

As of 15 March 2017



Progress Report

on the Royal Thai Government's Anti-Human Trafficking Response

(1 January - 31 March 2017)

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Introduction and Highlights

The Progress Report documents the Royal Thai Government's efforts in combatting human trafficking during the course of three months from 1 January to 31 March 2017, which constitutes the final quarter of the assessment year 2017. The progress during this period, when combined with achievements throughout the year 2016 as illustrated in Thailand's Country Report on Anti-Human Trafficking Response (1 January - 31 December 2016), provides clear evidence that the Government has continued to strenuously address human trafficking as an underlying agenda and on-going priority, which is in line with its long-standing commitment and dedication to uphold the universal values of human dignity and human rights. The various measures undertaken by the Government to counter human trafficking are a firm indication of its continued efforts and the important it attaches to the suppression and prevention of human trafficking. Building upon Thailand's Country Report on Anti-Human Trafficking Response (1 January - 31 December 2016), this Progress Report documents in details the Government's key progress in the 5 pillars of anti-human trafficking measures; namely Policy, Prosecution, Protection, Prevention, and Partnership.

In terms of policy, the Government has pursued since 2014 its 'zero tolerance' policy aiming to eliminate human trafficking in all forms by attacking it on all fronts with a holistic approach, as also stated in Thailand's Country Report on Anti-Human Trafficking Response (1 January - 31 December 2016). A number of key legislative reforms have been carried out; in particular, the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (No. 3) B.E. 2560 (2017), the Labour Protection Act (No. 5) B.E. 2560 (2017), and the drafting of the Royal Ordinance concerning Management of Migrants' Work B.E. ... Inter-agency database system will soon be comprehensively integrated for anti-human trafficking purposes.

Regarding prosecution, the Government has made significant progress on human trafficking cases. With 4 special units in place, the Government has successfully streamlined and expedited human trafficking cases handling. There is progress on some case backlog and important cases, such as Phu Ruea, Loei Province. Government official complicity cases have also advanced rapidly. In addition, coordination and cooperation among various agencies concerned have been strengthened to enhance the effectiveness of anti-human trafficking law enforcement.

For protection, the Government has continued to implement its victim-centered approach which improves assistance and welfare provided for victims and witnesses of human trafficking. Temporary protection for potential victims and victims of trafficking is provided for 24 hours during victim identification process and can be extended for up to 7 days upon the court's permission. Moreover, the Government has established a daily financial scheme of 300 THB (8.6 USD) to encourage human trafficking victims and witnesses to seek employment. Recently, the Government also launched a measure that allows human trafficking victims and witnesses to stay on in Thailand for up to 2 years. From 1 January - 31 March 2017, 80 new victims have been placed into the shelter.

Considerable progress has been made for prevention. The newly effective Labour Protection Act (No. 5) B.E. 2560 (2017) increases penalties for child labor exploitations. The Government is also implementing the National Strategy for Migrant Worker Management for 2017 - 2021 which attempts to reduce the country's dependency on unskilled migrant workers, effectively manage migrant workers' entry into and exit out of Thailand, and develop a national standard for migrant worker employment that conforms to international standards. Furthermore, the preventive measures taken in the fishery sector, especially the Navigation in the Thai Waters Act (No. 17) B.E. 2560 (2017) which modernizes the Thai navigation law and aligns it with the existing measures have yielded satisfactory results. There are also enhanced efforts

to tackle human and labor trafficking at sea by issuing Sea Books for migrant workers and Seaman Books for Thai nationals, an integrated vessel-crew database system, the introduction of the Generation 2 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), and the newly adopted Electronic Messaging and Electronic Reporting System (EM & ERS) used to control overseas fishing fleets through satellite communication.

For partnership, not only has the Government engaged with the private sector, civil society organizations and NGOs in its regular efforts to tackle trafficking in persons, the Government has also taken into account the transboundary nature of the challenges and stepped up its cooperation with neighboring countries and beyond, as well as the United States of America and international organizations. The ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (ACTIP) recently entered into force, setting out regional standards and integration on anti-human trafficking measures. Another area with significant progress is reflected in continued and potential further cooperation between Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC) and the United States' National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) through the Homeland Security Investigation (HSI).

Thailand pledges to continue improving its capabilities to combat human trafficking. The way in which the Government is responding to this challenge is designed to be all the more sustainable and set the bar higher, on the one hand, for the country's future work in its fight against human trafficking and, on the other hand, in freeing the world of such menace.

(1) Policy

The Government has continued its efforts in tackling human trafficking challenges with a holistic approach that covers migrant workers, labor in the fishing sector, beggars, sex trafficking in children and women, and child pornography. Progress at policy level includes the following:

1.1 Progress on Legal Reforms

1.1.1 The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (No. 3) B.E. 2560 (2017)

In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of addressing human trafficking challenges which have become more severe and complicated over time, the Government has undertaken the amendment of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (No. 2) B.E. 2558 (2015). Such bill was approved by the National Legislative Assembly on 8 December 2016 and passed into law – **the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (No. 3) B.E. 2560 (2017)**. The Act has become effective since 28 January 2017.

The 3rd version of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act not only improves the clarity of several provisions of the previous version, but also enhances the operational efficiency of its implementation. Key improvements of the Act include:

- **Revision of some definitions**

The definition of “exploitation” has been broadened to include any practices of putting someone into slavery and other exploitative practices of similar nature. The definition of ‘forced labor or services’ has also been revised to cover confiscation of important identification documents and debt bondages.

- **Revision of means of human trafficking**

The revised Act has extended means of human trafficking to encompass (1) abuse of a position of physical, mental, educational, or other kinds of vulnerability; and (2) threat of abusively starting a legal procedure.

- **Revision of punishment**

The revised Act has increased punishment to be an imprisonment term of 1 year to a fine of 100,000 THB (2,855 USD). However, if an offence is done to children under the age of 15, particularly if it possibly places them into serious danger or has an effect on their physical or mental health, growth or personal development, the punishment will be an imprisonment term of up to 4 years and a fine of up to 400,000 THB (11,415 USD).

(1) Regarding general human trafficking offences, the maximum punishment has increased from 10 years of imprisonment to 12 years and from 200,000 THB (5,714 USD) of fine to 1,200,000 THB (34,286 USD).

(2) Regarding offences done to persons between 15 - 18 years of age, the maximum punishment has been brought up from 12 years of imprisonment to 15 years and from 120,000 - 240,000 THB (3,429 - 6,857 USD) of fine to 600,000 - 1,500,000 THB (17,143 - 42,857 USD).

(3) Regarding offences done to persons under 15 years of age or having physical or mental disabilities, the maximum punishment has been intensified from 15 years of imprisonment to 20 years and from 60,000 - 300,000 THB (1,714 - 8,571 USD) of fine to 800,000 - 2,000,000 THB (22,857 - 57,143 USD).

- **Increase in protection for children under the age of 15**

It is an offence under the revised Act to procure children under the age of 15 to carry out work or services that may be extremely dangerous and have an effect on their body or mind, growth or personal development, or that may be contrary to moral decency.

- **Increase in protection for other vulnerable persons**

The revised Act has increased protection for disabled persons and children, in accordance with the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (ACTIP).

In view of the newly revised Act in force, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security plans to organize a total of 6 training courses not only for personnel in the judicial process, including the Royal Thai Police, Department of Special Investigation, Office of the Attorney General, Court of Justice, but also for the multi-disciplinary teams from the government, NGOs, and international organizations, as well as entrepreneurs, establishments, factories, and associations working in the fishery sector. The training courses will be held both at central and regional levels. The first training course was organized in Bangkok on 1 March 2017; the second in Trang (a province in southern Thailand) on 20 - 21 March 2017 aiming at 22 coastal provinces; the third in Bangkok on 27 - 28 March 2017 aiming at the provinces in central and eastern Thailand; while the last 3 training courses will have been completed by May 2017.

In addition to the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (No. 3) B.E. 2560 (2017), the training courses will also be on a new legislation on and an amendment to the labor rights protection law, as well as measures to improve effectiveness of human trafficking victim identification.

1.1.2 The Labour Protection Act B.E. 2560 (2017)

The Ministry of Labour has amended legislation on labor protection to keep up with the ever-changing situations on the ground. The newly revised Labour Protection Act (No. 5) B.E. 2560 (2017) was published in the Royal Gazette on 24 January 2017 and entered into force on 23 February 2017. Important provisions of the revision include (1) the increases in punishment for offences related to child labor; (2) the definition of minimum age, dangerous work for children, prohibited workplaces for children, etc. For more details, please see section 4.1 in the Prevention chapter.

1.2 The drafting of the Royal Ordinance concerning Management of Migrants' Work B.E. ...

As mentioned in Thailand's Country Report 2016, the Ministry of Labour is reforming laws concerning migrant workers. The integrated legislation on migrants' work will cover management thereof as well as prevention, protection and remedy, law enforcement with sufficiently stringent punishment, and cooperation with relevant sectors. The aim of this Royal Ordinance is to ensure that work-related or social rights of migrant workers and labor in the fishing sector are protected equally in accordance with human dignity and rights.

To achieve this, the Ministry of Labour has established a **Committee on Migrant Worker Management Reform**. This committee has then set up 2 working groups: (1) working group for the drafting of the Royal Ordinance; and (2) working group on civil society whose role is to study public opinion and advise the drafting working group and the Committee accordingly.

Important provisions covered by the draft Royal Ordinance will include:

1. management of migrant workers, as well as their work permits, protection and remedy, safety, welfare, and social insurance;
2. levies to be collected from employers for the use of migrant worker management and rights protection; for instance habitation zoning, education, public health, remedy in case of violation of rights, as well as supporting NGOs to help the Government with assistance and remedy for migrant workers;

3. harsher punishment and fine in case of wrongdoing related to migrant workers;
4. administrative measures allowing to suspend or revoke brokers' permits, or to blacklist recruitment agencies;

The draft Royal Ordinance concerning Management of Migrants' Work B.E. ... was submitted by the Ministry of Labour to the Cabinet, which approved it in principle on 7 March 2017. The draft Royal Ordinance is expected to enter into force under the current Government.

1.3 Progress on Government Official Complicity

The Government is fully committed to addressing government official complicity. It not only **enhances understanding and raises awareness of all officials** about the suppression and prevention of human trafficking, but also launches initiatives to discourage official complicity.

The **Sub-Committee on the Follow-Up of Disciplinary Sanctions and Legal Prosecution of Officials involved in Human Trafficking** led by Deputy Prime Minister Admiral Narong Pipatanasai was set up. On 13 March 2017, the Deputy Prime Minister presided over the meeting of the Sub-Committee to follow up on 46 government official complicity cases, be they of disciplinary, civil, or criminal nature. In addition, the Government issued the **Regulation of the Office of the Prime Minister on Administrative Measures to Prevent Public Officials' Involvement in Human Trafficking**, which sets out a code of conduct for public officials as well as disciplinary and legal punishments for wrongdoers. Both measures combined have led to a higher number of official complicity cases uncovered. Besides the **greater number of criminal lawsuits** filed against government officials complicit in human trafficking, **more severe disciplinary sanctions and asset seizures** are also being imposed on them.

The cases of government official complicity also progress continuously. For more details, please see section 2.4 in the Prosecution chapter.

1.4 Integrating the Inter-Agency Database System

Although Thailand's database system on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking is fully operational, the Government has continued to develop it further nonetheless.

Information on prosecution of human trafficking cases and victim support has been gathered among the **Royal Thai Police, Department of Special Investigation, Office of the Attorney General, and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security**. Not only have these agencies continued to record and update information in the database, but they are also in the process of linking this database with the **Court of Justice** in order to achieve a truly comprehensive database on anti-human trafficking efforts.

Progress during the course of 3 months (January - March 2017) includes the close consultations of the technology team with the Court of Justice in order to develop an optimal system that could best meet the need for data on human trafficking cases. The inter-agency body is also in coordination with the **Anti-Money Laundering Office** for data on asset seizures.

