

ROUNDTABLE

Post-Coup Myanmar Student Voices in Thailand: Rebuilders or Change-Makers for Myanmar?

Coordinator

Samak Kosem, Maaïke Matelski

Roundtable Description

Following recent political upheaval, increasing numbers of students from Myanmar have pursued education abroad, particularly in neighboring Thailand. This round table examines how post-crisis student migration reshapes not only individual academic trajectories but also broader possibilities for social and political transformation. Rather than viewing migrant students solely as displaced learners, this discussion frames them as a transnational generation whose experiences, skills, and networks influence Myanmar's future reconstruction.

Drawing on personal experiences, observations, and analytical perspectives, the panel explores three key dimensions: 1) the structural conditions in Myanmar that drive student migration and the impact on students forced to leave the country; 2) the educational and social realities of studying abroad and the volatile experiences in the host environment; and 3) the potential roles migrant students can play in shaping future societal change inside the country and from exile. It also critically engages with the debate about "brain drain" and "brain circulation," asking whether overseas education leads to long-term loss of talent or the development of globally connected future leaders.

Keyword: Myanmar students, Socio political transformation, Migrant students