



Regional Peer Learning Platform and Program of Action on Alternative Care Arrangements for Children in the Context of International Migration in the Asia Pacific

18-20 August 2026

Thailand



CONTENTS

Meeting agenda	3
Participant list	5
Background for each session	7
Participant profiles	28
Logistical notes	40
About the organisers	43

Meeting agenda:

Day 1 – Tuesday 18 August	
Morning	Participants arrive in Bangkok and check in. Venue: Sukosol Hotel , 477 Si Ayutthaya street, Khwaeng Thanon Phaya Thai, Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400.
3.00-4.00pm	Registration & networking over afternoon tea
4:00-4:30pm	<u>Session 1a: Welcome</u> • Welcome from organisers • Introduction and overview of agenda, and how ATD relates to broader migration policy • Opening remarks from - o Mr. Patai Sidisunthorn, Assistant Secretary-General of the National Security Council of Thailand - o Mr. Andrew Egan, Deputy Ambassador of Australia to Thailand
4:30-4:40pm	Group photo
4:40-6:30pm	<u>Session 1b: National updates from each country</u> • Each country has 5-10 minutes to share an overview of their country context to set the scene, focusing on developments over the last 12 months. • Proposed order: Thailand, New Zealand, Indonesia, Australia, Malaysia.
6:30-8:30pm	<u>Welcome Dinner and Panel Discussion</u> Venue: Kamolporn Room, Sukosol Hotel Dress: Smart casual
Evening	<i>Stay overnight at Sukosol Hotel in Bangkok</i>

Day 2 – Wednesday 19 August	
7:00-10.00am	Bus arranged to travel to Ban Tham Hin Temporary Shelter, Ratchaburi for site visits (~2.5-3 hours)
10:00-12:00pm	<u>Session 2: Site visit: Ban Tham Hin Temporary Shelter, Suan Phueng, Ratchaburi</u> • Meeting with District Administration and other stakeholders. • Discuss protection priorities with those working on the ground. • Hear about the experience of children and families. • Hear an update on recent refugee employment scheme developments. and how that impacts children and families. • Camp community walk through.
12:00-1:30pm	Lunch (includes travel time to restaurant)
1:30-2:30pm	Bus to Kanchanaburi

2:30-4:00pm	<u>Session 3: Site visit at Sumitomo Factory</u> • Introduction of Sumitomo SWET Kanchanaburi company and video presentation • How Sumitomo company works with Temporary shelters on recruitment • Hear private sector and employer perspectives on the new refugee employment scheme. • Discuss how to safeguard the rights of children as part of the refugee employment scheme.
4:00-5:00pm	Travel to hotel in Kanchanaburi
6:30-8:00pm	Dinner at hotel <i>Stay overnight at Felix River Kwai Hotel Kanchanaburi</i>

Day 3 – Thursday 20 August	
9:00-10:30am	<u>Session 4: Reflections on site visit and relevance for ATD in other national contexts</u> • Includes 30 minutes for small group discussions in national groups. • Reflect on the site visit and ask any outstanding questions from the experience yesterday. • Reflect on how refugee registration systems support ATD. • Reflect on links between ATD and refugee employment: safeguarding the rights of children and families. • Other relevant reflections for different national contexts.
10:30-11:00am	Morning tea
11:00-12:30pm	<u>Session 5: Sharing strategies for encouraging social cohesion, coexistence, and reducing hate speech and xenophobia</u> • Noting recent spike in hate speech in some countries, reflections on the role of government and ‘whole-of-society’ approaches in addressing and reducing hate speech and xenophobia, and encouraging social cohesion. • Exchange good practices on inclusive policies, community engagement, and partnerships that foster mutual understanding, social inclusion, and positive relations between host communities and refugees and migrants.
12:30-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30-3:30pm	<u>Session 6: Future priorities for the ATD Platform</u> • Includes 30 minutes for small group discussions in national groups. • Discuss and agree future priorities for the ATD Platform, and ways organisers can support ongoing peer-learning. • Discuss the draft ASEAN Guidelines on ATD and how the ATD Platform can support the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).
3:30-4:00pm	<u>Wrap up and closing</u>
4:00-6:30pm	Bus returning to Bangkok
Evening	Participants depart / stay overnight and depart the next day

Participant List (*alphabetical*)

Name	Position and organisation	Country
Agung Pramono	Head of the Sub-Directorate for Detainee Management and Refugee Coordination, Ministry of Immigration and Corrections	Indonesia
Ahmad Ammar Amsyar bin Suriadi	Assistant Secretary, Immigration Affairs Division, Ministry of Home Affairs	Malaysia
Alina Sakulsiriwiriya	Attaché, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Thailand
Amnart Saichalard	Director, Bureau of the Scout Movement, Red Cross Youth & Student Affairs, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education	Thailand
Pol. Maj. Anan Insai	Inspector, Sub-Division 3, Investigation Division, Immigration Bureau	Thailand
Caitlin McCaffrie	Policy Director, Centre for Policy Development	Australia
Carolina Gottardo	Executive Director, International Detention Coalition	International
Chanbodee Ditcharoen	Labour Specialist, Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour	Thailand
Christy Kumesan	Senior Project Coordinator, Centre for Policy Development	Indonesia
Dome Siwawong Sooktawee	Thailand Project Coordinator, International Detention Coalition	Thailand
Elmira Tapaskhanova	First Secretary (Immigration Integrity), Australian Embassy to Thailand	Australia
Eros Sidqy Putra	Senior Policy Analyst, Coordinating Ministry of Political and Security Affairs	Indonesia
Fahrel Yusri Rahmat	Third Secretary, Directorate General of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Indonesia
Gading Gamilang Putra	National Information and Advocacy Officer, Jesuit Refugee Service	Indonesia
Hannah Jambunathan	Asia Pacific Senior Programme Officer, International Detention Coalition	Malaysia
Karen Whiting	Head of Bureau Protection and Solutions Service, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific	International
Katarina Rambu Babang	Head of the Sub-Directorate for Research Permits and Supervision of Foreigners, Ministry of Home Affairs	Indonesia
Kornkamol Waiyaphutra	Program Manager, Host International Thailand Foundation	Thailand
Mic Chawaratt Chawarangkul	Asia Pacific Regional Manager, International Detention Coalition	International
Michiko Ito	Deputy Head of Operations, Asia, IOM Mission to Thailand	International
Mohd Nurhilman bin Johari	Head of Transfer and Escort Unit, Depot and Detainee Management Division, Immigration Department	Malaysia

Napatphol Vanichseni	Foreign Relations Officer, Operation Center for Displaced Persons, Foreign Affairs Division, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior	Thailand
Norzie Fariza Binti Suid	Principal Assistant Secretary, Department of Policy and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development	Malaysia
Nur Asiah binti Mohd Shariff	Principal Assistant Director, Crisis Management and National Intelligence, National Security Council	Malaysia
Parinya (Ann) Boonridrerthaikul	Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Thailand	Thailand
Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit	Child Rights Representative, ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) Thailand	Thailand
Preeyaporn Yookong	Plan and Policy Analyst, National Security Council	Thailand
Shahirah Binti Nadzri	Administrative and Diplomatic Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs	Malaysia
Sripapha Petcharamesree	Senior Researcher, Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University	Thailand
Su-Anne Lee	Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Malaysia	Malaysia
Taksaporn Noikaew	Plan and Policy Analyst, Senior Professional Level, National Security Council	Thailand
Temme Lee	ATD Coordinator, SUKA Society	Malaysia
Tri Nuke Pudjiastuti	Research Professor, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN)	Indonesia
Valentine Sonsithong	Director of Child Rights Protection Sub-Division, Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security	Thailand
Pol. Col. Watcharaphol Kanchanakunthon	Superintendent of Sub-Division 3, Investigation Division, Immigration Bureau	Thailand
Yanti Kusumawardhani	Child Rights Representative, ASEAN Commission on the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) Indonesia	Indonesia
Zcongklod Khawjang	Foreign Relations Officer, Operation Center for Displaced Persons, Foreign Affairs Division, Ministry of Interior	Thailand

Joining online for Session 1

Sharyn Titchener	Manager, International Child Protection Unit, Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children	New Zealand
Laura Power	Assistant Director, Child Wellbeing Strategy and Capability Section Performance, Department of Home Affairs	Australia

Observers and Secretariat support

Chanya Kahintapong	Asia-Pacific Programme Assistant, International Detention Coalition	International
Chatphan Chindara	Plan and Policy Analyst, National Security Council	Thailand
Maalini Ramalo	Programme Manager, Porticus	International

Session 1b: National Contexts

Tuesday 18 August 4:30-6:30pm

Session 1b task

The purpose of this session is to share the latest developments in your country related to alternatives to detention (ATD) for children and broader migration policy, so that everyone starts the Platform meeting aware of what is going on in different countries.

We ask each country group to prepare responses to the following questions in advance, and nominate one speaker to share responses during this session for a maximum of 10 minutes:

- What are the key developments on ATD for children and related migration policy in your country since we last met in Sydney in February 2025?
- What has been working well, what has not been working well, and why?
- What would you like to achieve over the next year?

Slides are optional, but if you choose to use them please send them to the organisers in advance.

BACKGROUND

It is well known that immigration detention, even for short periods of time, causes significant harm to a child's physical, mental, and psychosocial wellbeing. Well-established evidence shows detention is both harmful to individuals and families,¹ and does not work as a deterrent to irregular movement.² Children who are detained are particularly at risk: even short periods of detention can have lifelong impacts on a child's mental and physical health due to the fact that they are still growing and developing.³ New research also documents the highly negative impact of parental detention on children.⁴

Increasing awareness of these negative impacts has led to growing momentum globally to end child immigration detention and implement community-based alternatives that provide appropriate care, protection, and support to children and their families.

In the Asia Pacific, thousands of children are held in immigration detention every year. There is increasing discomfort amongst many governments and other stakeholders about this ongoing practice. This has led to some positive developments including high-level political commitments to end child detention, the release of some children and their families from detention into community-based alternatives, and improved systems that prevent child detention in the first instance.

The piloting and expansion of alternatives - including foster care, kinship care, and shelters - has grown, boosting confidence in the ability of non-custodial policies to achieve the legitimate government aim of resolving the migration status of non-citizens while meeting community expectations regarding the treatment of children.

¹ Dudley, M. et al. 2012. 'Children and young people in immigration detention' *Current Opinion in Psychiatry*, vol. 25, issue 4, pp. 284-292.

² International Detention Coalition. 2015. "[Reframing Immigration Detention in Response to Irregular Migration: Does Detention Deter?](#)" April, no. 1.

