No.

Thesis Abstract

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Factors behind Failures to Regulate Myanmar's Illegal Cross-border Migration				

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<u>No.</u>

This paper humbly attempts to highlight the fact that some policies that have been developed with good intentions to control the irregular migration issues have either failed or not effective as the cross-border migration from Myanmar is not as simple and straight-forward as what policy makers perceived as they could be more sophisticated and multifaceted depending on many other factors along the different stages of migration lifecycle that a home community is going through. In addition, the paper also humbly attempts to highlight the implications of policies that have been developed in the process of multiple reforms in various economic sectors in the transitional period from a single party military-ruled political system to a multiparty civilian-ruled democratic system on the migration, migrants and their left-behind families. The paper focuses on the importance of developing multidimensional and interconnected policies in creating a favorable and enabling environment (in which macro-economic and political stability is sustained; growth, inflation and unemployment are in balance; investment and business confidence are built up; alternative livelihood options have opened up; social developments especially in terms of education and healthcare have become more visible; financial system has improved to become more accessible and inclusive; and convenient, affordable and secure migration channels have developed) in order to establish a visible link between migration and socio-economic development of rural home communities where majority of Myanmar migrants originated from. Finally, the paper analyzes how policy misinterpretations and ad-hoc policies responding to some ad-hoc situations could lead to adverse consequences that have driven many migrants, their families and other stakeholders into the grey area where there is no visible distinction between illegality and licitness. To put it in a nutshell, the paper highlights various factors – including policy actions – behind the failure to regulate Myanmar's cross-border migration through quantitative and qualitative (policy) analyses based on empirical data collected from various parts of Myanmar that have been going through different stages of migration lifecycle and humbly provides policy implications for creating favorable environment in which migration could be convenient, affordable and secured and could contribute, in no small measure, towards the socio-economic development of the home community.

Key words: Myanmar, Migration, Policy, Illegal, Border