

THE PATTERNS OF NEW CHINESE IMMIGRATION IN THAILAND: THE TERMS OF DIASPORA, OVERSEAS CHINESE AND NEW MIGRANTS COMPARING IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

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Abstract

This paper aims to explain the pattern of migration of Chinese people in Thailand between 1978 and 2014 through qualitative research. The findings were divided into two parts: the demographics of the new Chinese people in Thailand, and the pattern of migration. New Chinese migrants consist of four categories: investors, entrepreneurs and highly-skilled workers, unskilled workers, and students. The pattern of recent Chinese migration to Thailand is different from that of the past, when Chinese peoples moved here centuries ago alongside other Chinese people who established their homes in other places around the world. Chinese people migrate to Thailand to pursue business links and opportunities, while those who move to Western countries do so in order to expand their market bases. Another difference is seen in the methods of entering the new countries. Relatives played a crucial role in the move to Thailand, while in the developed world, connections generally occur through agents or colleagues.

Keywords: New Chinese in Thailand, pattern of Chinese immigration, Chinese diaspora in Thailand

1. INTRODUCTION

After the establishment of China-Thailand diplomatic relations in 1975, and China's open door policy in 1978, Chinese people travelled to Thailand in large numbers for various purposes. There were 40,590 Chinese arrivals to Thailand in 1978. The number of immigrants increased in subsequent years, with 468,474,

1,344,464 and 843,753 Chinese people entering Thailand in 1988, 1998 and 2008, respectively (National Statistical office of Thailand, n.d., 2000, 2010). Table 1 shows data from Thailand's Immigration Bureau regarding inbound Chinese people, including their visa categories and the Immigration Act Offenses from 2010 to 2014.

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*The Patterns of New Chinese Immigration in Thailand: The Terms of Diaspora,
Overseas Chinese and New Migrants Comparing in a Global Context*

Table 1: Arrivals and Immigration Act Offenses of Chinese people (Unit: people)

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Arrivals	1,147,338	1,753,793	2,842,243	4,685,216	4,720,738
Tourist visa	1,068,282	1,666,347	2,709,885	4,349,517	4,469,762
Non-imm	62,121	68,296	76,134	58,211	64,956
Others	16,935	18,791	56,224	277,488	186,020
Departure	1,067,977	1,767,497	2,846,793	4,733,544	4,703,395
Immigration Act Offense	4,222	5,528	6,500	8,393	7,656

Sources: Thailand's Immigration Bureau. (2010-2015). Immigration statistics on arrivals and departures, classified by nationalities and visa type. Retrieved from <http://www.immigration.go.th/> Office of information and technology, Thailand's Immigration Bureau. (2015). Statistics of Immigration act offenses 2010-2014 profile of selected population group: Chinese.

Recently, the popularity of Thailand's tourism has attracted the bulk of Chinese people. As shown in Table 1, 95% of Chinese arrivals in 2014, entered with a tourist visa. Moreover, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (2015) noted that Chinese tourists were the largest group with 7,934,791 people. Revenue from Chinese tourists accounted for 376 billion baht, 25.98% of the total tourism revenue of Thailand. The dramatic rise in Chinese tourists, and the expenditures generated by them, provides part of the attraction for Chinese businessmen and related professionals to invest and work in Thailand.

Apart from the tourism industry, Chinese new comers have also distributed among other sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture and service providers, including the trade and education sectors. The expansion of Chinese mobility, thus, is unavoidable. The following table presents data on the purpose of stay, collected from visa extension statistics. Visa approval for Chinese people is mainly certified by the government, particularly for Chinese teachers.

Table 2: Statistics of visa extension 2007-2014 (Unit: people)

Year	Temporary						Special law	Others	Tourist	Total
	Business	Certified by government	Stay with Thai family	Stay with resident	Stay with Thai wife	Retirement	BOI			
2007	5,241	6,126	1,209	302	1,443	1,260	1,486	2,358	13,143	34,208
2008	3,910	8,874	1,528	139	1,725	1,570	807	2,353	8,652	32,681
2009	3,573	9,758	1,412	147	1,531	1,500	1,706	1,400	7,875	31,409
2010	3,829	10,962	1,608	165	927	1,498	1,341	1,070	7,557	32,011
2011	3,811	11,826	1,903	169	956	1,730	1,641	3,451	8,771	38,498
2012	4,007	12,525	2,246	128	1,089	1,701	2,783	4,072	9,248	39,954
2013	4,725	11,575	2,310	203	1,097	2,188	3,333	5,642	8,269	42,456

Sources: Thailand's Immigration Bureau. (2007-2015). Immigration statistics on visa extension, classified by nationality. Retrieved from <http://www.immigration.go.th/>.

