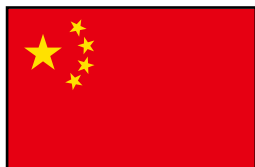


CHINA



AMY Map by Boyet Rivera III

A. Total Stock (Number) of Migrants, as of 2005

MIGRANTS ABROAD	
ESTIMATED STOCK: MIGRANTS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY	
TOTAL	-
a. By visa status	Documented migrant workers*
	Emigrants/residents
	Undocumented migrants**
	Refugees***
	124,101
b. By sex	Male
	Female
c. Top destination countries	1. Russa - est. 5 million
	2. Japan - 487,570
	3. South Korea
	4. North Korea
	5. Lao PDR
	6. Singapore
	7. Cambodia
	8.
	9.
	10.

MIGRANTS IN CHINA	
ESTIMATED STOCK: MIGRANTS IN THE COUNTRY	
TOTAL	-
a. By visa status	Documented migrant workers*
	Emigrants/residents
	Undocumented migrants**
	Refugees***
	301,125
b. By sex	Male
	Female
c. Top countries of origin	1. Burma
	2. Vietnam
	3. North Korea
	4. Russia
	5. Lao PDR
	6.
	7.
	8.
	9.
	10.

* Non-resident, temporary, or contract workers.

** Includes illegal entrants, overstayed or "jumped" visas, trafficked/smuggled people

*** As defined by the government, or in accordance with the UN refugee convention.

B. Annual Socio-Economic Data and Migration Flow

Annual indicators	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Population (billions)	1.306	1.296	1.288	1.28	1.27	1.27
% population living in rural areas					63.3	
Economic growth: real GDP (%)	9.2	9.5	9.3	8.0	7.3	8.0
Per capita GDP (US\$)			1,100		911	
Per capita GDP: purchasing power parity (US\$)	6,200	5,600	5,000	4,600	4,020	
Inflation rate: CPI (%; annual ave.)	1.9	3.9	1.2	(0.8)	0.7	0.4
Exchange rate (RMB per US\$; annual ave.); govt fixed	8.19	8.276	8.277	8.28	8.28	8.28
International reserves (US\$ billion; yearend)				286.40	218.70	168.86
Foreign direct investments: actual (US\$ billion; yearend)		60.60		39.60	46.90	40.80
Trade balance (US\$ billion; yearend)			(0.563)	10.400		24.100
Foreign (total external) debt (US\$ billion; yearend)	242.000			149.400	170.000	149.800
Foreign (total external) debt as % of GNP						14.1
Budget balance (US\$; yearend)						
Budget deficit as % of GDP						
Labor force (million)	791.4		760.8			711.5
Women as % of labor force			45.0			
Number unemployed (million)						6.57
Unemployment rate (% of labor force) - urban	4.2	9.8	4.2	4.0	3.6	3.1
Underemployment rate (% labor force) - urban						6.6
Women unemployment rate (% of labor force)						
Average income (RMB/month) - per capita disposable; urban				657		523
Average income (RMB/month) - junior office workers, Shenzhen				1-1.5K		
Average income: women (US\$/month)						
Adult literacy rate (% of age 15 & above who can read/write)		91.0	78.8		85.8	
Net migration rate (net # of migrants per 1,000 popn)	(-0.4)	(0.40)	(0.23)	(0.38)		(0.40)
Annual outflow/deployment of MWs (thousand)						400
% women in the annual outflow						
Annual inflow of MWs						
% women in the annual inflow						
Annual migrants' remittance (US\$ billion/yr)						
Reported # of migrant deaths during the year						
Estimated # deported during the year						
Jailed/detained during the year						
HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate (adult PLHA as % of adult popn)		0.1		0.11	< 0.20	
# People living with HIV/AIDS (thousand)			840.0	1.0	1.25	
# AIDS deaths during the year (adults+children)						
Cumulative #: HIV/AIDS cases among migrants (living+died)			44,000			

Sources: CIA World Factbook, UN/ILO/UNDP statistical yearbooks/websites.

AMC Information Bank



Photo courtesy of MMIN

Vietnamese vendors in China. Many Vietnamese cross the border into China daily, selling tropical fruits and other products from Vietnam, and bringing Chinese products such as vegetables back to Vietnam.

CHINA

This report was compiled with the assistance of information provided by the Mekong Migration Network.