³ No Child in Detention Coalition. 2014. *Dad, have we done something wrong? Children and parents in immigration detention*. See also Cleveland, J. & Rousseau, C. 2013. 'Psychiatric symptoms associated with brief detention of adult asylum seekers in Canada' *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 58, issue 7, pp. 409-416.

⁴ Peterie, M. et al. 2026. [A ripple effect of suffering: Children and young people's experiences of parental immigration detention and deportation](#). The University of Sydney and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMITMENTS

Growing commitment to ending immigration detention is evident in international and regional agreements, conventions, compacts and declarations. These include:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	The CRC emphasises that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration in all decisions that affect them. The provisions on detention of children (as a ‘measure of last resort’) in the CRC may apply to children in conflict with the law, but are not applicable to immigration proceedings and therefore cannot be used to justify immigration detention of children. ⁵
The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	CEDAW underscores the importance of protecting the rights and dignity of women and children, including those who may be subject to detention as a result of immigration-related issues, and has recommended the development of community-based alternatives.
The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)	The GCR urges states to commit to “the development of non-custodial and community-based alternatives to detention, particularly for children.” (para 60)
2023 Global Refugee Forum	In 2023 Australia and Thailand supported the ‘Multistakeholder Pledge: Developing alternatives to immigration detention and ending immigration detention of asylum-seeking, refugee, stateless and migrant children and their families’.
The Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)	The GCM agrees to "Protect and respect the rights and best interests of the child at all times, regardless of their migration status, by ensuring availability and accessibility of a viable range of alternatives to detention in non-custodial contexts, favouring community-based care arrangements, that ensure access to education and healthcare, and respect their right to family life and family unity, and by working to end the practice of child detention in the context of international migration." (objective 13, paragraph 29(h))
International Migration Review Forum 2022	In 2022, Thailand pledged “to effectively implement alternative to detention measures for migrant children” and the Progress Declaration included “consider, through appropriate mechanisms, progress and challenges in working to end the practice of child detention in the context of international migration”
International Migration Review Forum 2026 Progress Declaration	The Progress Declaration from the International Migration Review Forum in May 2026 establishes a mandate for the UN Secretary-General, supported by the UN Network on Migration and other stakeholders, to provide practical recommendations and assess progress on child-sensitive alternatives to detention that protect and respect children's rights and best interests in all migration contexts. (paragraph 53)
The 2019 ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration	The 2019 Declaration states “in order to promote the best interests of the child, States should work to develop effective procedures and alternatives to child immigration detention to reduce its impact, and ensure that, where possible, children are kept together with their families in a non-custodial, clean and safe environment.”
Regional Plan of Action on Implementing the ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context	Activity 1.7 of the accompanying Regional Plan of Action (RPA) to the Declaration on the Rights of Children in the context of Migration calls on Member States to “Enhance the availability and implementation of clean and safe non-custodial, community-based alternatives to child immigration detention, that promote the

⁵ Joint General Comment No. 4 issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2017)

of Migration (RPA-CCM)	best interests of the child, including through ensuring that children are kept together with their families, where possible. This activity should ensure the adequate provision of appropriate alternative family based care (such as foster care and guardianship) for unaccompanied and separated children. “
ASEAN Guidelines on the Implementation of Alternatives to Detention for Children in the context of Migration	Guidelines on how to implement ATD for children in the context of migration have been in development for the past few years. In November 2025, ASEAN Member States held a regional validation meeting of about 50 stakeholders in Kuala Lumpur, to review and strengthen the draft Guidelines. Participants provided substantive technical feedback, recommending the incorporation of promising practices from ASEAN Member States, peer learning mechanisms, and practical checklists to support policymakers in designing and implementing child-centred ATD. The revised guidelines are expected to be presented for endorsement in 2026.

NATIONAL CONTEXTS

Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Thailand have each demonstrated a commitment to end immigration detention for children.

AUSTRALIA

Australian law requires the detention of all non-citizens who are in Australia without a valid visa (classified as ‘unlawful non-citizens’). This means that people who arrive without a valid visa, or those who arrive with a visa that subsequently expires or is cancelled, are subject to mandatory immigration detention. Children are therefore also at risk of immigration detention, though their detention **must only be used as a last resort**.

Under the Migration Act 1958, Australia’s position on detention and alternatives to held detention proposes that immigration detention should be used as a last resort, for the shortest practicable time and where necessary, reasonable, and proportionate to a legitimate purpose under the Act. **Community placements are the preferred alternative** while status resolution is pursued.

Children classified as “in onshore detention” in Australia usually reside in a residence determination placement in the community, or in places classified as “alternative places of detention (APODs)” which can include hotels or hospitals.

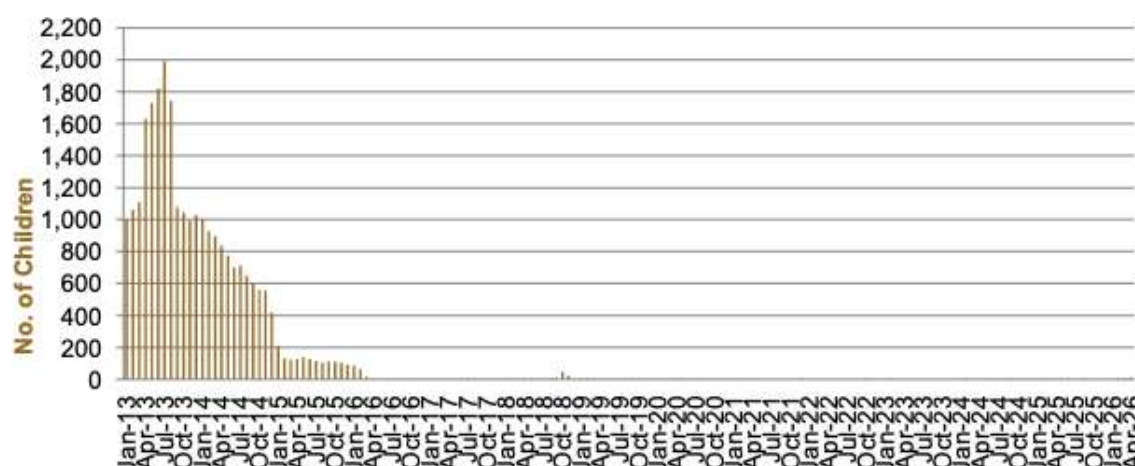
At its peak, 1,992 children were detained in Australian immigration detention facilities in July 2013. These numbers have been declining steadily since 2014, and **by April 2016 there were no children in immigration detention in Australia**.⁶

The most recent public reporting from the Department of Home Affairs states that, as of 31 May 2026, there were 12 children in Alternative Places of Detention (APODs) in Australia, and 23 children living in the community under a residence determination.⁷

⁶ Australian Human Rights Commission. 2017. [Asylum seekers, refugees and human rights snapshot report](#), second edition, page 14.

⁷ See Department of Home Affairs. 2026. [‘Immigration detention and community statistics summary, March 2026’](#), released 30 June.

Figure 3 – Children in Immigration Detention Facilities and Alternative Places of Detention



Graph source: Department of Home Affairs, [Immigration detention and community statistics summary, March 2026](#) (released 30 June 2026), page 10.

A key milestone in Australia's journey away from held detention of children was the 2014 National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention, conducted by the Australian Human Rights Commission. This was followed in March 2015 by the creation of an independent Child Protection Panel within the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, and also the creation of a Child Safeguarding Framework.

In November 2023 Australia made a number of relevant pledges at the Global Refugee Forum:

- To continue to **share practice and policy lessons** from Australia's journey away from held detention of children, especially within the Asia-Pacific;
- Continued commitment to ensuring that **held detention is only used for the shortest practical time and where necessary**, reasonable and proportionate under the Migration Act 1958;
- To progress initiatives under the Alternatives to Held Detention Program, in support of **expanding alternatives to immigration detention** that are community-based and non-custodial;
- To **support comprehensive protection and solutions strategies in the Asia-Pacific**, and supporting States, including those who are smaller and emerging, to develop and strengthen their asylum systems and protection capacity.

Australia's progress to end the held detention of children in immigration facilities is welcome, however provisions still remain to detain children under the current legal framework of the Migration Act. The broader immigration detention system also still continues, with children impacted by the detention of their parents. Debates are ongoing around detention conditions, indefinite detention, and the management of complex cases.

INDONESIA

Indonesia has **effectively stopped the practice of immigration detention for people who have refugee or asylum seeker status** since 2018, when a circular note from the Directorate General of Immigration stated that refugees and people seeking asylum are exempt from immigration detention.

Indonesia currently hosts approximately 12,000 refugees and asylum seekers. Around half of these people reside in IOM-administered accommodation, while the remainder live independently in local communities with support from local NGOs and refugee-led organisations. Approximately half are based in the Greater Jakarta area, with the rest dispersed across urban and rural communities throughout

Indonesia. Refugee and asylum seeking populations are primarily from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Somalia, and Sudan. Almost thirty percent of this cohort are children. Indonesia is not a major hosting country for migrant workers, rather it is primarily a country of origin for migrant workers who work abroad.

Pursuant to the Presidential Regulation No. 125 of 2016 on the Treatment of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Indonesia, the responsibility for managing refugees is delegated to local governments. This Presidential Regulation is currently being reviewed and updated. In July 2019, a Second Circular Letter from the Secretary General of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology **enabled formal access to education for refugee children in Indonesia**.⁸ As of March 2026, 953 refugee children are enrolled in accredited national schools.⁹ However, some gaps in implementation exist on the ground. Also, in practice many refugees in Indonesia study at refugee-run learning centres which teach in English, rather than accessing public schools which teach in Bahasa Indonesia.

In September 2023, the Ministry of Manpower issued a Circular Letter **allowing refugees to participate in skills training programmes at government training centres**.¹⁰ Indonesia also committed to supporting refugee productivity and economic empowerment at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2019; a commitment that was reaffirmed at the second GRF in December 2023. These commitments provide important policy foundations for advancing refugee economic empowerment in the country.

