



ILLEGAL, TEMPORARY AND PRECARIOUS STATES OF BEING - MIGRATION

SEMINAR on February 15, 2010

Art Exhibition: February 15th – 28th 2010

Pridi Bhanomyong Institute,

Sukhumwit Soi 55 (BTS Thonglor), Bangkok, Thailand

The *Illegal, Temporary and Precarious States of Being - Migration* Seminar and Art Exhibition will explore the impacts of the current global responses to migration. While the governments of the world find more and more ways to enforce temporary status on the very migrants who are sustaining their economies and life-styles, space must be given to highlight the contradictions and to allow new ideas and approaches to emerge. This Seminar and Art Exhibition hopes to be one such space.

Here in Thailand, migrants from Burma, Cambodia and Lao PDR who have not been able to obtain a temporary travel document are living under the threat of mass expulsion in February 2010. This is likely to affect millions of migrants who have worked and lived in Thailand for many decades. Similar stories are occurring all over the world. Today's global responses to labour migration renders people disposable commodities depriving them of human dignity. Policies aim to make migrants temporary, forced to return after short periods of work or at the whim of the countries of origin or destination. Migrant women, men, youth and children struggle to survive endless rounds of temporary policies, unable to legally stay or realistically return. Men and women may experience these policies differently through their bodies and through their families and through the societies they move in and out of. Men and women migrants may take different actions to respond to these policies. **Nevertheless, all over the world migrants of different genders, nationalities and religions are resisting these policies of temporariness, precariousness and illegality. They are staying and returning, they are working and surviving.**

MAP Foundation (Thailand), Studio Xang (Thailand), The Asian Institute of Technology and the University of Leeds (UK) supported by IDRC and Japan Foundation are organizing this seminar and art exhibition as a follow up activity to the International Workshop on Gender, Migrant Workers and Citizenship in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Economic and Political

Perspectives for a World in Crisis' which was held on 1 -3 rd June 2009. At this conference, participants were eager to share their ideas regarding current responses to labour migration through the development of a policy paper. This seminar will share this policy brief as well as invite speakers to discuss the policies for migrant workers and its impact on their life options.

Tentative agenda

Time	Agenda	
8:30	Registration	
9:00	Opening	Organizer
	Art performance	Mr. Padungsak Kochsamrong
	Welcome remarks	Ms. Navsharan Singh, IDRC Canada Japan Foundation (TBA)
	Objective of the seminar	Organizer
9:45	Key note speech Illegal, temporary and precarious states of being: Migrant workers in Thailand	Assoc. Prof. Lae Dilokvidhyarat Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University
10:15	Break and viewing of exhibition	
10:30	Panel discussion: Illegal, Temporary and Precarious States of Being	
	Marginalized people in Thailand: Temporary status/ universal rights?	Mr. Ekachai Pinkaew, National Human Rights Commission
	Cross border migrants in Thailand: Temporary status / permanent labor?	Ms. Ruedeerat Detprayoon, senior labor officer, Ministry of Labour
	Workers in Thailand: Temporary and precarious	Ms. Wilaiwan Saetia, Thai Labour Solidarity Committee Migrant worker representative
	Policy brief on migrant workers from neighboring countries	Organizers
11:30	Questions and discussions	
12:15	Closing remarks	Organizers
12:30-13:30	Lunch	

There will be an opening event of the art exhibition at 6:30 p.m. at the same venue. All are welcome to join.

Organized by:

MAP Foundation
Asian Institute of Technology
Studio Xang
University of Leeds

Supported by:

IDRC Canada
Japan Foundation

For details, please contact:

Ms. Kanokporn Jaroenrith
Gender and Development Studies, School of Environment, Resources and
Development, Asian Institute of Technology
P.O.Box 4, Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand
Tel: 02 524 5672
Email: kanokporn@ait.ac.th;
Fax: 66 2 524 6166

This seminar/ art exhibition is a part of an IDRC supported project "Gender, Cross-border Migrant Workers and Citizenship: A case study of the Burmese-Thai border".