

## Executive Summary

### Thailand's Trafficking in Persons 2014 Country Report

Trafficking in persons is a perennial, trans-boundary problem facing virtually all countries in the increasingly interconnected world today. Since the change of administration in May 2014, Thailand's leadership has attached utmost importance to better prevention and more effective solutions to the problem. Thailand's Prime Minister, General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), has reiterated his political commitment in eradicating human trafficking on numerous occasions. His strong determination has translated into a number of policy directives and deliverable measures addressing both the elimination of nurturing conditions and the immediate causes of trafficking in persons in Thailand. A case in point includes nation-wide registration of illegal migrant workers, more stringent regulation of vessels and labour in the sea fishery sector, amendments and improvements of relevant laws; all of which contribute to long-lasting solutions to human trafficking and related problems.

Due to the Kingdom's geographical location as the transportation hub and center of economic opportunities in mainland Southeast Asia, Thailand remains the destination for both legal and illegal migrants, mostly from its neighbouring countries, as well as the transit point and source of both Thais and foreign workers who seek job opportunities elsewhere. In this regard, migrants and Thais alike are vulnerable to labour exploitation and human trafficking which are common trans-boundary problems that Thailand strives to prevent and eliminate.

Thailand's Post-May 2014 Administration, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), and the subsequent Government that took office in September 2014 mandated combating trafficking in persons an integral part of Thailand's Reform Agenda. In fact, the current Government has declared **zero tolerance to human trafficking and its nurturing conditions, including corruption and complicity**. In the policy statement delivered to the National Legislative Assembly in September 2014, the Prime Minister announced that

combating human trafficking is one of the top priorities his administration will seriously address through more vigorous law enforcement. On 24 December 2014, during one of the interagency meetings on human trafficking, the Prime Minister also instructed all concerned agencies “to work harder than ever so as to yield tangible results within one year” and to also “look out for officials suspected of being involved with both illegal immigration and human trafficking and, once caught, to swiftly and resolutely proceed with legal procedures against them. Human trafficking has been a problem in Thailand for too long. It must end as soon as possible.”

The leadership’s commitment and emphasis on achieving tangible results in countering human trafficking has translated into new policies and measures. In particular, the Government is fully aware of several remaining challenges including law enforcement and prosecution such as how to expedite judicial process. Every effort is, therefore, being made, starting from the policy level down to the implementational level in all relevant agencies to ensure that they now work together in a much more coordinated manner to overcome these challenges. As will be discussed later in this report in more details, specific measures are being implemented to correct unnecessary delay and better address victims’ grievances<sup>1</sup>. Engagements and cooperation have also been extended to a **wider group of stakeholders** in public and private sectors, both domestically and internationally.

In 2014 and up to present, **improvements have been made on 5 crucial dimensions**, or the so-called 5Ps; namely, Policy and Mechanisms, Prosecution, Prevention, Protection, and Partnership. **Key highlights of the progress and achievements are:-**

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<sup>1</sup> For more details, please see the Sections on Prosecution, Protection and Prevention in this report. In particular, for key highlights of Thailand’s progress and development on the issues related to judicial process, please see our responses to the U.S. TIP Report 2014’s recommendation number 2 (the establishment of an integrated team of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, for instance) and number 11. On the issues related to our efforts to better address victims’ grievances, please refer to our responses to the U.S. TIP Report 2014’s recommendation number 3,8,10,12, and 19, all of which appear in Section IV of this report.

