

THESIS ABSTRACT

THAILAND GOVERNMENT POLICY TOWARDS MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS

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Thailand has been a regional hub for international migration outgoing, incoming, and transiting in the country. The majority of international migration inflow into the country is Myanmar who has emigrated on account of political instability, economic hardship and the repressive policies of the Myanmar government. However, the two-digit economic growth in the 1980s led Thailand to the expansion of labor market and an acute labor shortage especially at the low-skilled level. Currently, it is less likely to be argued that Myanmar migrant workers are active in all sectors of the economy and they have played a very important role in the Thai labor market. As a result, the Thailand government expressed their demand for laborers to fulfill the shortage of labor in country by adopt an immigration policy for Myanmar migrant workers.

Keywords: *Thailand Government, Myanmar Migrant Workers, Labor Shortage*

Background

In Southeast Asia, dating back centuries the cross-border movement of people is a natural phenomenon and connects the present populations in neighboring countries culturally and historically. The dynamic of economic integration and globalization have further supported between the populations of both sides of the border. The population in between border will more increase as the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, which began in January 2010. And not long from now the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) will begin in 2015. Thus, this two-region initiative will have a significant impact on the countries in the region which is free movement of services and goods, capital and investment, and people and labor.¹

The situation of international migration in various regions around the world has been growing. As mentioned above that phenomenon anxiety to the governments of many countries, especially in destination countries which are the places for many migrant workers to visit. Migrant workers interested to work abroad because of the economic and social barriers in which they cannot provide in their own country. Therefore, the evacuation of peoples from different areas seen as normal and the movements of people nowadays are frequency and stronger than before.

In the globalization era, international migration has become the issues that were related to social, economic and cultural implications for origin and destination country. The Demographic

¹ Vasuprasat, Pracha(2010).” Agenda for labor migration policy in Thailand: Towards long-term competitiveness”. International Labor Organization 2010.p.10

development also included in this matter that occurred today society. Nowadays, the mobility of people is increasing. However, the movement of people in the future seems to be more complicated. Humans have always moved for the purpose conflict or environmental and to get the opportunities or to escape their poverty.

Thailand is one of the countries that regional migration hub outgoing, incoming, and transiting migrants in the country. Thailand also a country that most migrant workers are looking forward to migrating because the location of the country in the center of Southeast Asia, healthy economic growth that supported by export-oriented businesses have affected in the movement of migrants into Thailand. However, Thailand is the origin and destination country for many migrant workers to transit for asylum seekers, victims of trafficking, and illegal migrant workers with dynamic economies, there is a great deal of internal migration, including seasonal and circular migrant.²

As a receiving country, the statistic of documented migrant workers from neighboring countries flows into Thailand more than a million migrant workers who live in Thailand especially from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos. However, the large number of migrant workers in Thailand is Myanmar which makes up proximately 80 percent of migrant workers in Thailand. The secondary is Cambodia and Lao PDR and other countries. Thus, these migrant workers are mostly migrating from their own countries to seek better income and good opportunities in Thailand.

Several factors that make many Myanmar migrate to Thailand. The first factor, Thailand and Myanmar have shared a long 2,401 km border which is most of Myanmar workers are

² Jerrold W.Huguet, Aphichat Chamratrithirong (2011), Migration for development in Thailand Overview and Tools for Policymakers.

accessible cross the border only by foot. Second, Internal political and social conflict between Myanmar government and ethnic minority, mainly the Chin, Karen and Mon groups which is fight along the border of Thailand since 1984 when the Ne win government took control in military coup of Myanmar have been persecute ethnic minorities groups and enormous exclusion their population of Myanmar through its corruption, oppression, human rights violation and mismanagement.

The main factor of Myanmar migrant to Thailand is lack of economic in the country which is unemployment of Myanmar population its big factors to motivate themselves looking to neighboring countries which is Thailand for seeking better employment and get the higher wage.³ Therefore, hundreds of thousands Myanmar and other ethnics migrant out from their country into Thailand because of the condition internal political conflict and the economic recession caused by the way those factors are pushing forward Myanmar people who have been affected by the war and poverty to Thailand for seeker the work especially in borders area.

