

Agreement Between the Government of the State of Israel and the Royal Thai Government Regarding the Recruitment of Thai Workers for Temporary Work in the Agricultural Sector in the State of Israel

Preamble

Whereas the Government of the State of Israel ("GOI") and the Royal Thai Government ("RTG") (hereinafter collectively referred to herein as the "Parties" and individually the "Party") are desirous of increasing and strengthening the friendship and cooperation between both countries;

Whereas the recruitment and temporary employment of foreign nationals in the State of Israel is carried out in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations of Israel, the state of Israeli national labor markets, and yearly Israeli government policy;

Whereas the Parties hereby declare their common position against trafficking of human beings, illegal migration, undocumented and illegal manpower recruitment practices, and illegal employment of foreign nationals;

Whereas the Department of Employment of the Ministry of Labour of the Kingdom of Thailand and the International Organization for Migration ("IOM") have agreed to enter into a Cooperation Agreement on IOM Services in Facilitating Labour Migration of Thai Agricultural Workers to Israel (the "Cooperation Agreement") attached as Appendix A, with the objective of ensuring legal, fair and well informed recruitment of Thai workers to Israel in the Agricultural sector;

Now, therefore, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

Chapter A
Article 1 - Purposes

The purposes of this Agreement are as follows:

- a. To ensure a legal, fair and well-informed recruitment process for Thai nationals arriving for agricultural work in Israel under the IOM services according to the principles set out in the Cooperation Agreement;
- b. To set up a framework for exchange of pertinent information and for ongoing cooperation between the Parties regarding temporary foreign labour issues;
- c. To ensure cooperation between the Parties regarding the recruitment, selection, placement, arrival, employment and return of Thai nationals to Thailand after their temporary employment in Israel.
- d. To promote the protection of the rights of Thai nationals carrying out temporary agricultural work in Israel throughout the process of recruitment, selection, placement, arrival, employment and return;

Chapter B

Article 2 - General Provisions Regarding Recruitment of Thai Workers in the Agricultural Field under the Cooperation Agreement

- a. The Parties agree that the recruitment of Thai agricultural workers in Israel shall be implemented jointly by RTG and GOI through IOM as set out in the Cooperation Agreement, subject to changes agreed upon between IOM and the Parties.
- b. Subject to Israeli laws and regulations, GOI is committed to cooperate with RTG and IOM and to give advice, assistance and facilitation, as appropriate, on matters relating to the recruitment process for sending Thai agricultural workers to Israel.
- c. GOI will allow entry of foreign workers for manual labour in the agricultural sector exclusively from countries which have implemented an IOM supervised recruitment system according to the relevant Israeli Government Decisions.
- d. Paragraph (c) does not apply to recruitment and hiring of foreign workers in special circumstances, in accordance with Israeli laws or government decisions, such as recruitment and hiring of highly skilled personnel, specialists, teachers, inter-corporate transfers, project linked hiring, working-tourist agreements or exceptional individual cases in which recruitment of a particular worker or a worker with particular skills becomes necessary (such as special language skills relevant to a particular employer) or cases of foreign trainees, volunteers or foreigners on work/study programs.

Article 3 - Intergovernmental Cooperation

3.1 Under the terms of this Agreement and subject to Israeli laws, regulations and policies, GOI shall endeavor to:

- (a) Facilitate issuance of visas and entry to Israel for Thai workers recruited under the Cooperation Agreement;
- (b) Take necessary actions, as appropriate, to protect Thai workers' rights under relevant Israeli laws and regulations, and international standards embodied in conventions to which both states are parties.
- (c) Provide information to RTG and/or IOM on matters relating to Israel, including, but not limited to, Israeli laws, regulations and practices on matters relating to this Agreement;
- (d) Coordinate relevant ministries and bodies in Israel on matters relating to this Agreement as GOI deems necessary and/or upon requests by RTG and/or IOM;
- (e) Cooperate with RTG and/or IOM on matters relating to this Agreement and the Cooperation Agreement as RTG and/or IOM may request from time to time.

Article 6 - Return of Workers

The Parties shall cooperate as necessary to allow speedy and effective return of Thai nationals to their country of origin at the conclusion of their legal stay in Israel. They shall also cooperate regarding speedy and effective return to Thailand of Thai nationals residing illegally in Israel.