## 1. Policy and Mechanisms

- **Integration and Coordination** – The current Government has reinforced and strengthened coordination and integration both at the policy and the implementation levels. The Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-ocha (Ret.) has initiated the establishment of the Policy Committee on Combating Human Trafficking and Illegal Fishing, a new mechanism he chairs in order **to address the issue of trafficking in persons in a more comprehensive manner**. This is evidenced by the work of five Subcommittees that deal with (1) Human Trafficking, (2) Fisheries and Illegal, Unregistered, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing, (3) Child Labour, Forced Labour, and Migrant Workers, (4) Women, and (5) Public Relations and Legal Affairs.
- **The existing Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee continues to function** as a supplementary mechanism. Chaired by General Prawit Wongsuwon (Ret.), Deputy Prime Minister in charge of National Security Issues, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee focuses on the **execution of law enforcement and other related operations**. In addition, several ministries have set up their **Special Operational Centres** to tackle human trafficking promptly. The main Operational Centre on human trafficking is situated at the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) and it is led by the Minister himself. This Centre coordinates with the Operation Centers of other ministries on a daily basis in order to ensure swift, timely and comprehensive responses to the problems.
- **Integration and Coordination at the Implementational Level** – Coordination and linkages among government agencies in all dimensions of human trafficking, migrant workers, child labour, and illegal fishing among the key government agencies have been strengthened **to better tackle the complexity of their interconnections**.
- **Addressing human trafficking by reducing risk factors and curbing nurturing conditions is a major achievement in 2014. Registration of over 1.6 million illegal migrant workers and their**

**dependents** has significantly lessened their opportunities of falling prey to labour exploitation and trafficking in persons.

- **At the same time, the Government has been actively addressing human trafficking at root causes, especially poverty and economic development gaps** between Bangkok and remote provinces, as well as between Thailand and neighbouring countries. In this regard, **Special Economic Zones are being established in 6 border areas**. The purpose is to create job opportunities for and improve the well-being of local people on both sides; hence, reducing the risk of them becoming victims of labour exploitation and human trafficking that could more readily happen outside a more permissive and transparent system.
- **Development assistance to neighbouring countries is another measure to address root causes that nurture the supply of migrants who could run the risk of becoming victims of labour exploitation and human trafficking**. A case in point is Thailand's assistance to the Learning Centers of Sustainable Development in Myanmar and Cambodia where skill training and capacity building necessary to community development are being conducted.
- **A holistic approach to address human trafficking in the Sea Fishery Sector** reflects the current Government's success in integrating efforts in various dimensions related to human trafficking, such as registration of Thai and migrant workers in the sector, registration of vessels, installation of Vessel Monitoring System, etc. **This results in better protection of workers in accordance with their legal rights and reducing their risk of becoming victims of labour exploitation and human trafficking**.
- **Fighting against corruption** is one of the current Government's policy emphases. Various measures have been taken since 2014; for instance,

- **The Center to Combat Corruption**, which is a new mechanism within the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission, was founded.
- **The Provincial Anti-Corruption Commissions** have been appointed.
- In 2014, the Government approved budget increase of more than **300 million baht (about 9.375 million USD)** and the increase of more than **700 positions** to the National Anti-Corruption Commission in order to better handle the existing workload.
- **Anti-corruption hotline services** have been made available. ‘**Dial 1206**’ is being supervised by the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC).
- **Another area of achievements under the current Government has to do with the fact that several laws and regulations have already been improved precisely to better address wide-ranging dimensions of human trafficking.** More protection and enlargement of the scope of execution results. They are, for example;
  - **The Labour Ministerial Regulation to Protect Labour in the Sea Fishing Industry B.E. 2557 (2014)** to provide workers with better protection and better work conditions;
  - **The Labour Ministerial to Protect Agricultural Workers B.E. 2557 (2014)** to provide workers with rights to leave with pay and better protection;
  - **The Marine Department’s Regulations on Permission to Work in Fishing Vessels of 30 gross tonnage or over B.E. 2557 (2014)** to improve preventive measures for workers in fishing vessels;
  - **The Amendment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 (2008)** to provide better protection to witnesses and dutiful officials while increasing penalties to human trafficking offenders.