The increase in cross-border of Myanmar migrant workers since the late 1980s, Thailand was fastest growing economies after the announcement which used the eleventh national economic and social development to develop country Thus, during the rapid economic growth has led tightening of the labor market and make labor shortage in some part with the low of level unemployment. It is obviously is a major pull factor that attracts Myanmar worker to migrate to Thailand in search of work and these include increases salary wage, better job opportunities, and

³ Burmese Migrant workers 'Education (2014). Background. Retrieved from: <http://www.bmwec.org/background/>. (Accessed on 01-11-2017)

better living standard. Myanmar workers are not only living in the capital city but still in the province during the agriculture season.⁴

The massive of Myanmar workers cross-border flows into Thailand have created impacts in both positively and negatively impacts. It is indisputable that Myanmar migrate into Thailand has produced positive impact to the country in term of economic growth in the country which is their impact on the economy is important in contribute the national output to produce item for export on many factors such as construction sector, fisheries sector, agriculture sector, and domestic sector. Mostly these sectors are the type of jobs that Myanmar workers have taken up, and also Myanmar workers fulfill important gaps in the shortage of labor with these type of jobs that local Thai workers avoid or fewer that local Thai workers are willing to work because these type jobs are commonly known as dangerous, dirty, and difficult (the so-called 3D jobs) and it is evident that most of the employers are being able to hire Myanmar workers for such jobs.⁵

Moreover, Myanmar worker will get opportunities which exchange knowledge and information while they work in Thailand. Thus, these include new working process, specialized skills, and a working method. These Myanmar workers are a positive impact to ensuring Thai economic well-being and strengthen the Thai economy because of Myanmar worker as part of driving economic development in Thailand.

The negative impact is often linked with social problems which are large numbers of Myanmar migrant workers entering the country by do not hold the necessary documentation and can be defined as illegal worker. Generally, Myanmar workers migrant to Thailand are divided

⁴ Jinnavaso, Kasemsan (1995). "Foreign Migrant Workers: Facts, Problem Identification and Recommendations." P.2

⁵ Yongyuth Chalamwong(2009), The economic role of migrant labor migration in Thailand: Recent trends and implications for development. P.7

into two main groups which are document migrant workers and undocumented migrant workers but most of Myanmar migrant workers are undocumented workers.

Consequently, Thai employers can take this advantage of undocumented workers by forcing them to enter a trafficking activity, trafficking involves force, deception, and coercion on the part of the trafficker, perhaps some migrant who enter into agreements with smuggler are unaware that they will end up being trafficked. It may also result in the transmission of a dangerous disease which is HIV/AIDS infection and unregisters workers lose out the benefit that can help protect them.

Moreover, some troubling aspect of cross-border migrant into Thailand which is the children who are born of a parent entering Thailand illegal according to Thai law, a child born to illegal migrant is illegal. Thus, those children will become stateless and expose difficulties in the future. The illegal status of their parents makes these migrant children less chance to access public services like health care, education, and treatment. Some of the children migrate with friends who come to Thailand for selling their labor. Some of the children come to Thailand by themselves while those children persuade or were lured by Thai agents to seek work in Thailand. Moreover, these children groups are vulnerable to various forms of exploitation such as being victims of trafficking and forced labor.

THEORYTICAL FRAMEWORK

1. International migration theory

In the context of migration is a multifaceted phenomenon and it is described as a move from one area to another area or a move specified minimum distance that involves a change of residence. Moreover, the international migration is described as a type of spatial mobility of

people which is substance lies in the movement of people cross-borders with the purpose to spend a certain period in the target country. The international migration is referred to changes the worker's location of both across a set of jobs which is occupational mobility and across physical space which is geographical mobility but international migration understood as a type of geographical mobility of workers to other countries.

In the absence of governmental actions, the size and composition of international migratory flows would be determined solely by the foregoing factors. Structural factors at origin and destination, the strategic behavior of migrants acting on certain motivations, and the emergence of transnational structures to mediate the flows but in the present day all nations seek to influence the number and characteristics of foreign arrivals. State policies thus act as a filter affecting how the various macro-level forces and micro-level motivations are expressed in practice to yield concrete populations of immigrants with specific characteristics. A full statistical treatment of international migration thus needs to model the behavior of states as they evolve in response to domestic and international conditions. However, migration theory is usefully in term of that can provide theoretical advice or guidance to understand the movement of people in a wider perspective.

According to Douglas S. Massey, have developed the main ideas of this theory was state policies affecting immigration are the outcome of a political process in which competing interests interact within bureaucratic, legislative, judicial, and public arenas to develop and implement policies that influence flow and characteristics of immigrants. Recent theoretical and empirical research yields several conclusions about the determinants of immigration policy in migrant receiving societies. Thus, the policies that government implement in response to these

forces and how they function in practice to shape the numbers and characteristics of the migrants who enter and exit a country.⁶

2. Concept of Labour Welfare

The concept of “Labour welfare” is dynamic, resilient and changes only with times, regions, country, industry, social values, the extent of industrialization, the wide-ranging socio-economic development of population and political ideologies established at meticulous moments.