Along side globalization, transnational mobility has become a normal occurrence worldwide. Nonetheless, Thailand's Immigration Bureau (2014) states that the number of offenses to the Immigration Act B.E.2522 (1979) from Chinese immigrants totalled 7,656 cases in 2014. The Royal Thai Police also reported the existence of foreigners who illegally overstayed by impersonating Thai citizens (Jitrawuttiorn, 2014). Besides this, there is an obvious presence of Chinese wanderers, which raises further social concerns¹.

The most severe incident involving new Chinese immigrants in Thailand was the crackdown of "Zero dollar" tour companies in 2016. The suppression of these tourist agency clusters, aimed to solve the problems caused by unqualified tour operators. The investigation also became publicly well known, due to the arrest of a Chinese millionaire and company owner, who illegitimately obtained a Thai National Identification card (Thai PBS, 2016).

These incidents and the increasing social awareness emerging in Thai society, lead to the question of focus in this article: what are the demographics and patterns of the new Chinese migrants in Thailand? To clarify this question, the paper has been divided into 6 sections, including: literature review, research design, findings, discussion, conclusion, and recommendations.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Concept of Chinese Diaspora

In a global context, academic research in this field has been carried out to explain many aspects of the movements of new Chinese expatriates. One particular discussion was the definition and meaning of Chinese diaspora and the characteristics of new Chinese migrants in each area. According to many researches, including Skeldon (2003), Benton and Liu (2004) and Kuhn (2008), the characteristics and patterns of new Chinese migrants in various destinations are different; some patterns fit the definition of diaspora, some cases do not. In this study, the concept of diaspora will be applied to analyze the patterns of new comers to Thailand.

Diaspora means dispersal in Greek, and has been used in an academic context to refer to the Armenian, Greek and Jewish communities who settled down outside of their original homelands. Cohen, however, stated that the term diaspora, is also applicable to other groups of migrants. Clifford explained that the concept of diaspora is associated with the identification of routes and travel, or space and place, in the globalization era (Ma, 2003). The term emphasizes international mobility, networks, and flexible identities. Eventually, the Encyclopedia of Chinese Overseas, proposed that the term diaspora be used in its

¹For example, a Chinese man was injured by local Thais while he came to Phuket to visit his brother. The motivation of this crime was tentatively the accusation of job seizure by the Chinese (Manager, 2014). Prior to this case, on January 7, 2014, hundreds of local Chinese-speaking Thai guides demonstrated against the illegal employment of undocumented Chinese tour guides in Phuket (Oknation, 2014). The anti-illegal Chinese guide protests were also held in other important tourist attractions such as Chiang Mai (Nation TV, 2014) This kind of protest also occurred in Bangkok on August 19, 2014 (Bangkok Post, 2015).

broadest sense; that the worldwide diaspora is the wave of the future, and should not refer to the individual nation states (Pan, 1999).

Similarly, Tololyan indicated that diaspora is associated with transnational movements of capital, cultures, the dual loyalties of populations, and the multiple affiliations of transnational corporations (Ma, 2003). The unique characteristics of the Chinese diaspora, however, include prolonged residence in the host countries, formation of a well-established ethnic group, and the retainment of Chinese identity, including contributions to Chinese development (Larin, 2012).

The term “Xin yimin” (new migrants) was introduced by the authorities of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), to refer to Chinese people who have emigrated from China since the 1970s (Zhang, 2012). Wang (1993) pointed out that the term seems to be a subset of Huaqiao-Huaren or Overseas Chinese and Chinese Overseas². Moreover, new Chinese migrants are different from former Overseas Chinese in terms of population size, geographic distribution, variation among migrants, spatial interaction, settlement patterns, and their issues of citizenship and identity.