Furthermore, with a view to speeding up the database linking, Deputy Prime Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan appointed a **Sub-Committee on Integrating and Developing Database System for the Sustainable Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking** which is led by Pol. Gen. Chatchawal Suksomjit. The responsibilities of this Sub-Committee include (1) improving the method of entering and analyzing data, follow-up on prosecution, follow-up on assistance for human trafficking victims, in a continued, updated and sustainable manner; (2) assigning specialists in all agencies concerned and building a mechanism or structure in each agency to operate such database; and (3) giving advice on the effective database integration.

On 9 March 2017, a small-group meeting was held to discuss challenges faced and lessons learned from data processing and use of data by all agencies concerned, prior to the meeting of the Sub-Committee.

(2) Prosecution

2.1 Human Trafficking Cases

2.1.1 Status of the case backlog in 2015

From 10 cases backlog in the year 2015, the number of the case was reduced to 6 cases as of 28 February 2017. Details are as follows:

- 4 cases are Rohingya cases which the Human Trafficking Case Division, the Criminal Court will deliver its verdicts on 19 July 2017;
- 1 case has been proceeded by the Nathawee Provincial Court which will deliver its verdict on 14 March 2017; and
- 1 case, which was transferred from the Nathawee Provincial Court, has been proceeded by the Human Trafficking Case Division of the Songkhla Provincial Court. The defendant's interview was scheduled by the Songkhla Provincial Court to be in June 2016. The first witness hearing was held on 7 December 2016, and is still in the ongoing process. Since the last witness has left for Sweden, so public prosecutor is coordinating, through the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok, with the Swedish Court for the witness's testifying via video conference.

2.1.2 TIP cases uncovered and investigated

2.1.2.1 The Royal Thai Police's operation

From 1 January to 8 March 2017, the RTP uncovered and investigated a total of **46 human trafficking cases**. Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the numbers of trafficking cases uncovered and investigated. Details as follows:

- **41 cases** are related to **sexual exploitation**;
- Among **4 cases in labor exploitation**, 1 case is related to labors in fishing sector and 3 cases are related to labors in general; and
- 1 case is related to **forced begging**.

Table 1: TIP Cases under Investigation by Exploitation Type

Year	Cases under Investigation							
	Cases	Exploitation Type						
		Sex Trafficking	The use of Children in Pornography Production	Begging	Labor	Labor in fishing sector	Slavery	Others
2014	280	223	1	16	33	3	1	3
2015	317	245	-	3	30	39	-	-
2016	333	244	3	8	32	43	-	3
2017 (Jan-March)	46	41	-	1	3	1	-	-

2.1.2.2 Labor trafficking cases in the fishery sector

With reference to the 43 cases of workers in the fishery sector among 333 TIP cases in 2016, details of the fishery cases are as follows:

- 5 cases are under the Police's investigation;
- 3 cases were indicted by the public prosecutors;
- 33 cases are being on trial at the Court; and
- 1 case has been finalized (a defendant of the case was convicted)

The number of offenders in the fishery sector who have been arrested and charged in 2016 is 67 (61 males and 6 females; 30 Thais, 10 Myanmar, 2 Cambodians, and 25 Vietnamese. The offenders' status includes 5 boat owners, 36 boat captains, and 26 others.

During January and March 2017, the Police uncovered and investigated one more case in the fishery sector, which involved 3 male offenders (Thai, Indonesian, and Taiwan) and 9 Indonesian male victims of trafficking. Statistics of offenders arrested by gender, nationality and duty are shown in Table 2 and statuses of cases are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 2: Offenders of labor trafficking cases in the fishery sector

Year	Cases	Offenders										
		Gender		Nationality							Duty	
		Male	Female	TH	MM	Camb.	VT	Ind	Taiwan	Owner	Captain	Others
2016	43	61	6	30	10	2	25	1	1	5	36	26
2017 (Jan-March)	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	1

Table 3: Statuses of labor trafficking cases in the fishery sector

Year	Cases	Investigation (The Police)	Indictment (The Public Prosecutor)	The Court	
				Trial	Finished
2016	43	5	3	33	1
2017 (Jan-March)	1	1	-	-	-

2.1.2.3 DSI's operation

On 6 January 2017, the Embassy of Lao PDR requested the DSI to assist a 13 years old Laotian girl who were abducted from the Lao PDR and forced to work in Thailand. The strong cooperation among the Embassy, DSI, and the LPN led to the arrest of 4 suspects and the rescue of the girl on the same day. In addition, the DSI also arrested an offender who committed transnational crime (sex trafficking) in Bahrain and filed the case to the Anti-Human Trafficking Department (AHTD), the Attorney General.

2.2 Training Law Enforcement Officials

2.2.1 Training on the enforcement of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (B.E.2560)

The MSDHS in cooperation with the RTP and the CCCIF will arrange 6 training programs for law enforcement officials from the Ministry of Justice, the RTP, the DSI, the Attorney General and the Court of Justice as well as officials in charge of victim identification and the National Fisheries Association of Thailand, and business or plants owners. The training aims to promote better understanding and fostering compliance with the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (B.E. 2560), especially the definition of human trafficking and victim identification process. The first round was held from 1 – 2 March 2017 in Bangkok.

2.2.2 The Office of the Attorney-General Training program

The OAG has trained the public prosecutors and the interrogators throughout the country to promote better understanding of human trafficking laws, focusing on (1) new human trafficking laws and general knowledge and awareness on human trafficking (2) seminar and workshop on prosecution of transnational trafficking in persons (3) workshop on capacity-building for the effective investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons, and (4) workshop on the use of high-tech evidence in investigation and indictment.

2.2.3 Training on witness protection techniques by the Rights and Liberties Protection Department

The RLPD designed a training course for their working-level officials and their counterparts to be equipped with skills on witness protection. The training program will be conducted for 7 days in July 2017 and cover theoretical and technical training as well as training evaluation.

2.2.4 Capacity-building programs of the Human Trafficking Case Division, the Criminal Court

The Appellate court, the Court of Justice and the U.S. Embassy Bangkok held a seminar on human trafficking laws and the Court's procedure during 17-20 January 2017 at Holiday Inn Pattaya. Mrs. Virginia M. Kendall, the U.S. District Court Judge from Northern District of Illinois gave an extensive lecture on human trafficking to 50 participants, including the Appellate court judges and the Human Trafficking Case Division judges as well as relevant officers. The seminar aims to promote better understanding on human trafficking laws of Thailand and the U.S. as well as standardize resource management of the Human Trafficking Case Division.

The Criminal Court also partnered with the AAPTIP to arrange a training program for 35 interpreters in the court proceeding during 28-29 March 2017 at Conrad Bangkok Hotel. In addition, a seminar to exchange views and experiences on the court's rules and trials, including human trafficking criminal procedure among the Appellate court judges and the Criminal court judges from the human trafficking case divisions as well as the provincial court judges throughout the country would be held around April 2017.

2.3 The Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children (TICAC)

Since the establishment of the TICAC in 2015, a total of 88 alleged incidents of child exploitation were reported through various sources such as the HSI Cybertip, the FBI, the U.S. Child Protective Services, the INTERPOL, the AFP, the Children Advocacy Center, the U.K. National Crime Agency, and the DSI.

In 2016, the TICAC uncovered 25 criminal offences involving child pornography, child sexual abuse, and human trafficking cases. Since January 2017, 4 offenders (1 Australian and 3 Thais) have been charged: 1 Australian is currently under consideration of the public prosecutor; 2 Thais are under investigation of the police; and 1 Thai is being on trial. Statistics on the prosecution of the 20 offenders charged in 2016 (4 others were extradited) and the 4 offenders in 2017 are shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Progress in prosecution of the offenders arrested by the TICAC

Offenders (no.)	Current status of the cases in 2016 (plus 4 more cases in 2017)				
	Repatriation	Under investigation by the Police	Under consideration by the Prosecutor	On trial	Pending additional evidences
	1 British	4 Thais *(2 were arrested in 2017)	2 Australians *(1 was arrested in 2017)	2 Thais (1 was arrested in 2017)	1 American
		1 Swiss		1 Swiss	
		1 Australian		3 Americans	
		1 American		1 Japanese	
				1 Norwegian	
Total	1	7	2	8	1

2.4 Witness protection

On 15 March 2016, the Government passed a Cabinet Resolution to Protect Victims of Human Trafficking by granting formal witness protection to all witnesses in human trafficking trials in Thailand and mandated the RTP and the Rights and Liberties Protection Department to assist all witnesses on humanitarian grounds under the Witness Protection Act (B.E. 2546). The RLPD, as requested by the National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee, convened a meeting with the RTP, the MSDHS, the MOI, the MOL, and the DSI to set out urgent measures to provide better protection for witnesses in human trafficking trials and allocate budget for witness protection.

2.5 Government official complicity

In 2017 (January - March), 6 government official complicity cases (4+1 Royal Thai Police and 1 local politicians) were uncovered and investigated. From 2013 to 2017, a total of **51 government officials have been charged** for their involvement in trafficking in persons. Details are as follows:

- 16 cases are still under investigation;
- 4 cases are filed to the public prosecutors;
- 31 cases are being on trial (25 cases are with the Trial Court, 3 cases are with the Court of Appeals, and the 3 others are with the Supreme Court.

Details of the occupation of the government officials accused of complicity and latest status of the convicted government officials are shown in Table 5 and Table 6 below.

Table 5: The Occupation of Government Officials Complicit

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Occupation					
Civil Servants	-	1	1	-	
Military	-	1	6	-	
Royal Thai Police	1	3	8	10	4+1*
Local Politicians	-	2	12	-	1
Total	1	7	27	10	6

Remarks: 1* is a case of Pol.Col. Supat Laohawatana occurred in 2014, but a government official complicit was uncovered in 2017.

Table 6: Latest status of the convicted government officials

Year		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Status of cases						
Investigator					10	
Prosecutor				4		
Court	Trial Court		3	22		
	Court of Appeals	1	3	1		
	Supreme Court		1			
	Case dismissed		1			
Total		1	8	27	10	5

Table 7: Latest status of official complicity disciplinary charges

Occupation	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Under disciplinary committee's consideration					10	4
Pending court's hearing				2		
Resigned from government			1	3		
Working status placed on hold			2	13		
Dismissed from government		1	5	8		
Disciplinary case discharged				1		
Total		1	8	27	10	4

2.6 Follow up on some important cases

2.6.1 Pol. Col. Supat Laohawatana

- The Government has requested for extradition of Pol.Col. Supat Laohawatana, who was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment by the Mawlamyine Court in Myanmar. However, the Government of Myanmar is of the opinion that his extradition should be postponed until he has completed his sentence in Myanmar.

2.6.2 Forced Labour Shrimp Peeling Shed in Samutsakhon

- The plaintiffs' witness hearings were scheduled on 24 January, 1 -3 February, and April 2017.

2.6.3 Rohingya Cases

- The witness hearing is scheduled from 4 April – 20 September 2017 for 19 defendants of the Hua Sai case.

- The Court concluded the Padang Besar Case on 24 February 2017 and will deliver its verdict on 19 July 2017.

2.6.4 TIP cases in Indonesian Islands

- The Court delivered its verdicts on 7 out of 19 cases uncovered and investigated by the RTP's Anti-Human Trafficking Division. The defendants of 3 out of 7 cases were sentenced as follows: (1) 7 years imprisonment (2) 5 years and 12 months imprisonment (3) 7 years imprisonment while the defendants of the 4 other cases have been acquitted.

2.6.5 Kantang

- The court will deliver its verdict on 17 March 2017.

2.7 Prominent cases in 2016

During January and March 2017, the Government has made solid progress on prominent cases uncovered and investigated in 2016, as mentioned in the Thailand's Country Report on Anti-Human Trafficking Response for 1 January – 31 December 2016. Details are as follows:

2.7.1 Natari - The Crackdown on Child Sex Trafficking Syndicates

- The witness hearing is scheduled on 20 February, 15-16 March and 30-31 March, and 5 April 2017
- The Civil Court is considering the AMLO's temporary seizure of the defendant's asset over 720 million THB (20.68 million USD) and the Court has begun the trial since February 2017.
- On 15 February 2017, the AMLO reported suspects of money laundering offences to the Police.