Labour welfare is an inclusive and comprehensive term with diverse benefits and facilitates given to laborer by employer. The amenities for labour welfare are in addition to normal remuneration and rewards available for employees as per the company policies and legal provisions. Labour welfare is process of improving the health, safety, general well-being and the development of skills and efficiency of the workers than the minimum set standards Labour Welfare measures can also be extended by the government, trade unions and non-government agencies in addition to the management or employer.⁷

The accomplishment of these labour welfare measures depend on the mechanism which has been employed in providing such facilities to workers. Welfare programmed should be guided by idealistic morale principles and human value. These welfare measures include the provision of health facilities, sanitation and the housing facility for workers, amenities and social security measures, education facilities and counseling services. According to Morwabe (2009) working condition should comprise of aspect such as the working hours, employment policy, workers health issues, workplace premises and the conduct of workers at the workplace. Labour

⁶ Massey, Douglas (2012), Towards an integrated model of international migration. Eastern Journal of European Studies, P. 18

⁷ Varma, Akshaya (2011) Concept, Theory and Models of Labor Welfare and Social Security. P. 39-40

welfare measures in both developed and developing countries have implications not only on the workforce but also on all facets of the society.⁸

CONTENT

Protection of Labour right/social welfare

1. Legal basis minimum wage

Minimum wages are an important and primary source of income for the workers. The workers who obtain a higher wage can provide the basic lifestyle than those who obtain a lower wage. However, minimum wages are important for the workers as result of immigration which is migrant workers to seek works abroad for improving their social economic barriers in which they cannot obtain in their own country.

Characterized the principal causes of immigration is to respond to the economic in destination countries which are wage condition and relatively favorable employment that encourage these migrant workers to immigrate. Meanwhile, an increasing number of developed and developing countries are introducing their minimum wage or improving minimum wage policies which aim to guarantee the minimum wage income for individuals.⁹ An increasing of the minimum wage in destination countries may affect the growing number of low-skilled migrant workers could expect to attain if they were to migration. Thus, higher minimum wages in destinations countries are induced migrant workers from origin countries. It could be said that Myanmar migrant workers immigrate to Thailand where they have an opportunity in seeking

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Giulietti, Corrado(2015),Do minimum wage induce immigration, Institute of Labor Economics(IZA)2015, P.2

employment and clearly motivate immigrate to Thailand with minimum wage condition in Thailand.

Currently, the minimum wage between Thailand and Myanmar are different which is a major factor growing among Myanmar migrant workers immigrate to Thailand. Myanmar's economy is largely based on natural gas, oil and agriculture as the dominate Myanmar exports and other exports are vegetables, rice, rubber, and fruit. The main labor force by occupation of Burmese is agriculture and minimum wage determined uniformly for the entire union of Myanmar without differentiation in respect of location or type of enterprise should to set the basic daily wage of the workers at 4,800 kyat, approximately 3.52 USD (U.S. Dollar) per day with eight working-hours and six days work week.¹⁰

Meanwhile, Thailand is one of the wealthiest and strong countries in Southeast Asia and the country has successfully established itself as a regional hub for several key manufacturing industries such as food product, mining, and tourism. The main labor force by occupational of Thai is agriculture the same as Myanmar but different national minimum wage which is Thai government begins a nationwide minimum wage daily rate of 300 THB (Thai Bath), approximately 8.40 USD (U.S. Dollar) per day minimum wage to be adopted in all provinces nationwide throughout in 2013 and 2014.¹¹ Thus, the minimum wages increase in Thailand and it is positive impacts important to the country's economy in the long run, both at the regional and international.

¹⁰ The National Minimum Wage Determination Committee issue(2015), Myanmar News: Update on Minimum Wage, P.3

¹¹ Aikaparb, M.F.,(2016), Thailand's Minimum Wage Increase of 2013: Impact on Foreign Direct Investment, P.2-3

2. Migrant workers Assistance Center

The promoting accessible compliant are:

a. The hiring of Interpreters: In the dimension of additional protection, due to Thailand has a problem of lack interpreters in Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos which makes it difficult to communicate and understanding of Myanmar migrant workers want or need. In the fiscal year 2017, the Ministry of Labour allocated the budget for the hiring of interpreter for help those migrant workers in various channels; for example, Myanmar workers who work in fisheries sector must have a certificate identity to apply for the work permit which is the green card for the worker in the fisheries sector. So, all migrant workers who are work in the fisheries sector, the employer must to make the certificate of identity at PIPO center. Therefore, PIPO service center how to do to facilitate the service and they need to be able to communicate with Myanmar workers of the issue those Myanmar workers come to work without being deception, exploitation, etc.