MALAYSIA

As of 30 June 2026, 1,933 children were being held in immigration detention centres nationwide. However, the Malaysian Government **remains committed to exploring community based alternatives to detention**¹¹ and taking steps to reduce the impacts of immigration detention on children. In 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs (KDN) established 'Baitul Mahabbah' detention centres, specifically for children under 12 years old and their mothers, as a step towards addressing the issue of immigration detention of children. Select NGOs are allowed access to provide activities, which include basic literacy classes, group therapeutic activities and sewing classes for women. Currently, seven Baitul Mahabbah centres in Peninsular and East Malaysia are in operation, with 211 children placed across the seven centres. Despite taking steps to provide a more humane environment for children, Baitul Mahabbah centres remain gazetted under the Immigration Act as detention centres, and there are no current exit plans for children other than deportation. In August 2025, KDN organised the first national ATD Symposium to "broaden approaches to the issue of child immigration detention and explore how children can be moved into suitable alternative care such as community placement or temporary shelters".¹²

Malaysia is also following up on recommendations received by the CRC committee in its Concluding Remarks in February 2026 which recommended that ATD (prioritising family-based and community-based options) be expanded and accelerated, and that migrant children not be detained on the basis of their own or their parents' migration status. Since 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, National Security Council, Immigration Department, and Social Welfare Department have been working closely with NGOs and UNICEF to develop a community-based ATD programme to facilitate the release of unaccompanied children who are currently in detention. Discussions have focused on developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) including case management and case resolution that is rights-based, non-custodial and upholds

⁸ UNHCR & UNICEF, [Policy Brief: Priority Actions for Inclusion of Refugee Children in Indonesia](#), page 5

⁹ UNHCR, [Indonesia Monthly Statistical Report March 2026](#).

¹⁰ Ministry of Manpower of Indonesia, [Circular Letter of Director General of Vocational Training Number 2/1730/LP.03.02/IX/2023 on Access to Vocational Training Facilities for Refugees](#).

¹¹ Hariz Mohd. 2024. '[Detention options: Ministry studying community-based programmes](#)' *Malaysiakini*, 5 September

¹² Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 2025. Booklet Simposium Alternatif Kepada Penahanan untuk Kanak-Kanak Pelarian Tanpa Penjaga dan Terpisah di Malaysia, 20-21 Ogos 2025

the best interest of the child, and exploring how to establish ATD alongside the rollout of the Refugee Registration Document (*Dokumen Pendaftaran Pelarian* - DPP).

The Malaysian Government officially began implementing the DPP system on 1 Jan 2026, which represents a significant shift in Malaysia's approach to refugee governance. Under the DPP, refugees and asylum seekers are recognised as a distinct category and have access to employment, healthcare, and education though with restrictions. As of June 2026, 4010 people, including 632 children have been registered under the first phase of the DPP. The Government has also set up a Refugee and Asylum Seeker Special Isolation Centre (*Pusat Pengasingan Khas Pelarian dan Pemohon Suaka* - PPKPPS) in Bidor, which holds 101 adults as of 31 May 2026, 78 of whom have been granted refugee status under the DPP.¹³ The DPP and PPKPPS are underpinned by the National Security Council Directive 23 (Refugee and Asylum Seeker Management Policy and Mechanism) which was revised in 2023, and remains the primary point of reference for laws, policy, and process relating to refugee management.

NEW ZEALAND / AOTEAROA

As an island nation far from other land masses, New Zealand is geographically unique in the region. The only means of entry is by air at airports. There is **no mandatory detention policy** for asylum seekers, refugees or immigrants in irregular situations in New Zealand. The exception to this is an amendment to the Immigration Act 2013 which provides for the detention of minors in the case of a "mass arrival group," which has never eventuated. If this were to ever take place, there are various protections guaranteed, including that the child must have a responsible adult appointed to represent their interests, and they must be able to both express their views on detention and have those views considered.

A June 2021 independent review of the processes and procedures relating to the detention of asylum seekers found that between 2015-2020 there were 2,655 asylum seekers in New Zealand, of whom 86 adults were detained, for periods ranging from 1 day to 1177 days.¹⁴ The Department of Immigration's Operational Manual states the detention of children should **only be used as a last resort** and **very rarely happens in practice**. Children with irregular immigration status in New Zealand can attend school, obtain free vaccinations and have their birth registered (if born in New Zealand to parents with irregular status).

The abovementioned review made 11 recommendations. In response, the government committed to "review and change our operational guidance and decision-making framework relating to restricting the movement of asylum seekers, to ensure it complies with our human rights obligations" and establishing a decision-making panel to consider any recommendations to detain asylum seekers or restrict their movements, consistent with 2012 UNHCR Detention Guidelines.

Alongside Australia at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, New Zealand committed to: "supporting comprehensive protection and solutions strategies in the Asia-Pacific, and supporting States, including those who are smaller and emerging, to develop and strengthen their asylum systems and protection capacity."

THAILAND

In Thailand, there are around three and a half million migrants with regular status, and an estimated two million with irregular status; the vast majority of whom come from Myanmar, followed by Cambodia and Laos. As of June 2026, there were 77,305 Myanmar refugees in temporary shelters and around 6,500

¹³ The Malaysian Reserve. 2026. [DPP registers 4,010 refugees, asylum seekers, mostly from Myanmar](#)

¹⁴ Victoria Casey KA. 2022. [Report to Deputy Chief Executive \(Immigration\) of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment](#), 23 March, p. 27.

urban refugees and asylum-seekers from over 46 countries registered with UNHCR. Undocumented migrants and refugees are subject to arrest, immigration detention, and deportation.

There are currently **eight different ATD policies in Thailand**. These include the Memorandum of Understanding on the Determination of Measures and Approaches to Alternatives to the Detention of Children in Immigration Detention Centres (MOU-ATD), the National Screening Mechanism (NSM), the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the 'right to work' policy, the Regularisation of Undocumented Migrant Workers, Civil Registration, Temporary Safety Areas (TSAs), and Bail and Reporting.

Recent developments in Thailand include:

- **MOU-ATD:** Between 2019 and 2026, more than 2,000 children and their caregivers have benefited from Thailand's ATD programme. Through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, seven government ministries, led by the Immigration Bureau and the Department of Children and Youth (DCY), have worked in partnership with UN agencies and civil society organisations to protect children in the context of migration. Building on this collaboration, Thailand continues to expand community-based ATD initiatives for vulnerable children, moving away from institutional care towards family and community-based support.
- **National Screening Mechanism (NSM):** Thailand has implemented the NSM since 25 September 2023, under the Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister on the Screening of Aliens who Enter into the Kingdom and are Unable to Return to the Country of Origin B.E. 2562 (2019). Individuals granted protected person status under this Regulation are entitled to temporary stay in Thailand, protection from forced return, and access to education and healthcare. As of February 2026, 298 individuals were undergoing the screening process, while 7 had been granted protected person status. The Immigration Bureau continues to work in partnership with UNHCR and civil society organisations to strengthen implementation of the NSM and address gaps in its operationalisation.
- **Right to work:** On 26 August 2025, the Thai Cabinet issued a Resolution to allow long-staying refugees from Myanmar living on the Thai-Myanmar border to work legally in Thailand. This resolution took effect on 1 October 2025, and applies to those living in the nine temporary shelters along the Thai-Myanmar border. Those eligible to work now have a legal pathway to leave the shelters and take up lawful employment in certain specified industries. The policy marks a shift from shelter-based humanitarian assistance towards self-reliance, prompted in part by the sharp decline in international funding and slowing third-country resettlement after 2025. Implementation is led by the Ministry of Interior in coordination with UNHCR, provincial authorities, employers, NGOs and refugee communities, and is paired with the issuance of official identity cards under Thailand's civil registration framework, launched in June 2026. Over the past nine months, more than 4,800 people have received work permits through this scheme and begun legal employment, with around 1,300 more currently in the process of obtaining their permits. In total, this means 6,100 people are able to move towards greater self-reliance.
- **Addressing statelessness and irregular status:** Thailand has approximately 570,000 people with unresolved legal status and nationality issues, including long-term ethnic minorities and long-term stateless people. Building on a series of Cabinet resolutions since 2005, the Government has progressively expanded pathways for legal status determination and nationality. The 29 October 2024 Cabinet Resolution, later extended for another year on 30 June 2026, introduced a streamlined "screen-in" approach that reduced processing times from 270 to just 5 days, while allowing authorities to revoke status if fraud is subsequently identified. As of June 2026, more than 100,000 stateless persons have been granted lawful immigration status with permanent residence, while more than 12,000 have acquired Thai nationality.

The developments outlined above are consistent with Thailand's commitments under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), including the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) Progress Declaration, and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), including the pledges made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). This includes strengthening the National Screening Mechanism, expanding community-based alternatives to detention for children, improving pathways to legal status and nationality for stateless persons, and enhancing cooperation between government agencies, international organisations and civil society through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

Invitation to Regional Peer-learning Platform Dinner

UNHCR, NSC Thailand,
IDC and the ADFM Secretariat
are delighted to invite you to:

Dinner for the Regional Peer Learning Platform on Alternatives to Child Immigration Detention

Tuesday 18 August 2026 at 6:30pm-8:30pm

Welcome remarks at 6.40pm
Dinner served at approx. 6:45pm
Dinner remarks at 7:15pm

Venue

Kamolporn Room, Sukosol Hotel
477 Thanon Si Ayutthaya, Ratchathewi, Bangkok

Esteemed Speakers:

Vitit Muntarbhorn
Bhanubhatra Jittiang
Temme Lee
Speaker with Lived Experience

Moderator:

Tri Nuke Pudjiastuti

Dress code:

Smart casual attire or national dress

RSVP:

Chanya Kahintapong: asiapacific@idcoalition.org
Please advise of any dietary requirements

About the speakers

Vitit Muntarbhorn

Thailand

Professor Emeritus Vitit Muntarbhorn is an eminent expert in human rights and professor of law at Chulalongkorn University. Vitit was the first UN Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, a Member of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Syria from 2012-16, a former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.



He was educated in the United Kingdom obtaining his undergraduate and graduate law degrees from Oxford University. Vitit has extensive experience in research, policy development and advocacy in the field of sexual orientation and gender identity. He was the Co-Chairperson of the drafting committee of the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity in 2006.

Tri Nuke Pudjiastuti

Indonesia

Dr Tri Nuke Pudjiastuti is Research Professor, Research Centre for Politics, at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) in Jakarta. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Geography and Environmental Studies from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Adelaide, with a focus on international migration. She completed her PhD in the Department of Criminology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia, with a dissertation focusing on people smuggling from Indonesia to Australia. For more than five years, she was a part of the ASEAN Research Team.



Dr Pudjiastuti's experience in trafficking and smuggling issues has also given her an insight into irregular migration. Although her research focuses upon Indonesia, it also notes regional mobility, particularly at the level of ASEAN. She has also produced position and policy papers for the Indonesian government. She is also part of the Secretariat of the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration.

Bhanubhatra Jittiang

Thailand

H.E. Asst Prof. Dr Bhanubhatra (Kaan) Jittiang is the Representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) for 2025-2027. He is also an assistant professor in the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, where he holds the positions of Deputy Dean for Graduate Studies and Founding Director of the Nelson Mandela Center for Conflict Resolution, Atrocity Prevention, and Human Security.