Political and Economic Update

China has seen continued economic growth, while struggling with the social impacts of its rapid transformation. Although China has made great strides in economic development, it must be recognized that it is still a developing country – a developing country with the largest population in the world. On 6 January 2005, China's total population reached 1.3 billion. With over 150 million Chinese living below the poverty line, urban unemployment, corruption, bureaucracy, environmental problems, approximately 130 - 150 million internal migrant workers, uneven development amongst regions, and growing

income disparity, the government has its work cut out for it.

China's per capita GDP is only USD1,275 and the country ranks 83rd in the world in terms of HDI. Blue-collar workers, especially those in the private sector, tend to be paid very low wages. This is unlikely to change in the near future due to the excess labor supply, the power imbalance between capital and labor, and because workers lack the means and ability to organize and resist capital. In the Pearl River Delta, for example, the wages of workers has increased only nominally for the past 20 years, which means that the actual income has decreased after accounting for inflation and other cost of living adjustments. Similar situations are common across the country. Research shows that workers' wages make up only 15%-25% of China's GDP, far lower than that of developing countries and the global average. This situation has caused an increase in income disparity and an inequitable distribution of social resources,

and has prevented the average citizen from benefiting from economic development.

Unrest has grown over land grabs and labor protests, many of which turn bloody. According to Human Rights Watch, official figures recorded 74,000 protests in China in 2004, involving 3.5 million people.¹ This figure is an increase from the 58,000 protests reported in 2003.

To narrow the gap, the government has kept increasing central fiscal expenditure on agriculture, rural areas and farmers over the last few years. In 2005, the fund from the central budget and T-bond proceeds to support agriculture, rural areas and farmers reached RMB297.5 billion (USD36.7 billion), which was RMB34.9 billion more than in 2004 and over RMB100 billion more than in 2002. The fund will be mainly used for strengthening basic development of farmland, and accelerating construction of infrastructure projects such as roads, drinking water supplies, methane facilities, power grids and communications. This year, China will completely rescind the agricultural tax throughout the country, a tax that has been collected for 2,600 years. The reform of rural taxes and fees greatly benefits farmers by eliminating RMB33.6 billion of agricultural tax and over RMB70 billion of various fees and charges.

In the end of 2004, the numbers of people employed in the primary, secondary and tertiary industries were 352.69 million, 169.2 million and 230.11 million respectively. The three industries make up 15.2%, 52.9% and 31.9% of the GDP respectively. The employment structure is severely disproportional to the GDP distribution. The primary industry only comprises 15.2% of the GDP, but employs 46.9% of the workforce. China is on a difficult and long-term mission to increase the pace of urbanization, shifting the labor force from the primary industry to the secondary and tertiary industries, and from villages to towns and cities.

In 2004, China's economy developed steadily and rapidly. China's gross domestic product (GDP) reached RMB13,650 billion, an increase of 9.5% over the previous year. China also continued to receive huge amounts of foreign direct investment: USD61 billion in 2004. At the end of 2005, China's national foreign reserve reached USD818.9 billion, placing it second in the world. China's exports and imports both rose substantially; exports rose 28.4%, while imports grew by 17.6% in 2005.² This produced a USD102 billion trade surplus, an issue of great concern to developed countries, particularly the US. In its foreign relations, China was subjected to an enormous amount of pressure to unpeg its currency, which was thought to be undervalued. On 21 July 2005, China revalued its currency by 2.1% against the dollar, moving to a managed float exchange rate system that references a basket of currencies.³

In a bid to strengthen ties with N. Korea and enhance what it calls 'neighbourly relations', an accord was signed between the two nations to protect their common border zones. 93 North Koreans broke into three different diplomatic compounds in a bid to get asylum between 1 September – 15 October 2004. China responded by saying the nation does not condone such practices and that foreign embassies should refrain from encouraging would-be defectors by providing them with shelter. John Miller, director of the US State Department's Office to Monitor & Combat Trafficking of Persons, claimed that of the thousands of North Koreans who flee to China annually, between 30-50% of these fall victim to exploitation; he said most end up in brothels working as prostitutes, some are forced into marriage, and some end up as laborers.⁴

Migration Update

Internal Migrants

The issues arising from the sheer mass of internal

China Significant Events July 2004 - December 2005

2004

July

(1) China and Vietnam begin a campaign to combat human trafficking across their common border.

(26) The Ministry of Labor and Social Security will begin offering injury insurance to internal migrants working in industries where work-related injuries are widespread, such as a construction and mining.

