

Labour Rights Promotion Network Foundation (LPN)

Vision:

The Labour Rights Promotion Network is an organization committed to the improvement of quality of life, promotion and protection of equal rights of migrant laborers. The foundation also seeks to improve the self-reliance of migrant laborers so that they can be more peacefully integrated into society.

History of the LPN:

The Labour Rights Promotion Network (LPN) was established in 2004 by a small group of individuals aiming to work in the field of social work, emphasizing migrant labour issues in the Samut Sakhon province. The LPN observed that a large number of migrant children lacked education due to neglect from their guardians as well as some being involved in forced child labor.

The LPN first operated in 2004 as a private development group aiming to eliminate unfair treatment received by the migrant laborers. There was an initial challenge of adequate funding, however this changed when the LPN was registered as a legitimate NGO. The legal approval of the LPN and the increasing number of migrant labor and their issues resulted in the increase of support for the LPN from various organizations. The increase in support for the foundation significantly enhanced the effectiveness of our operations

One of the LPN's goals is to improve the ability of migrant laborers into integrate in the Thai society. We provide service centers to offer assistance and knowledge for the laborers on topics regarding their work and legality of their migrant statuses. As the migrant population increased, we expanded the range of our operations. For example, many of the laborers are underage, which leads to issues of child labors. In 2008, the government introduced and began enforcing of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act BE 2551, this Act highlighted human trafficking cases as an important issue to resolve. This allowed the LPN to operate far more efficiently to help and protect victims suffering from all forms of human trafficking.

The staff at the LPN is committed and willing to assist both migrant and Thai laborers alike. Most of our operations deal with the root of the migrants' issues such as their lack of knowledge of their fundamental rights, lack of self-reliance, and lack of adequate protection from and vulnerability to being exploited. Cases which we take are from victims of human trafficking, forced labor, forced imprisonment of laborers, child labor, and prostitution. The LPN focuses primarily on field cases at the local level in order to resolve the laborers' issues effectively. We believe that all deserve equal dignity and all are equal regardless of race and ethnicity.

The LPN has done research on migrant labor and human trafficking conflicts and also operates joint-education centers with Thai public schools for the migrants' children. The academic materials are supported by the Asian studies Institute at Chulalongkorn University, the Population and Society Institute at Mahidol University, and the Social Work faculty at Thammasat University. We gladly welcome institutes and universities interested in researching related topics or issues at the LPN. Our major donors are the ILO, Save the Children UK, the Japanese Embassy, and UNIAP. We specialize on issues related to labor rights and the protection and prevention of human trafficking as most of our field operations are connected with government sectors and development organizations.

The previous 8 years of assisting the laborers has given us more experience, knowledge, and professionalism on issues of migrant laborers, stateless ones in particular. We stress the need of a mechanism to protect victims of exploitation, to support necessary education for the laborers and their children, and their rights to equal health, social services and work safety. The LPN has also operated as a call center for the Thai and migrant workers, advising them on general or legal matters related to labor rights, human rights, prevention of human trafficking, and the opportunities and access for their children to primary education.

The LPN is committed to operate with these issues continuously and develop a system to rescue victims of exploitation and human trafficking more effectively.

We operate on providing fundamental rights to education, health services, and reproductive health services for the migrants and their children and to prevent children from child labors

Goals

- 1. To develop understanding and to integrate all in Thai society so that all individuals' rights are protected
- 2. To encourage the workers to become more self-reliant, with aid from public and private sectors
- 3. To create an awareness for the responsibility and wellbeing of the workers and their family members
- 4. Our operations are voluntary, aid is meant to provide any necessity for the public

Strategy

- Field research and operations are targeted towards workers facing issues, public infrastructure conflicts, or policy
- 2. Development in advice to give workers to help them on any matter they seek assistance
- 3. Increasing the number of state, private and local organizations involved
- 4. Operating advocacy to ensure basic rights, labor rights, rights to education and other social services
- 5. Creating education processes and increasing the cooperation of the laborers to improve their self-reliance

Offices and areas of work

- 1. Headquarter office in Samut Sakhon, an office in Ratchaburi
- 2. Operates in all provinces of Thailand

Samutsakon office

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