

DECEMBER 18th - INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand
Penthouse, Maneeya Centre
518/5 Ploenchit Road,
Bangkok 10330.

10.00 am – 12.00 am.

“The Contribution of Migrants to Thailand”

To mark International Migrants Day on December 18th, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR) will launch an ILO report: “*The Contribution of Migrants to Thailand.*”

According to the report prepared by Prof. Philip Martin of the University of California at Davis, migrants, 75% of whom come from Myanmar, now represent over 5% of Thailand's 36 million workforce and may contribute as much as 6.2% of Thai Gross Domestic Product (GDP.)

Most are employed in low paid unskilled jobs in construction, manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries and domestic service in northwestern and southern provinces. Relatively few jobs held by migrants are attractive to Thais and few migrants work in the areas of highest unemployment in Thailand's northeast.

The apparent magnitude of migrants' contribution to Thai GDP and their sectoral concentration suggests that they will continue to contribute to the country's economic development for the foreseeable future. But their rights and obligations, although defined in law, remain blurred in practice, not least because of the situation in Myanmar, and represent a major challenge to Thai policy makers at both national and provincial level.

Senior officials from ILO, IOM and UNOHCHR will discuss the issues raised by the report and answer questions from the floor. The event is open to all. A buffet lunch will be served from 11.30 – 12.00.

.....

AGENDA - PRESENTATION & PANEL DISCUSSION

18TH DECEMBER - INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

The Contribution of Migrant Workers to Thailand

10.00 - 10.15 - Registration

10.15 - 10.30 - Manolo Abella, Chief Technical Adviser, Asian Regional Programme on Governance of Labour Migration, International Labour Organization (ILO)
Overview of ILO Report: “The Contribution of Migrant Workers to Thailand: Towards Policy Development.”

10-35 - 10.45 - Monique Filsnoel, Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
“Migration management - the rights and obligations of migrants in Thailand.”

10.50 - 11.00 – Homayoun Alizadeh, Regional Representative, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)
“Human rights and migration in Thailand.”

11.05 - 11.30 - Panel Discussion & Questions

11.30 - 12.00 - Buffet Lunch

For more information please contact:

Christopher Lowenstein-Lom
Regional Information Officer & Spokesperson - Asia-Pacific
International Organization for Migration
18th Floor, Rajanakarn Building,
183 South Sathorn Road, Bangkok 10120, Thailand
Tel. +66.2.3439330. Mobile. +66.819275215
<http://www.iom.int>