August

(27) China's Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan calls on private and public employers to compensate internal migrant workers for the estimated USD43 billion dollars they are owed. Zeng cautions companies against negligence in wage payment, and announces stronger enforcement to prevent further delay of payments.

October

(14) China agrees with Russia to delimit their 2,672 mile long border.

November

(29) China and ASEAN sign a free trade agreement,

potentially uniting a quarter of the world's population in a free trade area.

2005

January

(1) The WTO's Multi Fibre Arrangement ends, eliminating quotas on the amount of textiles developing countries can export. Because of its enormous production capacity China is expected to benefit most from the end of quotas.

April

(15) Ten to sixteen thousand workers strike at a Japanese-owned telephone factory in Guangdong province, demanding union representation and improvement in factory facilities and working conditions.

May

(11) In the Russian city Irkutsk, 200 Chinese nationals are involved in a confrontation with Russian police during an ID check. 20 of the construction workers were reported injured.

migrant workers in China are hard to encapsulate; according to UN estimates in 2005, there are 175 million migrants scattered throughout the world – compare that with estimates of the number of internal migrants in China alone, which range from 120 million to 150 million workers. Forced from the countryside where they can no longer earn enough to survive, rural migrant workers remain in an unstable floating state on a long term basis. Government control over the people's right to mobility takes the form of the *hu kou* system, whereby only registered citizens of each particular area has the right to public services such as health care or education. Without the rights of a local citizen, migrant workers cannot enjoy the same labor or social protections.

This vulnerability makes them the underpaid, overworked labor force that underpins China's position as a virtually unlimited source of cheap, compliant labor for the world's sweatshops. Benefits from this work force often flow directly to foreign-owned enterprises or joint ventures with China's growing number of entrepreneurs, with little cost to the state.

A large majority of floating laborers enter urban areas (about 100 million), comprising about 40% of the urban labor force. Rural migrant workers currently make up about 60% of the processing industry, 80% of the construction industry and 50% of the service industry. Reports abound of underpayment or non-payment of wages, grueling overtime and

(25) The UN estimates that there are 840,000 people living with HIV in China.

June

(3) Four thousand textile workers strike in Guangdong in response to extortion by local officials. Demanding higher wages, the strikers are subdued by riot police using tear gas, and 24 workers are arrested.

August

(2) The Ministry of Education plans to launch a nationwide vocational program to train internal migrant workers in the manufacturing and service industries. The government expects the program will involve 20 million workers a year.

(15) The Chinese Public Security Bureau instates new laws to allow foreigners longer resident permits. Aimed at foreign investors and business people, the new laws would allow foreigners to have legal status for up to ten years without renewing their visa.

October

(24) Addressing the Asia-Pacific Consultation on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants, a

Chinese foreign affairs minister addresses China's safe harbor of 300,000 Indo-Chinese refugees. China also sees an influx of North Korean refugees seeking asylum.

China's Deputy Minister of the Public Security drums up publicity for alleged government preparations to end the resident permit system, which had prevented internal migrants from accessing public services in cities. If plans materialize, the new system would take effect in eleven provinces.

November

(13) A chemical plant explodes in Jilin Province, contaminating the Songhua River and depriving water to the city of Harbin. Government officials resign following revelations of attempts to conceal the scale of the catastrophe.

Sources:

BBC News, China Daily, Scalabrini Asian Migration News, UN, the Washington Post, Xinhua

inhumane living and working conditions endured by these workers. More than RMB360 billion (USD43 billion) is owed migrant workers; some, it is claimed, have not been paid up to over 10 years. A report by NERI (National Economic Research Institute) claims that accrued unpaid wages amounted to between RMB20 billion (USD2.5 billion) to RMB100 billion (USD12.5 billion) in 2004 alone. The Ministry of Labour & Social Security's findings correlate with the above, showing that RMB3 billion (USD37.5 million) was in remiss in that same period in Beijing alone.

In light of the blatancy and enormity of the violations of workers' rights, it appears they have little protection – this despite action taken

by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) to open membership to migrant workers in September 2003. By 2005, the trade union purportedly had over 30 million migrant workers in its membership. Although ACFTU claims that the issues of migrant workers are high on its agenda,⁵ critics have long recognized the ACFTU as little more than a paper union that does not truly represent the rights of workers.