Wang Gungwu (1993) also addressed four key areas in the identification new migrants. Starting with the origin of migrants, most new migrants were found to be from mainland China. Secondly, the receiving countries were shown to be mainly North America, Australia, and Europe. Thirdly, the characteristics of the migrations included, greater use of legal-migration routes when entering the new country, increased migration of families, and migrants tending to come from urban areas,

were well-educated, and were not strongly religious. Finally, new migrants were found to be more willing to assimilate to their host culture and modernity.

The PCR government has not only shifted its definition of new emigrants, but has also changed its policy towards them, as the number of “Xin yimin” apparently increased from 15 million people in 1970s to almost 40 million people in 2009 (Li and Li, 2012). China’s State Council for Overseas Chinese Affairs (CSCOCA) and the Association of Returned Overseas Chinese were reestablished in 1978, functioning as a coordinator between state and overseas Chinese and a facilitator for FDI in China. (Zhang, 2012)

1.2 Existing Works on new Chinese Migrants in Thailand

Zhang and Wang (2010) described new Chinese migrants, since the 1980s as representing the forth wave of mass movement of Chinese people into Southeast Asian countries. The major origins of these migrants are eastern Guangdong and Fujian. The differences between the new and former overseas Chinese are their diverse hometowns, better educational backgrounds, and higher social and economic status.

Concentrating on Thailand as a specific area, there are many studies discussing traditional overseas Chinese movement, but related studies on new arrivals to Thailand are limited. Previous research includes the Modern Overseas Chinese (Songprasert, 2004) by Phuwadon Songprasert and The Expansion

²The denotation of Huaqiao or Overseas Chinese is Chinese citizen who reside abroad, meanwhile Huaren or Chinese overseas means ethnic Chinese who live in other countries (Gungwu, 1993).

of China Over Territory And The Civilisation Burden in Southeast Asia (Santasombat, 2014) by Yos Santasombat.

Songprasert (2004) concentrated on the movement of Chinese people, proposing several reasons for Chinese migration in Southeast Asia. The book focuses on trading and business expansion in China's coastal areas after the open door policy, but it does not discuss the recent period. Santasombat (2014) attempted to link Chinese international relations to the expansion of Chinese capital in Southeast Asia. He states that the major objectives of Chinese international policies are to promote Chinese interests in energy and food security, and expand the global market for Chinese products. China perceives the migration of its people as a crucial factor in this endeavour and in consequence, the government supports Chinese people to travel abroad for both educational and business purposes.

Neither of these studies focused particularly on new Chinese migrants to Thailand; they concentrated more on Southeast Asia, or the Greater Mekong Subregion. Therefore, the contribution of this research article is neither topical analysis and discussion, nor correction of prior research and evidence, but rather, the author's attempt to shed light on a new issue that has never been previously studied or addressed.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN

Qualitative methods were employed in this study, with the main instruments of data collection being, interview and official documents. Primary data, in particular, statistics data was directly gathered from

government bureaus such as the Thai Immigration Bureau, The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), the Board of Investment and the Ministry of Labor. A specific group of interviewees was selected through non-probability sampling, following initial concept findings derived from pilot interviews. The more negative cases were then selected in order to discover further challenges. Interview findings were analyzed through data reduction and display in order to categorize and highlight links in the data. This was followed by data verification and drawing conclusions.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 New Wave of Chinese Migrants in the Globalization Era

The recent wave of migration by Chinese people began in the 1970s. The first wave travelled to developed countries, including European countries, Canada, Australia and particularly the United States. However, their community formations and the impacts on their host societies varied, dependent on the context of the migration. In Japan, Chinese students intentionally enrol in academic institutions in order to become long term migrants. Students contribute to the host labor market, as both low-wage and skilled professionals. Further, Chinese migrants have an advantage in cultural and linguistic skills, which strongly supports transnational business (Liu-Farrer, 2011).

An interesting example for considering of new Chinese migration in Western countries is the Wenzhou model. Wenzhou people first moved to Europe as unskilled labourers in 1876. They set up their own connections and attracted more new migrants from Wenzhou. Ceccagno (2007) found that these new

Chinese migrants initially worked in the textile industry, before developing their own businesses as sub-contractors. The Chinese took advantage of illegally low labour costs which were crucially to the 'Made in Italy' industry. Some Chinese entrepreneurs then expanded their businesses from OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) to OBM (Original Brand Manufacturer). Meanwhile some set up import-export companies to import low cost products from China to the European market. This in turn stimulated small entrepreneurial ventures in Zhejiang, Fujian and Guangdong. In Italy, the existing new Chinese migrants, slowly took over local manufacturing and handmade products.