2.7.2 The Big Boss Ring Case - the Crackdown on Child Sex Trafficking Syndicate

- Following the AMLO's asset seizures from the Big Boss syndicates of 12 million THB (350 thousands USD) in 2016, AMLO seized additional assets of over 1.8 million THB (51,428 USD) from the offenders of the Big Boss Ring Case in January 2017
- In addition to the earlier filed charge of sex trafficking, on 6 March 2017, the public prosecutors ordered the police to file an additional charge of a conspiracy of two or more persons committing human trafficking offense

2.7.3 The Ton Nam Karaoke Case - Speedy Criminal Justice process in Combating Trafficking in Persons

- The AMLO is investigating the properties of the offenders and the police

2.7.4 The Phuket Operation - Transnational Labor Trafficking in the Fishing Sector

- The RTP has been working closely with the neighboring countries to arrest 9 more suspects while 1 suspect has died while remaining at large.

2.7.5 The Pattani Case - Transnational Labor Trafficking in the Fishery Sector

- The Pattani Provincial Court will deliver its verdict against all 7 defendants on 28 March 2017.

2.7.6 The Fang Operation – From Internet Crime Against Children to Trafficking in Persons

- On 28 February 2017, the Court Region 5 sentenced the defendant for 4 years imprisonment and will deliver verdict on 16 May 2017 for child pornography offence.

2.8 Prominent case uncovered and investigated during January – March 2017

2.8.1 The Phu Ruea Case – Co-operation between law enforcement agencies and NGOs

- The Phu Ruea Case shows the close cooperation among relevant law enforcement agencies and NGOs in cracking down the sex trafficking syndicates.
- On 8 February 2017 local NGO whistled blow instances of human trafficking in karaoke bars through the Damrongdhama Center of the Ministry of Interior. The MOI in collaboration with the RTP, the DSI, and the PACC investigated and raid 3 karaoke bars in Phu Ruea district, Loei province on 16 February 2017. 4 suspects were arrested and 21 Laotian sex workers were rescued.

- Out of 21 sex workers, 8 were identified in accordance with the Guidelines to Enhance Efficiency of Human Trafficking Victim Identification and intensive discussion between the MDTs and the police. During the victim identification process, all 21 sex workers were provided a temporary shelter with appropriate space to conduct interview. The 8 victims were provided assistance (i.e. the MSDHS's shelter and services).

- However, the MDTs and the police agreed that they needed more time to identify more potential victims and gain victims' trust. The police then adopted the 24-hour temporary protection and also filed complaint to the court to grant protection extending for 7 days. As a result, 13 more victims were identified, 12 of which requested for repatriation while the other requested a work permit in Thailand.

- 5 government officials (4 were police officers and 1 was local politician) were also found complicit in the case and being under the PACC's investigation.

- All 3 karaoke bars were close by the Governor of Loei province through his administrative power.

2.9 Cooperation and Partnership to Enhance Effectiveness of Law Enforcement

2.9.1 The Department of Special Investigation

The DSI held a regular joint meeting with law enforcement agencies of Myanmar in Yangon for intelligence sharing on forced begging and victim protection during 25-26 January 2017. In addition, the Royal Thai Police and the DSI held a regular meeting with law enforcement agencies of Lao PDR in Luang Prabang on intelligence sharing and victim protection during 30 January -1 February 2017.

2.9.2 The Anti-Human Trafficking Division, Royal Thai Police

Throughout the year 2016 and 2017, the RTP's representatives joined several bilateral, regional and international meetings on human trafficking, human smuggling, child exploitation, transnational organized crime throughout the year with the Japanese, UK, Indonesian Governments and international fora such as ASEAN, APPTIP, UNODC, and INTERPOL.

2.10 Special Units

2.10.1 The Anti-Human Trafficking Division, Royal Thai Police

A special unit under the Royal Thai Police, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division (ATPD) has the jurisdiction for investigation of all types of human trafficking across the country. In its efforts to suppress human trafficking crimes, the ATPD collaborates with local police units and other government agencies, in particular the Office of the Attorney General for which it provides human resources and with which it shares intelligence.

Not only does the ATPD collaborate with domestic agencies, but it also has bilateral cooperation with Myanmar, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Oman and the United Arab Emirates in the form of intelligence sharing and mutual assistance in solving cross-border human trafficking issues.

2.10.2 The Anti-Human Trafficking Center, Department of Special Investigation

The Anti-Human Trafficking Center under the Department of Special Investigation is in charge of investigation of complex human trafficking cases or ones that involve transnational crime organizations. The focus of the Anti-Human Trafficking Center has been on the 'big fish' or major instigators.

This special unit has built cooperation with law enforcement agencies in several countries, including the United States, Australia, Switzerland, Bahrain, Myanmar, Cambodia, etc., as well as with NGOs. This has led to effective investigation of multiple key cases, such as forced labor on fishing vessels in Indonesia, and consequently to assistance for victims.

2.10.3 The Department of Anti-Human Trafficking, Office of the Attorney-General

The Department of Anti-Human Trafficking under the Office of the Attorney-General has achieved (1) a faster case recording thanks to the integrated inter-agency database; (2) a faster and more efficient indictment of cases; (3) public prosecutors' better understanding of anti-human trafficking legislations; and (4) a better promotion of public awareness and surveillance on human trafficking.

Under the special units, the period of time for filing of indictment could be done within 12 days. The OAG has dealt with a total of 316 cases since the establishment of the special units in 2015.

2.10.4 The Human Trafficking Case Division, Criminal Court

There are special units in the Criminal Court of First Instance and the Appellate Court. Key performance and result areas are as follows:

- (1) Centralizing of high-skilled judges who specialize in human trafficking legislations and cases;
- (2) Speedy trial of human trafficking cases such as the Rohingya case;
- (3) Setting a model of case management procedures (i.e. mode of trial, witness protection at court, pre-witness hearing by video conference); and
- (4) Standardizing and following through human trafficking cases in a more rapid and efficient manner

2.11 The Digital Forensic Laboratory

On 6 December 2016, the Royal Thai Police has formally set up the Digital Forensic Center at Forensic Science Faculty, the Royal Police Cadet Academy (RPCA) with 3 full-time officers. The DFC provides forensic investigation services to the RTP, especially the TICAC and offers computer forensic training classes for national and international law enforcement officials. The center is recognized by the FBI and the HSI, of which representatives in Bangkok joined the opening ceremony of the Center on 6 December 2016, and allies with the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.) also provides support for the functioning of the DFC. The O.U.R. is a non-profit founded by Tim Ballard, in California, the U.S., which assists governments around the world in the rescue of human trafficking and sex trafficking victims with a special focus on children.

The DFC is developing an annual plan which would cover the following services:

- (1) Training law enforcement officials;
- (2) Setting out SOP for computer-based electronic evidence;
- (3) Setting up the RPCA Cybercrime club to educate members on cybercrime and cyber-forensic techniques and conduct research, focusing on internet crime against children;
- (4) Collaborating with international law enforcement agencies in organizing seminar on digital forensics for the DFC full-time staffs;
- (5) Allocating more resources such as 30 more computers, hardware components and digital based evidence crime scene kits, and simulators.
- (6) Recruiting 10 more full-time officers and outsourcing more IT experts.

(3) Protection

3.1 Providing Assistance to Victims of Trafficking

3.1.1 Progress of victims assisted in the MSDHS shelters in 2016

As of March 2017, out of the 561 trafficking victims assisted by the MSDHS in 2016 a total of 299 trafficking victims have been repatriated back to their respected countries. Currently, 104 out of 262 trafficking victims are employed. Among the 104 employed trafficking victims, 86 were able to find jobs outside the shelters and 18 were able to have income earning opportunities within the shelters. On the other hand, there are a total of 158 unemployed trafficking victims.

3.1.2 Victims assisted in the MSDHS shelters in 2017

Since February 2017 there were **a total of 80 victims** who chose to receive protection in the MSDHS shelter. These consist of 26 Myanmar, 18 Cambodian, 9 Indonesian, 10 Laotian, and 17 Thais of which 36 are females and 44 are males.

All of the 80 victims of trafficking are still in recovery period. As previously mentioned, recovery period is designed to assist victims to transition into the MSDHS shelters as well as prepare victims to work if they choose to do so. After the recovery period, the MSDHS will coordinate with the MOL in finding employment opportunities both inside and outside the MSDHS shelters to victims who chose to work within a 15 day time frame. This is in accordance with the order issued by the Human Trafficking Prevention and Suppression Committee.

3.2 Improved employment opportunities for victims

3.2.1 The “Dream Weaving by MSDHS” Project

The “Dream Weaving by MSDHS” project was launched at Central World shopping complex from 8 - 20 February 2017. A total of 20,559 THB (587 USD) worth of handicraft products were sold. The project not only reinforced the private sectors role in providing employment opportunities for victims of trafficking, **but also increased victim’s opportunity to earn an income while living in the MSDHS shelters**. This project has significantly contributed to the victim’s enthusiasm to learn more about business management as well as responsibility in creating high quality handicrafts. More importantly, this project has provided an opportunity for victims to be equipped with adequate knowledge and skills to further pursue a career once they return home. This initiative will prevent victims from being re-victimized and will provide a sustainable income for victims once they return home.

3.2.2 Granting daily financial support to victims

As mentioned in Section 3.7 of Thailand’s Country Report 2016, the MSDHS was exploring the possibility of granting a daily financial support of approximately 300 THB (8.6 USD) per day to victims.

On 2 March 2017, the Human Trafficking Preventing and Suppression Committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan **approved the measure to grant a daily financial support to victims of trafficking**. The daily financial support of 300 THB (8.6 USD) is aimed to encourage all victims to work both outside and inside the MSDHS shelters.

The daily financial support is granted to the following victims:

1. Victims residing in the MSDHS shelters who wish to work and are awaiting the allocation of employment opportunities by the MOL and the MSDHS.
2. Victims residing in the MSDHS shelters who wish to work but are unable to work outside the shelter due to security concerns.

3. Victims not residing in the MSDHS shelters who have reported their intent to work with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division or MSDHS Provincial Office within 1 year of their case number issued by the RTP.

In terms of procedure, the daily financial support is granted to victims after the victim has entered recovery period and have received vocational training (2-4 months). The daily financial support is granted to victims for a maximum of 90 days. Termination of the daily financial support will only occur for the following:

1. Victims have been employed¹
2. Victims have been repatriated/end of protection services
3. Victims do not wish to be granted the daily financial support

3.3 Extending duration of stay for victims and witnesses

As previously mentioned in Section 3.2.5 of Thailand's Country Report 2016, on 13 December 2016, the Cabinet extended the duration of stay for migrants who are victims and witnesses for TIP cases from 1 year to 2 years. Subsequently, **on 27 January 2017 the new extension was fully implemented** in accordance with the MOP's Third Ministry Announcement.

In terms of expanding the scope of work, on 20 February 2017, the Prime Minister approved the Prime Minister Announcement determining the employment sector for migrant victims and witnesses in TIP cases, which permits victims and witnesses in TIP cases to work in all sectors² depending on the need of employers. The said Announcement was then published in the Royal Gazette on 24 February 2017. Additionally, on 22 February 2017, the Minister of Labour approved the Ministerial Regulation which exempts work permit for migrant workers who are victims and witnesses of TIP cases. The said Ministerial Regulation was then published in the Royal Gazette on 28 February 2017 and has then been fully implemented.