Dr. Jittiang was recently appointed to the National Steering Committee on Human Rights. He also serves as an expert member on the national committee established under the Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister on the Screening of Aliens Who Enter the Kingdom and Are Unable to Return to Their Country of Origin B.E. 2562 (also known as the National Screening Mechanism). He helped to draft Thailand's national action plan for the reservation withdrawal of Article 22 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and has co-authored reports evaluating Thailand's alternatives to child detention initiative.

Temme Lee

Malaysia

Temme Lee is the ATD Coordinator at SUKA Society where she advocates for the development and implementation of alternatives to detention (ATD) for children affected by immigration detention in Malaysia. Temme has been involved in the Regional Peer Learning Platform on ATD for many years.

Temme has more than 15 years' working experience in human rights and the humanitarian field, with a primary focus on refugee protection and child protection case management. She has previously worked at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Malaysia and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). Temme holds a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in International Studies and Writing, from Monash University Malaysia.



Individual with lived experience of detention and ATD

A third panelist will also join the panel discussion who has first hand experience both of detention and of a community-based alternative. We are grateful to this individual for making the time to share their story, and ask everyone to be respectful of their time, experience and privacy.

Session 2: Site Visit to Tham Hin Temporary Shelter, Ratchaburi

Wednesday 19 August 10:00-12:00

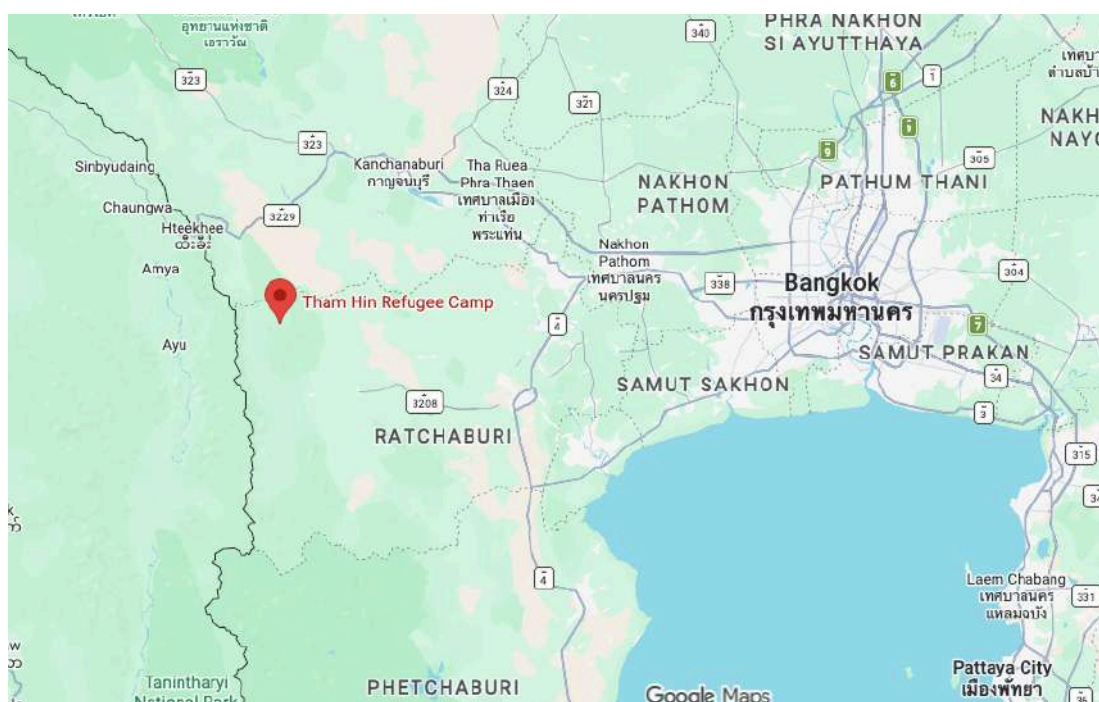
This visit provides an opportunity to explore the living conditions, protection mechanisms, local governance within the temporary shelter, and the progress of the right-to-work policy.

Specifically, participants will:

- Gain insights into the daily lives, community management, and self-reliance initiatives of displaced persons.
- Understand the roles and coordination among the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR, CCSDPT, TMR and community leaders.
- Examine the gaps and challenges in protection, humanitarian assistance, and long-term legal/policy framework solutions.

About Ban Tham Hin Camp

Ban Tham Hin Temporary Shelter is located in Suan Phueng Subdistrict, Suan Phueng District, Ratchaburi Province. It covers approximately 64,000 square metres (around 6.4 hectares) and sits within a mountain-enclosed valley called Hup Krathon, through which the Nam Khun stream flows. The site is located about 10 kilometers from the Myanmar border.



Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/WBAcN7eqazLWjxzB6?g_st=ic

The shelter was established in 1997 to accommodate thousands of displaced people fleeing conflict and persecution in southeastern Myanmar. Most residents are Karen Christians with agricultural backgrounds who originated from the Tanintharyi Region.

The Ministry of Interior oversees management of all nine temporary shelters in Thailand. A Deputy District Officer from Suan Phueng District serves as the Camp Commander for Tham Hin, taking direct responsibility for administration and security.

Ministry of Interior statistics from June 2026:

Total verified population total 4,421 persons		
Age	Under 5 years	370 (8.37%)
	Youth 5-17 years	1,393 (31.51%)
	Adult 18-59 years	2,335 (52.82%)
	Above 60 years	323 (7.31%)
Gender	Female: 2,295 (51.91%)	Male: 2,126 (48.09%)
Ethnicity	Karen: 99%	Burman: 1%
Religion	Christian: 91%	Buddhist: 9%

There are two security perimeters around the temporary shelter. The inner perimeter, Suan Phueng District, deploys 36 members of the Volunteer Defence Corps as the shelter security unit. The outer perimeter is secured and controlled by the Thap Phraya Suea Task Force, Border Patrol Police Company 137, and Suan Phueng Police Station.

The Camp Committee is elected by the refugee community to manage day-to-day camp governance, with administrative support from the Karen Refugee Committee (KRC).

WHAT TO WEAR:

- Please dress modestly and respectfully.
- Wear comfortable, closed-toe walking shoes suitable for unpaved and uneven terrain.
- Please bring an umbrella and/or raincoat, sunscreen and insect repellent, to ensure you are prepared for any weather.

DO:

- Carry ID or passport; keep them on you
- Stay with the group and the assigned escort
- Greet the camp committee and CBO representatives, not just agency staff
- Ask before entering any home, school, clinic, or place of worship
- Keep to the hours on the permission slip
- Assume you are a guest in someone's home, not a visitor to a site

DON'T:

- **NO PHOTOS OR VIDEOS during the site visit, especially of children**
- **NO POSTING TO SOCIAL MEDIA during the visit, including location tags and names.**
- Don't hand out cash, gifts or personal contact details without asking authority
- Don't ask people personal questions about how they fled or what they experienced
- Don't promise anything: resettlement help, follow-up, referrals
- Don't discuss Myanmar politics or take sides in camp affairs
- Don't record any conversations

During the site visit we will hear from the following experts:

1. Deputy District Officer of Suan Phueng District and Commander of Tham Hin Temporary Shelter
2. Representative from United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
3. Representative from Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand (CCSDPT)
4. Representative from Thailand Migration Reform Consortium (TMR)
5. Representative from Community, Ban Tham Hin Temporary Shelter, Suan Phueng District

Additional background resources:

- [Thailand: Tham Hin Temporary Shelter Profile \(30 June 2019\)](#)

Session 3: Site Visit to Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems Thailand

Wednesday 19 February 2:30-4:00pm

This visit provides an opportunity to learn directly from Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems Thailand (SEWT)'s experience in recruiting and supporting workers from refugee camps, including how the company addresses practical challenges associated with transitioning from refugee camp settings to formal employment and independent living. The visit will also highlight the additional preparation and support provided during this transition, including workplace orientation, accommodation, practical life-skills training, financial support during the initial employment period, and measures to help workers adapt to a new working conditions and living environment in Thailand.

Specifically, participants will:

- Gain insights into SEWT's approach to employing refugee and migrant workers, including working conditions, wages, benefits, and workplace welfare.
- Learn how the company supports refugee workers through orientation courses, dormitory arrangements, safety measures, health and social security benefits, and activities that help workers adapt to working and living in Thailand, including considerations related to maintaining family connections and supporting family members who remain in temporary shelters.
- Hear directly from the company and workers from temporary shelters about their experiences, including practical arrangements, opportunities, and considerations involved in supporting employment and integration into the workplace.
- Observe the company's training approach through a visit to its training facilities, where participants can learn about the additional support provided to refugee workers from temporary shelters compared with standard induction for Thai employees.

About SEWT

Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems Thailand Ltd. (SEWT) was established in Thailand in 1994 as a Japanese-invested company, with its original operation located in Amata City Industrial Estate, Rayong Province. In 2013, SEWT Kanchanaburi Limited was established in Kanchanaburi, manufacturing wiring harnesses for automobiles, motorcycles, and agricultural vehicles. The Kanchanaburi operation currently employs approximately 6,015 workers, including Thai employees, Myanmar migrant workers, and 255 employees from refugee camps. The company also provides employee benefits, dormitory accommodation, orientation courses for migrant and refugee workers, and activities promoting workplace safety, welfare, and community engagement.

