

ANTI-TIP HOTLINE NEWSLETTER

January 2015, Vol. 4, Issue 1, Hanoi

BANGKOK ANTI-TIP STUDY TOUR

From 14 to 17 January 2015, staff and leaders of the Anti-TIP Hotline went on a study tour to Bangkok. A delegation comprising of the Director General of Department of Child Care and Protection (DCCP), Vice Director of Centre for Counselling and Communication Service (CCCS), Hotline Unit leader, Social Work Centre staff of An Giang province, 2 counsellors from Hanoi, and 3 Project staff visited Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women, Department of Social Development and Welfare, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (BATWC), One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC), a shelter for male victims of trafficking and an international NGO. The main purpose was to visit anti-TIP institutions and OSCC, a hotline under BATWC. This hotline handles calls from vulnerable people from all over Thailand, including those related human trafficking, 24 hours, toll free. Given the similarities with the Hotline under DCCP, we looked forward to this visit to exchange experiences and develop a network.

OSCC proactively extends its support to victims by monitoring news in the mass media every day to identify and follow up cases involving vulnerable populations, which inspired the visiting Vietnamese counterparts. There were many things we wanted to know – how they exchange information with relevant agencies, what was the future vision of the centre, arrangement for induction and refresher training – and our visit ended much later than scheduled. At the shelter for men, we learned interesting information such as the process from intake to repatriation of victims from neighbouring countries, and challenges they face.

JICA OFFICIAL SUPPORTER VISIT

On 9 January 2015, a JICA Official Supporter, Ms Naoko Takahashi, visited the Project. First, the Japanese expert presented an overview of the Project and invited her to the Operation Centre. Then, we had a meeting with counsellors who handle calls daily. She carefully listened to the detailed explanation from the counsellors, and displayed her understanding of the trafficking situation in Vietnam. “I would like to do whatever I can do in order to increase awareness among Japanese people about this issue,” she said.



Above: One Stop Crisis Centre, Bangkok

Middle: Shelter for male victims of trafficking, Bangkok

Below: JICA Official Supporter, Ms Takahashi (4th from the right)

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JICA VIETNAM REPRESENTATIVE VISIT

On 6 January 2015, Mr Mori, Chief Representative of JICA Vietnam Office visited the Connecting Unite, our Hotline in Ha Giang which started its anti-TIP Hotline operation in October 2014. At the beginning, the two new counsellors were faced some challenges in their work, but training provided by the Project built their skills and confidence. Mr Mori met the Working Group members, Ha Giang DOLISA, Women's Union, and Border Guard. He was informed that currently the focus is on communication activities; as it is important to publicize the Hotline number. He was also informed of a recent case where the caller got to know the Hotline number through one such communication activities.

PROJECT CALENDAR 2015

The Project produced 78,500 sheets of calendars to promote the Hotline number and distributed them widely, especially in the 17 provinces where many human trafficking incidents are reported. We received some calls last year after callers saw the number on the calendar. It is expected that distribution of calendars in 2015 will help publicize the Hotline number further.

LATEST NEWS FROM VIETNAM

SELECTED NEWS FROM VIETNAM

1) Guest workers overseas increased in 2014

The Department of Overseas Labour Management, MOLISA reported that the number of guest workers abroad exceeded 105,000 in 2014, an increase of 19% over 2013 and 10% over the 2014 goal of 90,000. As in 2013, the favoured destination is Taiwan, with 60,000 persons (30% increase over 46,368 in 2013), followed by Japan with 20,000 (twice as many as in 2013, 9,686). Two of the reasons for the increase in the number of workers going to Japan are: the Japanese government's expansion of the occupational fields for Vietnamese workers; and that increasing demand for labour as Japan prepares for the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020.

<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/business/120494/2014---a-bittersweet-year-for-labour-exports.html>

(Vietnam Net 21 Jan 2015)

<http://english.vov.vn/Society/Vietnam-to-increase-labour-export-quota-in-2014/270508.vov> (On the goal for 2014 : VOV 21 Dec 2013)

2) Supply Chain CSR Seminar

On 18 December 2014, Teijin Frontier Co., Ltd. held a CSR seminar in Ho Chi Minh City to inform Vietnamese partners of labour conditions, child labour and human trafficking. Two staff members of Better Work project of ILO, the Director of Child Protection Division of DCCP and a Japanese expert of the Project made presentations.

ACTIVITY PLAN

Feb: Software function review



Above: Mr Mori and Hotline counsellors, Ha Giang
Below left: Project Calendar 2015
Below right: Ms Ha, Director of Child Protection Division at CSR seminar



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

This newsletter intends to present the progress of the Project and relevant information. Views and contents are those of the experts, Yoshiko Ogawa and Kayo Goda, and neither of JICA nor the Vietnamese government. This publication or parts of it may not be reproduced without permission