Market forces, however, may play a role. Throughout 2004, media reports indicated growing labor shortages in labor-intensive manufacturing regions, with the Pearl River delta, Fujian and Zhejiang provinces experiencing approximately 10% labor shortage.⁶ Poor conditions, low wages and long working hours were cited as reasons

for the shortage.⁷ In addition, rising returns from farming provided temporary alternatives to migration.⁸ In response, there were some reports of small wage hikes in areas such as Guangzhou.⁹ It is unclear how long this trend will last, however, with an enormous surplus of unemployed rural labor remaining untapped. Of China's 500 million farming population in productive ages, only 150 million are required for the agricultural work – this leaves a surplus of 350 million farmers.¹⁰ Even with an estimated 150 million internal migrant workers who have already left the countryside to seek work where they can, there remains an enormous number of unemployed rural workers to take their place.

Despite attempts to stifle their voice, the growing number of strikes by migrant workers across the country has called the government's attention to their situation. It was reported that in 2005 there were over 1,000 strikes in Guangdong province alone, on top of tens of thousands of other protests across China.¹¹ One strike in Shenzhen gained international attention, when over 16,000 workers at a Japanese-owned factory held a week-long protest. Often these protests are brutally subdued.

High level government officials have made statements that the issues of migrant workers must be addressed. Premier Wen Jiabao has stated that migrant workers should receive unpaid wages, and that the issues of migrant children should be addressed. Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan threatened that employers who refused to pay backwages to migrant workers would face criminal charges. There has even been talk of revising or abolishing the *hukou* system, according to media reports in November 2005, although this was softened by saying the authorities must first eliminate the economic differences between provinces – a formidable task.

Various ministries have issued numerous statements and urgings; the Ministry of Labor and Social Security announced that employers in the construction, mining and other high-injury

sectors were to provide internal migrant workers with workers compensation insurance, while the National Development and Reform Commission released a circular asking localities to remove discriminatory policies against migrant workers. The Beijing local government, for example, has tried to include increasing numbers of migrant children in its school system, while Shanghai made efforts to provide better medical care for migrant women. Sending provinces of internal migrant workers have even formed agreements with receiving areas; in October 2004, for example, Beijing entered into an agreement with Heilongjiang province regarding the wages, working hours and health conditions of Heilongjiang migrants in Beijing. In addition, international charities and NGOs carry out a number of programs to provide assistance to internal migrants. There have been a wide range of responses, but they still appear to be stop-gap measures rather than substantive efforts to raise internal migrant workers out of the second-class citizenship to which they have been relegated.

Migrants in China

Aside from highly-skilled foreign workers living in urban areas, the main populations of migrant workers in China are Burmese and Vietnamese located in Yunnan province. The issues and needs of these migrant workers, as well as their quality of life in China has been documented in the Resource Book: Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion, as well as in *AMY2004* and *AMY2002-2003*. An updated study on these populations was conducted throughout 2005, focusing on arrest, detention and deportation in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

According to the study, Burmese migrants continued to flow into China at a steady pace, with growing numbers of Burmese women marrying men in China, particularly in central provinces such as Henan, Hebei, Anhui and Shandong. These numbers peaked in 2005, raising the consciousness of local officials, who



Photo courtesy of MMN

Burmese migrants in China.

began deporting small numbers of women who could not produce proper documentation. It was reported that some of the deported women merely returned covertly. In addition, the study reported that under Chinese law, anyone who enters into China illegally should be punished, thus even trafficking victims usually receive punishment even though the police recognize their dual identification as victims as well as irregular migrants. Despite this, the police did report that they handle the cases differently, with extra care and humanitarian assistance.

There are also many Vietnamese migrants working and living in China, particularly in the trade towns along the China-Vietnam border. These migrants are often without passports or proper Chinese working and residence permits. There are also a large number of Vietnamese women married to Chinese men. The Chinese police conduct periodic raids to search for irregular migrants; those without proper documentation are gathered into a van or truck and deported to the border. They must pay about RMB500 to 1,000 (USD62.5-125) in fines for violation of registration regulations. Upon trying to enter Vietnam, some face denial from the

Vietnamese border officials, who find that the migrants have left Vietnam for a long time, even many years, and do not have any paper to prove that they are Vietnamese. Therefore, they are not allowed to re-enter Vietnam. These migrants may then either try to sneak into Vietnam or return back to China.

Chinese Migrants Overseas

According to the United Nations Population Division, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines are the most popular Asian destinations for Chinese migrant workers.