It should be clarified that this new regulation applies to all victims and witnesses living inside the MSDHS shelters and not once witness examination has concluded, as was previously mentioned in Section 3.2.5 of Thailand's Country Report 2016. In terms of procedure, the 2 year time frame will be based on the day the MOI issues the legal documents to the victims and witnesses. After the MOI has issued the legal documents granting temporary residency status, the MSDHS will then seek request from the MOL to grant legal documents for victims and witnesses who wish to work in Thailand during their stay in the MSDHS shelters. The MOL will then grant legal documents granting legal employment status for victims and witnesses to work in Thailand. For those victims and witnesses whose case may last for more than 2 years or those that may want to stay on and work in Thailand after their case has ended may request for an annual extension for up to 1 year.

Since the regulation has been fully implemented on 27 January 2017 **there are two victims and witnesses (1 Laotian and 1 Cambodian) who have exercised this right.** Temporary residency status for those victims and witnesses who have entered into the MSDHS shelters from 15 March 2016 to 27 January 2017 are in accordance with the Cabinet Resolution on 15 March 2016, which grants temporary residency status for 1 year. Nonetheless, after the 1 year time frame the said group of victims and witnesses are entitled to request temporary residency status in accordance with the new regulation.

¹ Victims who have been employed and later want to change employers can do so once. While awaiting new employment opportunities the victim has the right to receive the daily financial support. Nonetheless, the maximum length victims will be able to receive the daily financial support will not exceed an accumulation of 90 days (ie. If the victim received the daily financial support prior to their first employment opportunity for a total of 20 days the maximum number of days victims will be granted the daily financial support while changing employers will be 70 days).

² The Prime Minister Announcement uplifts the status of victims and witnesses equivalent to those of migrant labors.

3.4 Improved comprehensive specialized support for victims

3.4.1 Legal aid

In addition to the mock up courtroom, which was established in the Ranong Welfare Protection of Victims Center in 2016, **in January 2017, a mock up courtroom was established in the Songkhla Welfare Protection of Victims Trafficking Center.** Legal advisors stationed at the shelter together with NGO staffs have conducted training courses aimed to familiarize both adult and child victims on court norms, procedures, and expectations as well as informing victim's legal rights. In the Nakhon Ratchasima Welfare Protection of Victims Trafficking Center a mock up model of the courtroom is used to help illustrate court norms, procedures, and expectations to victims.



Image 1: Mock up courtroom at the Songkhla Welfare Protection of Victims Trafficking Center



Image 2: Staff in the Nakhon Ratchasima Welfare Protection of Victims Trafficking Center informs victims on court norms, procedures, and expectations by using the mock up model of the courtroom

3.4.2 Possibility of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) establishing its own shelter to assist victims of trafficking

As previously mentioned in Section 3.3.4 of Thailand's Country Report 2016, the MSDHS is in the process of drafting an SOP for NGOs to establish its own shelter. Currently, the MSDHS has set up a Working Group comprising of relevant agencies as well as relevant NGOs such as Stella Maris, Labor Rights Promotion Network Foundation (LPN), and the Center for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation (CPCR) to analyze related laws and regulations in order to determine the SOP and minimum standards for NGOs to establish its own shelter. The said SOP is expected to be finalized in 2017.

Moreover, a Subcommittee on Enhancing Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations was established by the MSDHS. The Subcommittee aims to **set guidelines for cooperation between the government and CSOs as well as guidelines for funding and technical support.**

3.5 Victim Identification System

3.5.1 Implementing the Guideline to Enhance Efficiency of Human Trafficking Victim Identification by the Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs)

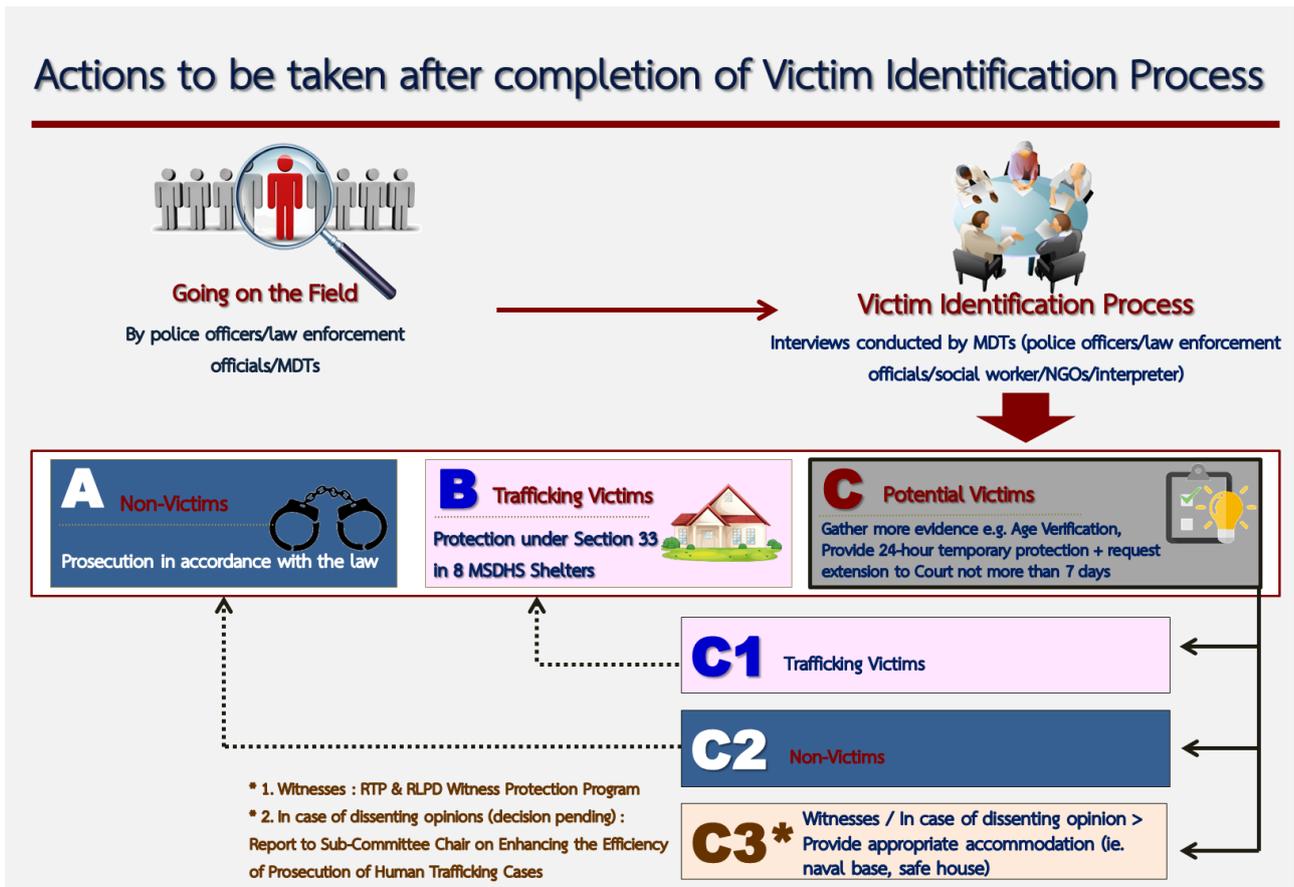
After the implementation of the Guideline to Enhance Efficiency of Human Trafficking Victim Identification on 21 December 2016, which was outlined in Section 3.4.3 of Thailand's Country Report 2016, the MDTs have continuously utilized the said Guideline. The Guideline has fostered a more proactive approach and has resulted in increasing the consistency and overall

effectiveness of the victim identification process. This is apparent in the Phu Ruea Case. For further details on the case please refer to Section 2.8 of the Prosecution Chapter.

The Phu Ruea Case is one of the prominent cases that illustrate the effectiveness of the MDTs in implementing the Guideline to Enhance Efficiency of Human Trafficking Victim Identification. As illustrated in Diagram 27 of Section 3.4.3 of Thailand's Country Report 2016, the MDTs followed the instruction set out in the Guideline as follows:

- Preparation before going on the field
 - After an NGO informant's report to the Damrongdhama Center that minors have been allegedly exploited for the solicitation of prostitution in one Café and two Karaoke shops in Loei Province, relevant agencies were informed.
 - All relevant agencies including the MOI, RTP, Department of Special Investigation (DSI), and the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) convened a joint preliminary meeting to plan out the operation.
- Initial screening
 - A total of 21 Laotian were rescued.
 - Prior to the interview, the MDTs conducted a debrief meeting so that all relevant officials were aware of their responsibilities.
 - Since there were more than 10 victims the MDTs used the Government Guest Home of Phu Ruea District to conduct the interview. The Guest House also serves as temporary shelter for the victims awaiting the victim identification process.
 - The preliminary screening by the MDTs identified that eight of Laotian victims were victims of trafficking. While a total of 13 Laotian victims had reasonable ground to be victims of trafficking.
- Actions to be taken after the interview
 - All eight Laotian minors were then transferred to the Nakhon Ratchasima Welfare Protection of Victims Trafficking Center in accordance with Section 33 of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551.
 - For the 13 Laotians whose identification process was inconclusive the MDTs was able to provide 24-hour temporary protection and requested the court to extend protection services to up to 7 days in accordance with Section 29 of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551
 - Due to the extended time frame the MDTs were able to gain trust with the victims which resulted in the cooperation of all 13 Laotian victims.
 - After witness examination concluded 12 out of the 13 Laotian victims requested to be repatriated home while one Laotian victim requested to work in Thailand. The DOE of Loei Province therefore proceeded with the request and protection services were provided for the said witness.

Diagram 1: Overview of Actions to be taken after Victim Identification Process



3.5.2 Providing temporary protection

Realizing that victim identification is a crucial and sensitive process, Thailand has therefore stipulated in Section 29 of its Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551 that a 24-hour temporary protection shall be provided to all potential victims during victim identification process. Additionally, under Section 29, in cases whereby MDTs are unable to identify within the 24-hour time frame whether the potential victim is a victim or not, the MDTs may file a report to the court to extend temporary protection for up to 7 days. Nevertheless, taking into account that the victim's own willingness and cooperation is essential to the victim identification process, the court may grant on a case-by-case basis temporary protection for more than 7 days³.

It should be emphasized that the government's policy in 2016, which instructs police officers and MDTs that victim identification process **does not have to be completed within 24-hours and may be extended for up to 7 days** as indicated in Section 3.4.3 of Thailand's Country Report 2016, is in line with Section 29 of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act B.E. 2551. Therefore, the change in policy merely reiterates and underscores the existing law and has translated the law into practice.

³ Temporary protection also depends on the victim's willingness to receive protection.

3.6 Increased efforts in providing protection to persons in vulnerable situations

3.6.1 Child and Women Trafficking Victims

3.6.1.1 Children's Advocacy Center, Thailand (ACT)

In addition to the establishment of the Children's Advocacy Center (ACT) in Chiang Mai in 2015, **on 16 March 2017 another ACT was established in Chonburi Province (Pattaya)** with the collaboration of A21. Similarly, ACT Pattaya adheres to a human rights based approach for the best interests of the child, serving as a drop-in center open to all child victims while also providing assistance in all aspects such as legal and counseling. As of March 2017, ACT Pattaya has provided assistance to 10 victims, has assisted repatriation of one victim, and has assisted the families of two victims.

ACT Pattaya has also establish its own Facebook page, hotline channel, LINE application, and email as support channels to provide immediate assistance to victims of trafficking. Currently, ACT Pattaya is working with both domestic and international agencies as well as the private sector and relevant NGOs located in Pattaya such as the YMCA, the Exodus Road, and OUR.

3.6.2 Stateless persons

In the first quarter of 2017, no stateless persons were found to be victims of trafficking. Nonetheless, Thailand has continued to reduce and prevent statelessness as a means to protect all persons from becoming vulnerable to being trafficked. From January to February 2017, the **MOI granted Thai citizenship to 1,651 formerly stateless persons.**

As previously mentioned in Section 3.6.2 of Thailand's Country Report 2016, the Cabinet approved two resolutions to further address the issue of statelessness and promote the rights of stateless persons in Thailand, which was proposed by the MOI on 7 December 2016. The two resolutions are expected to be fully implemented in 2017.

