

Colonial workers genealogy: The Indochinese Indentured workers in the Pacific Islands

Nguyen Thi Trang

This field trip aims to find primary resources about Indochina migrant workers during the French occupation. The author's general assumption in the proposal is that Indochinese workers migrating abroad were not a spontaneous activity. They were organised, structured, and controlled by the colonial government that established linkages and put Indochinese people in the French imperial network's labour supply.

From November 1 to December 27, 2021, the author came to read, collect and print documents at the National Archives Center 1 and Vietnam National Library, Hanoi. The author had access to 127 records of Vietnamese labour during French Indochina. These documents included: laws, regulations, policies, directives, circulars, reports, contracts, etc., enacted by the General- Governor, Governor, state agencies in charge of migration control, local government, and private companies. Then, the author went to Tuyen Quang from January 10 to January 22 to interview the Vietnamese labour community returning from New Caledonia and New Hebrides settled in this area. After that, from 5 to February 12, 2022, the author surveyed three provinces in the Red River Delta, namely Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, and Ha Nam. From February 12 to March 1, the author performed document analysis and wrote a report. The author drafted the data analysis section of her thesis, selecting relevant data excerpts to illustrate the themes identified in the interviews and field notes.

Keywords: Vietnam, policies, methods, mechanism, French colonial government