- **The Government's budget** on combating human trafficking in the budget year 2014 was 210.77 million Baht (about 6.5 million USD). **The amount has been increased to 496.82 million baht** (about 15.53 million USD) **in the budget year 2015** (from 1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015). The increased budget will further strengthen all the line agencies' capacity to carry out activities and launch projects related to prevention, protection and prosecution of human trafficking.
- In the budget year 2014, **5.6 million baht (about 0.2 million USD) from the Trafficking in Persons Prevention and Suppression Fund had supported 17 projects and activities, carried out by the private sector and NGOs to combat human trafficking.** In the budget year 2015, the Fund stands at 62.5 million baht (or about 1.95 million USD) and is expected to assist even more victims and finance much more cooperation activities.
- **Human trafficking database has now been put in place** by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS). The database consists of **two major parts**. Data on investigated cases and **legal proceedings against offenders** is entered by the Royal Thai Police, while data on **victims of human trafficking** is supervised by MSDHS.

## 2. Prosecution

- In 2014, 280 human trafficking cases were investigated, 155 defendants were prosecuted and 104 defendants were convicted.
- **The above statistics correlates with the more stringent posture and measures** taken by NCPO and the subsequent Government since May 2014 up to the present:
  - Zero tolerance to human trafficking and corruption regularly stated by the Prime Minister via different media channels, reinforced by concrete cases of victim rescue and prosecution of wrong-doers (more details of the cases in the Prosecution Chapter), have generated significant **deterrent effects**.

- Legalizing about 1.6 million undocumented migrant workers through 87 registration centers country-wide and the awareness it creates have **raised people’s abhorrence to labour exploitation, human trafficking, and the penalties attached to it**, let alone its concrete effect in better protecting these workers and reducing the chance of them falling prey to labour exploitation and human trafficking.
- **Focusing on apprehending main perpetrators and the crack-down on human trafficking syndicates resulted in qualitative, rather than quantitative, prosecution outcomes.** Patience becomes a virtue in netting the “Big Fish” but the results, undeniably, cause a bigger impact. This is clearly reiterated by the Prime Minister when he instructed the agencies concerned to conduct vigorous investigations to pursue further leads and prosecute more networks of criminals as well as more high-profile cases so that these may have greater impact on the suppression of human trafficking not just in Thailand but also in the region.
- **A more stable and law-abiding environment after May 2014 has generated preventive impact** on potential wrong-doers, including human traffickers.
- **In 2014, five legal recruitment/employment companies were penalised**, of which 3 have already been filed for criminal charges for cheating and violation of the Job Provision and Job Seeker Protection Act B.E. 2528, one license has been revoked and the other has been suspended.
- In 2014, the Department of Employment promptly took **134 legal actions against 156 illegal brokers following the complaints from the job seekers**. The Department undertook **88 proactive investigations and took action against the total of 107 illegal brokers**.
- **Several measures on law enforcement have been improved, such as the use of complementary laws** (e.g. anti-money laundering, anti-tax evasion laws) **to put pressure on members of human trafficking syndicates**; the monitoring of suspects on temporary bail, the use of Provincial Governors’ authority and administrative power to close down “at-risk” or involved venues of human trafficking, etc. The prompt execution

and implementation of these measures clearly illustrated the much more result-oriented characteristics of law enforcement by the Thai authorities concerned (Details in 2.2.5 of Prosecution Chapter).

- **Victim identification by a multi-disciplinary team is now a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).** Interviews and queries to alleged victims are conducted on site **in an appropriate venue with respect to human rights** by teams consisting of police officials, social workers and psychological experts from Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, officials from Ministry of Interior, and an interpreter (when necessary). **Where officials from multiple disciplines are inadequate, representatives of NGOs and International Organizations are invited to take part** in identifying human trafficking victims, as in many cases at the Immigration Bureau's Head Office. **The Royal Thai Police is now in the process of working towards signing a Memorandum of Understanding with various NGOs in the very near future so that, together, they can significantly improve the victim identification process.**
- **Potential victims of human trafficking while awaiting the process of victim identification are protected and provided with assistance on a humanitarian principle, such as provision of temporary shelter, urgent medical services, special protection** (Details in No. 3 of the Reply Table to the US TIP Report June 2014 Recommendations).
- **Complicity is not tolerated.** While not yet established of human trafficking charges, officials who are negligent or officials who are suspected to be involved in one way or another will immediately be removed from their posts. **In 2014, there have been 19 officials and public employees** (8 now facing criminal charges and 11 under disciplinary punishment) **who have been penalized for human trafficking, negligence, or involvement in the second degree** (Details in Section 2.7 of Prosecution Chapter).
- **8 complex cases** concerning sex trade syndicates, forced labour, child labour, brokers, and complicity are presented in Section 2.7 of the Prosecution Chapter. **These cases illustrate the Thai authorities'**



