



*International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions*  
*Internationale Föderation der Chemie-, Energie-, Bergbau- und Fabrikarbeitengewerkschaften*  
*Fédération Internationale des Syndicats de Travailleurs de la Chimie, de l'Energie, des Mines et des Industries Diverses*  
*Internationella kemi-, energi-, gruv- och fabriksarbetarefederationen*  
*Federación Internacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Química, Energía, Minas e Industrias Diversas*  
*国際化学エネルギー鉱山一般労連*  
*Международная федерация профсоюзов химиков, энергетиков, горняков и работников других отраслей*

**President:** Senzeni Zokwana • **General Secretary:** Manfred Warda

8 February 2009

Honourable Abhisit Vejjajiva  
Prime Minister of Thailand  
Government House of Thailand  
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Dear Honourable Prime Minister:

I write to you, on behalf of 467 national trade unions in 132 countries, to express deep concern over the burdens and hardships your government is imposing on millions of migrant workers in Thailand with the migrant policy resolution put forth by the Royal Thai Government's Cabinet of Ministers. I understand that this policy change means that migrant workers have until 28 February 2010 to register for Nationality Verification, or risk being expelled from Thailand.

The ICEM, representing 20 million members worldwide, joins with the State Enterprise Workers' Relations Confederation (SERC) of Thailand, and other organizations that defend the rights of migrant workers, in calling on the Royal Thai Government to rescind this directive. We are concerned that the time span between passage of this resolution, 19 January, and implementation is too short, that there has been inadequate public awareness given this issue, and perhaps most importantly, that hundreds of thousands of Burmese nationals will be made to suffer because of it.

The ICEM is also concerned about unscrupulous labour brokers who will exploit migrant workers either through the registration process, or through a furthering of the informal labour market in Thailand if workers in precarious employment do not register under the Nationality Verification.

Migrant workers who do have valid work permits contribute a sizeable portion to Thailand's GDP, they comprise five percent of your country's workforce, and work some of the most demanding and demeaning jobs in Thai society. The hasty implementation of Nationality Verification will be a hardship on the Thai economy, a detriment to the guarantee of human rights for these workers, and a negative social implication to Thailand internationally.

Please be advised that the ICEM has lodged its disapproval of National Verification with the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the Human Rights of Migrants, under the auspices of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers. The ICEM urges you to take measures to reverse this mandate, and to further study better and more civil methods to document guest workers in Thailand. Thank you for your kind attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Manfred Warda  
General Secretary