

THAILAND'S KEY PROGRESS ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

January 2015 - March 2016

 **Policy, Institution & Legal Reform**

 **Protection & Prevention**

 **Prosecution & Law Enforcement**

 **Partnership & Cooperation**

2015

11 Jan 2015

The Royal Thai Police stopped and arrested 2 offenders for smuggling of Rohingya in Hua Sai, which led to the investigation of the historic Rohingya case.

Feb 2015

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security established the Command Center to Protect Children and Women against Trafficking at the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security's Headquarter with regional offices in all 77 provinces.

3 Mar 2015

The cabinet approved bi-annual registration for undocumented workers in sea fisheries for nationals of Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia.

17 Mar – 9 Apr 2015

An interagency task force was deployed to Ambon and Benjina, Indonesia to provide assistance to stranded fishermen and coordinate with local law enforcement agencies.

4 – 7 Apr 2015

Thailand hosted a Thailand – Australia Regional Workshop on TIP in Bangkok with participation from investigators, prosecutors and victim support agencies from 10 ASEAN member countries.

9 Apr 2015

The office of Attorney General, the Royal Thai Police, the Department of Special Investigation, and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security signed an MOU to set up an integrated database of human trafficking cases.

28 Apr 2015

Anti-Human trafficking Act (Amendment) (No.2) 2015 came into effect.

1 May 2015

The Command Center to Combat Illegal Fishing (CCCIF) was set up to coordinate interagency effort to combat IUU fishing and labor issues in the fishery sector.

29 May 2015

Thailand hosted 1st Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean.

Jun 2015

Thailand hosted 1st meeting with Myanmar and Indonesia to coordinate law enforcement efforts in Ambon and Benjina cases. 2nd and 3rd meetings were held in October 2015 and March 2016.

Throughout Jul 2015

The CCCIF conducted a nationwide fishing vessel survey.

21 – 22 Jul 2015

Thailand hosted 12th bilateral meeting between the Myanmar Police Force and Department of Special Investigation. The meeting, among other things, led to the arrest and deportation of Myanmar suspects involving in recruiting Myanmar victims to work on the ships in Indonesia.

23 Jul 2015

Thailand and Vietnam signed an MOU to facilitate legal recruitment of Vietnamese workers into Thailand.

1 Aug – 12 Sep 2015

The Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agents provided technical assistance to the Royal Thai Police on investigation of trafficking in persons and smuggling cases.

10 Aug 2015

The Human Trafficking Case Division was established within the Criminal Court.

17 Aug 2015

7 Thai agencies including the Royal Thai Navy, the Royal Thai Police, the Department of Fisheries, the Marine Department, the Department of Welfare and Labour Protection, the Department of Employment and the Department of Provincial Administration signed an MOU on information sharing of fishing vessels and workers data.

25 Aug 2015

The Songkla Court sentenced a former member of the Satun Provincial Administration Organization (PAO) to 22 years and 6 months imprisonment and ordered to pay indemnity of 3,494 USD to the Rohingya victims.

3 Sep 2015

The Phuket Provincial Court dismissed charges of defamation and libel against 2 journalists for reporting the incident of official complicity.

4 – 6 Sep 2015

The Australia – Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP) and the Courts of Justice co-hosted the workshop to enhance cooperation in the criminal justice sector on human trafficking.

Oct 2015

The Royal Thai Police and U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) have started their cooperation to target registered sex offenders whom the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) believe are likely to engage in child sex tourism by taking referrals from the Operation Angel Watch.

1 Oct 2015

The new Department of Anti-Human Trafficking was set up within the Office of Attorney General.

6 Oct 2015

The Special Legal Committee was set up by the Prime Minister's Office Order No. 268/2558 to consider legal issues related to human trafficking.

9 Oct 2015

The Anti-Money Laundering Act (Amendment) (No.5) 2015 came into effect.

10 Oct 2015

The Chief of the Supreme Court ordered the transfer of the Rohingya case from the Nathawee Court to the Special Human Trafficking Division within the Criminal Court in Bangkok.

14 Oct 2015

The Ministry of Interior, having received information from the Family Connection Foundation, raid a karaoke brothel in Kanchanaburi province, rescued Myanmar girl victim and arrested 2 suspects on sexual exploitation charges.

17 Oct 2015

The Administrative Measures to Prevent Public Officials' Involvement in Human Trafficking came into effect.

2 Nov 2015

All migrant workers in Thailand's fishery and seafood processing sectors are entitled to change their employers.

7 Nov 2015

An operation to raid 11 onshore and offshore targets by various enforcement agencies led to the beginning of Kantang case.

9 Nov 2015

A raid at Gig shrimp peeling shed led to the rescue of 31 trafficked victims.

10 Nov 2015

The cabinet approved the Ministry of Labour's proposal to register migrant workers in the seafood processing sector.

13 Nov 2015

The Ministry of Labour held a multi-stakeholder meeting to consider the definition of forced labor and debt bondage. Two handbooks on labor inspection incorporated the definition to assist labor inspectors in identifying and taking legal actions in forced labor and debt bondage cases.

14 Nov 2015

Royal Ordinance on Fisheries 2015 came into effect.

21 Nov 2015

Thailand together with the 9 ASEAN members signed the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children (ACTIP), during 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

3 - 4 Dec 2015

Thailand hosted 2nd Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean.

7 Dec 2015

The Penal Code (Amendment) (No.24) on Child Pornography Offenses 2015 became effective.

16 Dec 2015

Based on the information by the Alliance Anti Traffic (ATT), the Ministry of Interior rescued 3 Lao girl victims and arrested 3 owners/managers of the karaoke bars in Ubonratchathani.

