

i

Thesis Title Factors Determining Malaria
Prevalence among Migrants from
Myanmar: A Study of Migrants in
Clinics in Mae Sot and Phro Phra
District, Tak Province, Thailand

Name Maria-Theresia Benner

Degree Master of Primary Health Care
Management

Thesis Supervisory Committee

Somboon Kietinun, MD, M.P.H.M.,
F.I.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.T.

Santhat Sermsri, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D.

Junya Pattara-arechachai, B.Sc.,
M.Sc. M.S.P.H., D.Sc.

Francois Nosten, MD

Date of Graduation 2 May B.E. 2540 (1997)

ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional descriptive study on migrants was done in Tak province in order to assess baseline data on Socio-demographic- and environmental characteristics, practices on malaria prevention and treatment seeking

behavior, knowledge and attitude towards malaria and malaria prevention. Association among these variables were also studied. Five hundred twelve migrants from Myanmar were interviewed by structured questionnaire in an area which is endemic for malaria and highly drug resistant for *P.falciparum*. Non-probabilistic collection was done due to low transmission season.

Most of the migrants came from a non-endemic area in Myanmar which let them have a low immunity against malaria. It was found that more than a half of the respondents with *P.falciparum* malaria became infected in Thailand.

Males between 15-30 years old were the majority in this population. Occupation, marital status, ethnicity, transit area, place of living, house construction and history of malaria were highly associated with malaria. Prevention methods such as using of mosquito nets were practiced only by a half of the respondents while one-third never used mosquito nets. There was no association found between prevention and treatment seeking behavior with malaria. Knowledge on malaria and prevention appeared to be very low. Only 2.3% got high score while the rest got low score. People maintained folkloristic beliefs in terms of causes of malaria. Self-experience with the disease seemed to be an important factor as a

learning process. Attitude towards malaria was generally positive. Persons with malaria showed a positive attitude compared to the rest. No correlation was found between knowledge and attitude.