

# INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY CONFERENCE 2022

Opening Remarks: Assoc. Prof. Pavika Sriratanaban, "Global Health, Ageing and Migration", Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University

Session 1 (9:15-10:15am): Migration in Thailand's Agriculture Sector

Session 2 (10:15-11:15am): Labour Migration into the Blue Economy

Session 3 (1:00-2:00pm): Environment, Climate Change and Migration

Session 4 (2:00-3:00pm): Ageing and Care Work in a Mobile World

Session 5 (3:00-4:00pm): New Trends of Forced Displacement



## REGISTRATION:

 **Online Form (click here)**

For Conference Enquires, contact:  
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**Conference Venue:** Ground floor of  
[Visid Prachuabmoh Building](#), next to  
[Institute of Asia Studies](#), Chulalongkorn  
University, Pathum Wan, Bangkok  
10330

And via Zoom, please register.

## Session Descriptions

### Session 1 (9:15am-10:30am): Migration in Thailand's Agriculture Sector

Agriculture has historically been the backbone of the Thai economy, employing the majority of the national working age population. While the sector has seen a decline in the number of workers in recent years, approximately 30 per cent of Thailand's total labour force, work in agriculture today. Increasingly, the sector is depending on migrant workers to fill the growing labour shortages in the sector. Despite the importance of the sector, many agricultural workers are excluded from national labour protection laws. Waged agricultural workers frequently experience unstable and/or temporary employment; receive low wages; and suffer hazardous, unhealthy work and poor living conditions. This session will take stock of employment and working conditions faced by migrant workers in this sector, and propose policy recommendations for how to increase the protection of workers in this sector.

### Session 2 (10:30am-11:45am): Labour Migration into the Blue Economy

The trade in fish and seafood products continues to reach record highs, an industry that has become highly dependent upon migrants to fill its labour needs. Despite this economic growth, many women and men migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing sectors continue to experience significant decent work deficits. Work onboard fishing vessels, for example, is often not adequately covered by labour and social protections, and in many countries, not subject to effective labour inspections or provided with freedom of association. Migrant workers commonly experience poor working conditions and labour rights abuses, including excessive recruitment costs, long working hours, limited freedom of movement, wage theft and contract substitution. Fishers and seafood processing workers are also subjected to various forms of duress and coercion, such as accumulation of debt, retention of identification documents and ATM cards, and violence and harassment. In the most severe cases, these labour rights violations can amount to situations of forced labour. This session will share recent research conducted by the ILO and other key stakeholders on labour migration into the fishing and seafood processing sectors in South East Asia and provide practical recommendations for expanding the opportunities for migrants to obtain decent work.

### Session 3 (12:45pm-2:00pm): Environment, Climate Change and Migration

Migration and climate change represent two of the most salient symbols of global inequalities. Not only are those least responsible for climate change suffering its worst consequences, but it is also those most vulnerable who are often forced to move as a result and face increasing barriers to safe mobility and migration. Over the past 11 years, nearly 80 per cent of all internal displacements related to disasters took place in the Asia Pacific region (IDMC 2022). In addition, environmental conditions have become increasingly intertwined with the more traditional economic drivers of internal and cross-border labor migration as well as with political drivers that shape refugee movements. Although all countries in the region are affected by environmental degradation and

climate change, key vulnerabilities and mobility patterns vary across and within countries as well as between communities, with gender and social inequities deeply shaping the drivers and outcomes of (im)mobility patterns. Drawing on recent research, this session will explore the complex and multi-faceted drivers and impacts of migration, displacement, and human (im)mobilities as they relate to international labour migration, conflict, human rights violations and gender and social inequities.

#### Session 4 (2:00-3:15pm): Ageing and Care Work in a Mobile World

Ageing in today's world is made complex by the increased prevalence and diverse forms of migration and mobility (Baldassar & Wilding 2018). Thailand is one of the fastest ageing societies in the world and a destination for international retirement migration. With rapid technological change, Thailand and other ageing societies must address the interlocking impacts of shrinking national workforces and skills gap needs, whilst providing access to quality healthcare for the elderly and filling demands for care workers. This panel will examine issues related to population ageing and care through a transnational lens, as migrants age away from 'home', but also fulfil the critical role as caregivers. Ageing and care work must be considered in multi-dimensional, heterogeneous and cultural terms to understand the experiences of the elderly and care workers and to improve their well-being.

#### Session 5 (3:15-4.30pm): New Trends of Forced Displacement

People flee from their home countries because of war, political unrest, conflict, or persecution. To seek protection and safety, many cross international borders. Since the war in Ukraine broke out, nearly 17 million people have sought protection inside or beyond Ukraine's borders, including 7.4 million refugees, 6.9 million IDPs, and 325,000 third-country nationals. In this region, a protracted Rohingya crisis in Myanmar has forcibly displaced 1.2 million Rohingya around Asia, including over 940,000 in Bangladesh and 448,000 within Myanmar. Moreover, well over 1 million civilians from other ethnic and religious backgrounds have been forced from their homes since the Myanmar military's seizure of power in February 2021. Widespread violence and abuse are also having ripple effects in Thailand and the region. Displaced people face various challenges, whether residing in temporary shelters for prolonged durations, integrating locally in host countries, starting new lives abroad in third countries or returning home. This session will examine the latest patterns of displacement, preparedness and protection, and potential future innovative solutions.

