

## **Role of local government policies in creating a multicultural society Regional workshop (DRAFT)**

23 September 2014  
IPSR, Mahidol University, Thailand

### Background

This workshop is part of the Toyota Foundation supported project “Role of local governments’ policies in creating multicultural society: Review of policy and practices to support migrants in municipality/ provincial level in Thailand and Japan” implemented by Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Mahidol University, Yokohama National University, Toyo Eiwa University, and Municipality of Yokohama. It is recognized that both in Thailand and Japan, there are increasingly more non-nationals who are residing in the communities. Most of the studies on migrants and migrations are carried out at the national level. However, migrants, once they are inside the country of destination, live and work alongside nationals. Some of the problems that they face in their daily lives are similar to the nationals, while some problems are different. We also note that women migrants, because they are more responsible for childcare and their education, adapting in the communities, as well as face gender discrimination in labor market in the place of destination, they face different challenges from that of male migrant workers. Our project focuses on migrants who are already living in the communities, regardless of their immigration status. When they have problems, it is not the national government that will note their difficulties, but the local communities and local governments that need to face and deal with their challenges. Therefore, in this project, we have focused on the roles that local government can play in supporting migrants in the locality.

Local governments (in Japan, we took Yokohama City as our focus, and in Thailand, we focus on Samut Sakorn) are generally responsible for provision of social services such as education and health and social welfare. In order to capture the social reproduction challenges of the migrants, we focus on education aspect – how do migrant children access education services, what are the challenges that girls and boys children face, challenges faced by schools, by parents, by community, by companies that the parents work in, and the local governments that are supposed to be providing these services. What are the local government’s current policies and programs on education and other social services and how can it be changed to respond to migrants’ needs more.

This workshop is the last event of this project, and our aim is to discuss possible avenues for policies and action to respond to challenges faced by Samut Sakorn Province, which foster a large number of migrant workers under its wings. Through the research that has been carried out in the province, as well as inputs from other countries’ experiences (Yokohama, Indonesia, and Mae Sot, Thailand), we aim to explore feasible options that can be implemented in Samut Sakorn Province.

## Objective

Finalize the policy recommendations for migrant integration to Samut Sakorn Province.

For this, in this workshop, we will:

- (1) Share the research findings and draft policy recommendation.
- (2) Sharing experience of different cities on migrant integration.
- (3) Discuss the details of the recommendations and make necessary revisions.

The expected output is the revised and agreed upon policy recommendations that are feasible and acceptable to Samut Sakorn Provincial officers.

## Language

Thai (with English simultaneous interpretation)

## Agenda

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:10	Opening Dr. Sureporn Punpuing, Director, IPSR, Mahidol University
9:10-9:20	Objective of the workshop Dr. Kyoko Kusakabe, Asian Institute of Technology
9:20-9:35	Self-introduction of participants
9:35-10:35	Sharing experience from other countries (1) Yokohama, Japan Dr. Chiho Ogaya, Yokohama National University Mr. Hiroki Sugiura/ Ms. Makiko Miyajima, Yokohama Community Labo (2) Indonesia Dr. Aris Ananta, Institute of South East Asia Studies, Singapore (3) Mae Sot, Thailand Dr. Decha Tangseefa, Thammasat University
10:35-10:45	Q&A
10:45-11:00	Group photo and coffee break
11:00-12:00	Presentation of research findings in Samut Sakorn, Thailand Project team from IPSR, Mahidol University
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00	Group work: Framing the model for social integration in Samut Sakorn, Thailand
2:00 - 2:30	Reflection and coffee break
2:30 – 4:00	Group work: Action plan design for social integration in Samut Sakorn, Thailand
4:00 - 4:30	Group presentation
4:30 - 4:50	Way forward
4:50 – 5:00	Closing

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