

Promotion of income security for informal workers in Thailand by HomeNet Thailand



**ASEAN Seminar on Unemployment Insurance, Income Security Measures
and Active Labour Market Policies**

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General information of Thailand in 2010

- 67 millions of population.
- 54 % of the population are labour force (15 year old up) , 38.7 mill are employed
- 14.6 mill. or 37.6 % work in formal sector
- 24.1 mill or 62.3 % work in informal economy
- 60 % or 14.5 mill of informal workers are in agricultural sector and 40 % or 9.6 mill. are non agricultural workers.
- They are homebased workers, street vendors, domestic workers, contract farmers, taxi and motorcycle drivers.



HomeNet Thailand

1992-1998 3-4 NGOs and HBWs groups worked with ILO on social protection project for HBWs, formed HBWs network (HomeNet Thailand) and keep on working even the project was closed down.

1998 established a coordination center.

2003 registered as Foundation for Labour and Employment Promotion (FLEP) but well known as HomeNet Thailand

2008-2012 are gradually formed Membership Based Organization (MBO). At present about 3,500 members pay membership fee.



Experiences , Thailand has done to promote income security measures for informal workers and achievements.







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Health

- 1997- 2002 HNT coordinated with another 10 people networks to advocate for National Health Security Act. Finally, government supported the campaign and managed to pass the law in November 2002.
- At present, all Thai citizen can get health services with free of charge (or under Universal Health Coverage System)



Legal Protection

- **2002-2011 advocate for legislation of HWs**
- **September, 2011, the parliament issued the Homeworkers Protection Act. This act has enforced since May 2012.**
- **From the Act, HWs will entitle to minimum wage, OSH protection and other fundamental labour rights.**
- **HWs committees will be formed from tripartite and labour experts.**



Social Security for IWs

- **Advocated to expand social security scheme to cover informal workers with co-payment from the government.**
- **May 2011, the government of former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva announced a special policy providing about 30-percent government contributions to the social security fund of informal workers who insured under Section 40 of the Act .**



The contributions would come into two categories.

- First, the 100-baht monthly payment, the government would contribute 30 Baht and the insurer is entitled to sickness, disability and death benefits.
- Second, the 150-baht monthly payment, the government would contribute 50 Baht and the insurer was entitled to sickness, disability, death benefits and old-age pension when the insurer finishes his/her 15-year payment and is 60 years of age.



OSH

2001-2011 promoted OSH amongst members

2012-2014 will launch a pilot project to integrated OSH for informal workers in existing system of National Health Security Office.



Income generation

- Develop economic potential of members through skill training and together with government authorities, providing marketing space and production quota for members.





Challenges

Health insurance and old age allowance

- debate on the issue of financial burden of the country

HWs Protection Act – debate between employment promotion or employment and quality of life (Decent work)

Social Security for informal workers- debate on why co-payment from government and why same benefit as formal sector



OSH- no law, not enough facilities and personal resources, invisible of informal workers

Income generation – several players, not continuous, not serve IWs' need.



Further activities



- Advocate for legislation of Domestic workers and contracted farmers.
- Cooperate with civil society network to advocate and promote Social Protection Floor in Thailand
- ✓ Same standard & quality of health services
- ✓ Child allowance
- ✓ Basic social pension for all
- ✓ Social Security and employment promotion for informal workers





Thank You