#### Keynote Address (4:30-4.50pm): "Conceptualising Force Migration"

Prof. Matthew Gibney, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford

END at 5:00pm

### Conference Schedule

| Session   | Theme  | Chair |
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| <b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Assoc. Prof. Naruemon Thabchumpon, Director, Centre of Excellence - Asian Research Center for Migration, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks: "Global Health, Ageing and Migration"</b></p> <p>Assoc.Prof. Pavika Sriratanaban, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University</p>   | ARCM  |
| <b>Session 1</b><br>9.15-10.30am<br><br>12mins per speaker<br>10mins Q&A  | <p><b>Migration in Thailand's Agriculture Sector:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working and Employment Conditions in the Agriculture Sector in Thailand: presentation of a survey of migrants working on Thai sugarcane, rubber, oil palm and maize farms, ILO &amp; Mahidol University</li> <li>2. Women Migrant Workers in Malaysia and Thailand's Agro-Processing Sectors, ILO</li> <li>3. Cambodia to Thailand Seasonal Migration Research, Winrock International USAID Asia CTIP</li> <li>4. Thai Fruit Industry and Regulation of Cambodian Migrant Workers, Prof. Koji Kubo, Gakushuin University/JETRO, Japan, and Dr. Aungkhana Kamonpetch, ARCM, Chulalongkorn University</li> </ol> | ILO   |
| <b>Session 2</b><br>10.30-11.45am<br><br>12mins per speaker<br>10mins Q&A   | <p><b>Labour Migration and the Blue Economy:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baseline Research on Working Conditions for Migrant Fishers and Seafood Processing Workers in Southeast Asia, ILO</li> <li>2. Turning Principles into Pathways: The future of the seafood good labour practices programme, ILO</li> <li>3. Research on Enforcement of Contractual Provisions for Migrant Fishers, Fishers Rights Network</li> <li>4. Migrant Assistance and Counter Trafficking, Ms. Among Resi, Programme Officer, IOM Thailand</li> </ol>   | ARCM  |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LUNCH BREAK (60mins)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Book Launch – World Migration Report by IOM &amp; African Migrants in Thailand by ARCM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>11.45am-12.45pm</b></p> |  |       |

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| <p><b>Session 3</b><br/>12.45-2:00pm</p> <p>12 mins per speaker<br/>10 mins Q&amp;A</p> | <p><b>Environment, Climate Change and Migration:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate Change, Environmental Degradation, and International Labour Migration in Asia, Dr. Sara Vigil, SEI with IOM CREST</li> <li>2. Conflict, Climate and Migration, Ms. Dayoon Kim, SEI with the Danish Refugee Council</li> <li>3. Internal Displacement, Human Rights and Durable Solutions: insights from research in Tacloban, Philippines, Ms. Reinna Bermudez, Philippine Commission of Human Rights</li> <li>4. Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Climate Action – CLMVT Countries, Dr.Ratchada Jayagupta, ARCM &amp; Stefano Zenobi, WWF Myanmar</li> </ol>   | SEI      |
| <p><b>Session 4</b><br/>2:00-3.15pm</p> <p>12 mins per speaker<br/>10 mins Q&amp;A</p>  | <p><b>Ageing and Care Work in a Mobile World:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thailand's Labour Migration Policies, Dr. Ruttiya Bhula-or, College of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University</li> <li>2. Skilled Domestic Workers? Working Conditions and Skills Levels of ASEAN Domestic Workers in 2022, Rebecca Napier-Moore, ILO</li> <li>3. A Migrant Care Workforce and a Migrant Ageing Population: Towards recognising and embracing cultural plurality in Australian aged care, Dr. Catriona Steven, Edith Cowan University, Australia</li> <li>4. Migrant Domestic Workers: caregiving duties and burdens, Jaya Anil Kumar, Senior Researcher, Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics, Singapore</li> </ol> | ARCM     |
| <p><b>Session 5</b><br/>3:15-4:30pm</p> <p>12 mins per speaker<br/>10mins Q&amp;A</p>   | <p><b>New Trends of Forced Displacement</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deserving and Undeserving Refugees at the Polish-Belarusian Border, Prof.Elzbeita Gozdzia, Georgetown University</li> <li>2. Humanitarian response to Ukraine Crisis, Mr. Andrew Lind, Senior Emergency Coordinator, IOM Geneva</li> <li>3. Identity of second generation Rohingyas – Assoc. Prof. Ahsan Ullah, FASS, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei</li> <li>4. Myanmar's Complex Emergency and Forced Migration - Duncan McArthur, Myanmar Programme Acting Co-Executive Director, The Border Consortium</li> </ol>   | IOM/ARCM |

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| <p>Closing Keynote<br/>4:30-4:50pm</p> | <p>Keynote Address: "Conceptualising Force Migration"</p> <p>Prof. Matthew Gibney, Refugee Studies Centre, University of<br/>Oxford</p> <p><i>Closing Remarks</i></p> |  |
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