**emphasis on cracking down on main perpetrators, which creates a more credible deterrent effect and greater repercussions to other related cases.** It must also be noted that **information or assistance given by other stakeholders, including the NGOs play no small part in the closure of many cases.**

- **Rohingya** – In 2014 and January 2015, there were **at least 5 cases in which over 236 Rohingya migrants or those who claimed to be Rohingya were rescued and 16 offenders are facing charges** (Details in Section 2.9.14 of Prosecution Chapter). All cases that involved claims associated with Rohingya since 2014 have gone through a proper victim identification process, carried out by a multi-disciplinary team.

### 3. Protection

- In 2014, **595 victims of human trafficking were identified. 303 trafficking victims were placed in 9 shelters (236 foreigners and 67 Thais).** Details appear in the Protection Chapter.
- **Job opportunity services are provided** to victims of human trafficking in the shelters. Coordination with concerned agencies has been made to **expedite the issuance of temporary stay permit. Out of 236 foreign victims, 57 (42 men, 15 women) have chosen to work outside the shelters.** The majority of the remaining victims have voluntarily chosen not to work, as some are not physically fit and have health problems while others barely communicate in Thai. Still, all of them could opt for **vocational training in the shelters.**
- **Authorities concerned have attached great importance in the provision of a range of services to child victims. Services for child victims of human trafficking** have been provided in accordance with international standard and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Details in Section 3.6 of Protection Chapter).
- **Two major groups of Hotlines** have been made available: **Human Trafficking-related Hotlines and Anti-Corruption Hotlines. Interpreters in 5 languages** (Burmese, Chinese, English, Khmer, and

Vietnamese) **are provided by Hotline ‘Dial 1300’** of the One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) operated by Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. Since October 2014, OSCC Hotline has been operating 24/7. **Integration, information linkage, and cross-ministerial service improvements are in the pipeline. Cooperation in these matters is also being explored in consultation with both domestic and foreign agencies.**

- **In 2014, ‘Dial 1300’ received more than 3,400 complaints, helped law enforcers identified 123 cases related to human trafficking,** and further investigated and apprehended perpetrators in several cases. The Ministry of Labour also **provides ‘1546’ and ‘1694’ hotlines** with interpretation services to provide assistance and respond to enquiries on employment and related labour issues. Between July – December 2014, the hotlines were accessed by 79,796 callers. Of this number, 32,915 were calls made by foreign migrant workers (approximately 41.25%) to request further information on registration of workers, nationality verification and naturalization.
- Currently, the roster of **40 well-trained interpreters in six main languages** (English, Myanmar, Laotian, Cambodian, Chinese and Vietnamese) **is being provided for line agencies** to ensure that there are sufficient interpretation services available for foreign victims.
- In 2014, all expenses for repatriation of **397 victims to their respective country of origin were covered by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund.** The Thai police and social workers were assigned to accompany the trafficked victim. Social workers from their country of origin would conduct risk assessment before repatriation and reintegration with victim’s family. For victims from the Lao PDR and Myanmar, Thailand has active follow-ups on the repatriation cases in annual bilateral Case Management Meeting.
- **A sufficient variety of legal aid services have been provided for all victims while special services for child victims of human trafficking are**

**made adequately available.** (Details in Section 3.6 and 3.7 of Protection Chapter)

- **Remedies and compensation** – In 2014, financial aid equivalent to 117,125 USD was given from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund to 463 victims, while civil compensation of about 269,166 USD was given to 57 victims (14 Thais, 43 foreign victims). In addition, compensation in criminal cases of about 49,687 USD was paid to 53 victims. It should also be noted that, in the current amendment to the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, there is a proposed provision for half of the confiscated earnings of traffickers to be used as an additional compensation for victims. Should there be any amount left, it will be contributed to the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund.

