



Importing 200,000 people *crisis or opportunity?*



“Thailand needs to immigrate
200,000 people
a year to alleviate the problem of
declining population”



How do we look at this? By when? And whether it is a
crisis or an opportunity?



Earlier this year, Elon Musk made a shocking comment: From the problems that Japan's declining population, Japan may come to an end, which would be a big loss for the world.

Even this opinion shocked the world. But hardly anyone is worried that the world's second-ranked country will surely face this problem as well. And perhaps the more serious problem is which country will this happen to sooner?

In fact, in 2020, The Lancet scholars (Vollset et. al., 2020) have released population projections for the world's countries from now until the end of the 21st century, supporting United Nations data. They found that the second country after Japan is Thailand.

The forecast adds that **the top three countries** should be most worrisome because their numbers will be reduced by more than half from the number of residents and citizens. Those countries



Japan



Thai



Spain



The report mentioned that
Thailand's population will
drop by more than half
to just over
30 million people.

On the contrary, the current birth rate in other developed countries is lower than the replacement of persons in the country as well. Thailand's replacement rates are lower than the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States, Canada, Australia by the end of this century. These countries however, will experience boosts in their citizenry. This is because these countries have always had clear immigration policies and targets. These countries have implemented labor force replacement through immigration policies for a long time. Long before the United Nations proposed it in 2001, immigration was a demographic tool for countries on the brink of low birth rates.

Although these developed countries are able to maintain their population stability, global population decline becomes a national crisis in many countries. This crisis, caused by conflicts between host countries and new immigrants, is rooted in racism and xenophobia. These challenges can escalate into political conflict between the old liberal democracies and the emerging and growing nationalist populism. This can be seen in the case of Brexit and in the case of President Trump's inauguration in relation to immigration reform.

Since the process of setting a target for the number of permanent residents and citizens should include the immigration of new persons annually, viewing the timing public policy formulation--- the country needs to establish selections of people to be integrated or imported. Implementation of a “replacement migration” project is to integrate the newcomers with the existing national population, both socially and geographically. Regular monitoring and evaluation and remedies for all parties, all of which engage democratic and decentralized states, should be the most important part of a success plan. And “replacement migration” can create new opportunities for Thailand to receive people by avoiding the aforementioned crisis of nationalism or xenophobia.

Importantly, the purpose of integrating and immigrating families and individuals must be to reduce inequality in the country, tackle poverty among marginalized populations, not only for the development of a liberal democratic economy. The big goal is to raise economic standards of living and bring happiness to the entire nation as a whole. Furthermore, the goal of strengthen civil society to achieve urban and rural development at the same time, can result in both technology transfer and social and cultural transmission. It is an aspect of globalization that will be positive impact. In summary, “replacement migration” is about setting big goals for social development, environment, well-being in order to be a society that strives toward fulfillment and prosperity as a whole.



Pictured: Coach Che, Mr. Chatchai Shwe, received Thai citizenship.
(Source: YOUTUBE-TNN Online Feb 5, 2565 BE)



For the quantitative targeting the number of foreign populations that need to acquire Thai citizenship,

we can set a modest goal of 200,000 people per year as a rough calculation (the replacement cohort component method has not been used because that would increase numbers two-fold).

**In 80 years,
there will be 16 million
Thai people born into the country.**

This is equivalent to replacing about 50% of the declining population. Since immigration and integration of non-Thais do not necessarily answer the challenge of 100% complete replacements, countries use other policies such as: continuous birth promotion campaigns for families that are ready and willing; creating an active aging society pushing back the retirement age; serious labor development in the post retirement age; and the use of technology, including robots and AI; as well as labor mobility resource sharing in regional ASEAN.



Pictured: Mr. Udom Suksane, U Kham Mueang, helped the villagers when he obtained Thai nationality.
(Source: YOUTUBE-Thai PBS News Feb 14, 2563 BE)

Objective	Quantity	Responsible agency
to supply to national development projects such as the ECC	20,000	Cabinet
To bring in quality population for social development, environment, culture, spirituality, well-being and linking with the local population.	20,000	minister, senator and members of the House of Representatives
to connect with SMEs in the area	160,000	Local government organizations nationwide 7,850 locations
total	200,000	

In the proposed table, I mention the goal target to be imported and how high-ranking government agencies should be responsible for providing policies and responsible officers toward the task of “replacement migration.”

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The first objective is to incorporate the population or labor to national development projects such as the EEC (Eastern Economic Corridor). This may integrate aging and senior workers or offer executive level, or investors to receive long-term residence privileges and land ownership, leading to future selections of new Thai citizens. According to the specified conditions, approximately 20,000 people managed by the Cabinet.

02

Objective 2 is to import a population selected based on quality for social development, environment, language and culture, spirituality, well-being and foreign population that can be connected to the population of each province. For example, about 20,000 new citizens to be managed under supervision by parliament may become an annual quota for members of the Senate and House of Representatives to consider.

03

the third objective is to select foreign citizens into the areas of Local Administrative Organizations throughout the country. All 7,850 locations, where those Local Administrative Organizations have autonomy for administrative selection, according to the local quotas from the size of the population determined by the Local Administrative Organization. Moreover, it is important to make public policies with local communities to get foreign workers aligned with the development guidelines and needs of local SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) for the long-term.

Regarding to quantitative quoats as mentioned above(200,000 immigrants per year and 20,000 new Thai citizens), it is a serious quick solution to the demographic crisis of the country that we know about. At first, this crisis seems superficial, but it's actually a matter of taking action now. Replacement migration(immigration and integration) is an advantage in every aspect and having time to adjust the process correctly of great importance. If you wait and rush to follow the trend later, there will be a problem of nationalist xenophobia. These problems are clear in developed countries histories that have rapid high numbers of immigration. We now have the opportunity to learn and design Thailand's own practices by starting to consider challenges and issues. With such long term planning, we can surely turn this crisis into a great opportunity for Thailand.

Imagine how happy **we would be to receive 200,000 quality people** like Coach Che (Khun Chatchai Chwae) and Khun Udom Suksane join us a year.

Works cited

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- United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division. Replacement Migration: Is it a Solution to Declining and Ageing Populations? vol. no. 206, United Nations,