

ANTI-TIP HOTLINE NEWSLETTER

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JICA HQ CONSULTATION MISSION IN VN

A Project Consultation Mission Team from JICA Headquarters visited Vietnam from 25 August to 6 September 2014 to assess the achievements so far and identify the direction for the rest of the project life. For about two weeks, the Consultation Mission team and Project staff visited project sites, and held meetings and discussions with various stakeholders as described below.

Visit to the target provinces and Working Group meetings

Working Group meetings were held in Hanoi (26 August), Ha Giang (27 August) and An Giang (30 August). In addition to the regular agenda comprising project activity reports and plans, discussions included cooperation within the Working Group and project achievements.

Meetings were also held with counterparts and Hotline counsellors in Hanoi, and there were visits to the Operation Centre and the JICA Vietnam Office.

Unfortunately, Hotline equipment in Ha Giang was affected by a storm just before our arrival there. Despite such challenges, the Hotline system is taking shape; communication activities are on-going and new counsellors are being recruited.

In An Giang, the Mission team observed a communication activity conducted by Border Guard officials trained by the Project. They disseminated basic information about human trafficking to raise awareness among a group of about 90 persons. We also met a group of junior reporters, young students who played a role in anti-TIP communication activities targeting secondary school students. They shared details about their extra-curricular activities, including anti-TIP Hotline communication activities.

Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting (JCC)

The second Joint Coordinating Committee meeting was held on 5 September 2014, chaired by Dr Huu, Director General of DCCP. Following a report on the activities accomplished and planned, Ms Tanaka, the head of the Mission presented the findings and recommendations of the Project Consultation Mission Team about the Project. A list of indicators to assess



Above: Junior reporters of An Giang

Middle: Communication activity by An Giang Border Guard

Below: Ha Giang province Connecting Unit

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the progress of the Project was then submitted at the meeting.

After all presentations were completed, the participants offered their comments and recommendation. The Project plans to focus on setting up the operation system for smooth Hotline operation supported by Operational Guidelines and a Cooperation Agreement, both of which are currently being developed. Stronger support to the Ha Giang Connecting Unit is also on the agenda. Further cooperation and commitment of relevant agencies was reaffirmed in order to wrap up all activities, within the Project period, taking into account the recommendations.

HOTLINE SOFTWARE COMPLETE

To develop an efficient database and ensure prompt and appropriate referral, the Hotline needs a specially tailored software. A software company has developed such a software, and finally it is complete!

On 26 September 2014, staff from the software company came to the Operation Centre in Hanoi to offer training on the basics of using the software to the Hotline counsellors. After a three-month trial period, the company will make the necessary adjustments. This software will be installed in the Connecting Units in An Giang and Ha Giang early October.

LATEST NEWS FROM VIETNAM

SELECTED NEWS FROM VIETNAM

1) COMMIT National Consultation Workshop on SPA IV

On 24 September 2014, COMMIT (Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking) organized a National Consultation Workshop on Sub-regional Plan of Action IV (SPA IV). About 30 participants from government agencies, NGO and other relevant agencies offered suggestions and comments based on their specialized knowledge. Of special interest to the anti-TIP Hotline is the idea of a 'Regional Hotline'.

2) Increase in the sex ratio gap at birth

According to the Director of Vietnam's Department for Population and Family Planning, in spite of the efforts of



Above: Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting
Below: Meeting with the software company

the Vietnamese government to reverse the trend, the sex ratio at birth in the first six months of this year reached 114.3 males per 100 females, the highest disparity recorded till now. Experts warned that this imbalance would result in a shortage of 2.3 to 4.3 million marriage age women by 2050, which could lead to social issues including human trafficking.

(Thanh Nien News, 15 August 2014, <http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/vietnam-skewed-gender-imbalance-hits-alltime-high-29981.html>)

ACTIVITY PLAN

Oct : Public Comment Meeting on Cooperation Agreement and Operational Guidelines



An Giang
1800 8077

Ha Giang
1800 1282

Project for the Establishment of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Hotline in Vietnam

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