

Your Work, Their Profit



Created by Jackie Pollock, Lauren Kuritz and Jay Kerr for
Burmese migrant workers in Thailand
MAP Foundation Thailand, August 2011

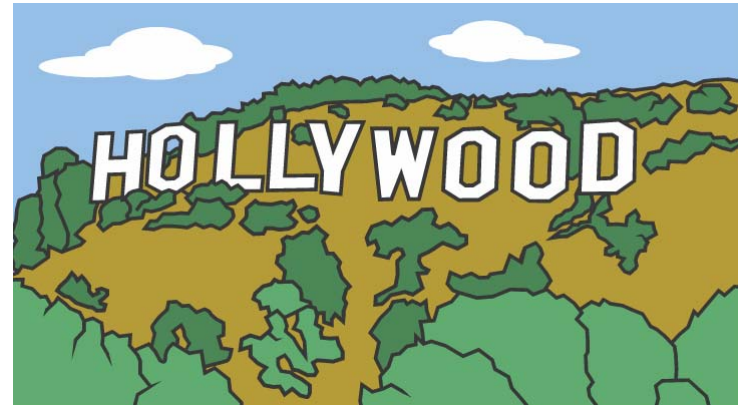
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Mr. Poto owns his own textile company, Poto Wear, based in USA. He is the CEO. He earns \$12 million a year, lives in a huge mansion with a swimming pool and drives a Mercedes.



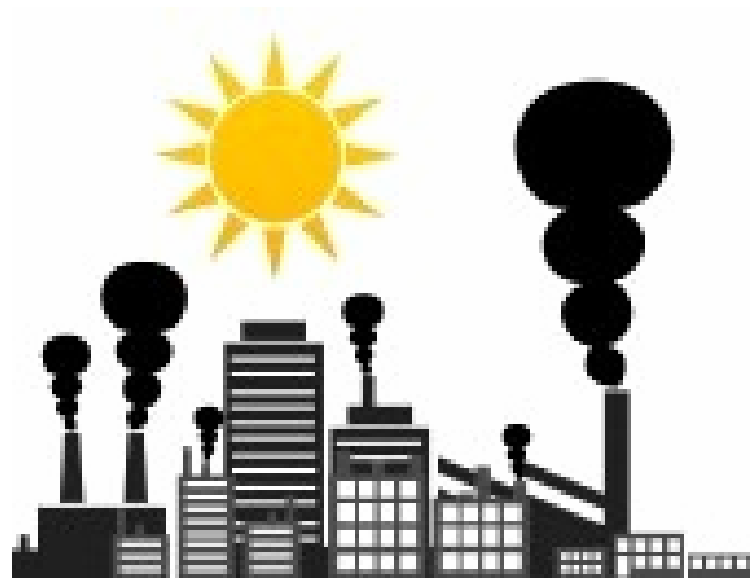
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There are 100 staff in Poto Wear headquarters. They all earn very good salaries and live very comfortable lives. They design the clothes and choose the materials and colours. They like to change the fashion quickly to make sure people buy more clothes.



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Mr. Poto and his colleagues fly in their private jet all over the world, looking for the best place to make their clothes. They look for places where it is cheap to hire workers or rent a factory, and where taxes are small and the government is stable.



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Mr. Poto has chosen Mistress Piece in Om Noi, Bangkok. He has put in order for 10,000 pink T-shirts in two weeks for 100,000 baht. The factory owner Khun Somchai pays his Thai workers minimum wage (206 baht). Workers must make 30 T-shirts a day. The factory owner lives in a nice house in Bangkok with a country house in Chiang Mai. He is quite rich in Thailand.



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Khun Somchai decides that Mistress Piece will make 5,000 t-shirts and sub-contract the other half of the order to a factory in Mae Sot, a town on the border between Thailand and Burma. He does not tell Mr. Poto. He puts an Burma Shirts, Mae Sot for the Burmese migrant workers to make 6,000 T-shirts for 15,000 baht. The owner of Burma Shirts is Khun Prawat. He is not rich as rich as Khun Somchai but he lives a very comfortable life in his nice house in Mae Sot.

The workers are Burmese. They must make 50 T-shirts a day and earn 80 baht a day.



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The workers in Burma Shirts work day and night to finish the order for Poto Wear. They are exhausted.

60 workers have worked for two days and two nights. Each worker earns 160 baht.

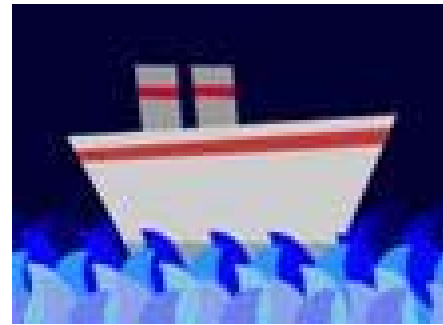


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The T-shirts are packed and put in a truck. The truck is run by a company that collects all the garments from Mae Sot and takes them to the port in Bangkok.



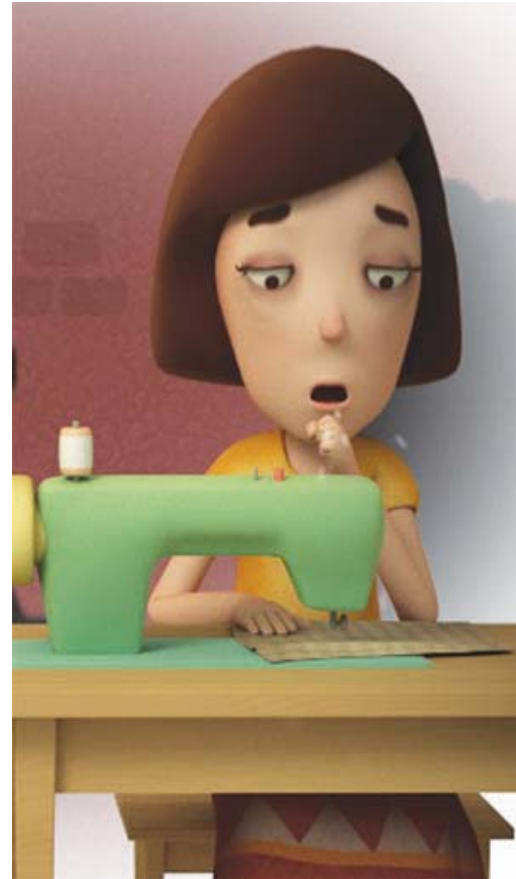
From Bangkok, the garments are put on a boat to go to Bangladesh.



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In Bangladesh, Morshed, a broker, picks up the shipment of 10,000 T-shirts.

A queue of Bangladeshi women wait in front of his office. He gives 1,000 T-shirts to each woman and tells them to bring them back tomorrow morning. The women earn 300 baht for sewing labels onto 1,000 T-shirts.



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The next morning the women bring the T-shirts back to Morshed. They have to pay a rickshaw driver 30 baht.

Morshed takes the T-shirts down to the port and receives 6,000 baht payment.



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The T-shirts go to Centrix
Department Store in London.

Each T-shirt is sold for 1,000
baht.



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Make a list of all the people involved in the T-shirt.

Who makes the most profit from the T-shirt?
Who makes the least?

Take a T-shirt and a pair of scissors.

Cut it up according to how much profit each person involved makes...big pieces for big profit, small pieces for small profit.

How much of the T-shirt did workers get?

By the way, did you notice something strange about the extra 1,000 T-shirts?
What do you think happened to the extra 1,000 T-shirts?