In addition, it should also be highlighted that prior to the approval of the two resolutions, the Prime Minister approved the Prime Minister Announcement determining the employment sector for formerly stateless persons, which formerly stateless persons to work in all sectors. The said Announcement was then published in the Royal Gazette on 25 November 2016. Additionally, on 29 November 2016, the MOL issued a Ministerial Announcement exempting all working permit fee for formerly stateless people. Nonetheless, an application fee of 100 THB (2.86 USD) still applies.

In terms of procedure, if the workplace is located outside the area the individual is living in, the individual must request permission from the Sheriff before being permitted to work in the specified area. This process is efficient and does not take more than 3 days. At present, 5,498 formerly stateless people have exercised the rights in accordance with the said Ministerial Announcement. Out of the 5,489 formerly stateless people, 4,753 are working in the construction sector, 91 are working in agricultural sector, and 57 are in carpentry.

3.7 Remedy and Compensation

3.7.1 The amount of compensation given to victims of trafficking

From January to March 2017, a total of 4 trafficking victims were compensated by the Compensation of Injured Person of the Rights and Liberties Protection Department (MOJ), amounting to 20,000 THB (571 USD). The Anti-Human Trafficking Fund of the MSDHS compensated 126 victims in the same period amounting to 611,080 THB (17,459 USD). As for trafficking victims in the labor sector, 4 persons were assisted and unpaid wages and overtime claimed to the amount of 57,200 THB (1,634 USD). Under the Compensation in accordance

with Section 35 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (B.E. 2551), 38 victims have filed claim for compensation accumulating to 31,234,718 THB (892,420 USD). All victims are awaiting trial verdict to be eligible for compensation.

Table 2: The amount of compensation given to victims of trafficking in 2016- March 2017

Types of remedy ad compensation	2016	January – March 2017 (as of February 2017)
The Anti-Human Trafficking Fund	5,808,566.90 THB (165,959 USD) (648 victims)	611,080 THB (17,459 USD) (126 victims)
The Compensation in accordance with Section 35	1,656,100 THB (47,317 USD) (15 victims) *61 victims have filed claim for compensation of 13,486,671 THB (358,333 USD)	*38 victims have filed claim for compensation of 31,234,718 THB (892,420 USD)
The Compensation of Injured Person	455,000 THB (13,000 USD) (23 victims)	20,000 THB (571 USD) (4 victims)
The Labor Compensation ⁴	3,838,304 THB (109,665 USD) (58 victims)	57,200 THB (1,634 USD) (4 victims)

Note: The amount of compensation given to victims of trafficking is determined on a case-by-case basis giving consideration to individual facts and circumstances of the situation.

3.8 Safe repatriation and Resettlement

From January - February 2017, Thailand conducted safe repatriation to 145 victims in close coordination with origin countries and families in Thailand. These include 80 Myanmar, 30 Vietnamese, 14 Laotian, 4 Cambodian and 9 Indonesians. For Bangladeshi victims, close coordination between the MSDHS and IOM was established to follow up and evaluate the readiness of each family prior to repatriation as well as facilitate the return of the victims to their respective communities. From January – February 2017, a total of 8 Bangladeshi victims were repatriated.

Moreover, with the help from UNHCR and IOM a total of 28 Rohingya trafficking victims and 22 Rohingya illegal immigrants were safely resettled in the US of which the majorities are mothers and children.

3.9 Providing reintegration assistance and from being re-trafficked

The MSDHS and the IOM is planning to convene **an empowerment program for Thai victims** between April and May 2017. The program aims to empower victims as well as to create a support network for the victims by bringing together MSDHS officials and victims from different provinces.

On the other hand, the Case Management Meeting (CMM) continues to allow the MSDHS to follow up on the reintegration process of Myanmar and Laotian victims. On 15-16

⁴ In accordance with the Labour Protection Act B.E. 2541 the amount of compensation granted by the Labour Compensation is determined on a case-by-case basis giving consideration to overtime and unpaid wages from the Employer.

January 2017, Myanmar hosted the 19th CMM between Thailand and Myanmar. The meeting provided an opportunity for both countries to share information regarding reintegration and assistance of Myanmar victims in Thailand as well as strengthened the working relationship between the two countries.

For other foreign victims, the MSDHS will coordinate with other relevant agencies and international organizations, such as the IOM, to follow up on the reintegration process.

(4) Prevention

4.1 Latest Update of Relevant Laws

Thailand has recently amended several legislative acts and issued new regulations to better protect workers against exploitation as well as to prevent human and labor trafficking. Some important updates are as follows:

4.1.1 The Labour Protection Act (No. 5) B.E. 2560 (2017)

The Act was published in the Royal Gazette on 24 January 2017 and came into force on 23 February 2017. The Act **increases penalties for child labor exploitations, with higher penalties imposed on employers who hire workers (1) below 15 years of age and (2) below 18 years of age to work in hazardous jobs or prohibited workplaces.**

The penalty of employers who recruit child labor for employment will be subject to an **imprisonment term of up to 2 years and/or a fine of 400,000 – 800,000 THB (11,429 – 22,857 USD) per employee**; an increase from the previous imprisonment term of 6 months and/or 200,000 THB (5,714 USD) fine; **and if the child is physically or mentally harmed or the job results in the child's death, the employer will be subject to an imprisonment term of up to 4 years and/or a fine of 800,000 – 2,000,000 THB (22,857 – 57,142 USD) per employee.**

The abovementioned penalties are also applied to cases of employing workers under 18 years of age in fishing boats and seafood processing plants, which is prohibited under the Ministerial Regulation on Labor Protection in the Sea Fishery Work B.E. 2557 (2014) and the Ministerial Regulation on Establishments Prohibited from Employment of Children Under 18 Years Old B.E. 2559 (2016).

4.1.2 The Royal Ordinance Concerning Management of Migrant's Work B.E. ...

The Ministry of Labour (MOL) has set up a Committee to consolidate all rules applied to migrant workers in every employment sector into drafting the Royal Ordinance Concerning Management of Migrant's Work B.E. ... The Committee and Sub-Committee has outlined the framework of the Ordinance which includes 1) general scope of the law, 2) committee members, 3) process in which migrant workers can enter and work in the Kingdom, 4) request for work permits, 5) funds for migrant workers, 6) protection of rights under the law, 7) involved officials, 8) administrative measures, 9) punishment terms, and 10) additional provisional measures. **The first draft of the Royal Ordinance is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2017.** Further details on the Royal Ordinance can also be found in the Policy Section.

4.2 National Strategy for Migrant Worker Management for 2017-2021

As mentioned in Thailand's Country Report 2016, our holistic approach to migrant worker management entails the National Strategy for Migrant Worker Management for 2017-2021. Under the National Strategy, the Department of Employment (DOE) will set up a workshop to improve the understanding of the National Strategy, develop an action plan, as well as determine performance indicators. Additionally, there will also be a Committee to Improve Migrant Worker Management and Eliminating Human Trafficking with two subcommittees under it, which will drive the national strategy forward as well as follow up and evaluate the relevant measures.

The National Strategy for Migrant Worker Management for 2017-2021 has already been implemented in 3 key strategies thus far.

(1) The first strategy is to **devise a migrant worker management plan in order to reduce the dependency of unskilled migrant labor**. In this regard, Thailand is currently in talks with neighboring countries to **bring in migrant workers through G to G arrangements** in such sectors as the fishery sector.

(2) The second strategy is to **effectively manage the entry and exit of migrant workers in Thailand**. To achieve this, there is the **Royal Ordinance Concerning Rules on Bringing Migrant Workers to Work with Employers in the Kingdom B.E. 2559 (2016)** that has already been put in place as well as migrant worker assistance centers and post-arrival and integration centers set up to provide assistance to migrant workers in Thailand. In the case where there is illegal entry of a migrant worker, the Department of Employment (DOE) will notify agencies concerned in order to verify their documents. Also, to promote the effective management of entry and exit of migrant workers the MOL continues to promote legal employment that coincides with the MOU.

(3) The third strategy is to develop a **national standard for migrant worker employment that is in line with international standards**. The Government is actively encouraging all migrant workers to complete the nationality verification process so that they can extend their work period in the Kingdom. For instance, from 1 March 2017 onward, Cambodia will provide passport, travel document records, and overseas Cambodia Worker Card (OCWC) information to Thailand in order to expedite the nationality verification process.

4.3 Facilitating Employment through MOU

Thailand's goal is to have all migrant workers employed through MOUs by the year 2020, as previously mentioned in Thailand's Country Report 2016. This is to better ensure that migrant workers in Thailand have legal status so that they can be better protected by laws and receive rights and assistance entitled to them. As of January 2017, there are **399,742 migrant workers employed through MOUs** of which are Myanmar (203,182), Lao (45,454), and Cambodian (151,106).

4.4 Bringing Migrant Workers to Work with Employers in Thailand

The Royal Ordinance Concerning Rules on Bringing Migrant Workers to Work with Employers in the Kingdom B.E. 2559 (2016) continues to address trafficking in persons and increased protection to migrant workers by providing oversight to the overall recruitment process of migrant workers.

As of 13 March 2017, a total of **2,697 employers** with permits brought in migrant workers directly under the Royal Ordinance which consisted of **30,296 migrant workers** who are permitted to work in Thailand from Cambodia (15,382), Lao PDR (3,386) and Myanmar (11,528). In addition, **49 recruitment agencies with licenses serviced 1,005 employers who sought to bring in 3,844 migrant workers** under this Royal Ordinance; of which are from Cambodia (1,018), Lao PDR (647), and Myanmar (2,179). As of date, insurance fees have been collected from 1) 59 recruitment agencies with the total fee of 295 million THB (8.35 million USD) and 2) 2,479 employers who employ 10,512 migrant workers in the sum of 19.305 million THB (551,571 USD).

4.5 Preventive Measures in the Fishery Sector

4.5.1 Update of relevant laws

For the fishery sector, the **Navigation in the Thai Waters Act (No. 17) B.E. 2560 (2017)** was published in the Government Gazette on 24 January 2017 and came into force on 23

February 2017. The Act added Section 285/1 to formally grant the Marine Department (MD) the authority to issue seaman books when requested. This Act clearly designates that the MD has the power to issue seaman books for sea fishery workers, although it was not stipulated before. The amendment to this Act modernizes the Thai navigation law and places it in line with the existing measures in issuing seaman books.

4.5.2 Sea Book Issuance

CCCIF fosters efforts to tackle human and labor trafficking at sea through issuing seaman books, in accordance with Article 82 and Article 83 of the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) which requires compulsory secondary identification for Thai and migrant workers in the fishery sector. As previously described in Thailand’s Country Report 2016, the identification would be in the form of a seaman book (for Thai workers) issued by the Marine Department (MD) and sea book (for legalized migrants workers), issued by from Department of Fisheries (DOF). Both documents contain biometric data, fingerprints, photograph, personal,

No	Foreign fishing crew	Number
1	Pink card holders as of 31 Jan 2017	52,083
2	Workers though the MOU process as of 31 Dec 2016	1,108
3	The existing workers during the nationality certification process as of 31 Dec 2016	13,878
Total		67,069

and employment information of the workers. It is used for inspections, identification of persons, and to ensure that all workers in the fishery sector are properly accounted and cared for.

