

Uitis Sanglaoid 2014: Intra-ASEAN In-Migrant Labour and Impact on Thai Economy. Doctor of Philosophy (Economics), Major Field: Economics, Department of Economics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Sumalee Santipolvut, Ph.D. 128 pages.

This study aims to analyse the determinants of intra-ASEAN labour migration to Thailand and its impacts upon the Thai economy. The Hatton's migration model is applied to by employing panel data through fixed effect model estimations, reveal that the GDP gaps between Thailand and the migrant countries, migration stock reflecting the existence of immigrant networks, and Thailand's migration worker policy all play a crucial role in explaining migration behaviour.

The findings of impact of ASEAN labour migration to Thailand on the Thai economy, via the CGE model, is divided into two scenarios. The first scenario is based upon Thai foreign worker policies for permit unskilled in-migrant labours, results in higher GDP, household incomes, exports, and imports, but lower wages for unskilled labour and lower income distributions. The second scenario is based upon an ASEAN MRA concerning the labour movement of eight occupations: doctors, dentists, nurses, engineers, architects, accountants, surveyors, and tourism professionals, shows the impacts upon higher GDP, household incomes, income distributions, exports, and imports but lower wages for skilled labour. However, such effects are relatively minimal than the first scenario since the ASEAN member states continue to have their own work permit regulations.

Therefore, it is essential to emphasize more coherent policies, specifically the movement of unskilled labour. In addition, more collaboration in common labour standards and development might cause the free flow of skilled labour between ASEAN member states to become more effective and, eventually, fulfill the main aims and purposes of the AEC.

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