#### 4. Prevention

- Measures have been taken to **prevent not just Thai citizens but also foreign nationals in Thailand** from becoming victims of trafficking in persons.
- **Employment of migrant workers through Government-to-Government arrangements has been promoted to ensure that foreign workers receive full protection and benefits under Thai laws.** Memorandums of Understanding with the Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Cambodia are major frameworks in this regard. Additional measures, such as a reduction of work permit fees from 2,000 to 500 baht (or from 62.5 USD to 15.6 USD), have been proven to create greater incentives for migrant workers to utilize these formal channels in taking up work in Thailand, the channels which help **reduce the vulnerability to debt bondage, forced labour, and human trafficking.**
- **Job placement for Thai workers seeking jobs overseas is promoted through government-supported arrangement** in order to reduce the vulnerability of workers to labour exploitation and debt bondage. In 2014, there were 10,164 Thai workers who secured their jobs overseas through this G-to-G arrangement.

- **Registering and Legalizing Illegal Migrants** – In 2014, the policy of bringing illegal migrant workers into the formal labour sector had been implemented.
  - **Incentives** (such as a grace period with no legal penalty, reduced registration and other related fees totalling approximately 40 USD, temporary stay and work permits, etc.) were granted to induce these undocumented migrant workers to register themselves at 87 One Stop Service Centers (10 centres in Bangkok and 1 centre in each of the remaining 76 provinces).
  - **The idea behind** this nation-wide registration of illegal migrants is (1) **to improve the database and the system of migrant management;** (2) **to better protect migrant workers from labour exploitation, labour-related problems and human trafficking;** (3) **to accord them with the rights and benefits that they are entitled to** in accordance with Thailand’s labour laws and other related laws.
  - As a result, during the permissible registration period from 26 June – 31 October 2014, **migrant workers and their dependents of 1,626,235 people have now been legally registered.** They are now given temporary permits to work and stay in Thailand while awaiting nationality verification. **Their legal status significantly reduces the chance of them being taken advantage of in all forms, including human trafficking, while empowering them with the rights to respond to and report their offenders in accordance with pertinent laws.**
  - Despite initial success in improved record keeping and better protection to the registered migrant workers, **challenges remain in their nationality verification. Cooperation is being sought from Thailand’s neighbouring countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar) in expediting nationality verification process.** Cambodia, for instance, has recently sent 5 extra teams to speed up the nationality verification of registered migrant workers in Thailand.
- **Holistic approach to curb human trafficking and labour exploitation in the Sea Fishery Sector** is a great step forward by the current

Government to tackle the whole spectrum of human trafficking and related issues. Various measures that are now being taken include, for instance, registration of migrant fishery workers, registration of fishing vessels, development of an integrated database for joint inspection, increased oversight of overseas fishing, legal improvements, the development of Good Labour Practices (GLP) and application of Thai Labour Standard (TLS), etc. Key highlights are:

- Re-systematizing and Registering Vessels and Labour in Fishery Sector: **Large fishing vessels of capacity over 30 gross tonnage**, especially those operating beyond Thailand's territorial water, **are at-risk venues as they require a large number of workers and crews** in their long-haul operation. In 2014, the Thai Marine Department significantly stepped up efforts in registering and legalizing vessels and acquiring information about their workers through mobile registration unit. By the end of 2014, out of the registered 46,722 vessels since 2007, **there are 8,270 vessels of capacity over 30 gross tonnage.**

- The Ministry of Labour has been actively updating data on migrant workers in the sea fishery sectors. Through the work of its Labour Coordination Centers in coastal provinces and from the information derived the nation-wide registration of illegal migrant workers in 2014, it has been established that **71,132 migrants are working in the sea fishery sectors.** Improvement in vessel and labour force databases, therefore, is absolutely essential in order to **give labour inspectors and law-enforcement authorities with a more focused target to monitor labour exploitation and human trafficking in the sea fishery sectors.**