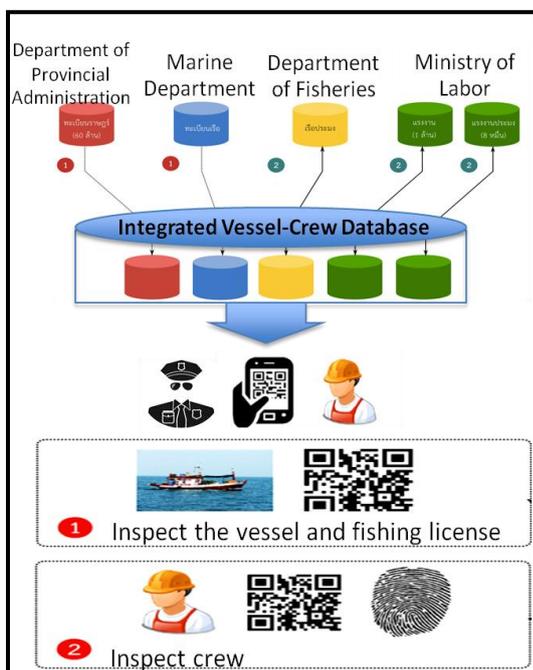
DOF is undertaking Sea Book requests and issuance for migrant seaman. In addition, DLPW also conducts pre-screen interviews with each applicant to prevent unintended fishing crews. The interview utilizes the approved forms to further use for statistical purposes. MD is responsible to issue seaman book for Thai nationality applicant. The data collected is similar to those of the DOF for migrant seamen. **From 15 September 2016 – 1 March 2017, owners of 5,317 fishing vessels with 50,238 migrant workers applied for Sea Books. As of 1 Mar 2017, a total of 40,971 Seabooks have been issued (81%).** Seabooks will be fully enacted by 14 March 2017.



Seaman Book



Sea Book



4.5.3 Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Center’s Vessel-Crew Database, Inspection, Laws Enforcement, and Proceeding System (THAI-MECC DILEP)

Through the aforementioned operations, seaman data will be combined and fused through the CCCIF sponsored network initially designated as ‘**THAI-MECC DILEP**’. The system is being developed to **simplify the labor inspection process at sea**. It also **assists law enforcement officials to quickly gain access to crew data** in order to determine whether the worker inspected is illegal or a victim of trafficking. The advantages of the system are increased effectiveness by having online and up to date information through web-based service, ease of

use, ability to be used on any platform, interoperability among the agencies concerned, and reduced opportunity for corruption or misconduct of the official by cutting down the human activity in the decision making process.

The integrated database comprises the migrant worker’s data from MOL, Thai citizens and migrant’s data from Department of Provincial Administration, Thai fishing crew and vessel information from MD, and fishing vessel, licenses, and Sea Book registration from DOF. All of the data collected are inputted into the simplified inspection software which is universally designed to be used for inspection both at port and at sea. The software has the capability of general inspections, identification and verifying of person by fingerprints, pre-TIP screening, and in-depth victim’s interview form.



PIPO Center

- 1 Set, Each (32 centers + 8 spares)
- Each set:** Mini-server with mobile network connectivity and 4 x Handheld inspection device



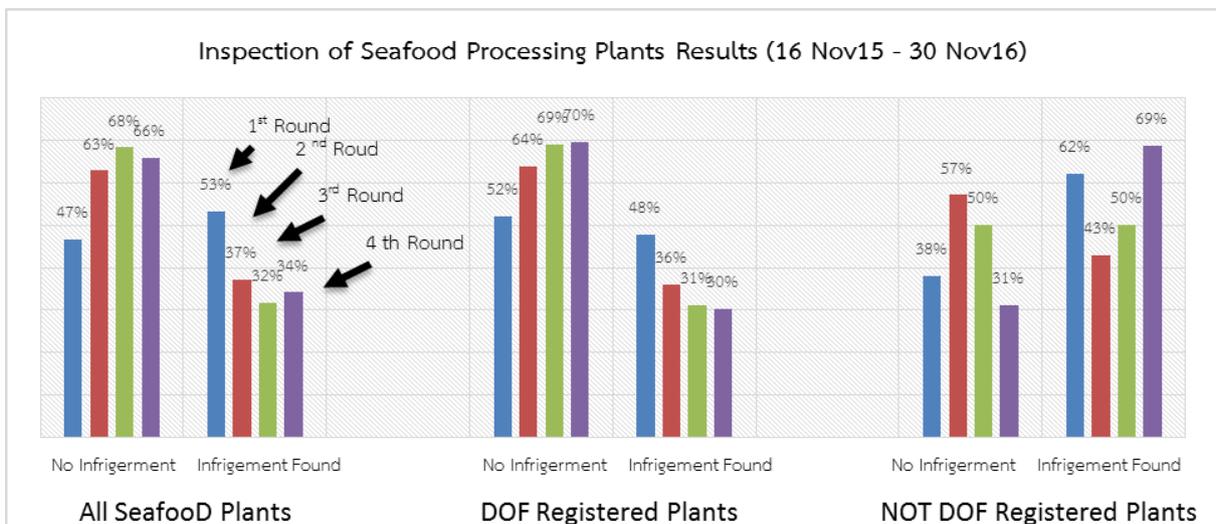
Official Patrol Vessels

- 36 Sets + 4 spares
- 21 Sets (Offshore patrol): Mini-server with satellite network connectivity and 4 x Handheld inspection device
- 19 Sets (Coastal patrol): Mini-server with mobile network connectivity and 4 x Handheld inspection device

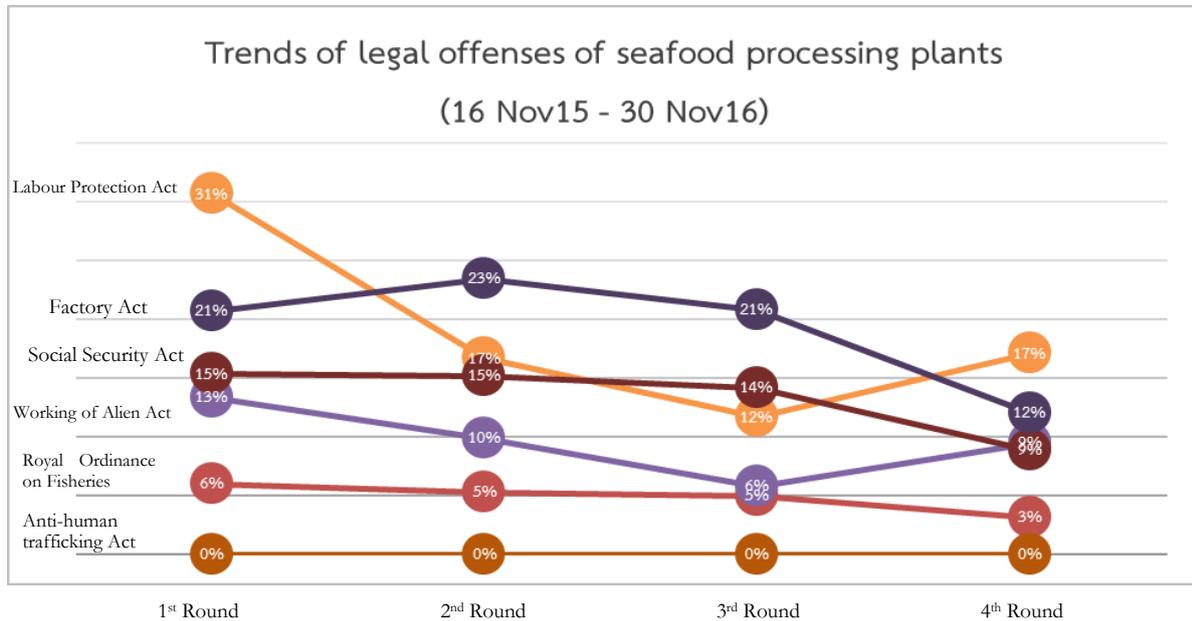
In the first phase, the system has been implemented in 10 pilot Port-In and Port-Out (PIPO) Controlling Centers in the provinces of Trat, Rayong, Chonburi, Samutprakarn, Samutsakorn, Chumporn, Songkla, Ranong, Pan-nga, and Phuket. The initial training course with the new system was conducted from 6-7 March 2017. In total, 40 sets of land inspection hardware and 40 sets of sea inspection hardware are being acquired. The first set is being distributed to the pilot PIPO during the first half of March 2017.

4.5.4 Inspection of Seafood Processing Factories

Despite statistics demonstrating a reduction in illegal labor in seafood industries, CCCIF maintains continuous inspections at seafood industries. CCCIF has undertaken the fourth round of inspections at seafood processing factories from February - March 2017. The inspection targets 120 plants that cover DOF-registered, non DoF-registered, and violation-listed plants. CCCIF along with experienced inspectors aim to conclude the inspections by late March 2017.



1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round	4 th Round
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 Plants • 8 temporary closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 132 Plants • 7 temporary closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 Plants • 8 temporary closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 163 Plants • 5 temporary closure



4.5.5 Regulating Fishing Ports and Piers, Preventing any Tampering of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), and Introduction of Generation-2 VMS

CCCIF put efforts to regulate fishing ports and piers, to prevent tampering of vessel monitoring system, and to introduce Generation-2 VMS through three major efforts:

- First, "**Operation Fishing Pier Survey**" ran in February 2017. This effort is to map and examine existing piers and determine whether the individual pier is in use for fishing purposes or not. The MD, in conjunction with the DoF will determine and designate the 'class' of each fishing pier to comprehensively monitor, control, and use surveillance over seaman and landing fish.

- Second, "**Operation VMS Stabilization**" ran in February - March 2017. This effort is to secure onboard mobile transmission unit (MTU) as part of the VMS for enhanced reliability. An estimated 6,000 fishing vessels were examined to determine whether MTUs are secure.

- Third, "**Inception of Generation-2 VMS**" ran from February 2017. This effort is to advance monitor and control over fishing at sea including catch, transshipment, and purchase. Control and monitor covers both fish and crew.

4.5.6 Calling Back of All Thai Fishing Vessels Operating Overseas at the 2nd Round of Inspections, 2017

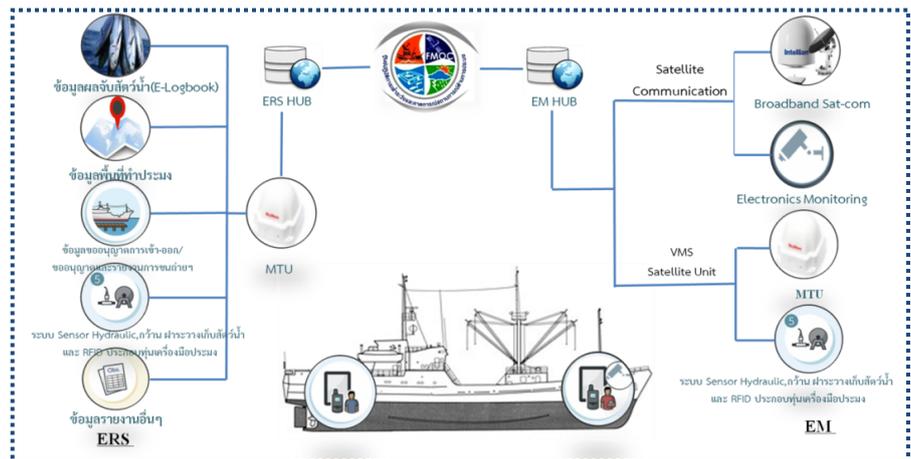
The DoF has increased its efforts to eliminate trafficking at sea by reinforcing NCPO Order of 53/2559(2016 A.C.) with the following DoF Notifications: (1) "On Cancellation of Overseas Fishing License," and associated licenses, and "On Designated Moratorium of Thai Overseas Fishing Vessels."

The first round of inspection, from December 2016 - January 2017, found 17 Thai overseas fishing vessels in violation. The second round of inspections, from February - early March 2017, no violations were found.

4.5.7 Electronic Messaging and Electronics Reporting System (EM & ERS)

The Government has also adopted a new measure to control the overseas fishing fleets. The second call-back of all Thai fishing vessels operating overseas was not only to regulate and inspect the vessels but also to have all vessels operating overseas be installed with the **Electronic Messaging and Electronics Reporting System (EM & ERS)**.

EM and ERS are designed to control, monitor, communicate, and report of activities at sea through satellite communication. At sea activities including movement of labor are electronically monitored in near real-time through VMS Gen-2, live video feed, fishing gear sensors of the EM.



