



Workshop on Human Migration in Southeast Asia, Institute of Asian Studies,
Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The Road Less Travelled: Mobility in Southeast Asian Societies

31st March 2014 - 1st April 2014

Since the 1980s and the rise of the so called newly industrialised economies in East and Southeast Asia there has been a sustained growth of migration in some countries, namely Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and to a lesser extent Thailand. The steady flow of migrants to these receiving societies has been activated by a labour market in which local populations have avoided because of uncompetitive wages and unattractive work conditions. This development reflects global trends where countries that have experienced high economic growth have resulted in citizens moving out of the lower end of the labour market. The vacuum created is inevitably filled by migrants from low-wage societies, not only from outside the region such as Bangladesh and India but also from the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Equally significant is the outflow of migrants from these sending countries to the Middle East and East Asia.

Migration research in the region in the last two decades has been dominated by issues related to the movements of people as a result of the intensification of globalization. However migration inherent in the formation of societies in Southeast Asia has a much longer history and is more varied. Intra-regional mobility is deeply embedded in Southeast Asia, which is just as significant as inter-regional mobility.

This workshop is an opportunity for current and recent researchers on intra- and inter-regional migration in Southeast Asia to discuss their work and also help to identify significant issues of research particular to the region. It brings together young and senior scholars all active in migration research, all of whom have conducted fieldwork in Southeast Asia.

The following papers will be presented: Vietnamese Ethnic Migrants to Malaysia, Transmigration in East Kalimantan (Sasak and Dayak communities), Singaporean Malay Retirees in Johore, Post-colonial Indian Migration to Malaysia, Bangladeshi Male Migrant Workers in Malaysia, Factory Migrant Workers in Penang, Mobile Malaysians in Singapore and London, Filipino Musicians in Asia, Filipino Participation in Voluntary Associations in United Arab Emirates, Filipinos in South Korea and the Politics of Exclusion, Porous Borders and Trafficking in Southeast Asia.

In addition we are calling for other submissions for possible inclusion in a book on mobility in Southeast Asia.

Please send abstracts or papers to Prof. Lian Kwen Fee (kwenfee.lian@ubd.edu.bn)