

Thailand's Anti-Human Trafficking Action Plan 2012 – 2013*

This Action Plan is a result of a series of interagency consultations and reflects the Royal Thai Government's strong determination and commitment to address the issue of human trafficking. The Action Plan covers A) Effective preliminary victim identification; B) Increase of Efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders and officials engaged in trafficking-related corruption; C) Improvement of labor inspection standards and procedures; D) Implementation of procedures to allow adult trafficked victims to stay temporarily in Thailand and work outside of shelters; E) Protection of workers in fishery industry; F) Working towards sustainable solution to protection of migrant workers; G) Ratifying the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). These elements were seen as immediate challenges that will help to enhance Thailand's efforts in anti-human trafficking. They are action-oriented, ambitious, and require serious efforts and a collaborative ownership by all stakeholders, including a strong partnership with the civil society.

A. Effective preliminary victim identification

- to enhance capacity of relevant agencies in the process of preliminary identification of trafficked victims and strengthen efficiency of the process by:
 - (1) allowing representatives from relevant agencies, including governmental agencies, NGOs, and international organizations to engage in the standardized process of preliminary identification of trafficked victims (Immigration Bureau);
(2012-2013)
 - (2) enhancing efficiency of interpreters involved in the process of preliminary identification of trafficked victims (Department of Social Development and Security - MSDHS);
(2012-2013)
 - (3) enhancing efficiency of police officers and multi-disciplinary teams involved in the process of trafficked victims identification in the at-risk areas (Song Kla, Ranong, Tak, Nakorn Srithammarat, Samut Sakorn, Nong Kai, Chonburi, Sra Kaew and Bangkok) (MSDHS, Royal Thai Police, Immigration Bureau); (2012-2013)

B. Increase of Efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders and officials engaged in trafficking-related corruption

- to increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenders, including prosecuting officials engaged in trafficking-related corruption by enhancing efficiency of officials in investigation and interrogation process of human trafficking cases as well as of trafficking-related corruption cases in order to efficiently gather witness and evidence and make strong cases for the Court's consideration. (Royal Thai Police)
(2012-2013)

* to be submitted to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, the U.S. State Department

C. Improvement of labor inspection standards and procedures

- to improve regulations and capacity of labor inspections by:

- (1) focusing labor inspection on these following targeted workplaces:
 - workplaces hiring migrant workers, including particularly shrimp industry, seafood-processed industry, garment industry (2012-2013)
 - small scale workplaces with 1 to 49 employees that were not inspected for the past two years and ones that violated laws over the past year (2012-2013)
 - workplaces that have not submitted employment conditions form and working conditions form or ones that have submitted but violated laws (2012-2013)
 - sea fishing boats in targeted areas in Nakon Srithammarat and Song kla (2012-2013)
- (MoL, Marine Department, Royal Thai Police, Fisheries Department, Royal Thai Navy);

(2) expanding and strengthening the existing labor protection networks to complement the labor inspection system to allow the authorities concerned to be informed of potential instances of laws violations and/or trafficking in a timely manner (MoL, Royal Thai Police);

(3) raising public awareness and disseminating knowledge on labor protection, rights and duties of employers and employees (MoL, Fisheries Department);

(4) providing intensive and regular training and capacity building for labor inspectors (MoL).

D. Implementation of procedures to allow adult trafficked victims to temporarily stay in Thailand and work outside of shelters

- to provide the victims with basic freedoms, economic opportunity as well as incentives to participate in criminal cases against trafficking offenders by:

(1) effectively implementing the Ministry of Interior's Announcement on Permission of Certain Group of Aliens to Stay in the Kingdom on Special Circumstances for Victims of Human Trafficking and the Announcement of the Prime Minister's Office on the Occupations that Victims of Human Trafficking Can be Allowed to Work

(MoI, MSDHS, MoL, Royal Thai Police);

(2) establishing and disseminating guidelines regarding coordination of agencies concerned in implementing the Ministry of Interior Announcement on Permission of Certain Group of Aliens to Stay in the Kingdom on Special Circumstances for Victims of Human Trafficking and the Prime Minister's Office Announcement, which will put into effect Article 37 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act B.E. 2551 (2008) (MSDHS, MOI, MOL, Royal Thai Police).

E. Protection of workers in fishery industry

- to tackle the working conditions and labor shortage in the industry by:

(1) finalizing and issuing the Ministerial Regulation regarding the protection of workers in sea fishery, the draft of Hazardous Work List (for children under the age of 18), and Protection of Workers on Sea Ship Transportation Work Act within 2012 (MoL, Fisheries Department);

(2) establishing “Good Labor Management Practice: GLMP” for Thai fishery industry aimed at developing “Operational Guidelines” and manuals on good working conditions on Thai fishing boats focusing on the recruitment, employment, and welfare of both Thai and foreign/migrant workers within 2012 (Fisheries Department);

(3) developing training manual and training course on safety in working in sea fishery industry to train workers in Thai fishing boats within 2012 (Fisheries Department);

(4) developing a Good Labor Management Practice: GLMP for shrimp farms, shrimp peeling sheds, and shrimp/seafood processing factories (Fisheries Department);

(5) developing a GLMP Shrimp Peeling Shed Model by taking the setting of good practices and understanding of the laws and regulations better a step further by establishing a clear framework and a standard for the physical layout of processing enterprise including recommended management and quality control systems and conditions of work (Fisheries Department);

(6) considering and materializing the establishment of the Center for Coordination with labors and Recruitment of labors in collaboration with the private sector, mainly the National Fisheries Association of Thailand (MoL, Fisheries Department).

F. Working towards sustainable solution to protection of migrant workers

- to consider long-term solutions to recruit migrant workers through legal means in order to prevent abuse of human rights violation by:

(1) speeding up the nationality verification process by negotiating with Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia to speed up and facilitate the nationality verification process to be completed within 14 June 2012 by issuing passports (in case of Myanmar and Lao PDR) or certificates of identification – CI (in case of Cambodia) to their nationals (both migrant workers and their children born in Thailand) (MoL, MoI);

(2) seeking cooperation with neighboring countries apart from Myanmar to appoint their labor attaché to their Embassies in Thailand to enhance closer coordination (MoL, MFA);

(3) seeking Government-to-Government cooperation on labor employment/recruitment (MoL, MFA);

(4) increasing Thai investment along the border areas or within neighboring countries to reduce the needs of workers from neighboring countries to seek work in Thailand;

(5) continuing cooperation with international organizations such as International Organization for Migration to enhance the interpreter systems for the anti-TIP hotline operation (MSDHS). (2012-2013)

G. Ratifying the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)

- to finalize and promulgate the Act on the Prevention and Suppression of Transnational Organized Crime B.E. ... soonest, so as to ratify and implement the UNTOC within 2013 (Office of the Attorney General, MFA).

MSDHS	=	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
MFA	=	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoL	=	Ministry of Labor
MoI	=	Ministry of Interior