

**Agreement between the Government of
the State of Israel and
the Government of the Kingdom of
Thailand regarding the Recruitment for
Employment of Thai Workers for
Temporary Work in the Agricultural
Sector in the State of Israel**

Preamble

Whereas the Government of the State of Israel ("**Government of Israel**") and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand ("**Government of Thailand**") (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "**Parties**", and individually as the "**Party**") are desirous of increasing and strengthening the friendship and cooperation between both countries;

Whereas the Parties have signed the Agreement between the Royal Thai Government and the Government of the State of Israel regarding the Recruitment of Thai Workers for Temporary Work in the Agricultural Sector in the State of Israel, on 20 December 2010, in Bangkok (hereinafter referred to as the "**2010 Agreement**");

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

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

Whereas the Parties share the mutual desire to eliminate the charging and payment of illegal recruitment fees throughout the process of recruitment and employment and declare their willingness to cooperate in order to achieve this goal;

Whereas the Parties have agreed to enter into an Implementation Arrangement to this Agreement (hereinafter the "**Implementation Arrangement**"), to be concluded between the Department of Employment of the Ministry of Labour of the Kingdom of Thailand (hereinafter referred to as "DOE") and the Population and Immigration Authority in the Ministry of Interior of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "PIBA"), with the objective of ensuring legal, fair and well informed recruitment for employment of Thai workers to Israel in the Agricultural sector;

Now, therefore, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

Chapter A
Article 1 - Purpose

The purposes of this Agreement are as follows:

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

Chapter B

Article 2 – General Provisions Regarding Recruitment of Thai Workers in the Agricultural Field

- a. The Parties agree that the recruitment of Thai agricultural workers in Israel shall be implemented jointly by the Government of Thailand and the Government of Israel as set out in the Implementation Arrangement, subject to changes agreed upon between the Parties.
- b. Subject to Israeli laws and regulations, the Government of Israel is committed to cooperate with the Government of Thailand and to give advice, assistance and facilitation, as appropriate, on matters relating to the recruitment process for employment of Thai agricultural workers in Israel.
- c. The Government of Israel will allow entry of foreign workers for manual labour in the agricultural sector exclusively from countries which have implemented a supervised recruitment system for employment of foreign agricultural workers through a Government to Government bilateral agreement according to relevant Israeli Government Decisions.
- d. Paragraph (c) of this Article does not apply to recruitment and hiring of foreign workers in special circumstances, in accordance with Israeli laws or government decisions, such as recruitment and hiring of highly skilled personnel, specialists, teachers, inter-corporate transfers, project linked hiring, working-tourist agreements or exceptional individual cases in which

recruitment of a particular worker or a worker with particular skills becomes necessary (such as special language skills relevant to a particular employer) or cases of foreign trainees, volunteers or foreigners on work/study programs.

Article 3 - Intergovernmental Cooperation

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

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

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

- (a) Cooperate with the Government of Israel to carry out wide information campaigns and outreach opportunities as necessary to inform potential Thai workers of the possibility of applying for work in the agricultural sector in Israel without aid of brokers or middlemen as set out in the Implementation Arrangement, and of the phone number of a call centre of the Government of Thailand in Thailand for inquiries or complaints;
- (b) Cooperate with the Government of Israel in the recruitment for employment of Thai workers in Israel as per the Implementation Arrangement;

- (c) Provide information to the Government of Israel on matters relating to Thailand, including, but not limited to, Thai laws, regulations and practices on matters relating to this Agreement;
- (d) Coordinate with relevant government ministries and bodies in Thailand on matters relating to this Agreement as the Government of Thailand deems necessary and/or as requested by the Government of Israel;
- (e) Cooperate with the Government of Israel on matters relating to this Agreement and the Implementation Arrangement as the Government of Israel may request from time to time.

3.3 The Parties shall cooperate to support and assess all activities related to the sending of Thai workers to Israel and to provide post arrival assistance for Thai workers as per the Implementation Arrangement.

Article 4- Legal Cooperation

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

Article 5 - Joint Working Group and Exchange of Information

- a. A working group made up of representatives from each Party (the "**Working Committee**") shall be set up. The Working Committee shall meet from time to time to discuss issues relating to this Agreement, in Israel or in Thailand or through any electronic means available. The Working Committee shall convene a meeting at the request of either Party. The Party wishing to convene a meeting shall submit a request for a meeting with a written list of issues to be discussed as an attachment to the other Party. The Working Committee shall convene a meeting within one month from the date on which the request for the meeting sent by the requesting Party is received by the other Party.
- b. Each Party undertakes to provide the other Party with relevant information and updates, including information concerning the existing legislation and procedures regulating labour relations and criminal offences as well as entry, stay, paid employment, obligations of employers and departure of migrant workers which may affect the procedures set out in this Agreement or the Implementation Arrangement.

Article 6- Return of Workers

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

Article 7- Competent Authorities

- a. The Government of Thailand hereby designates DOE and the Government of Israel hereby designates PIBA as their authorized representative under this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Competent Authorities").
- b. The Competent Authorities may be assisted in the implementation of this Agreement and its Implementation Arrangement, by a non-profit organization agreed upon between the Competent Authorities.

Chapter C

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

- a. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the latter of the Diplomatic Notes by which the Parties notify each other of the completion of their internal legal procedures required for the entry into force of the Agreement.
- b. Upon the entry into force of this Agreement, it shall replace the 2010 Agreement.
- c. This Agreement may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties through diplomatic channels. Such amendment shall enter into force on the date of the latter of the Diplomatic Notes by which the Parties notify each other of the completion of their internal legal procedures required for the entry into force of such amendment.
- d. This Agreement shall remain in force for a term of two years, and will be renewed automatically unless either Party notifies the other Party in writing of its intention to terminate this Agreement. Each Party may terminate this Agreement at any time by submitting to the other Party a Diplomatic Note of termination at least 90 days prior to the requested termination date specified in the Diplomatic Note of termination.

- e. Any person who at the date of such termination already holds a visa issued under the framework of this Agreement will not be affected by its termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Jerusalem, on the 13th day of July, 2020 A.D., which corresponds to the 21 day of Tammuz of the Hebrew calendar, in two original copies, in the English language.

For the Government of the State of
Israel

For the Government
of the Kingdom of Thailand



(H.E. Gabi Ashkenazi)

Minister of Foreign Affairs



(H.E. Pannabha Chandraramya)

Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary of
the Kingdom of Thailand to the State
of Israel