SEWT's brochure



**SEWT Kanchanaburi Limited
(Head Office)**

188 Moo 9, Pangtru, Thamuang, Kanchanaburi
71110 Tel. +66 34-510716-9

Established in

- 1994: Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems (Thailand) Ltd. was established in Amata City Industrial Estate, Rayong Province, as a Japanese-invested company in Thailand.
- 2013: SEWT Kanchanaburi Ltd. was established and located at 188 Moo 9, Pangtru, Thamuang, Kanchanaburi. The company manufactures wiring harnesses for automobiles, motorcycles, and agricultural vehicles. There are approximately 6,015 employees, including **1,187 Thai employees, 4,573 Myanmar employees, and 255 employees from refugee camps.**

Certifications & Standards

- IATF 16949 : Quality Management System for the Automotive Industry
- ISO 14001 : Environmental Management System

01 Working Conditions

Working Days: Mondays to Saturdays
Days Off: Sundays and Public Holidays

Regular Working Hours:

- 8 hours per day
- Meal Break: 1 hour
- Short Breaks: two (2) 10-minute breaks

Work Schedule: two shifts (standing position)

- Day Shift:
Regular Working Hours: 08:00 - 17:00
Overtime Hours: 17:30 - 20:00 (2.5 hours)
- Night Shift:
Regular Working Hours: 20:00 - 05:00
Overtime Hours: 05:30 - 08:00 (2.5 hours)

Overtime Working Hours:

- On Regular Days: 2.5 hrs/day, 5-6 days/week
- On Holidays: at least 1-2 days/month

Wage Payment:

- Monthly-paid Employees:
Paid on the 28th of each month
- Daily-paid Employees:
Paid on the 16th and 28th of each month

02 Benefits



**Wage (as stipulated by law):
THB 352 per day**

1. Attendance Allowance: up to THB 500 per month
2. Uniforms:
 - 3 uniforms (1st year); 2 uniforms/year thereafter
 - 2 sets of maternity uniforms per pregnancy
3. Medical Care: under the Social Security system
4. Annual Leave: 6 days per year after 1 year of service
5. Annual Health Check-up
 - Free health check-up after 1 year of service
6. Position Allowance
 - Eligible for an increase in position allowance after 2 years of service, subject to the Company's criteria
7. Annual Special Payment
 - Paid in January each year, up to THB 6,000
8. Annual Company parties: 1-2 times per year
9. Work Skills Competition
 - Opportunity to represent the Company in the annual competition in Japan (up to 6 representatives per year)
10. Meal Allowance: THB 10 per day

03 New CI Courses

Working and Living in Thailand

1. Accommodation Living Guidelines
2. Safety Culture
3. Walking on the Right Side
4. Greeting Culture
5. Dress Code Policy
6. Arriving at Work Before 7:55 a.m.
7. Clocking In
8. 5S Practices
9. Waste Sorting
10. Labour Law
11. The 10 Principles of Good Health
12. Common Area Rules
13. Electrical Safety
14. Using ATMs
15. Learning Thai

04 Employee Dormitory and Migrant Worker Activities



Employee Dormitories



Kathin Merit-Making Ceremony



Dormitory staff are available 24 hours a day



Merit-Making and Dharma Talk



Relaxation Garden



Sports Competition

05 Activities with Government Agencies and Communities



Outstanding Labour Relations and Welfare Establishment Award (2nd Consecutive Year)



Outstanding Workplace Safety Award - National Level (3rd Consecutive Year)



Workplace Drug Prevention and Resolution Standard Certification (3rd Consecutive Year)



Zero Accident Campaign 2025



Outstanding TO BE NUMBER ONE Club Award - National Level (1st Year)



Promoting Employment For Persons with Disabilities under Section 35

For inquiries and job applications, please scan:



Session 4: Reflections on site visit and relevance for
ATD in other national contexts
Thursday 20 August, 9:00-10:30am

This session will provide time to reflect on the full day of site visits at Ban Tham Hin Temporary Shelter and Sumimoto Factory. Reflections will take place both in plenary and in breakout national groups.

First, we ask you to consider what questions you have for Thai colleagues to learn more about the policy development, challenges and implementation you witnessed yesterday during the site visits.

Next, in small groups we invite you to consider the following questions:

- Were there elements of the policy implementation that could be applied in your own country context? If so, how?
- What barriers exist to implementing similar policies in your context?
- How was consideration of the best interest of the child evident in the implementation of policies you saw yesterday? Could this have been improved?
- What is one concrete action you or your organisation could take to contribute to implementing change in your country?

Finally, we will ask you to report back from your small groups in plenary.

Concrete ideas will be carried into Session 6 for further discussion in the afternoon.

Session 5: Sharing strategies for encouraging social cohesion and coexistence, and reducing hate speech and xenophobia

Thursday 20 August, 11:00-12.30pm

In this session, participants will discuss trends in hate speech, misinformation and disinformation against refugee communities across country contexts. We ask reflections to focus on exchanging good practices on developing inclusive policies and investing in partnerships that foster social inclusion, coexistence, and positive relations between host communities and refugee and migrant communities.

Key discussion questions include:

- What are key challenges and opportunities on social cohesion in your country context?
- What strategies have been effective in countering negative perceptions of migrants and refugees and promoting social cohesion?
- What is the role of policy in addressing xenophobia and countering negative perceptions of migrants and refugees?
- What is the role of policy in creating an enabling environment to build support for migration reform?
- How can governments develop and operationalise communications strategies in consultation with international organisations, NGOs and the migrant community? What is the first step?
- What is one concrete action you or your organisation can take to advance policy and programmes on social cohesion in your country?

Social cohesion has been identified in past Platform meetings as essential for successful, sustainable alternatives to detention and rights-based approaches to migration governance. It can create an enabling environment in which migrants and refugees are respected and included and able to contribute to diverse and strong communities. Where rights-based migration policies and programmes are being implemented, efforts to pre-empt backlash and facilitate social cohesion need to occur in tandem, to ensure policy reform is sustainable. Yet currently, across contexts, divisive rhetoric is threatening coexistence and undermining peace and security.

Recent developments on social cohesion in the region include:

- **Indonesia:** The sudden reduction in aid and funding to the protection sector has worsened [social insecurity](#) for refugees in Indonesia, contributing to deteriorating public support, which has also manifested as anti-refugee rhetoric on social media. Against this backdrop, civil society organisations and research institutions are [leading efforts to build multi-stakeholder solutions](#), including formulating policy recommendations to strengthen the management and protection of refugees within Indonesia's legal framework.
- **Malaysia:** Since May 2026, Malaysia has faced rising tensions related to social cohesion, exacerbated by the [circulation of misinformation, disinformation and 'hate speech'](#) online targeting the Rohingya community in particular. These challenges resulted in offline hostility and violence, including the [eviction of a refugee community](#) from a settlement in Kuala Muda, Penaga, Penang, despite attempts at mediation. Behind the scenes coordination between key government stakeholders, civil society and refugee communities supported a strengthened response and resolution to the eviction issue, demonstrating the importance of multistakeholder approaches in identifying and achieving solutions on social cohesion.

- **Thailand:** Recent border tensions between Thailand and Cambodia have fuelled anti-foreigner sentiments, both online and offline. Online discourse has included misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, alongside sensationalised content and organised campaigns targeting undocumented migrants, including calls for their deportation. These developments have contributed to a broader environment in which concerns about undocumented migration have gained greater prominence. Thailand also recently announced [a draft Regulation on Deportation](#), which would allow authorities to remove foreigners whose conduct is deemed incompatible with Thai morals and social norms, though the draft Regulation is currently in negotiation. However, Thailand has also continued to make important policy progress on social cohesion and inclusion. One recent milestone was the issuance of official non-Thai identity cards for “Myanmar Displaced Persons”. Thailand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also remained actively involved in fostering positive public perceptions and inclusion of migrants and refugees in Thai society, through [multi-stakeholder seminars](#) and [media training](#) sessions.
- **Australia:** Immigration policy and multiculturalism are at the [centre of ongoing policy debates](#) in Australia. Following the Bondi terrorist attack in December 2025, a Royal Commission was established to investigate anti-semitism and social cohesion, which remains ongoing. The [Mapping Social Cohesion 2025](#) survey reports that 83% of Australians believe multiculturalism is positive for the country, although also found evidence of discrimination towards some immigrant and faith groups. In 2024, Australia released a [Multicultural Framework Review](#) report containing 29 recommendations. These remain a key opportunity for building intercultural engagement and fostering belonging and inclusion.
- **New Zealand:** A [2026 Social Cohesion survey](#) in New Zealand identified that attitudes towards immigration and multiculturalism remain positive, though face some decline. The report identified financial stress as a primary factor influencing negative perceptions of migration. New Zealand has developed a social cohesion strategic framework, under which several community-based social cohesion initiatives receive funding. Against a backdrop of tightening immigration policies, New Zealand has recently announced that the [Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship scheme would be made permanent](#), signalling continued investment in fostering refugee integration and belonging in New Zealand.

Evidenced in the responses above, successful social cohesion requires a ‘whole-of-society’ approach, whereby policy and programmatic responses are informed by people’s cultures, practices and lived experiences, and implemented through partnerships. Roles include:

- **Governments** help to develop policies that increase inclusion and access to services, alongside policies which promote diversity and decrease discrimination and xenophobia. Governments can also play a key role in consulting and collaborating with refugee and migrant communities to ensure policies are informed and inclusive.
- **The media** has an important role in countering hate speech and disinformation, and in sharing stories of successful community and cross-cultural engagement.
- **Civil society** can support these steps through providing services which promote intercultural understanding and dialogue. Civil society can also provide expertise in policy development and connect on-the-ground realities with policy development.
- **Local residents and migrant/refugee community members** play a role in practising and modelling tolerance and understanding, and actively collaborating with each other to build a resilient and inclusive community.

Session 6: Future priorities for the ATD Platform

Thursday 20 February 1:30-3:30pm

This session asks Platform participants to contribute to the strategic direction, format, and sustainability of the Regional Peer Learning Platform. Co-organisers will begin by sharing successes the Platform has achieved since 2019, and then share ideas that have been identified for the future. Participants will then spend time discussing these opportunities in national groups and in plenary, and are asked to **indicate which of three scenarios they prefer, and how they can contribute.**

Three scenarios for the Platform's next phase:

- A. Narrow and deepen:** Maintain the same five participating countries and the focus on children, while deepening technical capacity and practical learning on ATD. This could include more detailed work on training and capacity building, policy development and implementation, case management, child protection, and strengthening systems and processes for implementing and evaluating ATD programmes. Regional engagement could be complemented by national-level discussions, peer exchanges, and/or bilateral study visits.
- B. Stronger regional focus:** Maintain the Platform's focus on ATD for children while strengthening engagement with regional institutions, including more active engagement with ASEAN and other formal mechanisms. This could include supporting the development and implementation of relevant regional commitments and guidelines, including the pending ASEAN ATD Guidelines (should they be approved) as well as creating opportunities for other countries in Southeast Asia to participate in regional exchanges and learning.
- C. Broaden:** Expand the Platform's thematic and/or geographic scope to include ATD for other vulnerable groups and/or additional countries. This broader approach could also explore the links between ATD and wider migration reforms, including migration governance, regular pathways, protection systems, case management, access to services, public perceptions and other measures that can reduce reliance on immigration detention.

Guiding discussion questions include:

- **What has been most useful about the Platform to date, and what should be retained or strengthened in its next phase?** Please be as specific as possible about the types of exchanges, technical discussions, capacity building, or practical collaboration that have been most valuable.
- **Which of the above scenarios would be most relevant to your government or organisation, and what would you need in order to secure internal support?** If the Platform expands beyond children, engages more actively with ASEAN, or focuses more on capacity building and implementation, how would this affect your participation?
- **What can your country of organisation contribute to the Platform's next phase?** Beyond sharing technical expertise, policy experience, and peer learning, what concrete support could you realistically provide? For example, hosting a regional meeting or bilateral visit, contributing staff time or funding, supporting the ASEAN Guidelines through formal channels, or advancing commitments at international forums such as the IMRF or next GRF?
- **If the Platform were to expand its membership, which countries would you recommend inviting and why?** What experience, expertise, or potential contribution would they bring to the Platform?
- **What would your preferred scenario require from participants in practice, and is this realistic?** Please consider commitments such as hosting, staff time, technical expertise, convening, travel, and funding, as well as what would be needed to make the Platform sustainable.

