

Information on Relief Shelter for Migrant Workers

In line with the Royal Thai Government's humanitarian traditions, the Ministry of Labour has set up a relief shelter at Rai Khing Temple in Nakhon Pathom province for migrant workers who are affected by the flooding situation in Thailand. The relief shelter is operated by the Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour. The Department has assigned 30 officials to oversee and assist those seeking refuge at the shelter. As of 2 November 2011, the shelter currently houses approximately 480 persons including 22 children. The number of male and female adults are as follows: 368 persons from Myanmar, 87 persons from Cambodia, and 2 persons from Pakistan.

The migrant workers are requested to register with the officials at the shelter upon their arrival so that the officials may keep a record of incoming people and to assess the overall basic humanitarian needs. Once at the shelter, they are allocated a specific area within the Rai Khing Temple to safely take refuge, namely in the Rai Khing Temple School which is a four-storey building. Here the migrant workers will be provided with food and water as well as basic necessities such as toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, and shampoo. The basic humanitarian supplies for the shelter are provided by the Thai agencies concerned.

Over the past week, representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok have been able to visit the shelter at Rai Khing Temple to monitor the situation and to see first hand the support and assistance provided by the Thai Government. From the visits, they were pleased with the conditions at the shelter and the relief efforts given by the local Thai authorities to those fleeing from the flood affected areas. Furthermore, they commended the Government on the management of the shelter despite the challenges as a direct result of the flood as well as the resource constraints.

However, looking ahead, the Department of Employment has already prepared a second location in which to house incoming migrant workers in the event that the Rai Khing Temple reaches its maximum holding capacity. The second location is located in Ratchaburi Province at the Centre for Skill Development of Ratchaburi and is fully operational if needed as the situation unfolds.

Social Division

Department of International Organisations

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