- New or amended laws and regulations have been put forward by concerned agencies and have currently taken effect in **preventing and monitoring problems related to labour relations and human trafficking:**

- On 9 January 2015, the National Legislative Assembly approved **the Fishery Act B.E. 2558. This Act is expected to come into force by April 2015.** Based on this Act, **the Department of Fishery has already prepared an Action Plan in Solving Problems concerning Fishery and**

IUU. Key elements of the Action Plan are, for instance, **to make it compulsory for all vessels of 30 ton gross capacity or more to install Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and implement port-in, port-out protocol** to be monitored by the Port-In Port-Out Centers. Hence, the movement of all Thai and migrant workers at sea will be more systematically followed and effectively inspected, contributing to lower possibility of labour exploitation and trafficking in persons.

- **The Labour Ministerial Regulation to Protect Labour in the Sea Fishing Industry B.E. 2557 (2014)** requires (1) the **minimum age** of 18 years of age for workers in sea fishing vessels to be; (2) **daily rest period** of at least 10 hours; (3) **work contract** signed with consent by both parties; (4) **minimum annual leave** of 30 days.

- **The Marine Department's Regulation on Permission to Work in Fishing Vessels of 30 gross tonnage capacity or over B.E. 2557 (2014)** will not allow any fishing vessel to operate **unless a vessel owner has already submitted for approval the following documents:** (1) vessel registration document, (2) vessel operation permit, (3) **employment documents**, (4) **the list of workers specifying names, nationalities, passport or identification numbers, duties, dates of employment together with copies of passports or identification numbers.** Additionally, a vessel owner is required to report to the Marine Department of termination of employment. Statistics on employment termination is updated on a monthly basis.

- **Claiming benefits for workers** – Pursuant to the Labour Protection Act B.E. 2541 (1981), labour inspectors, upon credible complaints of workers/employees, may issue an order compelling employers to pay wages and benefits owed to workers/employees. **In 2014, labour inspectors issued 2,192 orders and took 124 legal actions against employers who failed to comply with the orders. Among 15,420 workers/employees who received owed wages and benefits, 1,378 were from Myanmar, 57 from the Lao PDR, and 144 from Cambodia.** The Ministry of Labour takes this issue very seriously and will promptly look into any complaint

relating to unpaid wages and owed benefits since any employer's failure to pay their employees in a timely manner may be indicative of forced labour.

- **Prevention and protection in agricultural sector has been improved by a new regulation. The Labour Ministerial Regulation to Protect Agricultural Workers B.E. 2557 taken effect in 2014** requires: (1) **minimum age** of 15 years for employment; (2) **rights to leave with pay** for 3 days in every 180 consecutive working days or an equivalent amount of cash to compensate in case of no leave.
- **Preventive measures against sexual exploitation** have been taken by the Royal Thai Police, the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, and other key agencies concerned. **To effectively prevent foreign tourists with criminal records on sexual exploitation including child sex abuses from re-committing the crimes or re-entering the country**, the Immigration Bureau blacklisted 82 of such foreigners, denied entry of 98 and revoked permission of stay of 12 foreigners in 2014.
- **Preventive measures against forced beggars** have been taken by the Royal Thai Police, together with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. For example, **closer cooperation with Cambodia, a major source country, at border checkpoints and increasing patrols in major cities, such as Bangkok and Pattaya, resulted in the diminishing number of forced beggars.**
- **Preventive inspections** of various kinds were conducted in 2014. 9,506 high-risk areas were inspected, **resulting in 44 arrests under warrants, 79 people identified as victims of human trafficking, 13 minors below 18 years-old rescued.**
- **Joint inspections** by the Royal Thai Police, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare and other concerned agencies were carried out in 2014. As a result, **legal actions were taken against at least 28 employers.**
- **Labour inspections by the Ministry of Labour in 2014 led to 1,316 workplaces being charges of violating labour laws.**

- **Inspection of 612 fishing vessel by the Marine Department** found 117 vessels in violation of navigation laws.
- **Raising awareness is another major component of prevention.** A number of activities towards this end were carried out in 2014 (Details in Section 4.6 of the Prevention Chapter).

