

ABSTRACT

EVALUATION OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S LABOR-EXPORT POLICY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

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This paper deals with institutional aspects and an evaluation of Thailand's labor-export policy and performance during the past two decades. The issue of Thai labor export has begun to receive a great attention of the Thai government since the late 1970's. Government policy regarding international migration was stated explicitly in the Fifth Plan (1982-1986) and the Sixth Plan (1987-1991). According to these plans, Thai workers are encouraged to obtain temporary overseas employment to alleviate domestic unemployment and as a means for foreign exchange earnings. To implement this policy, the new Labor Recruitment and Protection Law was enacted in August 1985. Remittances of Thai emigrants through commercial banks exceed 20,000 million baht annually during 1985-1989. Emigrant workers' problems and government policy measures to alleviate such problems are also discussed. Most of the Thai migrants abroad have been of semi-skilled or unskilled workers and of a temporary type. This type of overseas employment seems unsecured in the long-run. An effective reemployment policy should be developed. Regarding problems of illegal

Thai migrants abroad, no policy deals with them yet. The
The Thai government's labor export policy can be viewed as
a dependent policy on external labor markets. Socio-economic
and political change in such markets may lead to some reper-
cussions on Thailand's labor export performance.