Additional background:

Update on ASEAN Guidelines on the Implementation of Alternatives to Detention for Children in the Context of Migration

ASEAN Member States adopted *the Declaration on the Protection of the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration in 2019*. The Declaration is noteworthy among ASEAN documents as it commits to ensuring the best interests of the child is the primary consideration in all relevant policies and practices, and explicitly includes all groups of children in the context of migration within its scope. It contains provisions for strengthening national systems to identify and respond to the needs of children in the context of migration, including child protection, education, health, justice, and alternatives to detention. An associated Regional Plan of Action was developed in 2021, and the related *Guidelines on the Implementation of Alternatives to Detention for Children in the Context of Migration* are currently pending endorsement from ASEAN Member States. These Guidelines have the potential to greatly enhance implementation of ATD across the region, beyond the three ASEAN countries that participate in the Peer Learning Platform.

The Global Compacts and their associated procedures and intergovernmental meetings also provide an opportunity to link national advocacy to international efforts and vice versa:

- The Global Compact for Migration provides a framework for strengthening regional collaboration on migration governance, while the International Migration Review Forum is an opportunity for states to share good practices and make commitments to strengthen national policies. Under the Global Compact for Migration, states can also volunteer to act as champion countries - demonstrating leadership, sharing good practices, and encouraging peer learning and cooperation on alternatives to detention.
- All participating countries in the Platform have endorsed the Global Compact on Refugees, and several that attended the 2023 Global Refugee Forum made pledges on alternatives to detention that have the potential to support national-level change. With the next Global Refugee Forum scheduled for 2027, there is a concrete opportunity to encourage more states in the region to develop and announce new or strengthened commitments on alternatives to detention.

Participant Profiles

Agung Pramono

Indonesia

Agung Pramono is an Indonesian immigration official with over two decades of frontline and leadership experience within the Directorate General of Immigration. Born in Jakarta, he began his career in 2002 as an immigration officer and has since led immigration offices in Surabaya, Tobelo, and Bandung, along with directorate-level divisions covering visa services, intelligence and enforcement, and refugee coordination.

Agung Pramono currently serves as Head of the Sub-Directorate for Detainee Management and Refugee Coordination at the Directorate General of Immigration, and has emerged as an expert in detention and refugee protection. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Public Administration at Universitas Brawijaya, alongside a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Law from Universitas Padjadjaran. His training spans investigative and leadership disciplines, including a People Smuggling Investigations Program with JCLEC and, most recently, a program at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) in Hawaii in 2026.



Ahmad Ammar Amsyar bin Suriadi

Malaysia

Ahmad Ammar Amsyar bin Suriadi is a civil servant currently serving as an Assistant Secretary at the Immigration Affairs Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs (KDN) since June 2025. He began his career in the Malaysian public service in December 2020 as an Administrative and Diplomatic Officer (PTD). From December 2020 to May 2025, he served at the Public Service Department (JPA), where he gained valuable experience in public sector administration and human resource management.

In recognition of his outstanding performance and contributions, he was awarded the Excellent Service Award in 2022. Committed to professional excellence, he is eager to engage in regional dialogues and support collaborative efforts on migration governance during the upcoming meeting.



Alina Sakulsiriwiriya

Thailand

Alina Sakulsiriwiriya is an Attaché at the Department of International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, a position she has held since 2026. She previously worked with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Thailand as a Legal Consultant under the Immigration and Border Management Unit in 2021 and as a Project Assistant under the Emergency and Post Crisis Unit in 2019. She also served as a Human Rights Coordinator at the Department of International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2017 to 2018.

Alina holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from Chulalongkorn University and qualified as a Barrister-at-Law with the Thai Bar under the Royal Patronage in 2020.



Amnart Saichalard

Thailand

Amnart Saichalard currently serves as Director of the Bureau of the Scout Movement, Red Cross, Youth and Student Affairs, Office of the Permanent Secretary, at the Senior Executive level in the Ministry of Education. He has extensive experience in government service, having held positions at Level 8, Specialist Level, and equivalent positions, with continuous work in the fields of human resource management and education.

Mr. Amnart holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from Srinakharinwirot University, a Master's Degree in Physical Education from Chulalongkorn University, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Development Administration from Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.



Pol. Maj. Anan Insai

Thailand

Pol. Maj. Anan Insai is an Inspector of Sub-Division 3, Investigation Division, Immigration Bureau of Thailand. He supervises an immigration detention unit at the Suan Plu Detention Center and Bangkhen Mother and Children Center.

Pol. Maj. Anan also plays a role in coordinating the implementation of alternatives to detention for children under the Memorandum of Understanding on the Determination of Measures and Approaches Alternatives to Detention of Children in Immigration Detention Centers (MOU-ATD). In this capacity, he works closely with relevant government agencies, United Nations agencies, and non-governmental organisations to support the protection and well-being of children and their families.



Caitlin McCaffrie

Australia

Caitlin McCaffrie is the Forced Migration Policy Director at the Centre for Policy Development (CPD) where she coordinates the Secretariat of the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration (ADFM), providing policy analysis, advice and research on topics including migration governance, human trafficking, forced migration and refugee resettlement.

Before joining CPD in 2018, Caitlin worked for the Cambodian Center for Human Rights and Stanford University's WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice, managing programs on research, education, outreach and trial monitoring of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. Caitlin holds a Masters of Public Policy and Management Degree from the University of Melbourne and a first class Honours degree in International Studies from the University of Adelaide.



Carolina Gottardo

International

Carolina Gottardo is a migration lawyer and economist who has worked on human rights issues for more than 20 years in different countries and contexts. Her areas of specialisation are migration, asylum and gender. Carolina started as Executive Director of the International Detention Coalition (IDC) in November 2020. Before joining IDC, she was the director of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia for almost four years, and the director of the Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), a UK women's rights organisation working with refugee and migrant women for almost six years.

Carolina is currently a member of the board of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) and the Global Coalition for Migration (GCM). She is also a member of the Global UN Women Expert Working Group to address the human rights of women in the Global Compact for Migration, and a co-lead of the UN Migration Network working group on regularisation pathways



Chanbodee Ditcharoen

Thailand

Chanbodee Ditcharoen is a Labour Specialist, Professional Level at the Department of Employment, Ministry of Labour, Thailand.

He holds a Master of Arts in Social Development Administration, majoring in Social Policy and Strategic Planning, from the Graduate School of Social and Environmental Development at the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA). He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, majoring in Politics and Government, from Thammasat University, and a Bachelor of Laws from the School of Law, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU).



Christy Kumesan

Indonesia

Christy Kumesan is a humanitarian and public policy professional with extensive experience across the non-profit and policy sectors. Her work focuses on humanitarian diplomacy, regional cooperation, multilateral policy, and project management, with a particular interest in advancing peace through multi-track diplomacy and strengthening regional collaboration to promote more inclusive and equitable societies.

Christy is currently a Senior Project Coordinator at the Centre for Policy Development (CPD), where she coordinates regional initiatives on forced migration and the just energy transition across the Indo-Pacific. Prior to joining CPD, she worked with GIZ, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), RedR Indonesia, Humanitarian Benchmark Consulting, and Kompas Gramedia Group. She holds a Master's Degree in Global Humanitarian Diplomacy and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Universitas Gadjah Mada.



Dome Siwawong Sooktawee

Thailand

Dome Siwawong Sooktawee is the Thailand Project Coordinator at the International Detention Coalition (IDC), as well as a dedicated social activist and migration consultant with extensive experience in the field. Dome's research contributions span a range of human rights issues, including child statelessness, victims of trafficking, migrant workers' health, and Rohingya refugees in the Andaman Sea. His advocacy has been a driving force behind alternatives to detention, national screening mechanisms for refugees, advocating for the protection of Rohingya refugees, and improving the quality of life for migrant workers, stateless persons and refugees in Thailand.

Dome holds a Master of Arts in Anthropology from Thammasat University, with a thesis focused on the Rohingya as a stateless population in Thailand. Through his research, advocacy and professional roles, Dome has contributed to protecting and empowering vulnerable populations in Thailand and beyond.



Eros Putra

Indonesia

Eros Shidqy Putra is a Senior Policy Analyst at Indonesia's Coordinating Ministry for Political and Security Affairs (Kemenko Polkam), and brings more than ten years of experience in national security policy, transnational crime, and inter-agency coordination. He leads policy coordination on terrorism, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, narcotics, money laundering, and refugee-related security issues, while working closely with key Indonesian security institutions and international partners, including UNHCR, IOM, UNODC and ASEAN.

Eros holds Master's Degrees in International Relations and Criminal Law and has completed an Australia Awards short course on cyber resilience at RMIT University. His professional interests include migration governance, refugee protection, and evidence-based policymaking. At the ATD Regional Platform, he looks forward to exchanging regional experiences and strengthening collaboration on child-sensitive alternatives to detention and migration governance across the Asia-Pacific region.



Elmira Tapaskhanova

Australia

Elmira Tapaskhanova is an Australian Public Service officer with more than 18 years of experience across operational, policy, and international roles within the Department of Home Affairs and the Australian Border Force.

She currently serves as First Secretary (Immigration Integrity) at the Australian Embassy in Thailand, where she supports regional immigration program delivery, integrity, and capacity-building initiatives across Thailand, the Lao PDR, and Myanmar. In previous roles, Elmira represented the Australian Government in India, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Nauru. She has extensive experience in the development and delivery of Australia's immigration programs, border security, and international engagement.



Fahrel Yusri Rahmat

Indonesia

Fahrel Yusri Rahmat is a Third Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, where he has served in the Directorate of Human Rights and Migration since 2022.

His portfolio covers migration, with a particular focus on irregular migration, alongside disaster management and humanitarian affairs.



Gading Gumilang Putra

Indonesia

Gading Gumilang Putra is the National Advocacy and Communication focal point at Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Indonesia. JRS Indonesia has assisted refugees and asylum seekers since 2009, initially by accompanying Rohingya asylum seekers in Aceh and North Sumatra, before developing assistance for refugees in Medan immigration detention centers (2012-2013 and 2018), Surabaya (2012-2015), Manado (2015-2018), urban refugees in Bogor and Jakarta (2010 to present) as well as supporting emergency response in Aceh. JRS Indonesia provides accompaniment, various basic needs services, as well as advocacy.

Gading graduated from the Faculty of Law, Universitas Gadjah Mada, specialising in International Law and passed the bar exam in 2017. Currently his work involves coordination and capacity-building among refugee communities, government, non-government organisations, and the private sector to achieve stronger collaboration in realising refugee rights in Indonesia and in the wider region.