Another interesting case for illegal migration occurred in the Philippines. See (2007) explained the problems and challenges caused by the influx of new Chinese immigration to the Philippines. Most individuals migrated into the country using counterfeit documents and now remain illegally in the country. The reasons for migration varied depending on personal social status. Some couples moved to the Philippines for the birth of their second child, while others were fugitives. Some travelled to set up small businesses, such as opening a retail shop. In addition, the drug crimes committed by Chinese people have degraded their image in the Philippines. In short, the occurrence of new Chinese migration to the Philippines has disappointed the former overseas Chinese or Tsinoy who identify themselves as Chinese Filipinos, and who have little in common with the new arrivals.

The cases of Italy and the Philippines reflect the impact of new Chinese migrants on their host societies. Another case, involving immigration into Toronto, Canada, is

characterised by conflict between the new and the old Chinese migrants, especially in the business sector. Canada is unlike Southeast Asia or Europe in that Canadian hometowns are too widespread to combine or create a mutual identity. Most of the migrants after 1967 originated from Hong Kong and Taiwan, while new Chinese migrants after 1978 originated from mainland China. Thus, connectivity between the old and the new migrants is not easily made. In addition, new Chinese migrants in Canada are well-educated and eager to expand their businesses. Hence, newcomers are direct competitors to the old Chinese businessmen rather than being open to interconnection and integration (Fong and Luk, 2007).

Meanwhile, new Chinese migration from the Greater Mekong Sub-region embodies a latter wave of migration (Santasombat, 2014). Almost 75,000 people moved to Vietnam as contract labour in 2010, together with small traders, folk doctors and students (Chinh, 2013). The situation in Cambodia (Pal, 2013) and Lao PDR (Danielle, 2012) is quite similar, where the majority of newcomers are labourers in the Chinese manufacturing or contract farming industries, with a few immigrants occupied as small to medium sized investors and traders.

Study of the previous situations, shows that the movement and settlement patterns of the new Chinese migrants, differs depending on the host country. In general, developed countries attract more educated and professional migrants, while developing countries are faced with a huge movement of unskilled labour. The significant networks that induce Chinese people to relocate can be divided into two groups; official and unofficial modes. Official networks, like associations and

agents, tend to connect businessmen, professionals, entrepreneurs, and students. Unofficial networks, include those between friends, relatives and colleagues, whereby the acquaintances of new migrants are persuaded to work at the same worksite or in a similar occupation.

4.2 Categorizing the new Chinese Migrants in Thailand

According to the statistics regarding people inbound to Thailand, around 8.14 million Chinese visited Thailand in 2015. The official data clearly identified the type of visa, however actual figures may be slightly different. From surveys and interviews, it was found that the purpose of the visit did not always correspond to the visa type. Thus, this article classifies new Chinese migrants into four types based on their purpose of stay; these categories consist of, 1-investor, 2-entrepreneurs and highly-skilled labour, 3-unskilled labour and 4-students.

Investors are an elite class who mainly invest in areas of Thailand. According to The Board of Investment (BOI) statistical data (2014), Chinese people mainly invest in one of seven industry sectors, namely, agriculture, minerals and ceramics, light industries and textiles, metal products and machinery, chemicals and paper, electrical goods, and services. The highest investment sectors were Metal products and machinery, Agriculture, and chemicals and paper, with total investment funds (2003-2014) of 48,316, 23,583 and 14,553 million baht respectively. Collectively, these new Chinese businessmen formed their own business associations to strengthen and expand their networks, such as The Thai Young Chinese Chamber of Commerce

(泰国华人青年商会) (established in July 2000) and The Thai-Jiang Zhe Hu Commercial Association 泰国江浙沪总商会 (officially established in September 2008). In addition, magazines like Thai Xinhua (新華雜誌) have played an important role in distributing business information among the Chinese.

