

Practicum report - Zarni Myint, Thai Domestic Workers Network, Thailand

This report is prepared by Zarni and her mentor Elsa Ramos jointly

Aim: To gather and disseminate clear and updated information to MDWN members and other domestic workers from Myanmar concerning their right to travel on the “Pink Card” (immigration and work permit card). This is in pursuit of the Mission of the NDWT, as stated in its Statutes: “to advocate for laws and policies regarding labour rights and protection of domestic workers”.

Objective: By end of November 2016, the 136 MDWN members and other domestic workers from Myanmar are informed about and understand their right to travel on the “Pink Card” and are able to transmit this information to others.

Support team (ST):

MDWN leaders: Ms. Nan Zar ni Myint, Ms. Kyawn Par, Ms. Nan Kyin Htwe, Ms. Inn Sae Jang.

Implementation period: October-December 2016

Report submitted: 27 February 2017

Summary report:

Activities	Outcome/Indicators	Time-table
Preparatory meeting	Trainee went through her Practicum Plan with Mentor, taking into account IDWF comments. Final plan submitted to IDWF	mid-September
1.Presentation of Practicum Plan to MDWN leadership-beginning October	- Formation of Support Team (ST) of 4; drawing up of programme of activities; agreement on division of tasks.	First week of October (followed by consultations via phone /messenger)
2. Collection of information on the Pink Card and its effects on migrants’ rights and	-ST gathered, confired, checked information from reliable sources, including Ministry of Labour	Accomplished by mid by-October 2016
3.Translation of information into Burmese; preparing information sheet in	- One-page information sheet in Burmese about Pink Card is produced by ST; 150 copies printed	Accomplished beginning November 2016; divided amongst the 4 ST members for distribution

simple, easy-to-understand format		during sessions and other occasions
4. Information sessions held for 24 leaders during regular meeting and 4 group meetings led by each member of ST.	4 sessions on pink card held in November, in conjunction with members' meetings; also attended by potential DW members. In total, about 150 persons were reached, including 5 restaurant workers who attended to learn about the pink card.	Throughout the month of November
5. Distribution of information sheets to DWs and other migrants from Myanmar	the information sheets were copied and distributed by MDWN members to other migrants in the BTS, malls and temples	Throughout the month of November
6. Monitoring implementation: Regular contact amongst ST and MDWN leadership (through telephone, SMS, etc.) and meeting of ST and MDWN leadership with Mentor	- report on feedback and sharing of information re implementation of Practicum plan	October-November
7. End of practicum meeting (ST and MDWN leadership): assessment follow-up	- final practicum report, highlighting success, problems, challenges, lessons learned; impact and follow-up	End December

Overall impact of the Plan:

- Objective attained; wide dissemination of correct information; reached out to nearly all 136 MDWN members and other DWs through 4 sessions; confidence strengthened amongst migrant DWs on the MDWN;
- Organizational success: recruited 25 new members; strengthened team-building
- On Trainee, Ms. Zarni and Steering Team: first such experience for them; acquired skills in coordinating and team building; gained confidence in gathering information from authorities, transmitting reliable (not hearsay) information to DWs, and organizing new members; improved communication skills
- On MDWN: raised profile amongst migrant community; gained new members!

Problems encountered

- Time constraints for all; partly overcome by using phone and line apps; could organize meetings on Sundays only.
- Movement limitation: new law constricts migrant workers to their specific areas (residence permit).
- Language constraints: many DWs not familiar with Thai language, so had to find translators from Thai to Burmese through Home Net.

Lessons learned; follow-up proposals

- Need for MDWN leadership to keep up with constantly-changing policies, rules and regulations: strengthen network and relations with migrant organizations (through HomeNet); train nucleus of leaders to follow closely developments, also from Myanmar side.
- Importance of team work and clear division of tasks
- Use to the maximum IT communications (messenger, SMS, Line apps)
- Need to for leadership to be trained in recording and reporting skills.
- Realistic planning is a must! (Everyone excited at the beginning, but need to maintain momentum)
- More opportunities like this very useful to acquire new, important and practical skills.