Hannah Jambunathan

International

Hannah Jambunathan is the Asia Pacific Senior Programme Officer at the International Detention Coalition, where she works to drive policy change on immigration detention and ATD across national, regional and global levels. In Malaysia, she is currently working in close collaboration with civil society and government stakeholders to develop community-based ATD policy for children. She also coordinates a national civil society network to mobilise advocacy towards creating a more open social and political environment towards migrants and refugees.

Drawing on her academic research background, Hannah has authored several research reports and policy briefs on the issue of immigration detention and ATD, in particular on the impacts of immigration detention on refugee communities in Malaysia, the intersections of gender and immigration detention, and the critical need to reduce the use of immigration detention for children.



Karen Whiting

International

Karen Whiting currently serves as Head of the Protection Service in UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific based in Bangkok. In this role she supports UNHCR country operations in the region in the areas of protection and solutions.

Prior to her posting in Bangkok, Karen has worked with UNHCR's country operations in Sri Lanka, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan, the Republic of Türkiye, Iraq, Italy and Ukraine. She has also worked on judicial engagement in the Europe Bureau in Brussels and headed the Child Protection and Youth Unit in the Division of International Protection in UNHCR Headquarters in Geneva. Karen holds a law degree from McGill University in Canada, and speaks English and French.



Katarina Rambu Babang

Indonesia

Katarina Rambu Babang is the Head of the Sub-Directorate for Research Permits and Supervision of Foreigners at the Ministry of Home Affairs. She is also part of the Task Force for Handling of Foreign Refugees at the central level, which provides guidance to local governments as to where foreign refugees are being sheltered. She is currently part of the team that is active in drafting regulations related to refugees in Indonesia.

Katarina attended the Global Refugee Forum 2023 in Geneva. She graduated from the Bogor Agricultural Institute in the Masters' Program of Community Development.



Kornkamol Waiyaraphutra

Thailand

Kornkamol Waiyaraphutra is the Program Manager at HOST International Thailand Foundation, an organisation supporting and protecting vulnerable women and children from urban refugee communities in Bangkok. Her work focuses on strengthening protection programs, case management systems, and coordination between government agencies and civil society partners.

Kornkamol is interested in advancing practical, rights-based approaches that prevent the detention of children, preserve family unity, and ensure that refugee children and their families have access to appropriate care, protection, and essential services. Her work also focuses on promoting cooperation and sustainable solutions that uphold the rights and dignity of displaced children and families.



Mic Chawaratt

International

Mic Chawaratt Chawarangkul is the Asia Pacific Regional Manager at International Detention Coalition, and the co-founder of the Thailand Migration Reform Consortium (TMR) and the Coalition for the Rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons (CRSP). Over the past 20 years, Mic has held numerous positions across the humanitarian, human rights, and development sectors in Asia and Africa. His skills in creative change-making strategy and constructive engagement have been central to advocating for better policies and practices for migrants and refugees in the region.

In Thailand, Mic has played a significant role in shaping the country's policy to end the immigration detention of children and in advocating for the establishment of the National Screening Mechanism and for refugees' access to employment. He has served on two Parliamentary House Sub-Committees focused on refugees and irregular migration, where he has championed reforms in Thailand's migration governance. He also advises the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice and Human Rights, along with the Parliamentary Committee on National Security, Border Affairs, National Strategy, and National Reform, providing analysis and proposed amendments to the country's migration legislative framework.



Michiko Ito

International

Michiko Ito brings over 25 years of experience in migration, development, and humanitarian work, with a focus on the Myanmar–Thailand migration corridor. She has held a range of leadership and technical positions with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in both Thailand and Myanmar, including roles in operations management, labour migration, migration governance, refugee resettlement, humanitarian response, and policy development. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with governments, UN agencies, donors, and civil society partners to advance migration policies and programmes.



Napatphol Vanichseni

Thailand

Napatphol Vanichseni is an Foreign Relations Officer at the Foreign Affairs Division, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior of Thailand. His current work focuses on policy analysis and inter-agency coordination on Myanmar Displaced Persons (MDPs), irregular migration, and humanitarian protection, working closely with national security agencies, relevant ministries, UNHCR, and international partners to support policy development and implementation.

He brings more than eight years of experience in public-sector reform, strategic planning, provincial administration, and government monitoring and evaluation. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Birmingham, UK, and a Bachelor of Political Science in Politics and International Relations from Thammasat University.



Norzie Fariza Suid

Malaysia

Norzie Fariza Binti Suid (Norzie) is Principal Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development (MWFC) in the Policy and Strategic Planning Division. Her responsibilities include overseeing the formulation, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of legislative amendments, policies, strategies and action plans, as well as international reporting related to children.

Prior to joining the MWFC, Norzie worked at the Economic Planning Unit (later at the Ministry of Economy) for 19 years. Her experience there included evaluating share applications (mergers and acquisitions) and properties, 10 years in Bumiputera development (policies and projects) and 6 years in the field of social services conducting evaluations. Throughout that period, Norzie was also involved in the preparation of Malaysia's five-year development plan.

Norzie studied International Business Management at Universiti Utara Malaysia (Northern University of Malaysia) and holds a Masters of Science in Management (MSc. Mgmt).



Parinya (Ann) Boonridrerthaikul

Thailand

Parinya Boonridrerthaikul (Ann) is a Child Protection Officer with UNICEF Thailand. In this role, Ann is responsible for programme development, planning, management, monitoring, technical and operational support to the children affected by the migration programme, as well as networking and partnership building with UNICEF Thailand.

Ann has worked on civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights issues over the past twenty years, with experience in both program and management functions. Ann coordinated the Thai Civil Society Organisation Coalition for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review, during Thailand's second review in 2016. Since 2015, Ann has worked on advocacy campaigns for rights-based migration management for urban refugees and stateless persons, by helping to establish the Coalition for the rights of Refugees and Stateless Persons (CRSP). Ann has been involved in the ATD Platform since its first meeting in 2019.



Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit

Thailand

Asst. Prof. Dr. Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit is Dean of the School of Global Studies at Thammasat University and concurrently serves as Thailand's Representative on Children's Rights to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

Dr. Prapaporn conducts research in areas of social protection and has researched the connection between Thailand's welfare scheme and the informal sector, paying particular attention to OTOP producers and Thailand's social entrepreneurship. She has also conducted studies of Thailand's early childhood care and education, as well as a study for UNRISD on Thailand's universal health scheme.



Preeyaporn Yookong

Thailand

Preeyaporn Yookong is a Plan and Policy Analyst at the Office of the National Security Council (NSC) of Thailand. She is currently working in the division responsible for irregular migration issues. As part of a policy-making agency, she contributes to the development of policies that enable Myanmar Displaced Persons (MDPs) to work outside temporary shelters. These policies aim to promote sustainable self-reliance among MDPs while also helping to address Thailand's labor shortage.

She graduated with a Master of Public Administration from Chulalongkorn University, a Bachelor of Political Science from Ramkhamhaeng University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Southeast Asian Studies from Thammasat University.



Shahirah binti Nadzri

Malaysia

Shahirah binti Nadzri is an Administrative and Diplomatic Officer with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Malaysia. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (Marketing) from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). She commenced her career in the Malaysian public service in December 2022, with her first posting at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Since then, she has been serving with the Immigration Affairs Division, where she has gained experience in immigration policy, international cooperation and strategic coordination.

For three years, she served with the Visa and Pass Policy Unit, where she was involved in matters relating to visa and pass policies and related to immigration issues. She currently serves with the Coordination and Strategic Collaboration Unit, focusing on the coordination of strategic cooperation and international engagements, including matters relating to bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of immigration.



Sriprapha Petcharamesree

Thailand

Dr Sriprapha Petcharamesree is currently Senior Researcher in the Faculty of Law at Chulalongkorn University, and was previously Senior Lecturer in the International PhD Program at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand. She has been part of the Secretariat of the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration (ADFM) since its inception in 2015.

Dr Petcharamesree was appointed by the Thai Government as the Thai representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) where she served between October 2009 to December 2012. Her research and expertise focuses on human rights, ASEAN and Southeast Asian studies, migration, including statelessness and citizenship, business and human rights, and international relations. She has spoken and written extensively about all of these issues. Dr Petcharamesree has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Thammasat University, Thailand and received her PhD from the University of Paris-X Nanterre in France.



Su-Anne Lee

Malaysia

Su-Anne is a Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF Malaysia where she has led the migration portfolio for the past six years. At UNICEF Malaysia, she drives efforts to strengthen the inclusion of children affected by migration in the national child protection system and promote alternatives to immigration detention for children. She has 16 years of experience across humanitarian, human rights and development sectors, covering migration and displacement, child protection, and governance and institutional reform.

Prior to UNICEF, she worked at various UN agencies and international organizations in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Japan. She holds an LLB (Hons) from the University of Sheffield and an LLM in international law and human rights from Columbia Law School.



Taksaporn Noikaew

Thailand

Taksaporn Noikaew is a Senior Professional-Level Plan and Policy Analyst at the Office of the National Security Council (NSC) of Thailand. She currently leads policy development and strategic coordination on irregular migration and immigration management, with responsibilities covering nationality and legal status management, displaced populations, and migration governance.

In this role, she has contributed to advancing key Cabinet resolutions and national policy initiatives aimed at accelerating the resolution of nationality and legal status issues for long-term residents and vulnerable populations in Thailand. She is also actively involved in developing policy frameworks for the management of displaced persons and promoting self-reliance approaches, including initiatives that enhance livelihood opportunities and access to legal employment for Myanmar displaced persons residing in Thailand.



Temme Lee

Malaysia

Temme Lee is the ATD Coordinator at SUKA Society where she advocates for the development and implementation of alternatives to detention (ATD) for children affected by immigration detention in Malaysia. Temme has been involved in the Regional Peer Learning Platform on ATD for many years.

Temme has more than 15 years' experience working in the fields of human rights and humanitarian affairs, with a primary focus on refugee protection and child protection case management. She has previously worked at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Malaysia and the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). Temme holds a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in International Studies and Writing, from Monash University Malaysia.



Tri Nuke Pudjiastuti

Indonesia

Dr Tri Nuke Pudjiastuti is Research Professor, Research Centre for Politics, at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) in Jakarta. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Geography and Environmental Studies from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Adelaide, with a focus on international migration. She completed her PhD in the Department of Criminology, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia, with a dissertation focusing on people smuggling from Indonesia to Australia. For more than five years, she was a part of the ASEAN Research Team.