The second group, entrepreneurs and highly-skilled labour, is somewhat complicated due to their dispersal into many places and positions. Statistical data, field surveys and interviews indicate that some of these migrants are legally employed in Chinese companies, banks, academic institutions and other organisations. Some are self-employed, owning small businesses, such as merchandisers in wholesale and retail markets; these businesses occur both legally and illegally.

Until 2013, the largest number of Visa extension approvals for Chinese people was for those certified by the Thai government, particularly Chinese teachers. In February 2016, there were 3,488 Chinese staff in the academic field (Ministry of Labour, 2016). Many of the Chinese who were employed in Thailand had previously graduated or attended Thai universities (A.T, personal communication, September 2016). Due to their familiarity and international experience, they decided to find jobs in Thailand (A, personal communication, March 2015). The most attractive factor for students to stay is not advanced income, as their income is approximately similar to their expected salary in China. However, the comfortable living conditions, lower-stress lifestyle and open-minded people are the key factors influencing the decision (X.Z, personal communication, August 2015).

Apart from the legal employees and entrepreneurs, the distribution of Chinese people in various places is obviously noticed. There were at least 20 Chinese-owned garment wholesale shops in Pratunam arcade and uncountable kiosks in Mahboonkrong department store. These small traders are emerging at an increasing rate and are gradually taking over the market share from local Thai people. J.P (personal communication, August 2015), a local shop owner in Pratunam for the past 10 years, stated that, 'The Chinese came and established their own garment wholesale shops in Pratunam. They gained advantages from lower costs and sell at lower prices. How can we compete with them?'

Apart from the trading sector, this group also includes tour agents, guesthouse proprietors, restaurant owners and service providers, in tourist attraction areas such as Chiang Mai and Phuket. Their impact is similar to that of the trading businesses that Chinese entrepreneurs set up to serve Chinese tourists. Although, the increasing number of Chinese tourists promotes the development of local economy, local Thai business sectors gain little income from the Chinese visitors (N.A and M.S, personal communication, August 2015). Those who gain economically are the leading dominant companies and the new Chinese tour companies. The latter use Thai partners to register and operate their businesses. They are in direct contact with tour agents in China as well as their partners in Chiang Mai, such as Chinese-run restaurants, bus companies, hotels and souvenir shops (N.A, P.O, L.T and K.M, personal communication, August 2015).

The third group of new Chinese migrants are the unskilled workers. All of them are breaking Immigration Laws through fraud or misuse of visas. Some of them hold tourist

visas, some disguised Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia workers. Most labourers work for one year and then the employer imports new workers from China. Meanwhile, 3-year-contracted managers and engineers generally apply for student visas (for study in a tutorial school). These contracted workers stay and work in a limited space during their time in Thailand. They are prohibited to go outside the worksite and must work 12 hours a day, 6 days per week (W.T, personal communication, August 2015). These measures protect them from discovery and arrest by Thai immigration officials.

Lastly, students make up the fourth category of new Chinese migrants because they tend to stay longer in Thailand. According to statistics from UNESCO (2015), there were 8,444 Chinese students studying in Thailand's tertiary institutions in 2012. Some were exchange students taking dual-degree programmes in China, while others were bachelor's and post-graduate degree students at the Thai Universities. However, the division of education, of the Chinese embassy, Bangkok identified the number of Chinese students, from every level as totalling 30,526 students in 2015 (Ma, personal communication, September 2016). Interestingly, the Office of the Higher Education Commission (2013) reported that forty-eight percent of Chinese students in Higher education institutions enrolled in business and administration courses, while thirty-four percent studied linguistics. This represents dynamic and miscellaneous academic interests among Chinese students.

Chinese students decide to study in Thailand due to the low competition for jobs and cheaper living costs (Han laoshi, personal communication, February 2015). Supportive

factors for pursuing higher education in Thailand include, assistance from educational brokers, presence of relatives in Thailand and other social networks. There is also substantial enrolment of Chinese students in Primary and secondary schools. In this case, most of the Chinese students live with their families in Thailand. Some of the parents are expatriates or migrants, while some send their children to live with their grandparents or relatives in Thailand, in order to stay connected (Luangnan and Pungpornprom, personal communication, March 2015).

