

## Independent Study

Problems of Foreign Labor : A Case of Illegal  
Karen Immigrants in Mae Sot District, Tak  
Province.

Author Mr. Chalerm Sak Ngamngarm

M.A. (Political Science) Politics and Government

Examining Committee :

Assist. Prof. Dr. M. L. Bhansoon Ladavalaya Chairman

Lecturer Dr. Tanun Anumanrajadhon Member

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Narong Sinsawasdi Member

### Abstract

The objective of this research is to study the problems of foreign labor regarding the illegal Karen immigrants from Myanmar in Mae Sot District, Tak province. The study is to find out whether the Karen immigrants took the jobs of Thai labor. In terms of quality, who were better off between Thai and Karen labors?. Would the employing of Karen labor pose any problem on Thai security and how did they adjust their way of life in Thailand?.

The 50-sampling group was comprised of 10 businessmen; 10 government officials; 10 Kamnans; village chiefs; and local politicians; 10 Thai labor; and 10 Karen labor in Mae Sot District. The data collection was made through the use of different techniques, including an interview schedule, and an observation.

The findings are as follows:

1. The job in local market was mostly occupied with Karen labor because they did not ask for high salary and social welfare benefit

like the Thai. This has resulted in causing many Thai labor losing their jobs.

2. The Karen labor were better than The Thai in terms of honesty, discipline, and hardship. By and large they were more trustworthy than the Thai.

3. Mae Sot District is short of Thai labor because of low wage and they also preferred to work elsewhere outside Mae Sot or worked independently in a farm.

4. The illegal Karen immigrants, especially female labor working as prostitutes, have impacted on the country's security resulting from the flowing out of money to Myanmar which also affected Thai national image abroad.