

ANTI-TIP HOTLINE NEWSLETTER

February and March 2016, Vol. 5, Issue

PROJECT-CLOSING WORKSHOP

On 24 February 2016, a Project-Closing Workshop was held to share the achievements of the Project over the past 3 years and 8 months and discuss the further development of the Hotline after the end of the Project. The workshop was attended by about 60 participants, though some invitees were not able to join us due to the change of date. We had participants from An Giang, Ha Giang, and government agencies such as MPS and Border Guard, as well as international organizations and NGOs.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Dang Hoa Nam, Director of DCCP, and Mr Kakioka, Senior Representative of JICA Vietnam Office, reiterated the importance of further strengthening cooperation between relevant agencies; and conducting communication activities using a wide range of resources effectively. Next, representatives from call centres in Hanoi, An Giang and Ha Giang presented their activities and achievements in detail. All counterparts expressed strong commitment to continuation and improvement of the Hotline. They have either proposed or already been granted the budget for the operation of the Hotline in 2016. In An Giang and Ha Giang, the Working Group set up for the Project will support the Hotline operation. Hanoi Working Group will be taken over by a new group, called the Inter-Agency Working Team, comprising of DCCP, MPS, Border Guard and Vietnam Women's Union. The team will develop and implement an annual plan. After the presentations, participants offered suggestions and comments which stressed the importance of the quality of Hotline consultation as well as communication, and the need for government efforts towards a self-sustained Hotline. In conclusion, the Director of DCCP expressed confidence in the sustainability of the Anti-TIP Hotline. Based on the experiences and capacity of the Child Helpline, Vietnam and Japan jointly established this model for an anti-TIP hotline, and the second phase of the Project will build on the achievements of the current Project and lead to full establishment of the Hotline.

INTER-AGENCY WORKING TEAM MEETING

On 10 March 2016, the first meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Team was held. Established on the basis of the Joint Action Plan 2016-2020, the Team members have been selected from DCCP, MPS, Border Guard, and Vietnam Women's Union. Mr Dang Hoa Nam, the Director of DCCP, chaired the meeting to discuss the draft annual plan for the Hotline operation. This is an important step to further strengthen cooperation among all relevant agencies. During the meeting, the first draft prepared by DCCP was discussed and revised on the same day to be dispatched for



Above: Project-Closing Workshop venue

Middle: Mr Nam, Director of DCCP

Below: Presentation by An Giang representative

CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| PROJECT-CLOSING WORKSHOP | 1 |
| INTER-AGENCY WORKING TEAM MEETING | 1 |
| 6TH MEKONG REGIONAL WORKSHOP | 2 |
| HOTLIN CALLS REACHED 5,000 | 2 |
| AFTERWORD | 2 |

official review from the government partners. DCCP will consolidate all the comments and finalize the plan by the end of March 2016.

6TH MEKONG REGIONAL WORKSHOP

A five member Vietnamese delegation participated in the 6th Mekong Regional Workshop organized by the JICA anti-TIP project in Thailand and the government of Thailand from 16 to 18 February 2016.

On the first two days, presentations and Q&A sessions on anti-TIP measures, especially on victim protection, from participating countries gave us the broad picture of policies and challenges faced by countries in the Mekong region.

The second day had presentations by Japanese experts on anti-TIP measures of the government and victim protection by a shelter in Japan. The participants expressed interest in the situation in Japan and posed many questions. The group work in the afternoon of the second day facilitated our understanding of the process of rescue, protection and social re-integration of each participating country.

The last day included visits to two shelters for human trafficking victims. The Vietnamese delegation were especially impressed and inspired by the well-organized facilities and training programmes at the shelters and said, "We have not reached the same level but we would like to start with whatever we can do, such as vocational training."

HOTLINE CALLS REACHED 5,000

From October 2013, when Hanoi Operation Centre started receiving calls, till the end of February 2016, the three call centres received 5,256 calls in total (Hanoi 3,703; An Giang 1,169; Ha Giang 385 calls). Among them, 70% were information requests, 28% were for consultation and the remaining 2% were referral cases. Each of the about 100 referral cases is complicated in its own way and after investigations, it was concluded that some cases were not human trafficking cases. Nonetheless, we were able to support rescue and repatriation of trafficked persons in around 15 cases. We are happy to make a small contribution in the efforts to rebuild the lives of victims and their families.



Inter-Agency Working Team members, JICA Vietnam office staff and Project Team members

AFTERWORD

This is the 40th and last issue of the Hotline newsletter, which was started in August 2012, as the Hotline Project ended after 3 years and 8 months' operation. We started from scratch: our Hotline counsellors, despite experience in the Child Helpline, were new to the field of anti-TIP; DCCP needed new partnerships for Anti-TIP Hotline; working and living in Vietnam was a new experience for Japanese experts. And now, the Hotline is comfortably on track. Over the last four years, we received invaluable support from government agencies. Non-governmental and international organizations were also very supportive and we worked together closely for awareness raising and communication. We'd like to thank our counterparts with whom we shared many things including office space, lunch, laughter and occasional anger.

We'd also like to express our gratitude to the readers of the Hotline Newsletter. Every time when we sent the Newsletter, we received encouraging warm words.

Before the Project ended on 15 March 2016, we have proposed on the second phase of the Project. Unfortunately, we are not able to inform you of the exact date of the start of the second phase at the moment.

But that day is not far off. Until then, let's work towards a trafficking free world.



An Giang
1800 8077

Ha Giang
1800 1282

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