



**Statement of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT)
Expressing Concern Over the Closure of Learning Center for Migrants**

On 4 September 2024, the Surat Thani Provincial Education Office announced the closure of the Myittar Yeik Learning Center in Tambon Bang Kung, Mueang Surat Thani District, Surat Thani Province. This has led to the closure of all such learning centers in Surat Thani Province, affecting over two thousand children of migrant workers in Surat Thani who are abruptly forced to discontinue their education.

The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) is deeply concerned about the situation since it might spread to other learning centers across the country, impacting tens of thousands of migrant children not only on their education but also on their safety while the parents are at work. Unattended children may also be at risk of exploitation, sexual and substance abuse, and human trafficking. This situation is in contradiction to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which obligates the State to prioritize the child's best interests, development, and educational opportunities in all its actions. Additionally, it could impact Thailand's international status, particularly in view of the government's recent decision to withdraw its reservation to Article 22 of the CRC on 9 July 2024.

The closure of these learning centers, along with the unpreparedness of government agencies and other schools to accommodate migrant children, will have a significant impact on both the migrant children and the children currently studying in these schools.

In this regard, the NHRCT urges the Ministry of Education and concerned agencies to reconsider the blanket closure of learning centers for migrant children and expedite the nationwide registration of these centers, including the details of the children under their care. This is in line with the action taken by Tak Provincial Office of Education District 2, which has registered the establishment of 63 learning centers and some 18,000 migrant children for the purpose of coordinating matters relating to children's education, protection, health, and other matters in their interest.

The NHRCT stands ready to collaborate with the Ministry of Education and concerned agencies to resolve the problem at policy level and in a systematic manner to safeguard the human rights of all children in Thailand.

National Human Rights Commission of Thailand
8 September 2024