In term of hiring an interpreter by seeking form migrant workers who can speak Thai language and their native language. Currently the total amount of 102 interpreters that have been hired its divide into 67 interpreters under the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, and 35 under Department of Employment.¹² Moreover, the Ministry of Labour by Department of Labour Protection and Welfare was created MOU with Mae Fah Luang University which is to provide interpreter form the student of Mae Fah Luang University through the line application (LINE) to communicate and understanding the Myanmar workers. However, the result of MOU with Mae Fah Luang University helped the labor in direct communication with Myanmar

¹² Ministry of Labour (2016), Operation on Tackling Labour Trafficking Issues, P.32

migrant workers its gain more information about their problem and more convenient to operate it.

b. Hotline 1546/ 1694: The Ministry of Labour under Department of Labour Protection and Welfare to provide information via telephone hotline 1546/ 1694 both hotlines is available as option channel for both Thai and migrant workers to receive information for complaint on their employment and both hotlines are fast and convenient in receiving request form both Thai and migrant workers. The hotline of 1546 is to provide the total of 11 interpreters with 20 services lines who can speak English, Myanmar, and Cambodian to answer the question of migrant workers on the issues. The hotline of 1694 is to provide the total of 4 interpreters with 15 services lines in 3 languages which are 1 Cambodian, 1 Myanmar, and 2 English. Therefore, both of hotline the most issues about advice on termination of employment, vacation day, payment, the migrant without the permit, and working in the wrong sector of work.¹³

c. Created 6-language Website to Assisted Migrant Workers: The Ministry of Labour under the Department of Employment has developed the system to assist the migrant workers on issues by reporting on the website called DOE Help Me. Currently publicizing this website so that workers can be informed of an alternative channel for assistance which is accessible in 6 different languages: Thai, Cambodian, Myanmar, Vietnamese, Lao, and English. Thus, both Thai and migrant workers can report their issues through the link <http://www.doe.go.th/helpme>. This website is another channel for both Thai and migrant workers. It is used to access complaints or information to prevent the labor trafficking activities. Besides, this website also provides the migrant workers to save time and expenses in a much

¹³ Ministry of Labour(2015), The hotline 1694/1546 , Retrieved from: <http://www.mol.go.th/anonymouse/news/44122>. (Accessed on 20-05-2018)

efficient way rather than visiting directly to the MOL offices. This website is also efficient way for those migrant workers to receive other relevant information. Currently, the Department of Employment has been continuing to promote this website through the public media in which both Thai and migrant workers can report their situations through DOE Help Me with the cooperation from neighboring countries embassy to inform the migrant workers including social media/online media as well as local radio.¹⁴

3. Health care services

Many health problems of Myanmar migrant workers come about after they leave their own country and their living condition is not good for them have affect getting a disease. Mostly Myanmar migrant worker live in areas of contaminated with industrial wasted and near marshy that have mosquito. Their accommodation tends to be overcrowded with poor ventilation and limited access to clean water. Moreover, Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand are exposing too many chronic diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS.

Providing health care to Myanmar migrant workers is important for Thai health policymaker. Thai government provides funding for a project of migrant health care using national budget because the migrant workers have a significant contribution to the wealth of Thailand. The main activity of the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand introduced a policy on migrant health which set up the migrant health insurance scheme for all documented migrants. The scheme has two policy goals: screening for and treatment of certain communicable diseases; and enabling access to health care for migrants

¹⁴ Ministry of Labour (2016), Operation on Tackling Labour Trafficking Issue, P.37

In applying for migrant health insurance requires the migrant to register at a specific hospital where they receive health screening. The screening includes chest x-ray and sputum confirmation for tuberculosis and tests for syphilis, malaria and leprosy. This policy has a full course of treatment is offered and this policy it enables to all document migrant access to health care at public facilities.

The Ministry's role is extended which include preventing the spread of infectious diseases among migrant workers, promoting health, provide family planning, and develop health information system for all migrant workers and dealing with environmental health.¹⁵ Currently, document migrant workers that can access to the Thai health care system, while undocumented migrant workers are refuse access this right of the Thai health system. However, document migrant workers have the right to get health insurance card which would be entitled them access to the health care system.

