

## Transnational Labor Migration from Lao PDR to Bangkok, Thailand: Perspectives from Sending and Receiving Areas

Niwa T, Nakagawa S, PRELIC Team (Population dynamics, reproduction and livelihood changes in small-scale communities of Laos)

Teikyo University, Utsunomiya, 320-8531, Japan, geo1geo2@gmail.com

Saitama University, Saitama, 338-8570, Japan

### Abstract

Many studies conducted about transnational labor migration to Thailand focused on the illegal situation of foreign workers in Thailand. However, most of them have not been interested in the sending areas of the migrant workers. Therefore, we conducted field surveys in Bangkok and in a sending village in central Laos, as well. The village (Pop: 765) is sending their ca.273 young villagers to Bangkok and we made interviews to 83 villagers among them in Bangkok. The main results of the survey are as follows: First, most of the interviewees got job information in Bangkok in advance from their relatives and friends, which suggests the villagers' transnational network is important for their decision-making. Second, the average monthly income (8,400 Baht =240 USD) of them is upon the official minimum wage in Bangkok. All of the villagers work in small firms in manufacturing and service sectors as unskilled workers and some of them don't have any official documents. There seems thereby to be a win-win relationship between the Lao villagers and the Bangkok labor market suffering from labor shortage. Third, the average remittance reaches 4,000 Baht (=115 USD) per month, which is a quite large amount for the village. The remittance has been used mainly for building houses and expanding paddy fields. The transnational labor migration has been changing Lao villages' main source of income from agriculture to remittance. Acknowledgement: This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number 25257004.

### Key words:

Transnational labor migration; chain-migration; remittance; Bangkok; Laos