

[GHEP 2020 Theme: Migrant Health/ Travel Health/ Border Health and Innovation]

Migrants' situation worldwide

As global issues, immigration and movement are increasing in complexity and influence. Currently, there are about 1 billion immigrants in the world, of which 258 are international migrants and 766 million are domestic migrants. This is equivalent to 1 in 7 of the world's population. In addition, 68 million of the world's national and international migrants are forced to migrate. In light of this situation, in May 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a "Global Action Plan" aimed at improving global health by addressing the health and welfare of refugees and migrants.

Why Thailand?

According to the UN Thailand Migration Report 2019, Thailand currently has about 4.9 million non-Thai residents, many of them are from Cambodia and other neighborhoods. This is a significant increase from 3.7 million in 2014. Although the Thai government has advanced policies to enable to access to basic health care services for non-Thai residents including medical care for migrants regardless of their legal status, there are still barriers to their use. One particular issue, border health focuses on health, health risk, and systems along the national border. Since Thailand shares a natural border with Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar and Malaysia which affects their health system, border health has become a major concern for migrant health.

Japan's context

The movement of people has become a major concern in Japan. As the labor force population is declining due to the shrinking birthrate and aging population, the government introduced a new status of residence in April 2019 and is accepting more foreign personnel. In addition, the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in 2020 is expected to increase inbound population. Given this background, the control of diseases, countermeasures for borders, the prevention of infectious diseases, and the establishment of a medical provision system are some of the most important global health/public health agendas that should be addressed.

In the GHEP

The students will visit East Thailand with 30 brilliant international students at Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University. We will visit different levels of healthcare facilities and community health centers to learn about issues related to migrant health/travel

medicine/border health in the region, as well as have the opportunities to assess problems and recommend solutions.