

**Record of Discussion of the Thailand-Myanmar Meeting
on Employment of Myanmar Workers in Thailand**

25-27 July 2007, Nay Pyi Taw

1. The Thailand-Myanmar Meeting on Employment of Myanmar Workers in Thailand was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 25-27 July 2007. The Thai delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Poksak Nilubol, Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand. The Myanmar Delegation was led by His Excellency U Than Tun, Director-General of Consular & Legal Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar. The name-list of the Thai and Myanmar delegation appear as Annex I and Annex II, respectively.

2. The Thai Delegation paid courtesy calls on His Excellency U Thaung, Minister for Labour of the Union of Myanmar and His Excellency U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar on 26 July and 25 July, 2007 respectively.

3. At the Opening Ceremony, His Excellency U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs delivered the welcoming remarks. In his welcoming remarks, His Excellency U Maung Myint extended his warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Poksak Nilubol and members of the Thai delegation and expressed his pleasure of having a chance to reciprocate the hospitality of the Thai side. He expressed his belief that the Meeting would have fruitful results reflecting the friendship between the two countries

and expressed his hope that the discussion would be based on what had been agreed upon previously between the two sides.

4. After the welcoming remarks of His Excellency U Maung Myint, His Excellency Mr. Poksak Nilubol, leader of the Thai Delegation, expressed his sincere appreciation to the Myanmar authorities for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the Thai Delegation since they arrived in Myanmar. He reiterated the strong willingness of the Thai side to cooperate with the Myanmar side to find a mutually agreeable solution to solve the Myanmar workers problem. He also expressed appreciation for the active cooperation and continued support of the Myanmar side.

5. In his opening remarks at the meeting, His Excellency U Than Tun, leader of the Myanmar Delegation, extended his warm welcome to the Thai Delegation and reiterated Myanmar's position that the discussions would be based on agreements reached at previous meetings. He also expressed the Myanmar side's willingness to hold the discussions in an open and frank manner reflecting the friendship between the two countries.

The Verification of Nationality

6. During the discussions, the Myanmar side reiterated the agreements reached at the previous meetings and informed the Meeting of relevant tasks undertaken after the last meeting of 28 August 2006, including the opening of three processing centers at Tachileik, Myawaddy and Kawthaung as agreed upon

during the said Meeting. The Myanmar side informed that temporary passports were issued to 3,160 Myanmar nationals whose nationality was verified and approved. The Myanmar side urged the Thai side to issue stay permit and appropriate visa to Myanmar workers holding temporary passports in order to obtain legal status in Thailand.

7. The Thai side informed the Meeting that, after trying to conform to the agreement reached during the previous Meeting, the Thai side was encountered with the amendment of existing rules and orders which were complicated and time-consuming. Therefore, the relevant undertaking could not proceed as smoothly and speedily as anticipated.

8. In addition, taking into account the nationality verification process of the workers from Laos and Cambodia which was done inside Thailand, the Thai side stated that it is now the policy of the Royal Thai Government that it would be more appropriate if Thailand could apply the same approach to all neighbouring countries. Therefore, the Thai side proposed the Myanmar side to reconsider opening processing centres inside Thailand with the task to verify the nationality of Myanmar illegal workers in Thailand.

9. The Thai side also proposed that the processing centre could be set up on Thai territory near Thailand-Myanmar border. The Thai side suggested to Myanmar side to consider appropriate locations near border checkpoints at Mae Sod, Mae Sai, and Ranong, since Myanmar side has previously set up the

processing centres on Myanmar side of the border near to these areas.

10. The Myanmar side reiterated that issues relating to location of processing centres had been thoroughly discussed and agreed between the two sides, and agreement has been implemented by the Myanmar authorities concerned.

11. The Myanmar side informed the Meeting that it has spent a large sum of budget and mobilized its human resources to open the processing centers in Tachileik, Myawaddy and Kawthaung, and had issued temporary passports and worker identification cards of high quality. In this connection, the Myanmar side recalled the previous agreements and reiterated the Myanmar side's position to maintain the processing centers in Myanmar territory, as agreed by both sides in August 2006.

12. The Myanmar side also informed that processing centers in Tachileik, Myawaddy and Kawthaung were established in November 2006 and had received 10,007 request forms for national verification from the Thai side through diplomatic channels. The verification of 10,007 applications was completed within 3 days. Until February 2007, 3,160 temporary passports and worker identification cards were issued to those Myanmar workers who have been verified by the Myanmar side at Kawthaung. The Myanmar side has learnt that the Thai side has not yet issued a visa to those temporary passport holders.

