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DVB Debate is produced by DVB Multimedia Group Ltd. Co. The debate is recorded every Saturday morning in Yangon with a live audience, which is invited to join the discussion as well.

|  DVB TV | | DVB RADIO | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Sunday | 7.15 pm | Saturday | Evenings |
| Monday | 1.15 am / 7.15 am / 1.15 pm | Sunday | Mornings |
| Wednesday | 8.45 pm | DVB ONLINE | |
| Thursday | 2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm | dvbdebate.com | 24/7 |
| Friday | 8.45 pm | facebook.com/ dvb.debate | |
| Saturday | 2.45 am / 8.45 am / 2.45 pm | twitter @dvbdebate | |

DVB Debate aims to contribute to a new culture of open debate, in which anyone can participate and agree to disagree, in order to exchange ideas, create better mutual understanding and find solutions for societal issues to improve the future of Myanmar.

The team invites fellow media and debating clubs to join this initiative for open debate. A weekly press release, press picture and cartoon are available shortly after the recording. DVB Debate also has a modest budget to support local debating initiatives.

For any inquiries, remarks or questions, please call 01292743 (office hours), leave a comment on facebook.com/dvb.debate or email debate@dvb.no.

DVB DEBATE



Welcome to DVB Debate,
Myanmar's 1st open debate program.
This week's debate question is:

How can we protect migrant workers?

If you have any remarks, suggestions or questions,
please ask a team member,
call 01292743 (office hours) or email debate@dvb.no.

This week's topic is MIGRANT WORKERS

Historical context:

Over the last few decades millions of Burmese workers have moved from their original communities to urban areas, or other countries in search of employment. Surrounded by newly industrialised neighbours with fast growing economies, a significant number of migrants seek employment abroad where there are more opportunities and the potential for earning is higher. Domestic economic, social and political conditions also contributed to mass migration, especially from ethnic areas, where civilians have suffered under decades of civil war and a repressive military dictatorship. Natural disasters have also taken their toll over the years and thousands have been forced to relocate in search of livelihoods or shelter, following cyclones, earthquakes and flooding that have affected the region. Migrant workers mostly hold low-skilled jobs, especially in fishing and seafood processing, construction, clothing factories, and domestic services. Many migrants live and work in poor conditions, settling in marginalised communities that lack health care services, water supplies and basic community sanitation. Unregistered or illegal workers are especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Facts & figures:

- According to article 380 of the 2008 constitution, every citizen who has relations with foreign countries has the right to seek protection of the Union at home or abroad.
- There are 202 agencies in Myanmar that are allowed to send workers abroad, of which 12 specialise in domestic workers
- There are more than 35,000 Burmese domestic workers in Singapore.
- Nearly four million Myanmar migrant workers are now working in Thailand. Among them, one million workers are said to be illegal and face issues such as exploitation and harassment (IOM)
- About 1,000 Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand were rounded up from June 3 to June 9 2014, before the Thai junta announced its new policy of dealing with illegal labour in the country.

Points of view:

"Myanmar migrant workers are facing discrimination, low salaries, exploitation and human trafficking in several destination countries. There is often no one to help them."
(U Aye Myint, Minister for Labour)

"We are afraid. But we do not dare to speak up. We have not had good experiences with authorities,"
(Myanmar factory worker in Thailand)

'The Government has deployed many labor officials to assist for the welfare of the migrant workers in Thailand. But I haven't seen them do their job effectively with strength and focus,'
(U Aung Kyaw, Migrant Workers Rights Network [MWRN])

"We feel that the main problem is the lack of responsibility and accountability for migrant workers on the part of the Myanmar and Thai governments. Day after day our labor rights are disregarded. I believe their issues and problems will be settled if the two governments would discuss the matter and assign more labor officials in the areas densely populated by migrant workers."
(Hein Htet, Migrant worker in Southern Thailand)

Information links:

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