Resolution • Renewal of work permits from March 2007 • New work permits for migrants with Tor Ror 38/1 • Valid for one year, renewable up to two years Number of migrants who received/renewed work permits during this registration = 135,004</p>	<p>March Implementation of 18 December 2008 Cabinet Resolution • Renewal of work permits for those migrants who had previously registered in March 2008 • Mandatory medical check-up in order to renew permit • All registered migrants must enter NV process.</p> <p>July Implementation of 26 May 2009 Cabinet Resolution • Introduction of color-coded ID cards for different job sectors • All registered migrants must enter NV process.</p>	<p>Implementation of 7 April 2009 Cabinet Resolution • Following cabinet approval of 2009-2012 Development Plans for Special Areas in the five Southern Border Provinces, undocumented migrant workers are allowed to register for work permits until</p> <p>Implementation of 19 January 2010 Cabinet Resolution • Migrant workers registered during 15 March - 13 May 2008 in Yala, Pattani, Narathiwat, Satun, and Songkhla are allowed to change their employer in those particular areas • All registered migrants must enter NV process.</p>	<p>19 January 2010 Cabinet Resolution • Deadline to complete NV process is extended to 28 February 2012</p>	<p>13 February 2012 Cabinet Resolution • Deadline to complete NV is extended to 14 June 2012.</p> <p>June 2012 • The National Committee on Alien Workers Administration approves the extension of the deadline for completion of NV to 14 December 2012.</p> <p>Number of migrants who completed NV as of June 2012: 683,565 (71,624 from Cambodia, 44,780 from Lao PDR and 567,161 from Myanmar)</p>		
		<p>Number of migrants who completed NV in 2006: 80,986 (37,329 from Cambodia, 43,657 from Lao PDR and 0 from Myanmar)</p>	<p>Number of migrants who completed NV in 2007: 20,801 (8,299 from Cambodia, 12,502 from Lao PDR and 0 from Myanmar)</p>	<p>Number of migrants who completed NV in 2008: 5,204 (5,037 from Cambodia, 167 from Lao PDR and 0 from Myanmar)</p>	<p>August Meeting between Thai and Burmese authorities confirms the joint procedure to be followed for NV process and issuing of visas to migrant workers holding valid passports.</p> <p>Number of migrants who completed NV in 2009: 5,204 (5,037 from Cambodia, 167 from Lao PDR and 0 from Myanmar)</p>	<p>July NV process begins for Burmese migrant workers.</p>	<p>April Memo of the Office of Foreign Workers Administration: Cambodian officials resume NV process, to be continued until 2012.</p> <p>8 October 2010 Social Security Office Regulation • Industrial workers who have completed NV and who have both a work permit and a Certificate of Identification or a TP meet employee criteria of Workmen's Compensation Act B.E. 2537 (1994), and thus can be insured through Social Security Act, B.E. 2533 (1990). • Informal migrant workers - agricultural, fishery, forest, and farm workers - or temporary employees - street vendors or domestic workers - must apply for Compulsory Migrant Health Insurance</p> <p>Number of migrants who completed NV in 2010: 300,482 (25,374 from Cambodia, 27,793 from Lao PDR and 247,315 from Myanmar)</p>	<p>Number of migrants who completed NV in 2011: 559,815 (29,872 from Cambodia, 27,793 from Lao PDR and 318,040 from Myanmar)</p>	<p>Total number of migrants recruited through MOU from September 2005 to June 2012: 117,847 (65,991 from Cambodia, 23,985 from Lao PDR and 7,280 from Myanmar)</p>	<p>Total stock of migrants recruited through MOU working in Thailand as of June 2012: 117,847 (65,991 from Cambodia, 17,859 from Lao PDR and 33,697 from Myanmar)</p>	
		<p>January Lao PDR starts fresh recruitment of workers for Thailand.</p> <p>(September) Cambodia starts officially sending workers to Thailand.</p>	<p>January Lao PDR starts fresh recruitment of workers for Thailand.</p>	<p>February 2007 The Provincial Government of Suratthani, Ranong, Rayong and Pang Nga announce provincial decrees similar to that of Phuket.</p>	<p>February 2008 The Royal Thai Government announces Alien Employment Act B.E. 2553 (2008). • Migrants must contribute in a deportation fund through their employers. • Punishments for breaching the Act were increased compared to the previous act. • The Act is supplemented by regulations with lists of occupations migrants are allowed to work in.</p> <p>28 December 2008 Policy Statement of the Council of Ministers of Thailand • Statement delivered by PM Abhisit Vejjajiva maintains that all children are entitled to 15 years of cost-free education • Special emphasis placed on the right to education of migrant children, persons without status, and displaced persons</p>	<p>2008 total of 58,687 migrant children are enrolled in public schools. This represents around 5% of the total number of migrant children registered with the Thai Ministry of Labour. In addition around 30,000 migrant children are enrolled in informal education.</p>	<p>2 June 2010 Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva establishes special centre to suppress, arrest and prosecute alien workers who irregularly entered Thailand and are working clandestinely.</p>	<p>28 March 2011 Thai Cabinet approves in principle a draft regulation of the Ministry of Education (MOE) on the legal right of individual persons or organizations to provide basic education to undocumented and non-Thai people in migrant learning centers.</p> <p>The draft regulation include the establishment of a committee on the provision of basic education to undocumented and non-Thai people.</p> <p>2011: total of around 75,000 migrant children are enrolled in public schools. In addition around 100,000 migrant children are enrolled in informal education.</p>	<p>2012 Government of Myanmar announces that it will recognise migrants school qualification.</p>		
		<p>5 July 2005 Cabinet Resolution on Education for Unregistered Persons • Asserts the right of all children in Thailand, regardless of legal status, to education at all levels • Children of undocumented migrants are allowed to attend public schools • Children in refugee camps are excluded. • As of August 2006, 1,269 undocumented and non-Thai children are registered for Thai schools.</p>	<p>December 2006 The Provincial Government of Phuket issues a "Decree on Alien Workers", which, on the ground of "national security", imposes a ban on public assembly of more than five persons, control on the use of mobile phones and motorcycles, and a curfew for migrant workers.</p>						<p>April 2010 Period of open hostility against migrants follows official end of registration. Crackdown felt most heavily in Ranong province.</p>	<p>October-December 2011 Major floods in Central Thailand: Large numbers of migrants are stranded. Some return home voluntarily, while others are forced to return home. No clear policy concerning the migrants returning to Thailand.</p>	<p>March 2012 PM Yingluck Shinawatra announces new crackdown on foreign workers. Mass arrests and deportation of Burmese migrants follows.</p> <p>August 2012 The Department of Employment in Tak province imposes travel restrictions on all migrants registered to work in five border provinces, including those holding TP.</p>