Since the '90s, increasing numbers of Chinese migrants have gone to Japan. From less than 75,000 registered Chinese migrants in 1985, this number has grown to 487,570 in 2004.¹² There are also a number of irregular migrant workers, as entry and departure records regularly show a larger number of entries than departures since 1995. Many Chinese come to Japan through its trainee system, including an "on-the-job" training program; in fact, the majority of workers registered under Japan's trainee programme are Chinese. In 2005, for example, of a total of 83,319 trainees who entered Japan, 55,150 of

Indicator	2000	2005
Estimated number of international migrants at mid-year (both sexes)	512 688	595 658
Estimated number of refugees at mid-year	293 705	299 385
Population at mid-year (thousands)	1 273 979	1 315 844
Estimated number of female migrants at mid-year	251 729	292 468
Estimated number of male migrants at mid-year	260 959	303 190
International migrants as a percentage of the population	0.0	0.0
Female migrants as percentage of all international migrants	49.1	49.1
Refugees as a percentage of international migrants	57.3	50.3
Indicator	2000-2005	
Growth rate of the migrant stock (percentage)	3.0	

Source: United Nations Population Division, <http://esa.un.org/migration/p2k0data.asp>

those were from China.

The trainee system has long been exposed as an unfair and discriminatory system, labeling migrant workers as “trainees” to justify lower pay and harsh conditions. Foreign workers are paid only a monthly stipend; a study in 2000 found that 88.8% of trainees received an average monthly allowance of less than JPY90,000.¹³ This makes it extremely difficult for them to save earning to remit money home; moreover, many workers have to repay high broker fees required to find a job in Japan. In addition, there have been numerous, repeated reports by workers of long working hours, only one or two rest days per month, find high incidence of workplace accidents. Trainees do not fall under Japan’s workers compensation system, although they are supposed to have special insurance. Trainees have little power to negotiate with employers,

many of whom may hold the workers’ passports, and threaten with workers with deportation if they complain. One Chinese worker committed suicide after being reprimanded and told to leave.¹⁴ In 2005, Japan’s largest labor union, Rengo, launched a union for Chinese workers in Japan to address these workers’ vulnerability. The union will aim to help the workers protect their rights.¹⁵

There is also a large number of Chinese working in South Korea; as of 2005, there were 282,030 Chinese migrant workers in the country, 37.7% of the total number of migrant workers in South Korea. 79,377 of these are undocumented, which places them at great risk in light of the government’s crackdown against undocumented migrant workers. 43,330 Chinese are registered “non-skilled” workers, another vulnerable group. Like Japan, Korea also has a trainee

REGISTERED CHINESE* IN JAPAN (1985 – 2004)

1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
74,924	150,339	222,991	335,575	381,225	424,282	462,396	487,570

Source: Statistical Yearbook of Japan
 *Includes Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau

NUMBER OF NEWLY-ENTERED TRAINEES (INCLUDING JITCO SUPPORTED TRAINEES)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total 2001-2005	Total 1992-2005
P.R. China	32,894	34,754	38,319	48,729	55,156	209,852	382,849

Source: JITCO website, last accessed at: http://www.jitco.or.jp/eng/contents/09_01.htm#0013

system in place, but the government also passed an Employment Permit System in 2004 which allows migrant workers greater rights. More information on the issues and needs of migrant workers in Korea can be found in the Korea Country Report on p.175.

There are said to be a number of Chinese migrants in Thailand and Malaysia, but exact statistics are not known. Periodic headlines focus on trafficked Chinese women. In Malaysia, of 2,340 women arrested for involvement in prostitution between November 2003 and March 2004, 787 of these were Chinese. In 2005, of 6,446 arrested for alleged sex work, 2,824 were Chinese. In regard to the 1,485 women held in detention centers, 250 were Chinese.¹⁶ Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi ordered action on the issue of overstaying Chinese; according to an article in the *New Straits Times*, there were approximately 50,000 Chinese in the country who had overstayed their tourist visa. The Prime Minister ordered the Immigration Department and police to track them down.¹⁷ Between 2004-2005, with the assistance of IOM, international NGOs and the Yunnan Women's Federation worked together to rescue 30 women who were trafficked to Thailand and Malaysia.