4.3 The Patterns of Immigrating to Thailand

Considering these four categories of new Chinese migrants in Thailand, the pattern varies depending on the group. The investors group is quite normal in comparison to the pattern of flow of business, in a global context. Economic and business interests are the main driving factors, supported by Chinese and Thai policies and the emerging Chinese economic business networks. The second group has a more specific pattern due to the fact that these migrants have some connectivity with Thailand. For instance, some of them graduated within Thailand, such as M.N from Yunnan, X.Z from Yunnan and A.Z from Guangxi. In one case, that of J.O, the migrant married to a Thai wife before immigrating to Thailand (M.N, X.Z and J.O, personal communication, August 2015 and March 2015). In addition, a large amount of traders also moved along with their relatives who formerly lived in Thailand.

According to the Thai history of Chinese migration, the bulk of Chinese immigrants emigrated from Guangzhou and Fujian. Many of the new migrants had maintained

connections with these former overseas Chinese families. Most families, first sent their children to stay with relatives, while in contrast, some families sent the parents to set up business before moving the children. For example, in the cases of M.P, T.P and P.P from Guangzhou, who have lived in Thailand for more than 15 years, M.P and T.P migrated following their parents, while P.P, who is now in his 50s, stayed with his overseas Chinese relatives when he first came to Thailand (M.P, T.P and P.P, personal communication, December 2014 and February 2016).

In the meantime, in this social networking era, migrants are easily able to contact business agents, friends and colleagues. They used social network connections to increase their chances to successfully settle in Thailand. For instance, S.Z from Anhui, failed an entrance examination in China, but was able to enroll in a private university through an academic agent (S.Z, personnel communication, March 2015). Some small trader migrants opened stores for retail of mobile phones or accessories. Some of them set up their businesses, following the suggestions of an agents (R.H and J.P, personal communication, August 2015).

The pattern of business expansion is interesting. One example is the case of the longan fields in Lamphun Province. Chinese migrants first operated a trading service, exporting dried longans. They, shortly afterward, invested in longan drying factories with Chinese technology, and finally Chinese investors, masked under Thai nominees, owned the whole longan production, including the longan fields. Hence, they now control both the processing and prices in the dried longan industry (Intorn, personal communication, August 2015).

From the above patterns, the new migrants in Thailand do not totally illustrate a new demographic. The investors, highly-skilled workers, and teachers come from various places, but the traders, small entrepreneurs and unskilled workers mainly come from Guangzhou and Fujian, with the assistance of relatives. The new major origin is Yunnan, as its location is close to Thailand. The demographics of the migrant population are noticeably changing, particularly in terms of education and gender. The educational background of the new migrants is generally higher in comparison to former migrants. Furthermore, the proportion of female migrants is apparently increasing.

5. DISCUSSION

In the global context, scholars of the Chinese overseas, have defined the recent pattern of Chinese movement as Chinese diaspora. The term diaspora is widely used and the definitions are varied. The core characters, however, are transnational movement, networks, multiple affiliations, assimilation and return. For example, American Chinese who are long term migrants still maintain connections among the Chinese and with PRC through Overseas Chinese organizations. Their common migration process is to acquire citizenship before traveling back and forth, according to the attraction of privileges for returned migrants from the PRC government. Analysis, also reveals another framework and pattern regarding the new Chinese migrants immigrating to developed countries. Brokers, social networks and colleagues play active roles in facilitating Chinese migration. Gender is no longer important, and many well-

educated people from stable families tend to move to developed countries, in order to seek economic expansion, new connections and opportunities.

With regard to the concept of diaspora and the phenomenon seen in developed countries, it is noted that the case of Thailand is different. Some of the new migrants in Thailand can be explained with the term, "diaspora". However, the remainder should be combined with traditional migration. Transnational investors and highly-skilled employees make up the modern Chinese diaspora. They formed contemporary associations or networks to connect each other and to form a bridge with China. Major tools used in this include social media, culture and social events, magazines or newsletters. Notable characters of the new migrants include a well-educated background and the flexibility for transnational movement. The originating hometowns of the Chinese diaspora are varied, coming from not only Guangzhou or Fujian, but also from other major cities such as Yunnan, Liaoning, Jinan and Beijing.

