

## **Call for Papers: Migration and Democratisation in Southeast Asia**

In 2009, the *European Journal of East Asian Studies* (EJEAS) plans to publish an Issue on Migration and Democratization in Southeast Asia. By wedding migration studies with research on democratization, the Issue seeks to provide novel insights into two important fields of research on Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia has certainly reached the “Age of Migration:” In 2005, the entire population of migrants originating from ASEAN countries was conservatively estimated at about 13.5 million. 39 percent or 5.4 million of them are estimated to be living and working in another ASEAN country, but more than 25 percent migrated to the Middle East and the U.S., respectively, and almost 10 percent to the EU.

While migration is clearly on the rise, the same can hardly be said about democratization. In recent years, democracy has experienced major setbacks in the region. The military coup in Thailand, intensified oppression in Burma and electoral fraud accusations confronting the incumbent government in the Philippines are examples for the longevity of authoritarianism and the fragile state of democracy in Southeast Asia. Taking the Freedom House Index as an indicator of the quality of democracy, the picture is also rather bleak: in 2007, only Indonesia was rated as free.

The increasing migration flows may have significant effects on the political systems in the region – and might impede or foster democracy. State-initiated labour migration, as was the case in the Philippines under the Marcos regime, might be a device to ease economic problems that threaten to destabilize an authoritarian regime. The same rationale can be found in internal resettlement schemes. Internal national migration flows, forced or voluntary ones, might change societal cleavages and cause conflicts, both relevant to democratization processes. Putting the blame on labour migrants might be a scapegoat strategy used by new

democracies faced with economic difficulties. The policy of new democracies towards migrants “sans papiers” can be a litmus test for their commitment to human rights.

Faced with violations of their rights, labour migrants may become politically active, at home as well as abroad, forming transnational political networks. The experience of political freedom or political oppression in host countries might trigger political socialization processes of migrants. Advocacy groups focusing on forced migration could venture into broader issues of human rights and democratization. Political refugees might form transnational political networks, influencing transition processes in their home countries. Norm diffusion and norm localization might be fostered by migrants on every level of society – elite migration, labor migration, political exile.

The EJEAS Issue on Migration and Democratization aims to explore these so far largely unexplored connections between migration and democratization on the national, regional and local level in the context of Asia. Can we trace the impact of Southeast Asian migration flows on national democratization processes? How do transnational actors like NGOs involved in migration issues influence democratization processes? Do international institutions and migration regulations have an impact on democratization? How does democratization - failed or successful - impact on migration flows? Is rural-urban migration influencing democratization processes in megacities? How do state-initiated internal migration flows like the *transmigrasi* policy affect democratization processes on local and national levels?

We invite authors to submit papers addressing the issues outlined above from a theoretical perspective as well as theoretically guided empirical contributions. We suggest contributions dealing with the following topics from the perspective of sending and receiving countries:

1. Migrants’ rights as policy area in democracies and authoritarian regimes
2. The liberal state’s dilemma of controlling borders – how do states deal with “illegal” immigration?
3. Nationalism, the concept of citizenship and migration in new democracies

4. The role of migrant's NGOs, advocacy as well as grassroots, in democratization processes
5. Political socialization of migrants
6. Economy of migration and democratization processes – internal as well as transnational migration

## **Deadlines and contact information**

Deadline for submission **of abstracts not exceeding 2 pages** is October 1, 2008.

Selected applicants will be notified by Mid-October 2008.

Deadline for submission of the final paper is December 15, 2008.

Selected manuscripts will be sent anonymously to two referees.

The manuscripts should not exceed 10,000 words in length and include an abstract of no more than 200 words. (Style sheet on [http://www.ejeas.net/index.php?node=style\\_sheet](http://www.ejeas.net/index.php?node=style_sheet))

Please send manuscripts directly to the guest editors of the issue:

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