4. The right to education for migrant children

Thailand's education authority has played a key role in making education available to migrant children as a provision which opened the education system to opportunities for migrant children access to the education. It could be said that as one of the most successful of Thailand government has implements regarding migrant. The Ministry of Education (MOE) has implemented the regulation which provides education accessible to all people living in Thailand,

¹⁵ Simon Baker (2011), Migration for development in Thailand: Overview and tools for policy makers, Thailand Migration Report 2011, P. 88

including migrant children without their identity status and directs the school to register of all students although they do not have proper identification documents.¹⁶

There is the government school which migrant children can register for access education and non-governmental schools in which learning centers to migrant children access acknowledgment. Currently, more than 50 learning centers in this provides the educational service to all migrant children in Thailand. Thus, these special learning centers or school benefits in providing those migrant children with the basic acknowledgment needed for their future lives either in Thailand or in their parent country origin.

The learning center program including the lesson in basic Thai languages and English, basic legal knowledge, vocational training in skills like using computers. Some classes follow the Burmese educational system in which using mainly English and Burmese as the language of instruction. The program is not just only including Thai classes and other academic projects but have instruction on cultural and ethnic traditions. Thus, these learning center programs provide for migrant children who are education low or do not speak Thai well which is restricts them from attending Thai schools.¹⁷ Except the school provide academic, including training for teachers, education authorities provide the enrolment in schools which is helped reduce misunderstanding and doubts of migrant children.

¹⁶ Aree Jampaklay(2011), The Right to Education For Migrant Children in Thailand; Liminal legality and the education experience of migrant children in Samut Sakhon. P. 98-99

¹⁷ Ibid

5. Supporting temporary shelter

Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand fled their homeland for a mixture of political and economic reasons and could face serious reprisals from the Burmese authorities if expelled from Thailand. Moreover, Myanmar migrant workers seeking work in Thailand but they are forcing by Thai employers being victims of human trafficking, particularly Myanmar men who were forced to work as fishermen in Thailand and Myanmar women who were forced to work in the sex industry.

Thai government officials have opened a new temporary shelter to support victims of human trafficking, who were rescued or have escaped, ensure that Myanmar migrant workers at the Thai-Myanmar border are safe from armed incursions. Thus, character of temporary shelter is maintained their protection and assistance needs, get food and medical treatment. The shelter located in Tha Song Yang District, approximately 8 kilometers from the Thai-Myanmar border and 57 kilometers from Mae Sot.¹⁸

The temporary shelter was constructed as multifamily longhouses, using mainly traditional materials (bamboo and thatch). Fire-retardant wallboard was used for the sides of the longhouses and for the internal divisions between individual families because of a lack of space. Some reduction of space was achieved through a ‘checkerboard’ layout, with blocks of open space throughout the camp. This also allowed for additional shelters, if required. In the Sakeo extensions, the longhouses were grouped into four to eight houses around small internal squares. These were intended as private outdoor space or vegetable gardens for each grouping of

¹⁸ Reliefweb (2017), Thailand: Mae La Temporary Shelter Profile, Retrieved from ; <https://reliefweb.int/report/thailand/thailand-mae-la-temporary-shelter-profile-may-2017>. (Accessed on 02-09-2018)

Myanmar migrant workers. Later shelters were also improved by building them on stilts, to avoid flooding during the rainy season.¹⁹

Moreover, many of Myanmar migrant workers cross the border to Thailand for their children to get the opportunity to attend the school. Education an opportunity in temporary shelter is provided by Thailand's education authority which is the school includes the Wide Horizons and Minmahaw GED programs in Mae Sot. As this opportunity is only available to a few students each year, mostly young adults are left with no means to pursue their dream of higher education. Some young adults becoming a nurse or a teacher in the camp. Some leave to find factory work in Bangkok or elsewhere in Thailand.

Thai Government Partnership with Involving Organization

1. Thai Ministry of Labour cooperation among ILO and EU

Thai government concerns to solve the migrant worker's problem to protect human rights and labor rights through promoting equal access to social protection and health insurance. Thus, The Ministry of Labour cooperates with European Union (EU) and International Labour Organization (ILO), launched the project 'Combatting Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry'. The reason for this project came from our concern that there are many victims of child labor and forced labor had no chance no voice to escape from inhumanity and abuse.

