

Burmese Migrant Workers' Voices



"I thought it was over at first when I had to register and get the [pink] card. It's a heart-ache. The work permit is too expensive now, around 5000 Baht. We came to work here. People in Burma think we're making a lot of money, but we have to eat and feed our family. With everything, it's not enough." - Kay

"I think [the NV process] is good because I'll get to travel around. If I could choose though I would rather the Thai government keep the pink card [work permit card] system. We're used to it. I know that I just extend year by year. With this process, I'm not sure what's going to happen. I just started [entered the process] so I don't know. Everyone else [in the company] was doing it so I did." – Anonymous: 23 year-old single woman working in Mahachai

"I'm not too sure [about NV]. With work permits, I can decide each year. I turned in the intent to complete Nationality Verification form, but I have no intention to go through with it. I am waiting to see what happens. No one in my province has a passport yet. I'm waiting to see if this process will affect my family in Burma. Also, my family wants me to come back home anyways. I'm old. I'm here to work. I don't need [the passport] to go anywhere." – Anonymous: 45 year-old man living with his 19 year old daughter. His wife and another daughter live in Burma.



"NV is too expensive. I'm going to extend my work permit and that's it. I'm not afraid of going back. I don't care about getting a passport. I want the [Thai] government to make the process easy to understand and the cost cheaper, truly cheaper not like now."

"I didn't think anything at first of the government's announcements, but now I believe they mean it, at least 50/50. I know they [the Thai government] tell us to go through the process, but there is no system to protect us or help us. It just sounds too good to be true. Will they really let us be? Will they really accept us like Thai citizens? I want clear news. They [the Thai government] tell us to do this and do that. It changes. How do we know what's right? How do we know what to believe? Also to the Burmese Government, I want them to be true to us. We're your people...all the laborers. We want to believe in our government. We understand that they can't reach everyone but some security, responsibility and accountability would be nice. They [the Burmese Government] have never done anything for me to trust them." – Anonymous: a woman in her mid 30s. She lives with her sister, her husband and son in Mahachai