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: MAJOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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RITTIPONG POUNGMANEE: ASEAN AND THE PROBLEMS OF ILLEGAL

MIGRANT WORKERS FROM BURMA IN THAILAND THESIS ADVISOR:

PRANEE THIPARAT, Ph.D. 138 pp. ISBN 974-334-588-4

This thesis aims to examine the existing structure and mechanism of ASEAN in

dealing with the problem of migrant workers as regards the illegal migrant workers

from Burma in Thailand. It is argued that the question of migrant workers is a

transnational issue which can neither be solved by any one country nor by existing

mechanism of ASEAN. The division of fields of cooperation in ASEAN into three pillars,

namely, political, economic and functional cooperation is inadequate to address the

problem.

Using the concept of regimes as an analytical framework, it is proposed that in

order to cope with this problem more effectively, ASEAN as regimes should fully utilize

the existing mechanism instead of creating a new institution. The alternative solution

or management of the problems must be dealt with through coordinating various fields.

of cooperation instead of leaving it under one particular umbrella. The final conclusion

is that this may also be an alternative for ASEAN in the future to deal with a more

complex problem of international nature in the region.

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