Day-to-day operations, logbook, fishing operation reports, landing request, and request of catch certificates are being carried out or reported through ERS. **The system is expected to be installed on all Thai overseas fishing vessels from March - May 2017.**

4.5.8 Progress on the Identification and Markings of Fishing Vessels

On the 16 May 2016, the DOF issued an announcement on the Guidelines and Procedures for Fishing Vessel Identification and Markings B.E. 2559 (2016) for better vessel monitoring procedure and for the fishing workers to recognize their vessels easily.

There are now **pamphlets concerning vessel markings in six languages** (Thai, English, Lao, Myanmar, Cambodian, and Vietnamese) distributed to workers in order to help them understand how to recognize the marking of their vessel based on the vessel's size, the designated fishing area and the type of fishing gear onboard. It will be useful for reporting and providing correct and verifiable information to officials in cases of abuse, exploitation, or any other types of labor misconduct.

4.6 Assisting Migrant Workers

Thailand continues to assist migrant workers by providing channels to effectively communicate on their issues of concern with the help of interpreters and language coordinators that are readily available at the MOL's hotline numbers, at PIPO centers, Post Arrival and Reintegration Centers, Migrant Worker Assistance Centers, DOE Help Me Website, etc.

4.6.1 Interpreters

From January - February 2017, the DOE hired 1 additional interpreter at Post-arrival and Reintegration Center **totaling 17 interpreters** (previous information can be found in Section 4.4.4 of Thailand's Country Report 2016) working under DOE in different locations as follows:

- **4 interpreters** of which speak Myanmar (1), Cambodian (1), and English (2) will be assisting migrant workers via the **1694 hotline number**.

- **11 interpreters at the provincial employment offices** (1 interpreter at each office in the following 11 provinces: Nongkhai, Pathumthani, Chonburi, Trat, Sakaew, Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Tak, Samut Sakhon, Phuket and Songkhla)

- **1 Myanmar language interpreter** at the Post Arrival and Reintegration Center in Tak

- **1 Cambodian language interpreter** at the Post Arrival and Reintegration Center in Sakaew

4.6.2 Language Coordinators

From January – February 2017, the **DOE has hired a total of 10 language coordinators**. Each newly hired language coordinator will be located at the Migrant Workers Assistance Centers in 1 of the following 10 provinces: Samutsakhon, Surat Thani, Songkhla, Chiangmai, Samutprakhan, Chonburi, Ranong, Nakhon Ratchasima, Khon Kaen, and Tak. **For the 2017 fiscal year (October 2016 – September 2017) the DLPW plans to hire 64 language coordinators at PIPO Centers**, with 2 language coordinators at each one of the 32 PIPO Centers in the 22 coastal provinces. As of 6 March 2017, **49 language coordinators have already been hired**. Additionally, as of 6 March 2017 the **DLPW has hired 45 language coordinators who will work at the provincial and central DLPW offices**.

On 9-10 February 2017 the MOL held a **training program** for 30 language interpreters who will be working at the PIPO Centers to educate them about labor protection laws. There are additional plans to provide training for the second set of 50 language interpreters during 21-22 March 2017.

4.6.3 Hotline 1694

DOE continues to provide assistance with any questions regarding employment in the Kingdom through the Hotline 1694 channel. The 1694 hotline number has remained a channel where both Thai nationals and migrant workers can call with questions, concerns, or file complaints. From 1 January – 6 March 2017, there were **12,157 calls** as follows:

- **10,450 calls from Thai nationals** regarding 33 cases that dealt with illegal migrant workers or migrant workers in the wrong employment sector with the following nationalities: Myanmar (10), Lao (5), Cambodia (5), Vietnam (2), India (3), Russia (1), and unidentified (7). Out of the total calls, there was 1 case in which a Cambodian migrant worker did not receive wages. This case has already been sent to MOL's employment office in Surin Province who is responsible for investigation and proceeding with relevant actions.

- **1,707 calls from migrant workers** of the following nationalities Myanmar (952), Lao (261), Cambodia (467), Vietnam (16) and other nationalities (11). The calls were regarding work permits (1,448), change of employers (173), increasing work locations (85), and illegal migrant workers (1).

4.6.4 Hotline 1546

The DLPW also continues to assist employers and migrant workers that have questions or concerns through the Hotline 1546 channel that has 11 interpreters readily available.

- During 1 January – 6 March 2017, there were **9,192 calls** received of which 30 calls came from migrant workers of which were from Myanmar (15) and Cambodia and other nationalities that used English interpreters (15).

- The calls were about termination of employment (2,434), social security (1,677), pay compensation (1,650), minimum wage (647), on leave days (528), work related problems

(471), vacation days (394), work related documents (343), Thai nationals who seek overseas employment (181), work hours (173), and other issues (694).

4.6.5 Department of Employment (DOE) Help Me Website

The DOE Help Me Website, which was launched late 2016, has provided another channel for migrants to seek assistance. As of 6 March 2017 there were **24 cases** placed through the DOE Help Me website of which were Myanmar (12), Cambodian (1), and Thai employers (11) to seek assistance in the following cases:

- 3 cases regarding wages and overtime (1 case concluded, 2 awaiting more info)
- cases regarding employment verification (5 cases concluded)
- 4 case regarding official complicity (4 cases concluded)
- 12 cases of other matters such as migrant worker quotas, pink card extension, and change of employment location (12 cases concluded)

4.6.6 Migrant Workers Assistance Centers

From 1 January – 27 February 2017, a total of **7,700 migrant workers were assisted at Migrant Workers Assistance Centers**. The types of request for assistance are displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. Types of Request for Assistance from 1 January – 27 February 2017

Types of Request for Assistance	No. of Migrant Workers Assisted
Advice on worker's compensation, repatriation fees, renewal of work permit, etc.	6,708
Changing employers	803
Changing workplace	49
Replacing lost work permits	2
Correcting information for registration	109
Receiving the rights they are entitled to (i.e. social security, repatriation fees)	26

* Note: 3 cases have been referred to agencies concerned. One case involved a Myanmar worker who requested social security for hospital birth costs, in which the social security officer has facilitated with filling out the compensation request forms. The other 2 cases involved Myanmar workers who lost their identification card in which the Department of Provincial Administration assisted with issuing new identification cards.

4.6.7 Post Arrival and Reintegration Centers

The three initial centers set up in the provinces of Tak, Nong Khai, and Sakaew have assisted with information for migrant workers such as Thai traditions and lifestyle, rights and duties of migrant workers, an explanation of employment contracts, general information about safety and discipline in the workplace, dispute settlement, receiving protection under the law in Thailand, etc. Current developments are seen in Table 2.

Additionally, the DOE is requesting for more personnel to assist at the Post Arrival and Reintegration Centers as well as the Migrant Workers Assistance Centers.

Table 2. Number of Employers who brought Migrant Workers to Receive Training on Labor Rights Post-Arrival and Reintegration Centers from (1 January – 27 February 2017)

Tak		Sa Kaeo		Nong Khai	
Employers	Migrant Workers	Employers	Migrant Workers	Employers	Migrant Workers
1,613	19,457	1,702	12,035	1,306	3,031

4.6.8 Fisherman's Life Enhancement Center (FLEC)

The DLPW has continued to support the Fisherman's Life Enhancement Center (FLEC) alongside Stella Maris. Currently there are discussions between MOL and Stella Maris about the location to set up the next FLEC in Chonburi province. Following that, the plans to set the other two additional FLEC Centers in Rayong and Pattani Province will be later in 2017.

4.7 Cases Involving Recruitment Agencies and Brokers

4.7.1 Recruitment agencies

During 1 January – 27 February 2017 from the inspection of 67 recruitment agencies, there were a total of 5 recruitment agencies (2 domestic recruitment agencies and 3 Thai overseas recruitment agencies) that were in violation of labor laws. Currently, evidence is being gathered in order to file a criminal case.

4.7.2 Illegal brokers

During January 2016 – 27 February 2017 there were 36 workers that filed complaints against labor brokers resulting in 9 suspects, of whom 7 suspects are being interrogated and 2 suspects are awaiting punishment terms imposed by the provincial employment offices.

4.8 Updates on Labor Inspections (From 1 January – 28 February 2017)

4.8.1 General labor inspections

Year	Establishments Inspected	Employees	Violations	Orders	Legal Actions Taken	Fines THB (USD)
2015	41,757	1,461,013	5,404	5,445	64	4,090,823 (116,880 USD)
2016	39,480	1,387,826	7,200	7,196	66	2,583,320 (73,809 USD)
2017	7,336	249,923	1,835	1,826	9	-

4.8.2 Labor Inspections in High Risk Areas (sugarcane production factories, garment factories, shrimp and seafood processing factories)

Year	Establishments Inspected	Employees	Violations	Orders	Legal Actions Taken	Fines THB (USD)
2015	1,053	95,434	73	71	2	7,000 (200 USD)
2016	1,346	118,350	136	133	3	45,000 (1,286 USD)
2017	279	22,393	23	23	-	-

4.8.3 Labor Inspections by Special Inspection Units of the DLPW

Year	Establishments Inspected	Employees	Violations	Orders	Legal Actions Taken	Fines THB (USD)
2016	17	2,780	5	-	5	-
2017	4	13	3	-	3	-

4.8.4 Training of Labor Inspectors

From 10-11 January 2017, **102 labor inspectors received training** on labor protection laws in order to tackle the issue of child labor, forced labor, debt bondage, and human trafficking.

4.9 Actions against Child Labor

Thailand places great importance on eliminating the use of child labor. Some major efforts include taking action against cases of child labor, developing the national working children survey, and measures to remove Thai goods that are on TVPRA List. Some updates are as follows:

4.9.1 Actions taken by DLPW

During January – February 2017, DLPW has proceeded to take action in 11 cases involving child labor of which fines totaling 339,000 THB (9,685 USD).

4.9.2 National Working Children Survey

The MOL, ILO, and National Statistics Office (NSO) are in the process of devising the term of reference of the Survey and then will sign an MOU between the three agencies in order to begin the survey that will take 21 months. The survey will last from July – September 2017 and the results will be finalized by the end of 2017.

4.9.3 Removing Goods from the TVPRA List

On 25 January 2017, the DLPW organized a workshop with 100 attendees, which included government officials, relevant NGOs, and business establishments such as sugar factories, sugarcane planter associations, Office of the Cane and Sugar Fund, and provincial offices of the DLPW.

4.10 Enhanced Cooperation in Preventive Measures

4.10.1 Thailand-European Union Policy Dialogues Support Facility (PDSF)

The PDSF was set up to further enhance the cooperation between Thailand and EU. The EU has supported discussions on MOL initiatives to reform the existing labor management system.

4.10.2 Cooperation between DOE and ILO

The cooperation between the 2 agencies has led to ILO doing a study visit at the Post Arrival and Reintegration Center and has provided suggestions to make improvements that are in line with global standards. The ILO has also publicized information about the Royal Ordinance Concerning Rules on Bringing Migrant Workers to Work with Employers in the Kingdom to countries who send workers to Thailand i.e., Myanmar, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam in order to enhance the effectiveness of the Ordinance. Moreover, ILO has offered technical assistance and provided suggestions about international labor standards to the DOE, which has been useful for drafting the Royal Ordinance Concerning Migrant Worker Management, B.E 2559 (2016).

4.10.3 Enhanced cooperation with the media

The MOL has worked with local publications, news channels, and other broadcasting related networks to disseminate information about preventive measures on human and labor trafficking. For example, information on Post-Arrival and Reintegration Centers and Migrant Workers Assistance Centers to assist migrant workers entering Thailand as well as information on protection against human trafficking has been widely publicized through television, radio, and Spot.

From January – February 2017 information has been broadcasted through newspaper publications (59 issues), TV broadcasting (38 times), social media (96 times), interviews (27 times), infographic materials (19 times), public service announcements (14 times), radio broadcasting (28 times), press conference (3 times), and magazines (1 time).

4.10.4 Inflight Video on Preventing Human Trafficking

The MSDHS is preparing **an inflight video on anti-trafficking** on airlines with flights into Thailand. This will raise awareness among Thai and foreign tourists on what the Government has done to tackle trafficking in persons, provide information on how to report cases of trafficking, as well promote tourism in Thailand.