Additionally, a number of new comers are persuaded and facilitated by relatives in Thailand, to successfully migrate. Specifically, some small traders, entrepreneurs and students have a close tie with Chinese descendants, who may flee from the competitiveness in their hometowns, to become established in the same business circle as their Thai families. This pattern is definitely different from the concept of diaspora. These new Chinese migrants intend to stay permanently in Thailand as ethnic Chinese, similar to their relatives. They aim to become naturalized as Thai citizens. At the same time, they will stay connected to China for professional purposes such as trading, but

do not provide contributions to China's interests.

6. CONCLUSION

International circumstances supporting transnational mobility, combined with the economic interdependency between Thailand and China, have served to increase and accelerate the flow of Chinese migrants into Thailand. Assessing the objectives of the migrants, for entering Thailand, the new Chinese can be divided into four groups: investors, entrepreneurs and highly-skilled employees, unskilled labourers, and students. The first group consists of international business migrants following general trends of business mobility in a globalised world. The second group consists of entrepreneurs or merchandisers owning small to medium sized businesses, and also company employees, including both legal and illegal immigrants. Many Chinese illegal immigrants set up businesses registered by Thai people and run the companies through connections with former overseas Chinese and through the Chinese network. The third group enters Thailand under short-term contracts, with invalid documents. Some obtain student visas instead of work permits. The flow of the fourth group, Chinese students, is increasing due to changes in education demands.

In the case of Thailand, the model of new Chinese migration can be divided into two forms. The first form, including investors, employees, and students matches the term of diaspora, as it consists of long term migrants who will probably return home. The second form is that of traders, following traditional modes of migration, it consists of overseas Chinese who connect through, stay with, and

work alongside their relatives in Thailand. These migrants tend to stay permanently in Thailand as ethnic Chinese.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

As mentioned above that the content of this paper generates the fundamental perception on the existence of new Chinese in Thailand. Government agencies, particularly the Immigration Bureau and Ministry of Labor, can apply the findings in order to manage and control the expansion of illegal Chinese mobility. In addition, local enterprises can also thoroughly study the uniqueness of new Chinese merchandise companies and their networks, in order to strengthen their own business clusters.

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Index

- Field research and Interview
 Chinese people
 M.P, shop owner in Pratunam, Guangzhou people, December 2014.
 L.C, Chinese student in master degree program, Chulalongkorn University, Fujian people, February 2015.
 J.O, bank officer, a Chinese bank, Guangzhou people, March 2015.
 A.Z, secretary, a Chinese bank, Guangxi people, March 2015.
 S.Z, international trade settlement officer, a Chinese bank, Anhui people, March 2015.

*The Patterns of New Chinese Immigration in Thailand: The Terms of Diaspora,
Overseas Chinese and New Migrants Comparing in a Global Context*

X.Z, Chinese officer and teacher, a university in Chiang Mai, Yunnan people, August 2015.

M.N, Chinese student, a university in Chiang Rai, Yunnan people, August 2015.

D.G, International affair officer, a university in Chiang Rai, Yunnan people, August 2015.

J.P, mobile kiosk owner, Nomjit department store, August 2015.

T.P, shop owner in Pratunam, Guangzhou people, February 2016.

P.P, shop owner in Pratunam, Guangzhou people, February 2016.

Related people

R.H, local shop owner, MBK, August 2015.

W.T, interpreter in Chinese worksite, August 2015.

Ma Chao, Third secretary (Education), Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Kingdom of Thailand, March 2016.

A.T, human resource, a Chinese bank, September 2016.

Academic

Han laoshi, Confucius institute, Chulalongkorn University, February 2015.

Decha Luangnan, Director of Padungkit school (Peizhigongxue), March 2015.

Saowanee Pungpornprom, Human resource division, Sitabutr Bamrung school, March 2015.

Entrepreneurs and staff

N.A, Tour agency owner, Suthep, Chiangmai province, August 2015.

M.S, Tour agency owner, Changklan, Chiangmai province, August 2015.

P.O, Thai Guesthouse owner, Ta pae, Chiangmai province, August 2015.

L.T, Thai Motobike rental shop's owner, Ta pae, Chiangmai province, August 2015.

K.M, Thai restaurant owner, Kad Sompert, Chiangmai province, August 2015.

Anuwat Intorn, president of Chiangrai Chamber of Commerce, Chiangrai province, August 2015.