

Program for Advancing Strategic International Networks to Accelerate the Circulation of Talented Researchers
Japan-ASEAN Collaboration Research Program on Innovative Humanosphere in Southeast Asia:
In search of Wisdom toward Compatibility Growth and Community in the World

Dispatch Report

Year: December 2014- July 2015

Place of fieldwork: Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University

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Research background

Thailand has witnessed over the past decades a significant advances in HIV prevention and treatment as a results of the country's effort to control the epidemic principally among high-risk groups including commercial sex workers (CSWs), men who have sex with men (MSM), and injection drug users (IDUs). However, HIV continues to present a public health threat in Thailand which holds one of the highest adult HIV prevalence in Asia. In addition to CSWs, MSM, and IDUs, the Thai government has identified cross-border migrant workers (MW) as an important high-risk group for HIV infection. A number of factors including for instance limited access to health services such as the voluntary Counseling and HIV Testing Services (VCT) may render migrant populations more vulnerable to HIV infection. In the effort to combat HIV/AIDS among migrant workers in Thailand, the Global Funds to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM) has sponsored a project named Prevention of HIV/AIDS among Migrant Workers in Thailand 2 (PHAMIT-2), for which the Raks Thai Foundation is the principal recipient and the Institute for Population and Social Research (IPSR) independent evaluator.

Research purpose and aim

The objective of this research is firstly to identify correlates of VCT uptake among MW in Thailand using a secondary analysis of the baseline survey of PHAMIT-2 conducted by the IPSR. Secondly, the study aims to identify whether or not the implemented intervention among migrant works was effective in increasing the VCT uptake among MW by comparing baseline and follow-up data.

Results and achievements by field work

Presently, an analytical frame of the PHAMIT data set for baseline and follow-up surveys has been drafted, and the results is to be presented in the second half of the field research following ethical approval by the hosting Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Implications and impacts on future research

The results of this research is expected to enlighten policy makers, researchers and other partners on the factors that influence VCT uptake behavior, and more importantly on factors that influence whether the success or failure of interventions designed to improve VCT uptake. The results will participate in a better development,

implementation of policies designed to improve health among migrant workers in Thailand.



Photo 1: Front side of the Institute for Population and Social

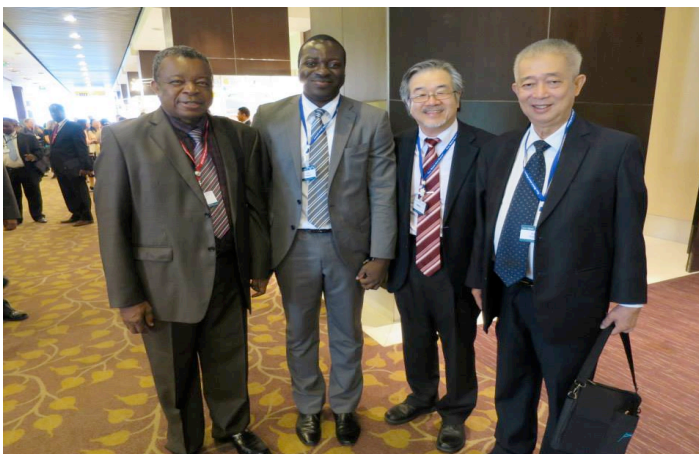


Photo 2 & 3: Participating at the Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) as a rapporteur

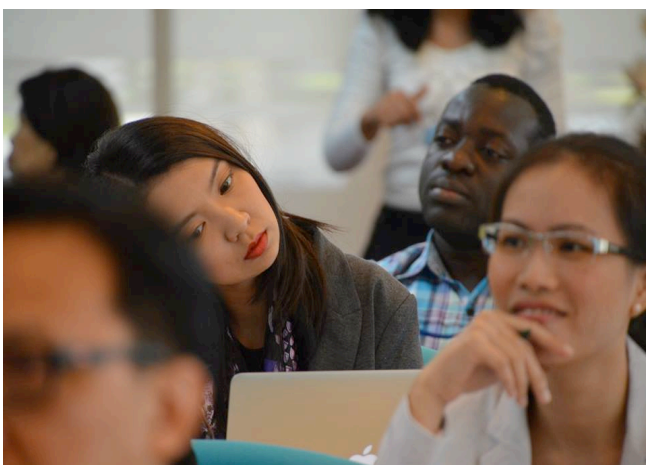


Photo 4 & 5: Participating at Thai Research Fund Seminar Series in Basic Research IX: Population and Development in Thailand and Southeast Asian Countries organized by the IPSR