19 & 25 Dec 2015

Two notifications issued by the Office of the Prime Minister became effective. These notifications establish measures and criteria for responsible officers to require owners or operators of factories, entertainment facilities, guest house, hotels, vessels and vehicles to constantly monitor and ensure that their employees are not subject to forced labor or human trafficking.

19 Dec 2015

Thailand and Cambodia signed an MOU and issued a draft agreement on employment of migrant workers.

2016

1 Jan 2016

All members of the Thai Frozen Food Association (TFFA) brought all shrimp processing operations in-house in order to exercise full control over the working conditions of employees.

5 Jan 2016

The improved preliminary identification form became effective.

5 Jan 2016

NVADER and the Family Connection Foundation reported a TIP incident to the Ministry of Interior which led to the rescue of 4 Lao girl victims and arrests of 3 suspects.

7 - 9 Jan 2016

Thailand and Myanmar, the largest source of migrants and trafficking victims, held a technical consultation and discussed an MOU and an agreement that would regulate and monitor recruitment fees and expenses. 2nd consultation was held between 12-13 February in Chonburi, Thailand.

8 Jan 2016

The Royal Thai Police set up Thailand Internet Crimes against Children (TICAC).

11 - 18 Jan 2016

The first batch of government officials completed the training in accordance with a national curriculum on TIP, Child Labor and Forced Labor at sea. Over 100 officials from all related agencies will undergo in the trainings in 2016.

14 Jan 2016

The Ministry of Labour issued a Ministerial Regulation to Prohibit Employment of Workers below 18 in Seafood Processing Factories.

15 Jan 2016

The CCCIF signed an MOU with 36 organizations, including 12 government agencies, 21 seafood private sectors and 3 organizations (civil society) to combat IUU fishing and human trafficking in the fishery and seafood processing sectors.

20 - 21 Jan 2016

To implement the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children (ACTIP), all ASEAN member countries agreed on a draft work plan during 12th SOMTC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons.

28 Jan 2016

Police in Phuket arrested a gang engaging in trafficking of Myanmar workers and rescued 32 trafficking victims.

1 Feb 2016

The authorities continued to arrest more suspects in Kantang case including an influential figure in the area.

1 Feb 2016

Thailand hosted the Special Retreat on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean.

2 Feb 2016

Thailand co-hosted 10th Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting, together with Australia and Indonesia.

8 - 11 Feb 2016

Multidisciplinary teams from Thailand and Myanmar held 17th bilateral case management meeting in Yangon, Myanmar.

16 - 18 Feb 2016	16 Feb 2016	19 Feb 2016	26 Feb 2016	29 Feb 2016
Thailand and the Japan International Cooperation Agency organized 6th Mekong Regional Workshop on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in Bangkok with over 100 practitioners from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.	The Civil Court ordered the seizure of the assets worth 16,569 USD from the suspects in the Rohingya case.	Thailand's Children's Advocacy Center (ACT) was launched.	The Regulation to provide financial incentives for persons who provide evidence or otherwise assist in the successful prosecution of TIP case came into effect.	The trial of 3 police officers who allegedly detained 3 migrants and demanded bribes began.
11 Mar 2016	15 Mar 2016	15 Mar 2016	15 Mar 2016	15 - 22 Mar 2016
The National Legislative Assembly passed the draft Anti-Human Trafficking Criminal Procedure Act.	The cabinet approved additional measures to better protect witnesses and victims, for instance, by extending the period that they can stay and work in Thailand from 6 months to 1 year, and reducing time to acquire permits from 45 days to 10 days.	The Cabinet approved in principle of the draft amendment to Anti-Human Trafficking Act (No.3).	The first day of the trial for 92 defendants in the Rohingya case.	CCCIF led a Thai delegation and the Labour Rights Promotion Network (LPN) to visit Ambon, Tual, Benjina, Yamdena Aru and Saumlaki islands to scan for stranded fishermen and facilitate their repatriation.
17 Mar 2016	18 Mar 2016	18 Mar 2016	23 Mar 2016	23 Mar 2016
The Ministry of Labour announced a partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Union for a 42-month joint project "Combating Unacceptable Forms of Work in the Thai Fishing and Seafood Industry".	The Court sentenced a former MSDHS staff to imprisonment of 16 years and ordered to pay indemnity of USD 1,697 to each victim.	The Department of Fisheries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nestlé and Thai Union Group launched a "Demonstration Boat" project.	Thailand ratified ILO Convention 187 on the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health. The convention will enter into force for Thailand on 23 March 2017.	Thailand attended 6th Bali Process Ministerial Conference in Indonesia.
24 - 25 Mar 2016	25 Mar 2016	29 Mar 2016	29 Mar 2016	
Thailand hosted 1st bilateral meeting between the Lao Anti-Trafficking Division and the Royal Thai Police and the Department of Special Investigation.	NVADER and the Family Connection Foundation provided information to the Ministry of Interior which led to the rescue of 8 Lao girls and arrest of a manager of a karaoke bar in NakhonPhanom on child exploitation and forced labour charges.	The cabinet approved in principle the draft Royal Ordinance on the Bringing of Migrant Workers to Work in Thailand.	The Ministry of Labour submitted to the cabinet amendments to the Labour Protection Act 2008.	

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THAILAND

SOURCE:

- 1. TRAFFICK IN PERSONS REPORT 2015**, The Royal Thai Government's Response, January 1 - December 31, 2015
- 2. UPDATE TRAFFICK IN PERSONS REPORT 2015**, The Royal Thai Government's Response, January 1 - March 31, 2016