



# Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation (LPN)

## Organisation Profile 2015

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## Vision

The Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation (LPN) is committed to protecting and improving the lives of migrant workers in Thailand. We strive to advocate for equality, both in the workplace and the community, and aim to assist migrants and their families integrate peacefully into Thai society.

## Goals

1. To develop an understanding of the issues faced by migrant workers
2. To support the protection of individual migrant workers and their rights, as well as the integration of migrants and their families into Thai society
3. To assist migrant workers in becoming more self-reliant with the support of public and private sectors
4. To create awareness about the responsibilities towards, and the wellbeing of, migrants
5. To continue operating on a not-for-profit basis with financial assistance from the public

## Awards

- 2014 Human Rights Award (*National Human Rights Commission of Thailand*)
- 2008 Certificate in Recognition of Valued Participation - Workshop on Awareness Raising Regarding Child Protection (*Save the Children, UNICEF and ECPAT International*)
- 2007 Winner of the UNIAP Trafficking Estimates Contest (*United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking*)
- 2006 Certificate in Recognition of Valued Participation - Workshop on Awareness Raising Regarding Child Protection (*Save the Children, UNICEF and ECPAT International*)

## Background on Labour Rights in Thailand

Statistics compiled by the Department of Employment and Office of Foreign Workers Administration, a subsidiary body of Thailand's Ministry of Labour, have shown that the number of migrants working in Thailand, both legally and illegally, has risen consistently in recent decades. Numbers are set to increase dramatically with the formation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), as the Free Trade Agreements created by the AEC are expected to facilitate greater freedom of movement for ASEAN citizens seeking employment. Thailand is expected to experience an influx in both skilled and unskilled labour migration.

These events are also likely to lead to an increase in human rights issues. As migration rates rise, more people are made vulnerable to employer abuse, labour exploitation, and human trafficking. Thailand must recognize that these issues are unavoidable and require urgent attention. Otherwise, the problems of forced labour and exploitation will spread as illegal networks and trafficking rings continue to operate with impunity.

## The Founding of LPN

The Labour Rights Promotion Network (LPN) was formed with the intention of resolving issues of labour discrimination and inequality, focusing specifically on Samut Sakhon province, which is a central base for migrant labourers in Thailand. On 24 December 2004, LPN was officially registered as a foundation. This official classification helped LPN generate more support, enabling the organisation to expand its capacity to assist victims of human trafficking and better monitor the labour rights situation in Samut Sakhon.

### Strategy

1. Targeting field research and operations towards the issues being faced by migrant workers, public infrastructure conflicts and improving policy
2. Providing advice to workers on any matter for which they require assistance
3. Increasing the number of state, private and local organizations involved in supporting migrant workers
4. Advocating on behalf of migrants to ensure basic rights including labour rights, the right to an education and access to social services
5. Facilitating the education and cooperation of labourers to improve their self-reliance

### Areas of Focus

- Access to basic human rights
- Education
- Health
- Child protection
- Worker's rights
- Prevention of child labour
- Prevention of human trafficking
- Reproductive health

## **Key Activities and Services**

- Assistance for victims
  - Development of welfare services
  - Preparation of migrant children for schooling
  - Support for migrant children enrolled in the Government school system
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- Learning Centre for children and adults
  - Counselling Centre
  - Multicultural Centre for migrants
  - Temporary Shelter
  - Labour Centre
  - Seafarers Action Centre

# Projects and Activities

## Creating a Committed Network of Activists

One of the most vulnerable groups in the migrant labour process are young children, as they are particularly susceptible to human trafficking and exploitation. LPN aims to uncover the root cause of the problem in order to develop innovative and practical solutions to assist those most vulnerable. This is being achieved through collaboration between LPN and numerous other organisations, institutions and official government bodies.

## Research

LPN undertakes joint research projects with some of Thailand's largest academic institutions, such as the Asian Institute at Chulalongkorn University, the Institute for Population and Social Research at Mahidol University, the faculties of Social Administration at Thammasat University, Chiang Mai University, Burapha University, and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), as well as a number of international universities.