Chinese migration continues to Russia,

where many migrants work on Russian farms. In East Siberia, it was reported that the Primorye region granted work permits to approximately 14,000 Chinese in 2005, and appropriated up to 18,000 work permits for 2006. The total stock of Chinese in this region, however, is estimated to be much higher, taking undocumented workers into account.¹⁸

According to estimates by Chinese frontier defense policeman, there are at least 100,000 Chinese in Lao PDR. The Chinese Association in VTE provided corroborative data, stating that there were more than 10,000 Chinese in the Wanxiang area alone. Chinese migrants in Lao PDR mainly conduct business, but are also engaged in construction and mining; generally, employees in the construction and mine industries in Lao PDR are

primarily Chinese. Among these, undocumented stall-keepers and construction workers are the most vulnerable to exploitation. Many workers come from rural areas throughout China, lured to Lao PDR by agents who promise them high salaries. Often however, these agents merely provide them with entry documents, which may be valid only for specified regions; if they travel to other areas such as Vientienne, they face risk of arrest.

NUMBER OF CHINESE WHO ENTERED OR DEPARTED FROM JAPAN (1995 – 2004)

Year	Entry	Departure
1995	229,965	215,180
2000	385,296	337,886
2003	537,700	494,242
2004	741,659	709,426

Source: Ministry of Labour & Employment, MOIA Annual Report

BREAKDOWN OF FOREIGNERS IN SOUTH KOREA BY LEGAL STATUS, NATIONALITY, 2005

Classification	Number	Major Nationalities of Foreign Residences			
		China	U.S	Japan	Vietnam
Foreign Population (doc + undoc)	747, 467	282,030 (37.7%)	103,029 (13.7%)	39,410 (5.2%)	38,902 (5.2%)

Source: Ministry of Justice, 2006

There are said to be approximately 7,000 Chinese migrant workers in Cambodia, the majority either skilled or technical workers in garment factories. The workers come mostly from Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangsu and Sichuan provinces. Of these, however, only 2,000 have the proper work visas from the Cambodian government, which is said to be due to unscrupulous agents. There have also been reports of agents falsely promising work to Chinese migrants in order to collect recruitment fees; after paying the fees, the workers arrived in Cambodia and found they had no job. In addition, there are said to be small numbers of Chinese women promised jobs in Cambodian massage parlors, but then forced into sex work.

There are only rough estimates of the number of Chinese in Burma; some say there may be several hundred thousand Chinese migrant workers. These are said to be concentrated in north Burma, with 200,000 to 300,000 in Kokang alone. Many Chinese are in Burma to conduct business, and are not in highly vulnerable positions. Others, however, work in the service industry along the China-Burma border, and/or are undocumented, and are thus vulnerable to exploitation, arrest and deportation. In the first half of 2006, the Burmese junta deported 800 undocumented Chinese workers back to China.

Workers in the service industry such as Chinese-owned restaurants, hair salons, and casinos generally make RMB1,000 to 3,000 per month, higher than they can earn in China. With

the low cost of living in Burma, these workers are usually able to save money and return home. Workers in casinos, however, are subject to changing regulations; in January 2005, China passed a prohibition against gambling that in part targeted casinos along the border. In March 2005, casinos in Simao closed completely; almost 10,000 Chinese migrant workers were deported to China.¹⁹

Some undocumented workers were employed in illegal industries such as illegal logging and jade mines. Migrant workers employed in these industries often sign contracts promising high wages without knowing they are working in illegal industries. These workers may be arrested by Burmese police and imprisoned; some may be deported, while others may have to pay ransom in order to be freed.

Responses

Many of China's responses to the issues of migrant workers have focused on internal migrants (discussed above on pp.105), anti-trafficking and HIV/AIDS prevention efforts. China has been active in working with other countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion to prevent trafficking; China and Vietnam launched a joint anti-trafficking campaign in 2004. China, Vietnam and UNICEF also cooperated on a mass education effort to raise awareness on trafficking.²⁰ China collaborates with international anti-trafficking organizations,

however, it does not yet have a well-developed mechanism for cooperation.

International organizations provide financial support for rescued victims to recover and rebuild their lives. The Yunnan Province Women's Federation has formed a series of plans for the rebuilding of victims' lives upon return, including psychological recovery, anti-discrimination, vocational training, small business management etc. Through this work, the Women's Federation and international organizations have developed an operational method for supporting victims. They have accumulated useful experiences in the process: 1) Rescuing and supporting victims – the government currently provides very little legislative or financial support in this area, but the Women's Federation can seek resources through collaboration with international projects. 2) They can learn and share experiences in protecting victims through international projects. China has established three shelters for trafficking victims to help them make a healthy transition back into their home country.

HIV/AIDS prevention efforts have been carried out to educate potential internal migrant workers in the rural villages; organizations such as the China Youth Development Foundation carries out such programs.²¹

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