## 5. Partnership

- Partnership has been promoted across all sectors, both domestically and internationally. **The very aim of cooperation is to enhance Thailand's capacity in tackling human trafficking in the areas of prosecution, protection, prevention and policy development.**
- **Regarding prosecution**, partnership across law-enforcement agencies and with international agencies is being strengthened. A case in point is **the signing of Memorandum of Understanding in combating human trafficking cooperation between the Department of Special Investigation (under the Ministry of Justice) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office Southeast Asia and Pacific (UNODC OSEAP) on 25 August 2014.**
- **In 2014, information from NGOs and International Organization also led the Royal Thai Police to rescue 61 victims of trafficking in 16 cases.** The NGOs and international organization that cooperated with the Royal Thai Police in this regard were Pavena Foundation for Children and Women, Labour Rights Promotion Network (LPN), Counter Human Trafficking Unit (CTU), Buddha Cheangwattana Vithee Network, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- **On Protection**, Thailand is taking the lead in ensuring that **expertise in victim recovery as well as shelter management is being extended to countries of origin, such as Myanmar and Cambodia.** In the case of Myanmar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand are **reviewing assistance in vocation training and related equipment (valued 5 million baht or about**



**156,250 USD) to better fit the needs of the existing shelter in Maw-Law-Yang, Myanmar. In the case of Cambodia, Memorandum of Understanding to set up Victim Recovery Center in Banteay Meanchey, Cambodia, is being negotiated. Once it is finalised and signed, Thailand's financial assistance of about 36.6 million baht (or about 1.4 million USD) will be spent on shelter construction. Additional assistance is also in the pipeline for training of shelter's personnel in giving care and vocational training to victims as well as shelter management.**

- **On Prevention, cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and the International Labour Organizations continued throughout the year 2014, especially in such key areas as developing Good Labour Practices (GLP) in seafood and shrimp industries, training labour inspectors and developing work manuals under the Tripartite Action to Protect Migrant Workers from Labour Exploitation (TRIANGLE) Project, and training labour inspectors under the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC).**
- **In 2014, cooperation between the Ministry of Labour (Department of Labour Protection and Welfare) and ILO produced a book of guidelines and risk evaluation checklists for labour inspection in the Sea Fishery Sector. The checklists give risk indicators of differentiated cases, including labour abuses, labour exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking. The book and checklists are already in use by labour inspectors.**
- **The Ministry of Labour is also cooperating with ILO on the issue of complaint receiving mechanism improvement. ILO will provide capacity building to sustain the mechanisms.**
- **The Ministry of Labour is cooperating with ILO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in revising the MoUs on Employment Cooperation with Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Cambodia to achieve greater practicality. Among several points of improvement is the streamlining of labour recruitment processes.**

- **As part of their work plan to fight against human trafficking, a number of Thai government agencies are now intensifying their engagement with new stakeholders, such as major importers of Thai products and large overseas buyers, as well as international NGOs. The objective is to further mobilize support in preventive and suppressive capacity building when it comes to anti human trafficking.**
- **In July 2014 and January 2015, large buyers from the U.S. and Europe visited Thailand to exchange information and discuss with both Thai authorities and private companies concerned about existing and future measures to ensure that Thai fishery supply chain would be free from labour exploitation and human trafficking. Some buyers have agreed to support training in human trafficking prevention and dissemination of Good Labour Practices as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. Domestic producers have embraced these “Best Practices”.**
- **Internationally recognized NGOs, such as Polaris Project, International Justice Mission, also visited Thailand in 2014 to have preliminary discussion with various government agencies concerned to explore possible areas of cooperation, such as hotline service improvement, victim rescue and protection, investigation of a multi-disciplinary team. At the minimum, focal points of contact have been established between Thai authorities and these international NGOs. Future meetings to exchange more concrete ideas on cooperation are also in the pipeline.**
- **More updates will be provided before the end of March 2015, as additional data are rolling in and some of the key initiatives are now being discussed. Future work plan will also be finalized within the next two months.**

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