13. In this connection, the Myanmar side suggested that in order to facilitate the process of issuing appropriate visas for the 3,160 Myanmar temporary passport holders, the Myanmar side would send a list of those who already received temporary passports to the Thai side. Myanmar side also suggested that contact persons on both sides should be identified and that the Thai side should put in place a mechanism to facilitate the process.

14. The Thai side informed the Myanmar side that 3,160 workers were not issued visas due to the fact that the existing rules of Thailand can be applied only when the nationality verification process is done inside Thailand. Furthermore, the Thai side informed that there exists a change in policy from the Thai side regarding verification process. The Thai side requested the Myanmar side to reconsider opening processing centres inside Thailand.

The Recruitment of new Myanmar Workers

15. The Thai side suggested that the matter of sending newly recruited Myanmar workers be discussed to get progress, and put forward the idea that 3,160 workers would be considered as a portion of 10,000 workers to be sent as a pilot project.

16. Regarding the proposal to send 10,000 newly - recruited Myanmar workers to Thailand through the agreed centres, the Myanmar side expressed its view that the purpose of this pilot project was to encourage illegal Myanmar workers in Thailand to

undergo in the legalization process. The Myanmar side expressed its reluctance to implement the proposal of sending 10,000 newly recruited workers unless the legalization of workers presently working in Thailand was first solved. It further said that the nature of legalization of illegal workers and sending of newly-recruited Myanmar workers will be different from each other. Therefore, Myanmar side expressed its view that it is necessary for both sides to find a mutually acceptable solution.

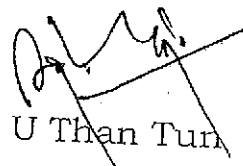
Conclusion

17. The Meeting was held in a friendly spirit and amicable manner. The Thai Delegation expressed its appreciation to the Myanmar side for the warm hospitality extended to the Thai Delegation.

18. Both sides adopted and signed the Record of Discussion of the Meeting on Employment of Myanmar Workers in Thailand.



H.E. Mr. Poksak Nilubol
Advisor to the
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Leader of the Thai Delegation



H.E. U Than Tun
Director-General
Consular & Legal Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Leader of the Myanmar Delegation

Done at Nay Pyi Taw

27 July 2007

List of Thai Officials attending the Thai-Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on
Myanmar workers

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|----|--|-------------------|
| 1. | H.E. Mr. Poksak Nilubol
Advisor to the Deputy Minister of
Foreign Affairs | Delegation Leader |
| 2. | H.E. Mr. Bansarn Bunnag
Ambassador of Thailand to the Union of
Myanmar | member |
| 3. | H.E. Mr. Thapabutr Jamasevi
Secretary of the Minister of Labour
Ministry of Labour | member |
| 4. | Mr. Pairat Lumyong
Deputy Director-General, Department of
Employment, Ministry of Labour | member |
| 5. | Mr. Thanich Numnoi
Director, Migration Recruitment, Management
Division, Department of Employment
Ministry of Labour | member |
| 6. | Mr. Kallayana Vipattipumiprates
Director, Division II, Department of East Asian
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs | member |
| 7. | Pol. Col Wilawan Pitavaranont
Superintendent, General Staff Division
Immigration Bureau, Royal Thai Police | member |
| 8. | Mrs. Piengpahp Withyachumnarnkal
Senior Foreign Relations Officer, Planning and
Information Division, Department of Employment
Ministry of Labour | member |

9. Miss Kanjana Hunchaisri
Senior Labour Technical Officer
Office of Migration Recruitment, Management
Division, Department of Employment
Ministry of Labour
member
10. Miss Jirusaya Birananda
First Secretary, Division II, Department of East Asian
Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
member
11. Mrs Salinee Phonprapai
First Secretary
Royal Thai Embassy, Yangon
member
12. Miss Sareeya Hinthong
Third Secretary
Division II, Department of East Asian Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
member

List of Myanmar Officials attending the Thai-Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on
Myanmar workers

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| 1. | H.E. U Than Tun
Director-General
Consular and Legal Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Delegation Leader |
| 2. | Pol. Brig. Gen. Myint Thein
Head of Special Branch
Special Branch
Ministry of Home Affairs | member |
| 3. | U Chit Shein
Director-General
Ministry of Labour | member |
| 4. | Pol. Lt. Col. Tin Maung Shin
Special Branch
Ministry of Home Affairs | member |
| 5. | U Htay Hlaing
Director
Ministry of Immigration and Population | member |
| 6. | U Soe Lynn Han
Deputy Director
Political Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs | member |
| 7. | Daw Khin Thandar
Deputy Director
Consular and Legal Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs | member |

8. U Soe Myint
Head of Branch I
Consular and Legal Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

member

9. U Myint Thein Win
Head of Branch I
Consular and Legal Affairs Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

member