

## Chapter 3

### Phang-Nga Province and the Four Sectors

#### 3.1 Phang-Nga Province

Phang-Nga is one of the southern provinces of Thailand and located on the west side of the Malay Peninsula. It covers an area of 4,170 square kilometers and is subdivided into eight districts: Mueang Phangnga, Ko Yao, Kapong, Takua Thung, Takua Pa, Khura Buri, Thap Put and Thai Mueang. It had a total population of 250,843 in 2009. Neighboring provinces are Ranong and Surat Thani to the North, Phuket (and the Andaman Sea) to the South, Surat Thani and Krabi to the East and the Andaman Sea to the West (Wikipedia, 2009). Compared with neighboring provinces, Phang Nga had a population of 250,843 in 2009 which can be seen in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Phang-Nga Province (2009)

Phang-Nga Province	
Capital	Phang-Nga
Area - Total	4,170.0 sq km
Population (2009) - Total	250,843

Source: Wikipedia (2009)

Figure 3.1: Map of Phang-Nga Province



Source: Wikipedia (2009)

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Phang Nga is a mainly agricultural province in the south of Thailand. The major crop is rubber, and rubber plantations cover a substantial area, especially perceptible along the roads. Apart from that, however, food crops also cover particularly large areas of this province. Substantial amounts of rice, vegetables and fruits are produced in Phang Nga (UNESCAP, 2000). From Table 3.2 Phang-Nga has several types of business, for example, 367 million baht in agriculture, hunting and forestry, 239 million baht in fishing and 306 million baht in construction. The highest amount of money in a type of business was in hotels and restaurants. Phang-Nga is a well known tourist destination in Thailand with 5,687 million of baht in the business of hotels and restaurants in 2009.

Table 3.2: Commercial Bank Credits Classified by Types of Businesses in Phangnga Province

Type of Business	Q3/2009 (Unit: Million of Baht)
Agriculture, Hunting And Forestry	367
Fishing	239
Construction	306
Wholesale, Retail Sale And Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles, Personal And Household Goods	1,499
Hotels And Restaurants	5,687

Source: Bank of Thailand (2009)

### 3.2 The Four Sectors (Rubber plantation, Fishing, Shrimp Farming and Construction)

From Table 3.3 shown below, fishery, agriculture, construction and domestic were the highest sectors in which migrants worked.

Table 3.3: Numbers of Employers and Workers in Four Kinds of Occupations in 2008  
(Migrants to receive work permits)

<b>Kinds of Occupation</b>	<b>Employers</b>	<b>Burmese</b>	<b>Laotian</b>	<b>Cambodian</b>
Fishery	2,875	476,676	12,800	12,094
Continuous Sea Fishery	7,003	57,776	119	995
Agriculture and Livestock	32,301	87,339	2,680	2,181
Rice mill	924	3,910	36	34
Brickyard	816	2,906	184	34
Ice-factory	990	3131	116	122
Unloading by ship	201	727	2	44
Construction	14,258	73,227	1,027	1,952
Mining	200	767	0	2
Domestic worker	45,076	48,764	4,087	1,082
Others	49,660	190,107	4,316	4,067

Source: MAP Foundation (2008)

The main routes which Myanmar migrants used to migrate to Phang-Nga province was the Kawtung-Ranong border check point which is an official Thai-Myanmar border check point. Most of the migrants in this province migrated from Tenasserim Division and Mon State since these two areas are close to southern Thailand. In Phang-Nga province, the number of employers was 4,007, while the number of registered Myanmar male migrant workers was 8,257 and the number of Myanmar female migrant workers was 4,160 (MAP, 2008). Sectors with considerable numbers of Myanmar migrant workers were rubber plantation, fishing, shrimp farming and construction. The characteristics of the work and the different sectors payment system were quite complicated.

**Rubber plantation:** Migrants were seasonally active in rubber cultivation. The high season for rubber cultivation is the months of November, December and January. Those are the months in which migrants earn most of their income for the whole year. Their working days depend on whether it is low season or high season. Rubber cannot be cultivated when it is raining. In Southern Thailand, the rainy season lasts longer than the summer. During rainy season, migrants' working days and earnings were irregular. Some earned just enough for food. But some did not have enough income for food. There was no basic salary on rubber plantation. Migrants earnings came from the incentive of selling rubber. On the high mountain area the incentive payment is 50% of the rubber price. On the lower area the payment system is 40%.

**Fishing:** Fishing has two subsectors, fish processing and fishing boats. For migrants working on fishing boats, they earned monthly wages plus incentive. They had no set working days, days off or working hours. All of their work depended on

the number of fish caught. For fish processing, there was no incentive payment. Migrants earned only a monthly wage.

**Shrimp farming:** Workers had no day off and no set working hours. They had to pay attention to the shrimp farms twenty-four hours a day, even though their main duty is just feeding the shrimp. Shrimp were harvested two to three times a year. Workers earned both a basic salary and incentive. Incentive was earned only when shrimp were being harvested.

**Construction:** This sector had an unstable working day. Migrants earnings depended on the employers' project. Consequently, migrant's residence changed frequently when employer's project location changed. Their wage rate was calculated daily but this wage was paid monthly or two weeks at a time. There was no day off with pay, no sick leave with pay, as well as no holiday with pay in this sector.