

## **Abstract**

The study on “Expectation and Preparation of Thai Labor on Leaving for the Republic of Korea to Work under the EPS System” aim at studying the expectation and preparation for readiness to go to the Republic of Korea to work of Thai labor and their opinions on problems, obstacles, and ways to improve the EPS System. Questionnaire is used as instrument to collect data from 70 Thai labor who have registered with the Service Center operated under the EPS System during January 2009, plus an interview using structured interview schedule with the Director-General of Employment Department. The quantitative analysis is based on Percentage, Mean, and Standard Deviation.

The study finds that most of the Thai labor who are going to the Republic of Korea under the EPS System are males from the provinces aged between 31–36 years, single, finish secondary education, have been engaged in farming and have never worked in any foreign country before but have relatives who used to work in the Republic of Korea. This group of Thai labor receive information from government employment offices the most and learn about steps and ways to apply for work under the EPS System. Besides, they have prepared for the readiness by finding knowledge on Korean traditions and culture. They have in hand money to pay for knowledge and health tests as well as for travel documents within the amount of 10,000 baht. What they expect when they get there is an income between 30,000–40,000 baht per month from working in an industrial setting, and then they expect to buy some living facilities. This group of Thai labor view that their work application under the EPS System should not have any problems. However, they propose that the System should be somewhat improved, especially for its public relations as well as necessary skill and language training. Personal factors affecting the expectation of the chance to be deceived are age and education, while marital status, education, and work experience affect the difference in expectation on income, nature of work, and the preparation for the knowledge of laws. Problems and obstacles of Thai labor according to the high-level

administrator who has been interviewed are the language, alcoholic consumption, and falsified immigration documents.