Dr Pudjiastuti's experience in trafficking and smuggling issues has also given her an insight into irregular migration. Although her research focuses upon Indonesia, it also notes regional mobility, particularly at the level of ASEAN. She has also produced position and policy papers for the Indonesian government. She has been part of the Secretariat of the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration since its creation in 2015.



Valentine Sonsithong

Thailand

Valentine Sonsithong is a Senior Professional Social Worker at the Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. She currently serves as Director of the Child Rights Protection Sub-Division under the Child and Youth Protection Division.

She has extensive experience in child rights protection, child and family welfare, social development, and adoption-related work. Prior to her current role, she served as Head of the Trat Children and Family Shelter, Professional Social Development Worker at the Child Adoption Center, and Practitioner Social Worker at the Chainat Provincial Office of Social Development and Human Security.

She holds a Master of Science in Sociology and Social Policy from the University of Southampton, United Kingdom, a Master of Arts in Labour Development and Welfare from Thammasat University, and a Bachelor of Social Work from Thammasat University.



Pol. Col. Watcharaphol Kanchanakunthon

Thailand

Pol. Col. Watcharaphol Kanchanakunthon currently serves as Superintendent of Sub-division 3, Investigation Division, Immigration Bureau, Royal Thai Police, a position he has held since 2023. He has extensive experience in immigration enforcement and border management, including overseeing the detention, bail release, and deportation of foreign nationals.

In his current role, he works with UN agencies, embassies, NGOs, and partners on the protection and management of persons in immigration detention, including facilitating access to healthcare and education services. He is also involved in the implementation of alternatives to detention (ATD) initiatives in Thailand and regularly provides training on immigration detention and related procedures.

He holds a Bachelor of Public Administration from the Royal Police Cadet Academy and a master's degree from the National Institute of Development Administration.



Yanti Kusumawardhani

Indonesia

Yanti Kusumawardhani was appointed by the Government of Indonesia as Indonesia's Representative on Children Rights to the ASEAN Commission on The Promotion and Protection of The Right of The Women and The Children (ACWC) in 2021. Ibu Yanti has been dedicated to working on child rights, child protection, disability inclusion and social work practice for more than 15 years.

In addition to her role with ACWC, Ibu Yanti works as a consultant on child protection and child rights in Indonesia and the wider Asia Pacific region. In 2005, Ibu Yanti received her Master of Social Work (MSW) Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America. As well as her Master's Degree, she also obtained a Certification of Social Work in Child Welfare and later a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2023 for her social work leadership. Ibu Yanti holds her international accreditation on child protection from Northern Council for Further Education (NCFE) United Kingdom.



Zconglod Khawjang

Thailand

Zconglod Khawjang is a Foreign Relations Officer at the Operation Centre for Displaced Persons, Ministry of Interior in Bangkok, Thailand. He has six years of experience in this space, focusing on forced displacement, statelessness, and labour migration issues since early 2018.

He holds a Master's Degree in Migration Studies from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom.



Logistical Notes

Welcome to Bangkok, Thailand! Some information about logistics and travel are outlined below. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us at asiapacific@idcoalition.org

Venue

The Regional Peer-Learning platform will be convened in Bangkok and Kanchanaburi on 18-20 August 2026. The venues for the meeting are:

- **The Sukosol Hotel:** 477 Thanon Si Ayutthaya Road, Phayathai, Ratchathewi, Bangkok
- **The Felix River Kwai Resort:** 9/1 Moo 3, Thamakhom, Amphur Muang, Kanchanaburi.

Accommodation

Accommodation for participants during the event will be arranged at the same hotel as to the roundtable venue: The Sukosol Hotel, Bangkok and Felix River Kwai Resort, Kanchanaburi.

Organisers will arrange accommodation (including breakfast) for those who are covered by the organisers. For those who are self-funding, please let us know if you would also like to stay at The Sukosol Hotel, Bangkok and Felix River Kwai Resort, Kanchanaburi as we can include you to get our group discount rate.

Participants will be responsible for any additional expenses (i.e. minibar, phone charges, etc.)

Check-in time is 2pm, however you are welcome to drop your baggage off at any time. The check-out time is 12pm.

Airport Transfers

The Sukosol Hotel in Bangkok is approximately a 50 minute car journey from both **Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK)** or **Don Mueang Airport (DMK)**, depending on traffic.

Airport taxis are one of the fastest and most convenient ways to get from the airport to the hotel or venue. Public taxis are available at both Suvarnabhumi Airport and Don Mueang Airport. Passengers are required to pay the total in cash, including the metered fare, an airport surcharge of THB 50, and any applicable expressway tolls. At Suvarnabhumi Airport, the public taxi service is located on Floor 1 of the Passenger Terminal, between Gates 4 and 7. At Don Mueang Airport, passengers should follow the signs to the official taxi queue.

Ride-hailing apps such as Grab and Bolt are also available in Bangkok. You will need to download the app from the App Store or Google Play Store and register an account in advance to book a ride. After exiting the terminal, send the request through the app and follow the signs or app instructions to the designated pick-up area.

To avoid traffic, another option is to use Bangkok's airport rail services.

For passengers arriving at **Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK)**, the Airport Rail Link offers a fast and convenient connection to the city. The train connects Suvarnabhumi Airport with Makkasan and Phaya Thai stations in approximately 30 minutes. Fares range from THB 15 to THB 45, depending on distance. From Phaya Thai Station, passengers can connect to the BTS Skytrain, while Makkasan Station provides access to the MRT.

For passengers arriving at **Don Mueang Airport (DMK)**, the SRT Dark Red Line connects Don Mueang Station with Krung Thep Aphiwat Central Terminal, where passengers can transfer to the MRT Blue Line and other transport networks. Airport buses and taxis are also available from Don Mueang Airport to nearby BTS and MRT stations.

It is recommended to arrive at least 2–3 hours before an international flight and at least 1.5–2 hours before a domestic flight. As traffic in Bangkok can be heavy, participants are advised to allow sufficient travel time from the hotel to the airport, especially during morning and evening rush hours.

Please note that participants are requested to organise their own transport to and from the airport and hotel.

Local Transport

Local Transport:

Navigate Bangkok by combining the elevated BTS Skytrain, including the Sukhumvit and Silom lines, with the underground MRT, including the Blue and Purple lines, to avoid heavy traffic.

For air-conditioned car travel, use ride-hailing apps such as Grab, LINEMAN or Bolt. Motorcycle taxis, also available through Grab or Bolt, can be a useful option for weaving through local traffic.

Rail Networks

- **BTS Skytrain:** The fastest way to travel through central areas such as Siam, Sukhumvit, and Silom. Fares range from THB 16 to THB 62, depending on distance.
- **MRT (Metro):** Complements the BTS network, with the Blue Line running underground and elevated lines such as the Purple, Yellow, and Pink Lines. Fares start from THB 17.
- **Airport Rail Link:** Connects Suvarnabhumi Airport to central stations such as Phaya Thai and Makkasan in approximately 30 minutes, with fares ranging from THB 15 to THB 45.

Meals

For guests staying at the hotel, breakfast is included in your accommodation bookings. Details will be shared upon check in. During the site visit and meeting on 19-20 August 2026, lunch, coffee and refreshments will be provided. A welcome dinner will also be arranged for meeting participants on 18 August 2026, with further details in the invitation above.

Visas

A visa is **not required** for a stay of less than one (1) month **for ASEAN countries members**. All other foreign travellers are allowed to enter the territory of Thailand with one of these criteria:

- Obtain a visa (Visa on Arrival or Electronic Visa on Arrival)
- Hold a written permit from a related Ministry or Institution.

All foreign travellers must complete the [Thailand Digital Arrival Card \(TDAC\)](#) online within three days before arrival. Submission is free of charge and must be done via the official Thai Immigration website.

If you need assistance with your visa application, please contact Chanya Kahintapong at ckahintapong@idcoalition.org or by Whatsapp +66909892457.

General Information about Bangkok, Ratchaburi and Kanchanaburi

Weather:

Thailand's weather in August is generally warm and humid, with a chance of rain as it falls during the rainy season. In Bangkok, average daytime temperatures are usually around 28°C–34°C, while evening temperatures remain warm at around 24°C–27°C. Participants are advised to wear light, breathable clothing and comfortable shoes, and to bring an **umbrella or raincoat** in case of rain.

Currency:

The official currency of Thailand is the Thai Baht (THB). Currency exchange services are available at the airport, major banks, and authorised exchange counters in Bangkok. Credit cards are accepted in many hotels, restaurants, and shopping areas, but cash is recommended for local markets, taxis, and smaller shops.

Time zone:

Thailand operates on Indochina Time (ICT), which is UTC+7.

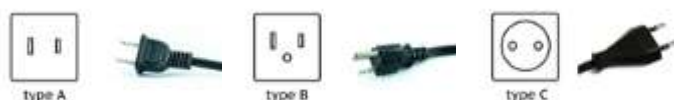
Obtaining a SIM card (if desired):

For staying connected during your stay in Thailand, you may want to purchase a local SIM card or e-SIM

- **Where to buy:** SIM cards are available at the airport, convenience stores, and major retail outlets. e-SIM cards are also a cost effective and convenient option depending on what model of phone you have.
- **Providers:** Major mobile providers in Thailand include AIS, TrueMove H, and Dtac.
- **Cost:** Prepaid tourist SIM packages with data are generally available, with prices varying depending on the data package and number of days.
- **Requirements:** You will need to show identification, usually your passport, when purchasing and registering a SIM card.

Electricity supply:

Thailand operates on a 220V supply voltage and 50Hz. Common plug types include Type A, Type B, Type C, and Type O. Participants are advised to bring their own electrical adaptors if required.



About the Organisers

International Detention Coalition (IDC), established in 2008, is a global network of civil society organisations based in more than 75 countries advocating for the rights of people impacted by or at risk of immigration detention. IDC works to reduce and ultimately end immigration detention by promoting rights-based migration governance and the implementation of alternatives to detention (ATD). IDC also works on promoting gender equality in migration and enhancing pathways and other rights based solutions. IDC uses ATD as a systems-change strategy to advance more effective, humane, and rights-based migration governance. Through strategic and constructive engagement with governments, UN agencies, civil society, and other relevant actors, IDC advances legal, policy, and practice reforms at national, regional, and global levels. IDC is uniquely positioned to bridge national implementation, regional frameworks and global standards through its long-standing partnerships worldwide.



The Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration (ADFM) is a 1.5 process established in August 2015 to pursue more effective, durable and dignified approaches to forced migration in the Asia-Pacific. It has become a leading expert group on issues of forced migration in the region, trusted by the Bali Process and ASEAN for independent and credible advice. The ADFM Secretariat comprises policy institutes in four countries: the Centre for Policy Development in Australia, the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) in Indonesia, the Faculty of Law at Chulalongkorn University, and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia.