4.11 Vulnerable Groups

4.11.1 Eradicating Issue of Beggars

Due to integrated efforts to eradicate the issue of begging in Thailand, from 25 November 2016- 8 March 2017 there were 278 cases of begging of which were males (149) and females (129).

- Of this number, there were 198 cases concerning Thai nationals in which 139 cases were sent back to their families, 10 cases were sent to other shelters, 40 cases were sent to the Welfare Protection and Quality of Life Development Center, and 6 cases were sent to the Welfare Protection and Quality of Life Development Center for DNA testing to prove family relationship.

- There were 83 cases of foreign nationals of which 51 cases were mother and child who were sent to the Welfare Protection and Quality of Life Development Center for DNA

testing to prove family relationship in order to prevent exploitation and 32 cases were sent to the Immigration Bureau to be sent back to their home country.

4.11.2 Eliminating Sex Trafficking Especially in Women and Children

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) and related agencies have made concerted efforts in eliminating and preventing sex trafficking in women and children. For instance, the website www.yingthai.net is set up to **provide advice and assistance to women that seek overseas employment or those that already are working abroad**. The website provides information on relevant laws, mental health concerns, family issues, consular affairs, women rights, labor rights, and others. The **website also provides links to other related websites** such as Attorney General's Office, Department of Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DoE, Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA), Department of Social Development and Welfare at the MSDHS, Department of Mental Health, Immigration Bureau, Airports of Thailand, and Thai Women Network overseas.

Additionally there is a **mobile application "Yingthai"** that is also another channel for assistance that provides easily accessible information on preparations to travel overseas, living abroad, a list of relevant contact numbers, and Thai Women Networks in each country.

4.11.3 Preventing Sex Tourism

Several measures have been taken to prevent sex tourism in Thailand. First, **tourists are clearly informed that prostitution and visiting sexually illicit establishments is illegal**. Secondly, the Division of Tourism Business and Guide Registration under the Department of Tourism has **informed tourists not to use hotels that are involved in sex trafficking**, and also ensure that **tour guides do not suggest to use these type of hotel services** either. Moreover, officers also **routinely inspect establishments** in order to prevent sex trafficking and sexually illicit shows. The Immigration Bureau has also **inspected foreigners in tourist destinations that are suspected of illegally entering the Kingdom and may be involved in sex trafficking**. Also, there have been a **number of volunteers, guides, and business owners who have started a patrol network** to prevent sex tourism and sex trafficking.

(5) Partnership

Thailand's national level cooperation is extensive and continues to include additional partners from multi-sectors. This momentum also reflects in the expansion of best practices and supports which Thailand has extended to and partnered with its neighboring countries. This chapter also discusses progresses of Thailand's collaboration with international partners under regional and international frameworks, as well as with the United States of America and others.

5.1 Collaboration at the national level

In order to respond in a more timely fashion to the human-trafficking and enhancement of fishermen's lives, the Ministry of Labor has been jointly considering with Stella Maris on the appropriate area in Chonburi province to set up an additional **Fishermen's Life Enhancement Center (FLEC)**. The relevant parties also coordinate closely towards the establishment of the other two additional **Fishermen's Life Enhancement Centers (FLECs)** in Rayong Province and Pattani Province.

Minister of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) witnessed a signing ceremony of "Memorandum of Understanding on Assisting Thai Women and Thai Nationals in Los Angeles and the United States of America", among Thai Health and Information Services, Thai Community Development Center and Thai Muslim Community of USA on 10 March 2017 in Los Angeles, as a part of the Thai Government's efforts, in collaboration with Thai community in the United States, to integrately assist Thai nationals in the United States.

5.2 Bilateral Cooperation

Thailand has shared its best practices and seeks ways and means to further cooperate with its neighboring countries. Some of the progresses of the cooperation are as followed:

5.2.1 Cambodia

On 6 February 2017, Lieutenant General Hun Manet, Vice President of the Committee for Legalizing Cambodian Workers Residing and Working in Thailand, led his delegation at a call on Thai Labour Minister General Sirichai Distakul. The two parties discussed issues concerning Cambodian nationals in Thailand such as the acceleration of the nationality verification process and the distribution process of passports, travel documents for migrants (TD), as well as Overseas Cambodian Worker Card (OCWC) to Cambodian workers. As a result, working group of both sides met on 14 February 2017, discussed further and agreed to implement the abovementioned the distribution process on 1 March 2017.

Moving ahead on the process of establishing of Transit and Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking and Other Vulnerable Groups in Banteay Meanchey, Thailand is working on design of the center building in parallel with design of training courses particularly on occupational training. Thailand supports approximately 35 million THB (1 million USD) on the hardware of this project.

5.2.2 Lao PDR

Similar to Cambodia, Thailand supports Lao PDR on the establishment of Transit and Reception Center for Victims of Trafficking in Vientiane at approximately 18 million THB (0.51 million USD). Thailand will submit draft of the center building design to Lao PDR for consideration. Additionally, Thailand is in the process of designing training courses, which focus on training of human resources – social worker, psychologist, care taker, etc.

5.2.3 Myanmar

Thailand's bilateral collaboration with Myanmar reflected at the Standard Operation Procedure Meeting between Thailand and Myanmar on 23-24 February 2017 and the 19th Case Management Meeting (CMM) between Thailand and Myanmar on 15-16 March 2017. The CMM is a floor for working level officials to exchange views and experiences, which a number of issues were discussed, including protection and repatriation of Myanmar workers, as well as on how to further improve protection system for Myanmar trafficking victims and enhance cooperation of both sides.

An MOU on the Certificate of Identity (CI) cards cooperation was signed between Counter Service Company Limited of Thailand and Myanmar on 13 January 2017 for the company to provide payment service for CI application of Myanmar workers in Thailand. One Stop Service Center (OSSC) in 5 provinces, namely: Chiang Rai Province, Tak Province, Samut Sakorn Province, Samut Prakarn Province and Ranong Province, have been operated since 3 March 2017.

Moving another step ahead, Myanmar Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population will issue passports and CI cards to all its citizens who hold a pink migrant card - which gives temporary permission for living and working, to Myanmar migrants who entered the country illegally - issued by the Thai government after Myanmar Embassy confirmed their Myanmar citizenship. The Myanmar government will also issue CI cards to pink card holders who have no citizen identity card and census document at any of the six offices.

5.2.4 Vietnam

Under the Memorandum of Understanding on labor cooperation, Thailand and Vietnam met on 19-21 February 2017. The meeting discussed on the procedure of migrating Vietnamese workers into Thailand in construction and fishery sectors, authorized employers in Thailand, workers' pre-departure training, submission and response to demand for Vietnamese labor, draft of contract for the Vietnamese labor particularly for those in fishery sector, as well as the Royal Ordinance Concerning Rules on Bringing Migrant Workers to Work with the Employers in the Kingdom, B.E. 2559 (2016). During the meeting, Thailand reiterated that the labor cooperation should not be limited to exchanging of labors but should include experiences sharing on issues such as procedures to export labors, as well as on human resource development.

5.3 Cooperation with sub-regional and regional partners

ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP)

Having deposited the Instrument of Ratification of the ACTIP Convention on 24 July 2017, Thailand has been working closely with the ASEAN colleagues to expedite the enforcement of convention. On 6 February 2017, the Philippines deposited its instrument of ratification of the ACTIP with the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The ACTIP has already been ratified by Cambodia, Singapore and Thailand in 2016, and recently been ratified by Vietnam on 5 January 2017 and Myanmar on 16 January 2017. Since the convention will enter into force after the ratification of at least 6 member states ratified, the ACTIP has now enforced on 8 March 2017 - 30 days after the Philippines' ratification. The relevant authorities of Thailand are in the process of considering framework and activities accordingly to the ASEAN Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Woman and Children (APA), including training on victims protection. The entry into force of the ACTIP demonstrates ASEAN's commitment to address and cooperate towards effective response to the regional priority of transnational issue of trafficking in persons.

Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP)

During January-February 2017, a number of discussions were organized between the Thai Department of Special Investigation (DSI) and their neighboring counterparts, under the AAPTIP framework, including **the 2nd Bilateral Meeting among the anti-human trafficking agencies of Lao PRD, Lao National Police and the DSI** on 30 January-1 February 2017 in Luang Prabang. The Meeting discussed their cooperation framework, as the DSI submitted a proposal on how to assist Lao trafficking victims, while requested the Lao authorities to cooperate and provide assistance on the aforementioned cases, as well as means to closely coordinate on intelligence sharing.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) plays leading role in piloting the ASEAN Training Program on International Legal Cooperation in Trafficking in Persons Cases. AAPTIP and OAG have conducted pilot programs with Cambodia, Myanmar and Indonesia. The revised curriculum is expected to be presented to the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) in 2017.

The Bali Process

Following up on the outcome of the 6th Bali Process Ministerial Conference in 2016 which agreed for its member states to develop a policy guide on following the money in trafficking in person cases, the drafting committee is at its final stage of finalizing the draft. The Thai Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) has been part of the drafting committee. A consultation workshop to review the draft Bali Process guide will be organized on 23-24 May 2017 in Bali. The draft is expected to be adopted at the 3rd Annual Bali Process Trafficking in Persons Working Group on 25 May 2017.

Collaboration at the international level

While the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is undergoing the process of reviewing Thailand's gap analysis of ILO Convention no. 188 and Protocol no. 29, Thailand is in the process of considering the necessary revisions of relevant Thai laws and arranging tripartite conference to ratify the ILO Convention and Protocol, tentatively in December 2017. On the other hand, Thailand is in the process of hearing on ILO Convention no. 98, which is hoped to lead to ratification tentatively in October 2017.

An Official from Triangle Project II visited Post Arrival and Reintegration Centers in Sakaeo province on 7 February 2017, and commanded the center management, while recommended labor contract to be written in 3 languages in the same document: Thai, English, and local language – originally only in Thai and English - to avoid any misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the document. Ministry of Labor agreed to the suggestion and will proceed accordingly.

5.4 Cooperation with the United States of America

Moving a step ahead on its collaboration with the United States' law enforcement authorities on Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC), a delegation from the Royal Thai Police (RTP), DSI and the Office of Attorney-General traveled to the United States for a study visit at the **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)** upon the invitation of the Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) from 4-9 February 2017. The two sides discussed on the cooperation with NCMEC particularly to link and remote access on the information on child pedophiles as well as possibility to further cooperate on cyber TIPLINE database.

Subsequently follow the success of the establishment of **Children's Advocacy Center Thailand (ACT)** in Chiang Mai and Pattaya, the government is in the process of establishing ACTs in other parts of Thailand: Phuket, Kanchanaburi and Chiang Rai accordingly. The ACT Phuket is taking a lead in its process of building decoration and considering appropriate center's activities.

On 8 March 2017, Thai governmental agencies discussed with the Department of State's TIP Office over **VDO Conference**, during which the Thai side provided detail and clarification to the points discussed in the earlier submitted Thailand's Country Report 2016. Discussed issues included victim identification, extension of interview period for the victims, child sex exploitation, interpretation service, as well as freedom of media. The two sides also shared views on future cooperation between Thailand and the United States.

5.5 Others

Business Sector

During their visit to Thailand to attend APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in Bangkok, **delegation from Walmart** headed by Mr. Scott Price, Executive Vice President of Walmart International, on 23 February 2017, paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Mr. Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, and the two sides discussed overview of Thailand's economic policy and potential areas of cooperation. The delegation also discussed with Thai governmental agencies regarding Thailand's commitment and efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly on fishery sector.

Media

A New York Times journalist is scheduled to visit Thailand in June 2017, during which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is communicating with the journalist and coordinating with Thai relevant authorities to help arrange most beneficial and appropriate meetings and field visits. This will not only create a better understanding for media on Thailand's efforts, but will also help both sides to exchange views, address challenges, and seek ways and means to combat human trafficking issues.