## Service Delivery

As well as approaching issues of child labour and migrant discrimination from a preventative angle, LPN also strives to improve the living conditions of migrant families, and works to provide assistance for those who may not have access to education or other services due to their migrant status.

LPN works with a number of schools in Samuth Sakhon province, Ratchaburi province, and Samuth Prakhon province, to specifically cater to the needs of migrant children. This work is done in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation, Save the Children UK, the Embassy of Japan and the Embassy of the United States, the United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking, OXFAM, Terre Des Hommes, and from the private sector, Thailand Frozen Food Association, Thai Union Frozen Product PCL, Thai Fisheries Producers Coalition and Narong Seafood Company Ltd and Thai Thai Fishery Producers Coalition : TFPC.

## Lobbying

LPN regularly engages with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to formulate ways to manage and administer Thailand's foreign labour practices, and work towards introducing more effective preventative measures to combat human trafficking. This collaboration has resulted in an official agreement between these government ministries and Thailand's labour rights activists, which serves to ensure that preventative steps are taken to eliminate the trafficking of persons in nine seriously affected provinces around the Gulf of Thailand.

Further, LPN is involved in a new subcommittee dedicated to producing a report on child labour. The foundation is also a member of a committee within the Ministry of Labour that seeks to resolve issues of child labour and forced labour in the shrimp fishing industry, the seafood processing industry, and the agricultural sector.

## **Moving Towards Equality and Sustainable Solutions**

Over the past 10 years, LPN has worked continuously with migrant workers and migrant children. This work has resulted in the development of various types of strategies and methods, aimed at improving the working and living conditions of migrants in Thailand.

### **Collaboration**

LPN seeks to collaborate with other activists and official bodies in order to deliver the most effective assistance and treatment to victims of human trafficking and human rights abuse. Examples of this activity include the establishment of the Labour Centre and the Seafarers Action Centre, both of which work in cooperation with law enforcement groups.

### **Knowledge Sharing**

LPN creates and improves methods of disseminating knowledge and information regarding the rights and legal entitlements of migrants. For example, LPN has worked with several local schools in areas with a high-density migrant population to ensure the inclusion of migrant issues and rights in the teaching syllabus. This has proven to be an effective model for the integration of migrant children into Thai public schools.

### **Evaluation and Review**

LPN initiates adjustments to existing operations and strategies in order to develop effective and cooperative relationships with national and regional organisations and institutions, both governmental and privately run. These activities stem from an internal focus on developing best practice, and are aimed at promoting equal opportunities for all people, regardless of religion, gender, nationality, ethnic background or age.

### **Coalition Forming**

LPN regularly encourages participation from other migrant and labour rights non-governmental organisations, such as the Action Network for Migrants (ANM), the Migrant Working Group (MWG), the Anti-Human Trafficking Network in Thailand (ATN), and the Cambodia and Thailand Anti-Human Trafficking Network (CAHT), in order to push for the establishment of the Migrant Union Network in Thailand (MUNT). This initiative also includes other Community Based Organisations (CBO).

## Research

At the present time, LPN operates as a research and learning centre, which caters to students at all levels of education, as well as organisations working in Thailand, Southeast Asia, and worldwide. The foundation also functions as a base for national and international media associations, distributing information about the urgency and significance of migrant labour rights and the anti-human trafficking movement.

## Additional Information

### Make a Donation

Donations go directly towards supporting LPN projects and to improving the lives of migrant workers and their families in Thailand. Financial contributions can be transferred to:

**Account Name:** Labour Rights Promotion Network

**Bank Name:** Krungthai Bank PCL

**Branch:** Chamchuri Square

**Account Number:** 162-0-09432-0

**SWIFT Code:** KRTHTHBK

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### Contact Us

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**Website:** <http://lpn-foundation.org/>