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SASITHORN CHANLOHA : OPINION OF THE COMMUNITY IN  
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The immigration of foreign workers in Ranong province has caused problems including many in public health. This study investigates the opinions of Ranong communities about foreign workers in relation to public health problems and issues in solving these problems. The study used interviews with thirty one participants which consisted of government officers, public health officers, entrepreneurs who employ foreign workers, member of the general public in Ranong province and Thai workers and foreign workers. Data was collected using an open-ended questionnaire which related to public health problems. Content analysis was used for data analysis.

The results showed that in the opinions of this community foreign workers were a cause of public health problems in Ranong. They caused communicable diseases that were becoming more severe including previously extinct diseases which were reappearing. The major diseases that were current problems were malaria, filariasis, diarrhea and AIDS. The public health officers believed that foreign workers caused environmental problems, increased costs of health care and caused social problems in Ranong. One problem is that these workers have too many children and ignore all responsibility for their children. Thai workers believe the foreign workers were strong and had no diseases. The entrepreneurs believe foreign worker were not a burden to local public health offices. Government officers and public health officers suggested ways to solve the public health problems were to control immigration, create a system for approving foreign workers, to support and promote provision of sufficient health insurance cards and to control foreign worker's diseases. The public health officers added that there should be more preventive services. The policy should be improved and they should cooperate with other government and non government organizations.

The results of this study suggest that public health officers should provide methods for the prevention and control of disease, environmental management, methods to decrease health care expense and urge cooperation with other organizations. The government should cooperate in the prevention and control of disease, support foreign workers having health insurance cards and control the immigration of new workers. Entrepreneurs should provide appropriate housing, support health promotion, prevent diseases and provide health welfare costs to foreign workers. People in these communities should cooperate in taking care of the environment and in preventing disease.