Article 7 - Competent Authorities

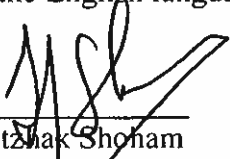
RTG hereby designates the Department of Employment of the Ministry of Labour of the Kingdom of Thailand and GOI designates the Population, Immigration and Border Authority in the Ministry of Interior as their authorized representatives under this Agreement.

Chapter C

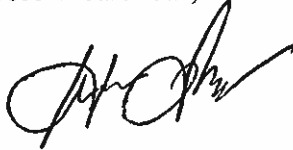
Article 8 - Entry in Force, Duration and termination of the Agreement

- a. This agreement shall enter into force at the date of the later of the Diplomatic Notes by which the Parties notify each other of the completion of the internal legal procedures required for the entry into force of the Agreement.
- b. This Agreement shall be concluded for a term of two years which will be renewed automatically unless either Party notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate it. Each Party may terminate the agreement at any time by submitting to the other Party a Diplomatic Note of termination at least 90 days prior the requested termination date specified in the notice of termination.
- c. Any person who at the date of such termination already holds a visa issued under the framework of the Agreement will not be affected by its termination.

Signed in Bangkok, Thailand on the 20th day of December, 2010 A.D., which corresponds to the 13th day of Tevet 5771 of the Hebrew calendar, in two original copies, in the English language.



H.E. Mr. Itzhak Shoham
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Israel
For the Government of the State of Israel



H.E. Mr. Chalermchai Sri-On
Minister of Labour of the Kingdom
of Thailand
For the Royal Thai Government

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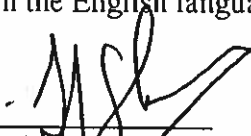
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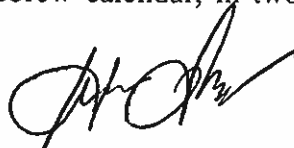
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3.2 Under the terms of this Agreement and subject to Thai laws and regulations, RTG shall endeavor to:

(a) Cooperate with IOM to carry out wide information campaigns and outreach opportunities as necessary to inform potential Thai workers of the possibility of applying for work in the agricultural sector in Israel without aid of brokers or middlemen as set out in the Cooperation Agreement, and of the phone number of the IOM hotline in Thailand for inquiries or complaints.

(b) Cooperate with GOI and/or IOM in the recruitment of Thai workers to go and work in Israel as per the Cooperation Agreement.

(c) Provide information to GOI and/or IOM on matters relating to Thailand, including, but not limited to, Thai laws, regulations and practices on matters relating to this Agreement;

(d) Coordinate with relevant government ministries and bodies in Thailand on matters relating to this Agreement as RTG deems necessary and/or requested by GOI and/or IOM;

(e) Cooperate with GOI and/or IOM on matters relating to this Agreement and the Cooperation Agreement as GOI and/or IOM may request from time to time.

3.3 The Parties shall cooperate to support and assess all activities of IOM in sending Thai workers to Israel and to provide post arrival assistance for Thai workers as per the Cooperation Agreement.

Article 4 - Legal Cooperation

The Parties shall cooperate and provide assistance in investigations and prosecutions of offences regarding the matters set out in this Agreement subject to the laws of both Parties.

Article 5 - Joint Working Group and Exchange of Information

a. A working group made up of representatives from each Party (the “**Working Committee**”) shall be set up. The Working Committee shall meet from time to time to discuss issues relating to this Agreement. The Working Committee shall convene a meeting at the request of either Party. The Party wishing to convene a meeting shall submit a request for meeting with a written list of issues to be discussed as an attachment to the other Party. The Working Committee shall convene a meeting within 21 working days from the date on which the request for meeting sent by the requesting Party is received by the other Party.

b. Each Party undertakes to provide the other Party with relevant information and updates, including information concerning the existing legislation and procedures regulating labour relations and criminal offences as well as entry, stay, paid employment, obligations of employers and departure of migrant workers which may affect the procedures set out in this Agreement or the Cooperation Agreement.

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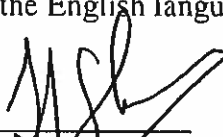
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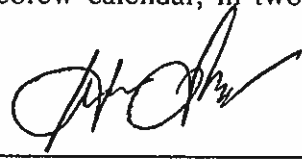
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