



Seminar

Situation of Informal and Foreign Workers in Thailand

Wednesday 7th November 2007

Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel

(Corner of Ratchaparop and Din Daeng Rd.)

Organised by

Thai Labour Solidarity Committee (TLSC)

Thai Labour Museum Foundation

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

Principle and Reasons

Among the population of 65 million in Thailand, 35.5 million are in the age of workforce, which is vital power for country development. Yet only 12-13 million are engaged in formal sector and protected by the law, while about 22.5 million or approximately 65 percent together with foreign workers over two million are working in the informal sector. Despite their significant role to Thai economics with minimum two thousand billion baht of country's income or 43 percent of GDP generated by informal workers, they are still not protected. As for foreign workers, they also create two percent share in GDP or ten billion baht in number. This still does not include 75 percent of foreign workers' income spent in Thailand due to a small opportunity of sending their money back home.

In spite of extremely important role of the two mentioned groups, they own a poor working status, unprotected labour's right and limited welfare. Regardless of their huge number, their story is rarely acknowledged and is eventually overlooked by the public or even by trade unions, which are directly engaged in labour's activity. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Thai Labour Museum Foundation have jointly organised two series of documentary films in order to distribute story of the two worker groups so that members of trade unions and the public are aware of and recognise their importance and problems they are facing. Furthermore, the films are aimed to motivate the audience to pay more attention and participate in solving their problems

As both documentary films are recently finished, Thai Labour Solidarity Committee (TLSC), Thai Labour Museum Foundation and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) are jointly organising activity to provide an opportunity to present both series of documentary to the public and provide a platform to discuss about informal and foreign workers.

Objectives:

1. To present documentary films about the situation of informal and foreign workers in Thailand.
2. To provide a platform for a discussion about seminar's participants about informal and foreign workers.

Time and Venue:

7th November 2007

Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel

(Corner of Ratchaparop and Din Daeng Rd.)

Participants:

Representatives from workers' organization, NGOs, International Labour Organisation (ILO) and academics altogether 80-100 participants

Organised by:

Thai Labour Solidarity Committee (TLSC)

Thai Labour Museum Foundation

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)



Situation of Informal and Migrant Workers in Thailand

Seminar and documentary-film presentation

*Wednesday November 7th, 2007,
Grand Ballroom, Century Park Hotel,
Bangkok, Thailand*

Organised by

Thai Labour Solidarity Committee (TLSC),
Thai Labour Museum Foundation,
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

09.00 Registration

09.20 Welcome, opening remarks and project introduction by:

Ms. Vesna Rodić, Resident Director, FES

09.50 Film Presentation

The Situation of Informal Workers in Thailand

10.20 Coffee Break

10.40 Discussion

Informal Workers: Problems the overlooked 22.5 million workers are facing”

Ms. Christine Nathan, Regional Specialist in Workers’ Education,
International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Dr. Chaiyuth Chavalitnitkul, Department of Labour Protection and Welfare,
Ministry of Labour

Ms. Poonsap Tulaphan, Manager, Homenet Thailand

Mr. Charit Meesiti, Legal Expert on the issue of Informal Workers

Assoc. Prof. Malee Pruekpongsawalee, Faculty of Law, Thammasat
University

Chair:

Ms. Jittima Srisuknam, Programme Officer, International Labour
Organisation (ILO)

Ms. Wilaiwan Sae-Tia, President, Thai Labour Solidarity Committee

13.00 Lunch

14.00

Film Presentation

The Situation of Migrant Workers in Thailand

14.30

Discussion

Migrant Workers are not Aliens from the Mars: Their Problems are our Concern

Ms. Vojáčková-Sollorano, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Mr. Adisorn Kerdmongkol, International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Mr. Sompong Sakaew, Director of Labour Rights Promotion Network

Mr. Andy Hall, Coordinator: Making Migrant Safety at Work Matter Project
Representative of the Ministry of Labour

Chair:

Ms. Sunee Chaiyarose, National Human Rights Commission

Mr. Savit Keawvarn, General Secretary, Thai Labour Solidarity Committee

16.30

Closing

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