Mr. Jesus Miquel Sanz as Head of Delegation European Commission and Ambassador to Thailand. The European Union is strongly committed to the promotion and protection of Human

¹⁹ Political conflict (1980) , Thailand refugee camp , Retrieved from : <http://shelterprojects.org/shelterprojects2008/ref/D7-Thailand-conflict.pdf>. (Accessed on 02-09-2018)

rights of the ‘2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ or so-called ‘SDGs’, leaving no-one behind.²⁰ recognizes that international migration is of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, requiring coherent and comprehensive responses. In the Agenda, Governments pledged to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. The 2030 Agenda also seeks to reduce remittance transfer fees, to promote labour standards for migrant workers, and to eliminate human trafficking.

Mr. Maurizio Bussi as director, ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Basically, ILO aimed at promoting the basic principles and right at work which involves responsibility to eliminate forms of work such a work that put at risk of living, freedom of work, wage protection, equality and social protection, safety and health that must be addressed. In simple words means that no forced labor, no child labor, and no discrimination in the workplace.

21

This project has purpose to promote the basic right of work, prevent of child labor, forced labor, and protection against the exploitation from workers and assists the vulnerability groups whether it is women, men, and children to escape from the victims of forced labor and worse situation of workers in all sectors. Furthermore, this project to enhance the ability of government officials, including labor inspection which is acting anti-trafficking and other labor rights

²⁰ International Labour Organization, Remarks by H.E. Mr. Jesus Miquel Sanz Ambassador-Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Thailand, Retrieved from: http://www.ilo.org/asia/media-centre/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_461364/lang--en/index.htm, (Accessed on 02-04-2018)

²¹ International Labour Organization, Remarks by Maurizio Bussi, Director, ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, Retrieved from: http://www.ilo.org/asia/media-centre/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_461363/lang--en/index.htm. (Accessed on 02-04-2018)

violation. This project also to enhance access to support services for migrant workers, including children through participation and empowerment of civil society organizations and trade union.

2. Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Labour Cooperation, and Agreement between Thai and Myanmar

Thailand has made a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Labour Cooperation between Thailand and Myanmar. The Agreements and MOU of both countries were first signed on 21 June 2003, after that MOU has been rectifying signed in 24 June 2016, following by the recent rectify of both sides agreement which is for lead to facilitate Myanmar migrant workers cross to Thailand by legally, reduce the problem of illegal smuggling, reduce labor exploitation, and prevent the problem of human trafficking. In recent rectify the MOU and agreement, there were 7 conferences which are 4 working committee and 3 for technical conferences. The significant collaboration was; 1) Thailand has requested to Myanmar that to accelerate the issuance of Certificate of Identity (CI) prosed to pay the fee through Counter Service or Bank., and the issuance of CI for Myanmar workers should be within 1 day. Myanmar was agreed with that then they signed MOU with Counter Service Company, which counter service has begun from 15 January 2016 in 5 provinces where most Myanmar migrant workers living are Ranong, Tak, Samut Prakan, Chiang Rai, and Samut Sakorn). 2) Establishing the DOE Help Me website is designed to give advice and help to communicate in 6 languages and invitation Myanmar attaché for further advice and inform any suggestion. 3) Confirmed the proceeding of both hotlines which is 1546/1694 to guarantee the prompt and readiness of this channel.²²

3. Thai government cooperation with NGOs

²² Ministry of Labour, Operation on Takling Labour Trafficking Issues, P. 41

The numbers of Myanmar migrant workers are seeking assistance to solve their complaint tend to make use NGOs services, which is The Migrant Workers Rights Network (MWRN) is membership-based organization for migrant workers from Myanmar residing and working in Thailand. The aim MWRN is to promote and strengthen migrant workers from Myanmar who work in Thailand in which to improve the quality life of migrant workers itself through community empowerment by raising awareness, negotiation process with employers and promoting access to justice. MWRN has opened up an office in both provinces that has large Myanmar migrant workers live which are Samut Sakhon and Songkhla.²³

MWRN is representative of Myanmar organization which aims to work overcome challenges and making progress in changing condition of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. MWRN highlights the capacity of Myanmar migrant workers to improve workplace and their conditions of migrant workers by negotiating directly with employers. MWRN use the strategies to secure demonstrable improvements in Myanmar migrant workers conditions while working in Thailand, particularly in Thailand's fisheries export sectors. Moreover, MWRN established the school for Myanmar migrant children in Samut Sakhon to address issues of child trafficking and child labor. MWRN has established a library for migrant workers which have a computer training course, English/Thai language training course.

²³ Abby McGill(2016), Building a Rights Culture, International Labor Rights forum, P.11

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