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Emerging Social Issues Division

Social Policy and Population Section

*Asia-Pacific Population Journal*

**Article**    **Internal Migration Policies in the ESCAP Region**

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**Abstract**    This paper examines internal migration policies that are pertinent to an understanding of the interrelationship between migration and development in the ESCAP region. Four countries, China, Viet Nam, Indonesia and Thailand, which present both differences and similarities in their migration policy experiences, have been selected for consideration. The four countries differ not only in the degree of control of migration but also in their stage in the demographic transition, system of government, level of economic development, political ideology and other criteria that have distinguished their migration patterns and influenced policies. The paper argues that the migration experience of the ESCAP countries and areas and their government policies regarding migration and spatial distribution are so divergent that the experiences of one country must be interpreted with caution if used to guide the formulation of migration and development policies in another country.

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